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EDUCATION

# Innocents of 1921 honoured by memorial

by Brian McLaughlin

LIMERICK teenagers shot dead by RIC and Black and Tans 92 years ago were remembered at the weekend when a memorial was unveiled at the site of the tragedy.

Despite the freezing temperatures on Easter Sunday, up to 200 people came to Blackwater just outside Limerick city in Clare for the unveiling ceremony.

The memorial was unveiled by Mary Beegan,

Lansdowne Park, Limerick a niece of the two victims, brothers Cecil (18) and Aidan (14) O'Donovan from Emma Villas, Thomondgate, and Jim Brislane who lives in Cratloe, a nephew of another member of the family, a well-known former prop forward for Young Munster.

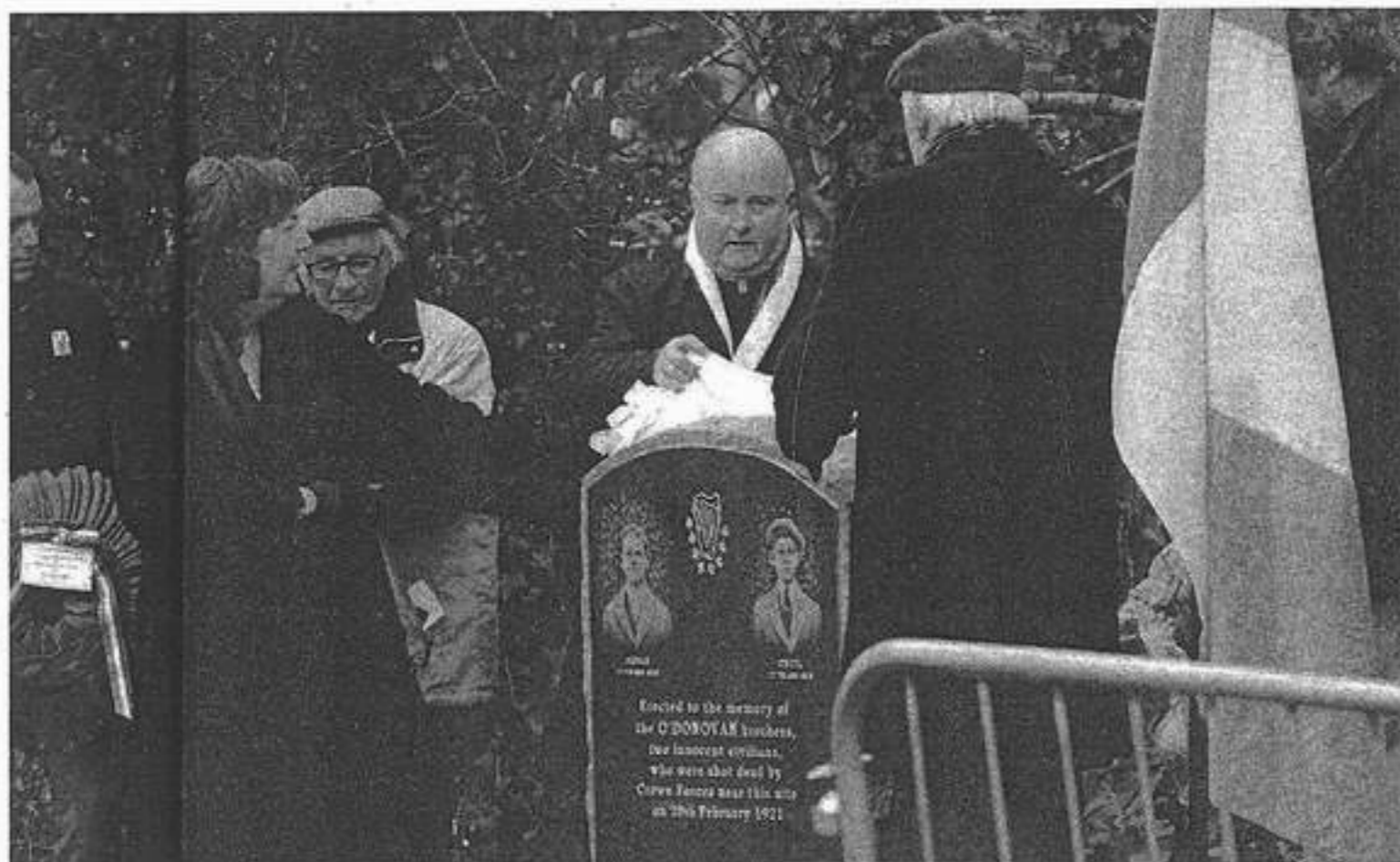
An oration was given by Limerick historian Tom Toomey and Parteen historian Donal O'Riain laid a wreath at the location on the Broadford Road, across from McMahon's pub.

On Sunday February 20, 1921 the three

O'Donovan brothers Cecil, Aidan and Thomas and their first cousin Benjamin (Ben) set out after Mass to search for birds' nests at Blackwater Mill four miles from their home.

A party of Black and Tans arrived at the spot and without warning opened fire on the boys; Cecil and Aidan were killed instantly before an officer intervened to stop the shooting.

A military tribunal later and a court enquiry left unanswered questions regarding the incident with particular regard as to who gave the order to fire.



Relatives, historians, clergy and the people of Blackwater gathered to honour the memory of the young O'Donovan brothers, shot dead by Black and Tans in 1921 while out hunting for birds' nests at the mill

## Ver abbing

### BURGLARY

## Man charged with burglary

A MAN has appeared in court after he was arrested

### CAR CRIME

## Gardai investigate arson attacks on cars

GARDAI are following a damaged and set alight since

## News

### CEREMONY

# 1916 Commemoration



A commemoration ceremony was held at the Ogligh Naisiúnta na hÉireann Monument in Pery Square on Easter Sunday to mark the 97th anniversary of the Easter Rising. Mayor of Limerick Gerry McLoughlin laid a wreath at the monument in remembrance of the men of 1916. The Colour Party under the command of Mr Gerard Enright rendered military honours at the monument. This was followed by a parade, led by piper Ollie McGuire, to the nearby Dominican Church where mass was concluded with the sounding of The Last Post



## Aircraft Maintenance

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### HEALTH

## Minister to blame for hospital crisis

THE "terrible decisions" made by Health Minister James Reilly are to blame for the current crisis in the Mid-Western Regional Hospital, according to Limerick Fianna Fáil TD Niall Collins.

Meanwhile, the HSE is facing calls to restore emergency services in the nearby Ennis and Nenagh hospitals to help tackle overcrowding in Limerick.

However, according to a spokesperson, neither hospital has the appropriate surgical or medical facilities to man a 24-hour emergency department.

The HSE has revealed that plans are underway to open 20 beds in St John's Hospital over the coming days and further beds in the Mid-Western Regional Hospital, once the new Critical Care Block is fully occupied.

Commenting on the high numbers of patients waiting on trolleys, Deputy Collins said: "This crisis is fast descending into a farce and the silence from the Minister for Health has been deafening."

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