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DR F. T.

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C A B I N E T.

REPORT BY THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF ON THE SITUATION IN IRELAND FOR WEEK ENDING 24th JUNE, 1922.

(Circulated by the Secretary of State for War).

GENERAL.

There has been no change in the situation from a military point of view.

The elections for the Southern Ireland Parliament have been concluded, giving the Pro-Treaty party a good majority over the Republican party, while "Labour", "Independent" and "Farmers" gained a proportion of the seats, the final allotment of the seats being :-

Pro-Treaty	58.
Republican	36.
Labour.....	17.
Independent.....	6.
Farmers.....	7.
Trinity College Dublin	4.

It now remains to be seen what the attitude of the whole assembly including the Pro-Treaty party will be towards the terms of the Constitution.

2. Along the border the situation continues comparatively quiet. In the MONAGHAN salient there has been a withdrawal of the Irish Republican Army and the location of their forces now presents a distinctly defensive attitude. The use of artillery of our part appears to have considerably damped the offensive ardour of the Irish Republican Army.

3. A meeting of the liaison officials of the Northern and Southern Governments took place at the Military Headquarters (Second Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment) in KESH" on 24th June to arrange details regarding a neutral zone in the PETTIGOE-BELLEEK area. The general terms of the Agreement were discussed and it is hoped that the Agreement will come into force before the end of this month.

4. In the recent Irish Republican Army activity, both on the border and within the Six Counties, use has been made of the Royal Irish Constabulary uniform both to cover the tracks of the actual murderers and to bring disrepute on the forces of the Northern Government.

Two instances of this are reported from Co. ARMAGH, the men who committed the murders of Protestants during the night 16/17th June (vide para. 4 of the Situation Report for last week) are stated to have been disguised as policemen, while the ambushers of the Police Patrol at DRUMINTEE near FORKHILL the same night (vide para. 5 of the Situation Report for last week) were also in some dark uniform. An overcoat closely resembling a Royal Irish Constabulary or Prison Warder's uniform was among the articles left behind by the ambushers.

5. In BELFAST the campaign of arson by the Irish Republican Army has been continued. The number of houses or business premises burnt or damaged by bombs during the period under review being fifteen, fourteen of which were the property of Protestants, and one public-house, the property of a Roman Catholic.

6. The number of casualties in BELFAST during the week were :-

	<u>Killed.</u>	<u>Wounded.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Protestants	4	3	7
Roman Catholics	5	12	17
Unknown	1	-	1
TOTAL	10	15	25

7. On night 23/24th June, a party of police and military (Second Battalion Green Howards) who, when investigating, reported concentration of Irish Republican Army in North-Eastern part of County Antrim, were fired on in the village of CUSHENDALL. On arrival in the village the O.C. detachment of Green Howards found an engagement in progress in which both sides (i.e. Specials and Irish Republican Army) were firing. On lining a wall the troops were enfiladed by revolver fire from an alley way. This alley was fired into by troops and later three men were found dead there. The total Irish Republican Army casualties were four killed and two wounded and captured. One British Officer was slightly wounded. At least three of the dead have been identified as prominent or active members of the Irish Republican Army.

8. The news of the murder of Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson was received in Dublin on the evening of the 22nd June. On the 23rd a Press Communique from the Headquarters of the Provisional Government Section of the Irish Republican Army at Beggars Bush denied all responsibility for the crime. The following morning Mr. de Valera and Rory O'Connor (at the Four Courts) followed suit and, while they expressed no regret or reprobation regarding the dastardly outrage, they denied that their followers were in any way responsible for the murder.

The order confining troops to barracks was cancelled on the evening of the 24th.

9. A statement showing the quantities of explosives, &c., for which permits have been granted at the request of the Provisional Government is attached as Appendix 1.

The number of detonators is remarkable.

(Signed) G. N. F. MACREARY
General,
Commanding-in-Chief, Ireland.

G. H. Q. ;
Dublin,
27.4.22.

A P P E N D I X I.

Quantities of explosives, etc. for which
permits have been granted at the request
of the Provisional Government.

Period 18.6.22. - 24.6.22

Cartridges, sporting.....	900 lb.
Detonators.....	5644 "
Fuze, coils.....	1164 "
Gelignite.....	5588 "
Powder, blasting.....	643 "
Shots.....	14 "
