

The great trouble in dealing with Irish crime is the impossibility of making a simultaneous house to house search for arms in any large town. It is not easy to complete a thorough search of even one house under four or five hours and the number of the police and military available for such duties is inadequate. 221

The Sinn Feiner secretes his arms in the most unlikely places and takes good care to have little incriminating matter in his house or about his person. A revolver is easily hidden and difficult to find only too often it is passed to one of the women in the house who keeps it on her until the raiding party have gone. To meet this elementary stratagem the authorities now employ a certain number of women searchers but it is not possible to take them on all the raids that are carried out.

One of the difficulties met by the police is that a perfectly loyal business man may have treasonable employees who use his premises as cover for their criminal conspiracies.

Such a case occurred recently in Cork where a bomb exploded in an undertakers shop. Two men were killed and an apprentice badly wounded.

It would appear that the deceased men were examining a bomb at their work table when it exploded and killed both. The apprentice who was on a ladder in the shop was blown off and severely wounded. He is now in Hospital. The Police searched the shop and found concealed therein 353 revolver bullets of various kinds (the most of them flat-nosed). A box of small revolver ammunition (300 Cartridges) 4 Rifle cartridges and 1 signal rocket probably stolen from a coastguard station.

The two deceased men were Sinn Feiners and were no doubt preparing the bomb for some nefarious purpose when it exploded. They probably used the shop to conceal their stuffs.

The owner of the premises and his son are loyal people and would not be guilty of conniving at the concealment of the stuff in the shop - which is away from his (the owners)

residence

residence.

The bomb was probably a rough home-made article, as some pieces of metal found were of that kind. The apprentice is not in a fit condition to be interviewed as his head is fractured; but it is thought he will not die.

In addition to the ammunition enumerated above a soldiers trench helmet painted black was found in the shop used by the two deceased men. There is no doubt that the deceased men were members of the I.R.A. and had the explosives and helmet for carrying out their criminal designs.

The Cork battalions of the Irish Republican Army usually appear in khaki and with full equipment including trench helmets. In the recent ambush of Auxiliary Cadets at Macroom over a hundred of the ambushers were reported to be so equipped.

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