

# A Gallant Soldier

## Late Commandant Ignatius O'Neill

### Striking Funeral Tribute

The remains of ex Commandant Ignatius O'Neill, whose death took place in Drey, arrived on Sunday evening at Lihinch. The funeral took place on Monday in Calura. Ex-officers of the Old I.R.A. acted as a guard of honour in the church and in the funeral cortege to the grave. The coffin was draped in the tri-colour. It was a large and representative funeral, with members and officers of the old 4th Batt. marching in military formation after the coffin, which was borne shoulder high. Three volleys were fired over the grave by old comrades. Captains Hannon, Feeley, McMahon, Folham, and Comdts. Sean Hayes and Hannon represented the Army authorities. Assistant Commissioner T. Wolfe, Chief Superintendent Gilroy, Chief Superintendent Liddy, Superintendents McDonagh and Smith represented the Garda.

The clergy present were Rev. Canon Carr and Vaughan, Rev. Fathers Glynn, O'Reilly and McKenna.

The chief mourners were, Mrs M. O'Neill (widow); Messrs Ignatius, Pat, Conal and Donald (sons); Estyl, Moira, and Francis (daughters); Supl. O'Neill, Alphonsus and Conal (brothers).

At a leader of the I.R.A. in his native Clare during the Anglo Irish conflict he will be best remembered.

He was one of the first men in the South to organise a column and took part in every engagement in the mid-Clare area, being severely wounded four times.

Comdt O'Neill particularly distinguished himself at the Clows Hill ambush. In the face of enemy fire he removed the body of his comrade Martin Devitt, of Ennistymon, who was wounded.

Speaking at the graveside, Senator T. V. Hogan said the last tribute of respect and honour had been paid to the remains of a great Irishman and soldier. His valour was well known in his native Clare and had contributed in no small measure to the winning of their freedom.

But something more remained to be done, and if only the young men of Ireland showed the same courage and zeal for their country's welfare as he had shown then the question of Partition would be solved in a short time.

He was only voicing the sentiments of the nation when he extended to Comdt. O'Neill's sorrow-stricken wife and family sincere sympathy in their great sorrow. He earnestly hoped that the young family, through the generosity of a grateful people, would be properly cared for.

A mixed firing party consisting of ex-members of the Army and their opponents in the civil war fired three volleys over the grave.