

THE CORK CITY AMBUSH

ATTACKERS' MACHINE GUN

The official report issued from Dublin Castle yesterday regarding the attack on the police at Parnell Bridge, Cork, states:

"At 7 p.m. last night 8 policemen left Empress R.I.C. Barracks to proceed to the Union Barracks, Cork (military law area). When they were crossing Parnell Bridge on the return at 7.30 they were attacked in the rear from the ruins of a public house with guns and revolver shots.

"Six constables were wounded—2 seriously—and a number of civilians were injured by bullets and bomb splinters used by the attackers.

"The police returned the fire, but with what effect is not known.

"A later message received this morning says the party consisted of 10 policemen, 7 of whom were wounded—one seriously. At least 5 civilians who were passing by were wounded by the bomb splinters and bullets used by the rebels. The injured policemen were removed to the military hospital."

The attack, it is stated, was opened by throwing bombs, and the shrapnel inflicted severe injuries on some of the police. Another bomb explosion took place almost immediately. The comrades of the injured men soon recovered from the surprise of their attack, and engaged with their assailants, who were apparently near the ruins of the Carnegie Library garden and City Hall.

FIVE MINUTES' BATTLE.

A desperate affray, lasting about five minutes, ensued. The area was simply bullet-swept. The police were relieved with reinforcements from Union Quay Police Barracks, and the attacking party were beaten off. Volleys of shots were, however, fired occasionally for about an hour after.

The police believe that their firing, directed to the places from which shots rained on them, was effective, and state that the attacking party were in possession of a machine gun. It was also stated that the attackers had a motor car.

Following the ambush there was considerable military and police activity. A vigorous search was made of the ruins of the Municipal Buildings and the Free Library as well as the hulk of a damaged barque lying opposite the Municipal Buildings. Passers-by were held up and searched, and in some instances roughly handled. The people of the locality spent a night of terror, and many of them did not retire to bed at all. Yesterday shopkeepers in Anglesea St. and Union quay were removing their property and effects.

Some shots were fired on the South Mall and George's St. an hour after the attack, and for some time the greatest excitement prevailed. Trams were brought to a standstill on the South Mall for over an hour but shortly after 9 o'clock the excitement subsided, and half-an-hour before Curfew the streets were deserted.

THE WOUNDED MEN.

Yesterday the wounded men were reported to be progressing favourably, and none of them was stated to be in a critical condition.

Const. Shortall was wounded by shrapnel in the head and legs; Const. Johnson—wounded in the legs; Const. J. Ahern—wounded in the eye and below the knee. The other wounded men are Sergt. Driscoll, Consts. Elliott, Chambers, and Morrissey.

Of the wounded civilians the only serious cases are those of Wm. Owens who received bullet wounds in the right arm and on the right side of the neck, and John Hughes, who was wounded in both arms and on the scalp.

A protracted conference between the police and military authorities took place at Union quay Barracks yesterday. Brig.-General Higginson was present.

This is the third attack of the kind on a body of the Crown forces within the city. The "Daily Chronicle" states that the barking of a policeman's dog aroused their attention as they were crossing the bridge, and they immediately spread out before the attack opened, otherwise their casualties would probably have been heavier.