

BOMBS AND BULLETS

Story of Attack on Co. Kilkenny Barracks

FIERCE PISTOL DUEL

Mr. Edmund Cummins, J.P., Coroner, held an inquest to-day in the Courthouse, Tipperary, into the circumstances connected with the death of Constable Heanue, of Dovea, who succumbed to bullet wounds received at Ragg, Co. Tipperary, on the 4th March.

Mr. M. Gleeson, Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Crown; Mr. Williamson, D.I., Tipperary; and Mr. Golden, D.I., Charles, were also present.

Mr. Gleeson, addressing the jury, said he had been directed by the Government to attend to give the Coroner every assistance he could as to the death of this unfortunate man Constable Heanue.

He was not going into any details, but he would give them sufficient evidence to enable them to come to a conclusion as to how the unfortunate man met his death.

He would ask them to find a verdict of murder, and as to the parties who committed it, he would say nothing as, the police were making inquiries to trace them, and it was in the interests of justice that a description of them should not now be given.

DETAILED NARRATIVE.

Constable Flaherty, examined, said he was stationed at Dovea for about 6 months. There were some licensed and business shops at Ragg, about 1½ miles distant, where the police got certain of their supplies. It was a well-known fact that some of the police went there every day.

On Thursday, 4th March, about 4.15 in the evening, witness and deceased left Dovea to go to Ragg, where they arrived about 5 o'clock.

On reaching Ragg they went on about 200 yards, in the Charles direction, to the post office. When they got to O'Dwyer's publichouse, adjoining the post office, they saw three bicycles outside, and three men in the shop. Witness and deceased proceeded on about 200 yards towards Holy-cross, and then turned back. When they came to Fanning's publichouse at the Ragg. On re-passing O'Dwyer's publichouse the bicycles were gone. On going inside Fanning's they saw three men there being served with drink.

Witness and deceased went to the grocery side of the shop, which was the nearest the door. Mr. Fanning came to attend to them. On giving the order for their goods witness and deceased turned their backs towards the counter and stood facing the three men. Const. Heanue sat up on the counter. No remarks were passed between witness, his companion, or the three men.

Mr. Fanning asked them how they were going to take the parcels.

Witness turned to speak to Mr. Flanagan.

He next heard the cry, "Hands up!" from the three men. There were no others in the shop at the time.

On hearing the cry, "Hands up," witness turned round, and the three men, who crossed to within a yard of them, fired shots in their direction.

He could not say how many were fired. Each of the three men had a revolver. Witness was not hit, but he was covered by two of them with revolvers, and could do nothing.

Constable Heanue got over the counter and into the office, and opened fire on the men. Witness and Constable Heanue had revolvers.

Of the two men covering witness with their revolvers, one turned on Constable Heanue and fired at him.

Witness knocked the revolver out of the hand of the other. The man who fired at Constable Heanue picked up the revolver, and the three men ran out.

Several shots were fired, but witness could not say who they were fired at or by whom.

Witness believed two of them fired into the office at the same time.

FIGHT RENEWED IN STREET.

Witness drew his revolver as soon as he could after the men went out the door and aimed at them, following them.