

A

Story

from

West Cork

1922/23

Written by: Jack Mc Carthy

N eighbour against Neighbour.

Ardgroom 1922/1923

This story was told by my grandfather and the location for the story is a small village called Ardgroom near Castletownbere in west Cork.

The free state was formed in 1922 this treaty ended the 3 year war of independence between the Irish and the English but it was the start of the fighting between the Irish ourselves, neighbour turning on neighbour.

Jimmy Mc Carthy was my great granduncle and he supported the free-state under fine Gael and that made him a "blueshirt". His neighbour Gen O'Shea supported De Valera, which meant he supported Fianna Fail and the Irish Republican Army (IRA). They believed, Michael Collins should not have agreed to 26 counties but all 32 only.

Jimmy's house was a safe house where another neighbour used to hide from Gen O'Shea. Jimmy was a tall strong man.

One when a neighbour was hiding in my great granduncle's house Gen O'Shea came to the door. He demanded that the neighbour hiding there should round up his best bullock for slaughtering to feed

the IRA. At this time this was a form of punishment
if it was not done Gen O'Shea and his men
threatened to shoot the man. My great granduncle
Jimmy Mc Carthy came to the door and spread his
arms ~~his~~ wide saying "No man will pass me" to
stop Gen O'Shea entering to take away the other
neighbour. Gen O'Shea stuck the bayonet he was
holding through Jimmy's hand. Gen O'Shea
left the house after that and Jimmy's neighbour
was saved that night from the IRA.

The End

Written by: Jack Mc Carthy

Story teller: Jimmy Mc Carthy

1922

Dan Breen's APPEAL

**Dan Breen's Appeal to His Old Comrades
now in the Free State Army.**

COMRADES!

Are you aware that you are fighting against the Republic that you fought to establish in 1916, and that was maintained and is going to be maintained?

Are you aware that England tried to disestablish the Republic through a reign of Black and Tan terror?

Are you aware that she is now using the so-called Provisional Government to try where she failed?

Are you aware that YOU are the Black and Tans of to-day, the only difference is the uniform?

Are you aware that the death of CATHAL BRUGHHA is a damnable and eternal stain on the uniform?

Are you aware that CATHAL BRUGHHA died as my comrade, SEAN TREACY, died?—no surrender to the enemies of the Republic was their cry.

Are you aware that there are hundreds of MEN who will die as Brughha and Treacy died in defence of the Republic?

Are you aware that I did my best to maintain the army for the Republic, but I failed because your section took orders from our only enemy—England?

Comrades, I thought my term of soldiering was over, but duty has again called me to defend the Republic, which I will do or die in the attempt.

Will you again stand with me as my comrades in arms, or will you continue to fight with England against me?

DAN BREEN



Michael
Collins.
1919.