

OFFICIAL BULLETIN.**LIMERICK SITUATION****Fighting Continues.****THURLES SURROUNDED BY I.R.A.**

Field General Headquarters,
Military Barracks, Clonmel,
July 13th, 1922.

1st SOUTHERN DIVISION.

No operations in this area since last bulletin, as all enemy posts have been captured. Columns from this Division are now operating in the following areas;—Limerick City, East Limerick Bde. Area, Thurles, Wexford and Kilkenny. Supply bases have been established in this area.

2nd SOUTHERN DIVISION.

The agreement reached in Limerick City, which covered Limerick City and East Limerick Brigade Area, has now been broken by the Free State officers, who signed it. Fighting is in progress there at the moment. G.H.Q. is in close touch with J/C. Operations there and reports to hand show that our lines of communication are working splendidly. Our troops hold the initiative now. One enemy sniper was picked off corner of Upper Henry street. Another enemy sniper was picked off the parapet of the Catholic Institute near William street. A Republican Boy Scout reported killed near the Ordnance Barracks. One of our men killed in the Telephone Exchange by enemy sniper.

Reinforcements reached New Barracks from Cork District.

Reinforcements moving to Limerick captured party of enemy, rifles and mines, etc., and five enemy motor cars were captured by our troops in this engagement.

Telephonic communication with Limerick completely cut.

Heavy fighting reported:—Ordnance Barracks and in Co. Clare district at rear of Strand Barracks. Fighting developing gradually along front from Ordnance Barracks to the Newtownperrie Mills. A sharp engagement in Thomas street. Three enemy killed and four or five wounded. No casualties on our side.

Not less than six men have left Free State forces and are now fighting with us.

A column operating around Tipperary side of Limerick City attacked and captured Caherconkey Free State post. Fifty-four of the garrison surrendered after a three hours' fight. Twenty-two rifles and some revolvers were captured, as well as big supplies.

Two Brigade Commandants were amongst the prisoners and seven other officers. Further reinforcements have been sent to Limerick.

Our troops have now surrounded Thurles town, in which Free State troops have taken up positions. Fighting there has not yet been reported, but an early attack on that position is now certain. Our columns are also operating around Kilkenny. The roads are now moving but all roads are blocked, and communication is now impossible for the enemy in that area. Their men are deserting and joining up our columns, bringing their arms with them. Enemy have taken over all banks in Kilkenny.

3rd SOUTHERN.

Situation in this area still unchanged.

1st WESTERN DIVISION.

Limerick agreement, which also applied to this area was broken. Our troops are now on the offensive, and reports to hand show—An enemy brigade Q.M. and four men were disarmed by our forces near Oranmore. Five Webleys, 1 grenade, and a motor car captured.

A party of Free State forces disarmed in Galway; they offered no resistance. Convoy of 16 cars attacked within half a mile of Ennis. Free State brigadier captured, 3 rifles and 78 rounds of ammunition fell into our hands.

Brigade V.C. and three men left Gort Free State post and joined our column. They brought with them 2 rifles and 100 rounds of ammunition and 1 revolver.

A party of our men were surprised near Galway City. Lieut. J. Donnellan was killed and five others wounded. One Free State soldier was also killed in this encounter, which lasted ten minutes. The ambush was as a result of spying.

Communication with Limerick now cut off. Our troops have destroyed a number of posts, and are now operating effectively in columns.

2nd WESTERN.

Situation unchanged.

3rd WESTERN.

Reports from this area show that the following Free State posts have been captured:—Kinlough, Co. Donegal—48 prisoners, 31 rifles, and 25 rounds of .303; Riverstown—24 prisoners, 18 rifles, and 200 rounds .303; barrack was demolished. Our forces attacked Majorhamilton; no casualties reported.

Free State forces captured an I.R.P. barrack in Sligo; 1 shot gun and a broken revolver fell into their hands; they arrested three police, who were in the barrack at the time.

4th WESTERN.

This area is now completely in our hands.

3rd EASTERN.

No fighting reported from this area. Enemy communications being effectively destroyed. Enemy occupy Enniscorthy, and Wexford, but are acting entirely on the defensive.

DUBLIN AND NORTHERN AREAS.

Following the evacuation of O'Connell street, some fighting is reported around Blessington.

Street fighting still continues in the city. Reports show that lorries are being ambushed there daily.

The situation in these areas was not as it might be but this was owing to difficulties of communicating with G.H.Q. This matter has now been got over to a great extent, and things are gradually righting themselves.