



## Unit 7:

*The Irish War of Independence, 1919-21*


# *Document Pack*

**PART II**

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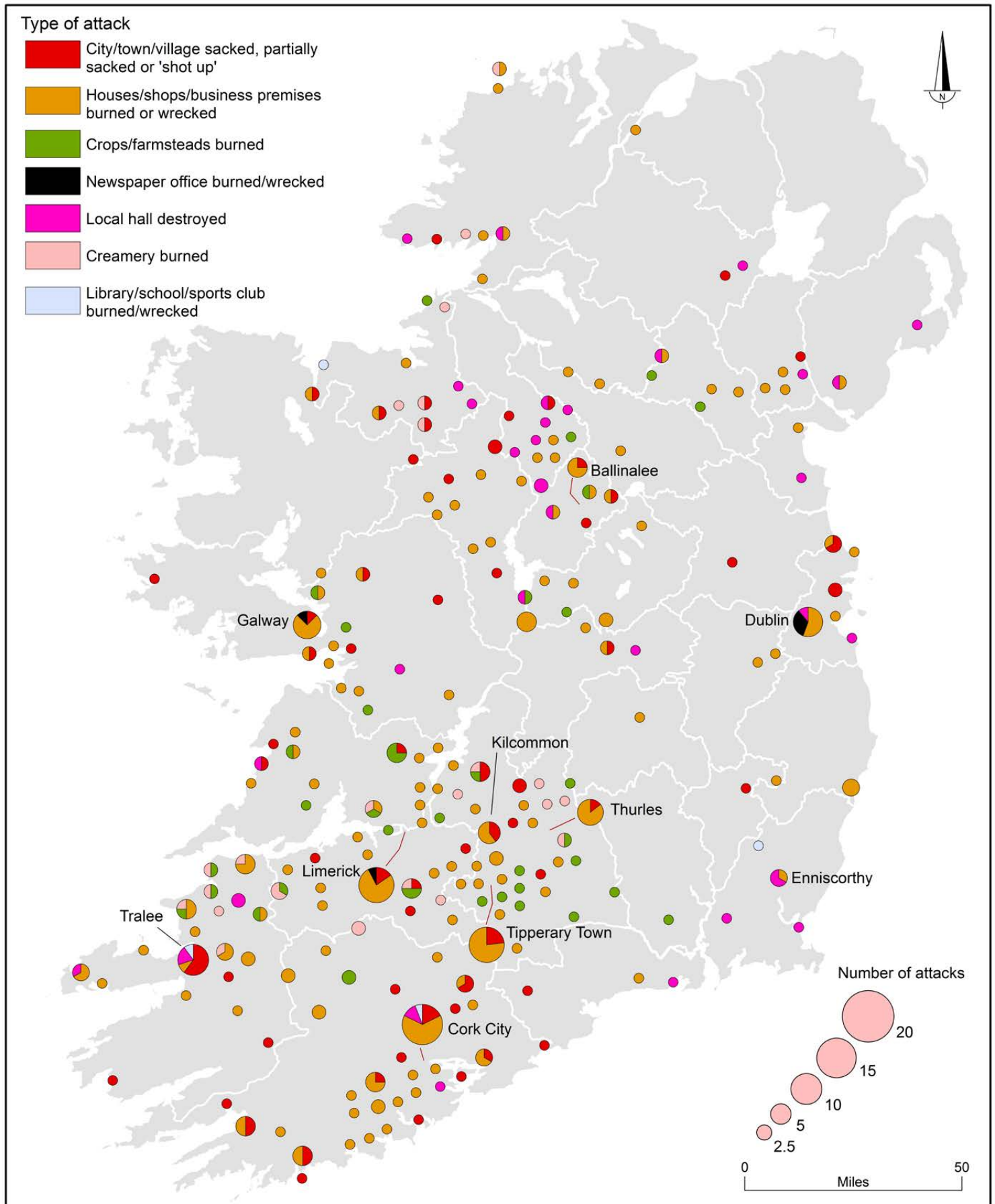
## PART II

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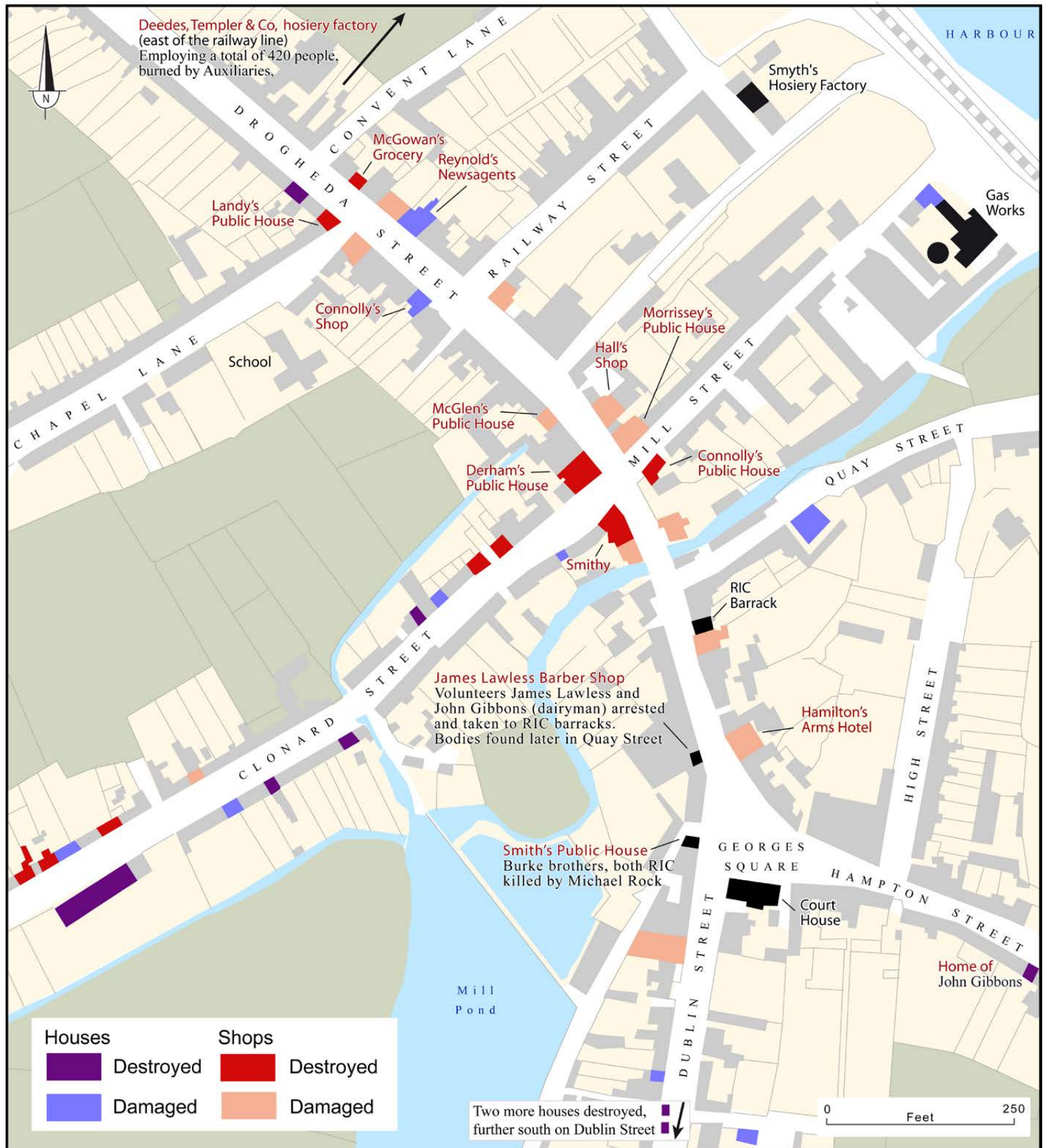
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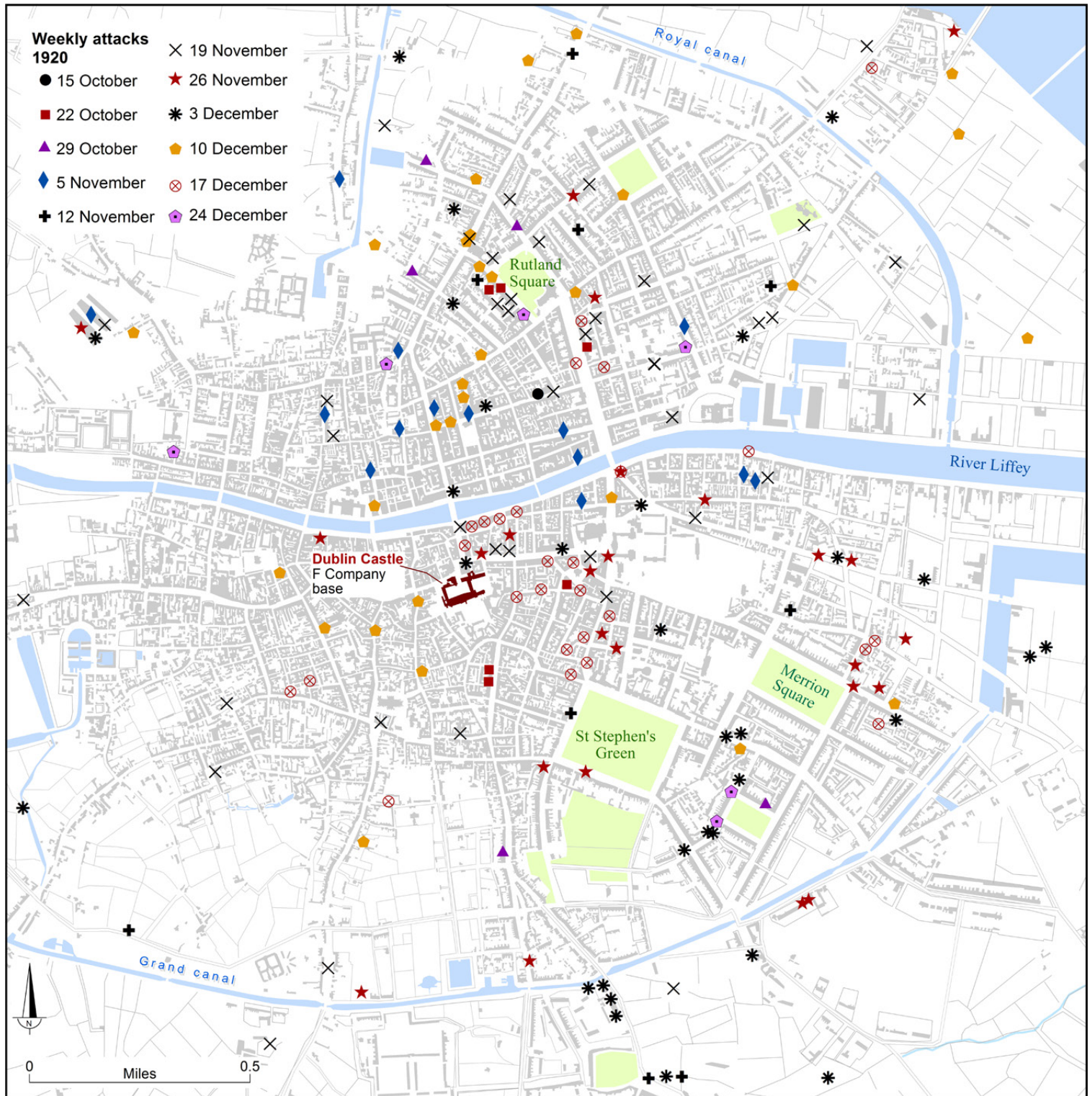


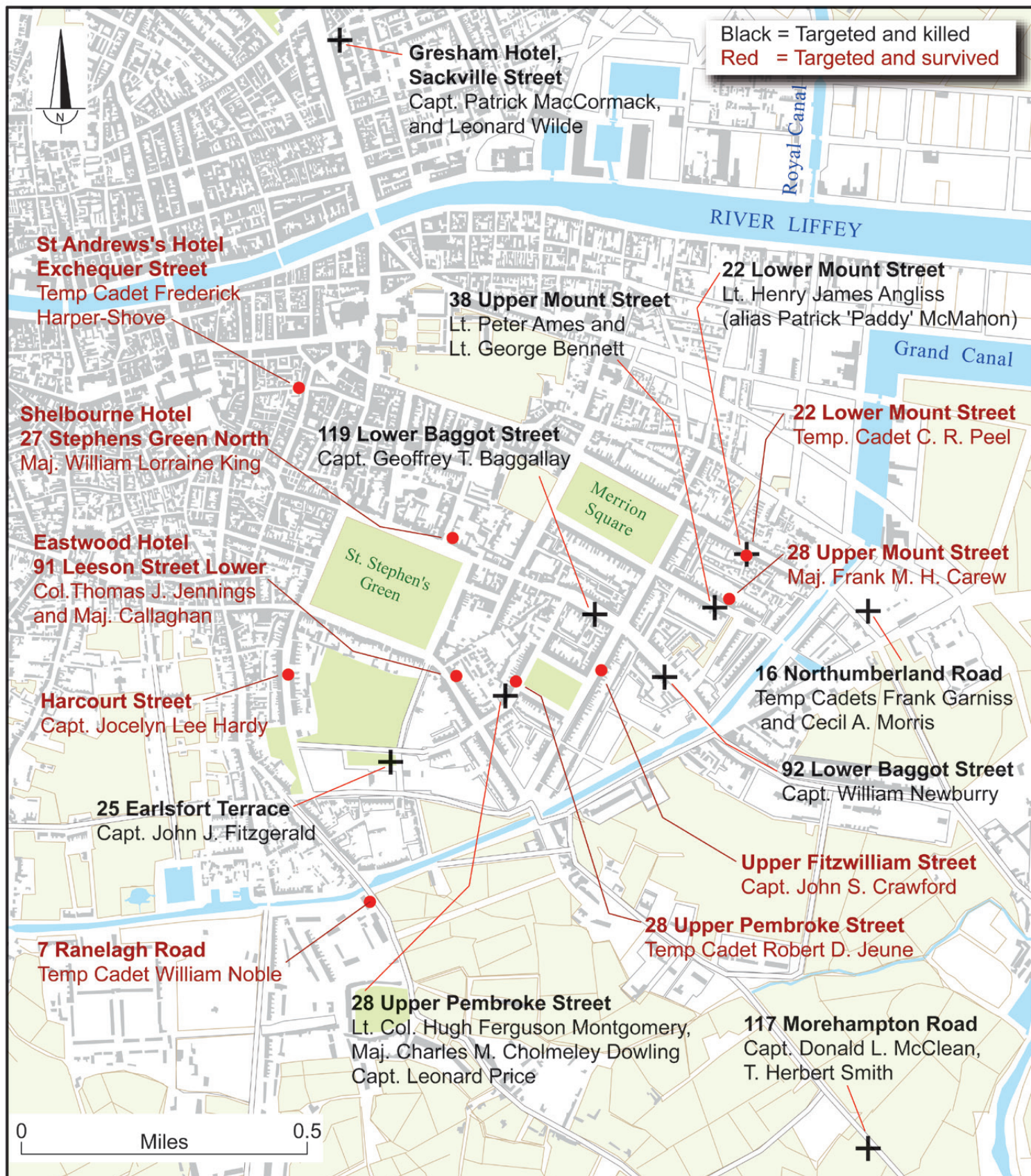


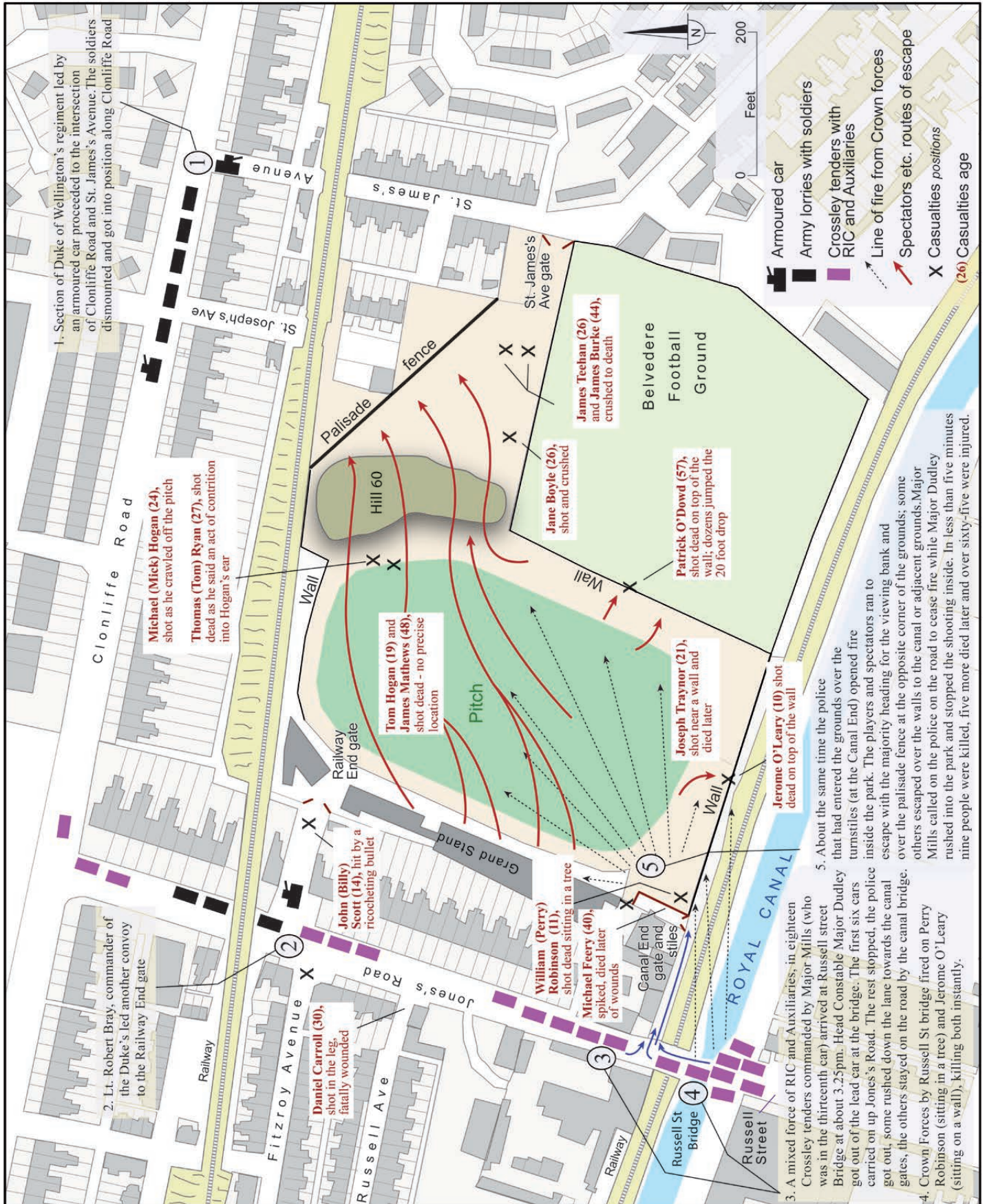


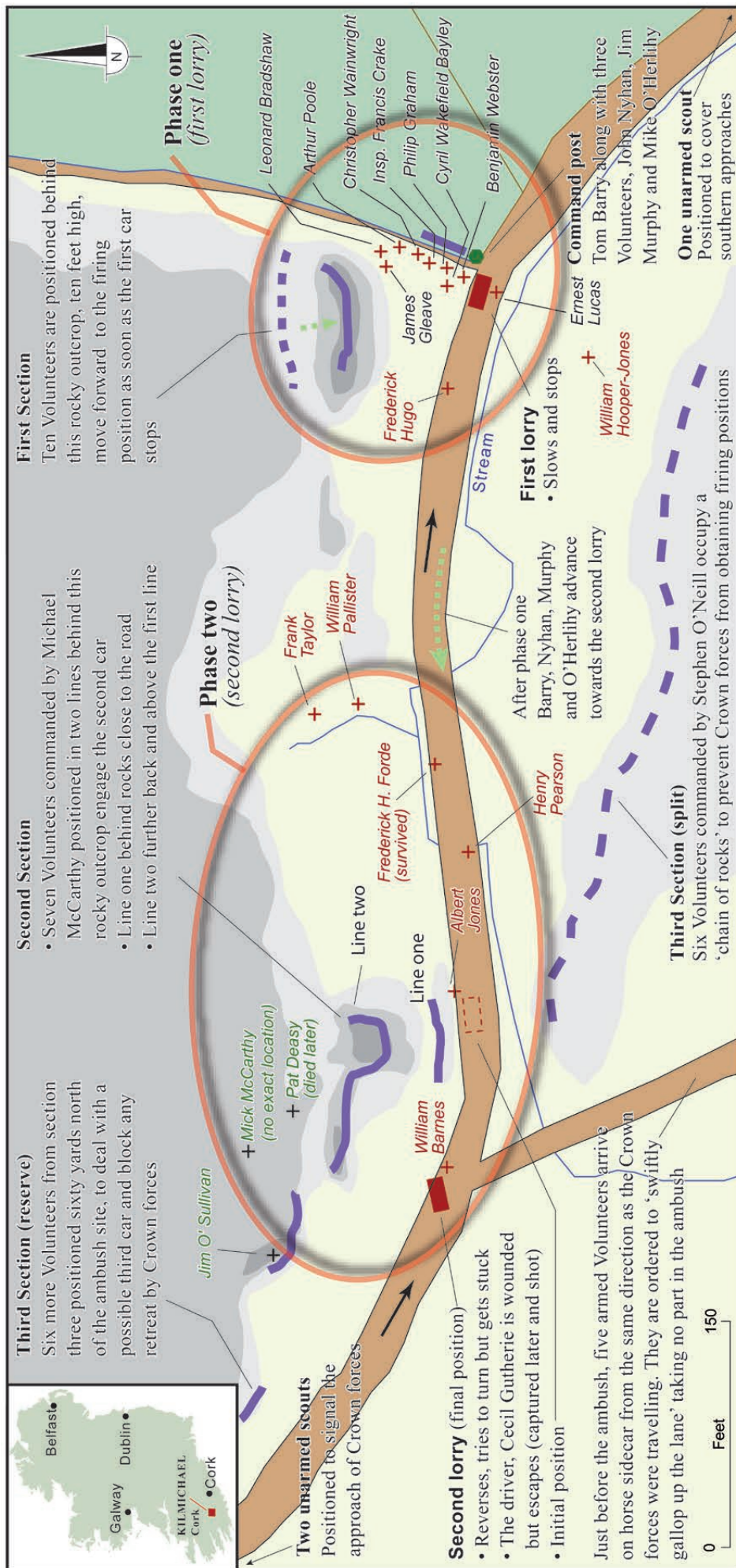












### Phase two (second lorry)

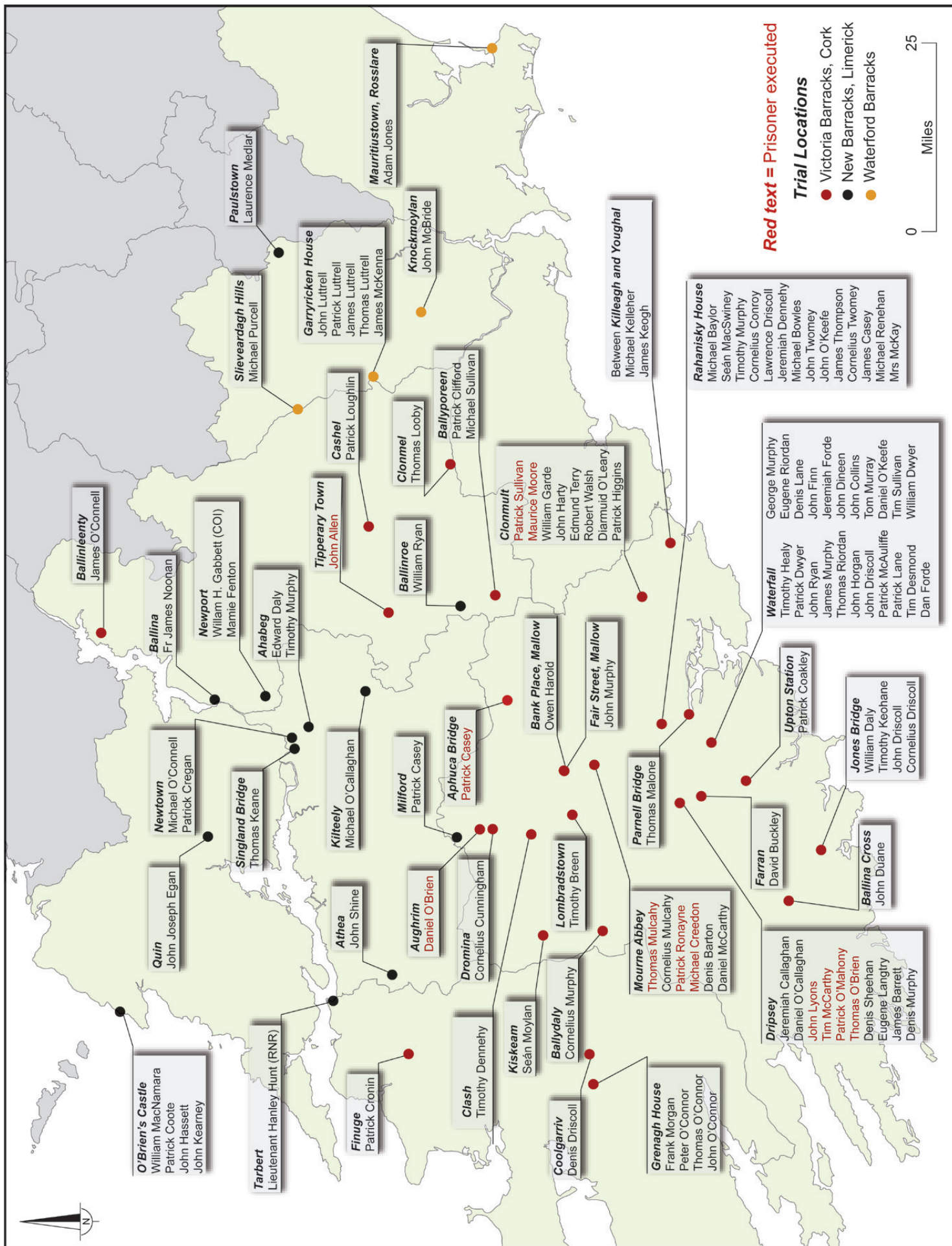
1. Element of surprise is lost, Crown forces dismount from the lorry leading to a much more dispersed and prolonged engagement. This also leads to confusion regarding the 'false surrender'.
2. Jim O'Sullivan and Mike McCarthy are (most probably), killed during this initial phase of the engagement. Pat Deasy is injured and dies later.
3. The ambush is over in less than forty-five minutes.
4. Volunteers assemble on the road and collect arms.
5. Ambush party move off in a southerly direction.

### Phase one (first lorry)

1. Convoy approaches at about 4.00pm on Sunday 28 November 1920.
2. Barry steps out on to the road in uniform to stop the first car.
3. He throws a hand grenade into the lorry, killing the driver and possibly one other.
4. The lorry stops a few yards in front of the command post. Volunteers open fire.
5. In little over five minutes all nine occupants of the first lorry are killed or dying.
6. Volunteers suffer no injuries.





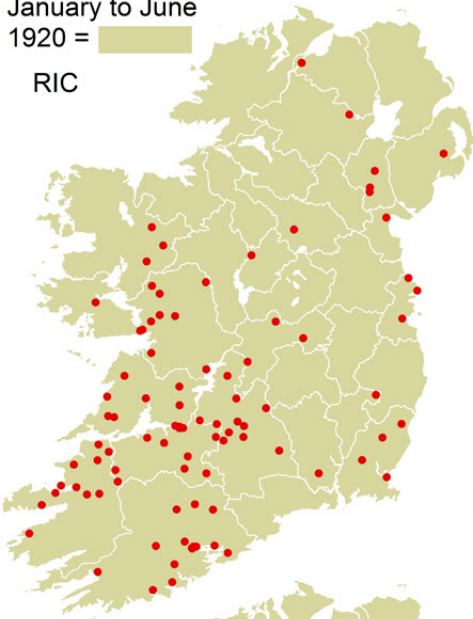






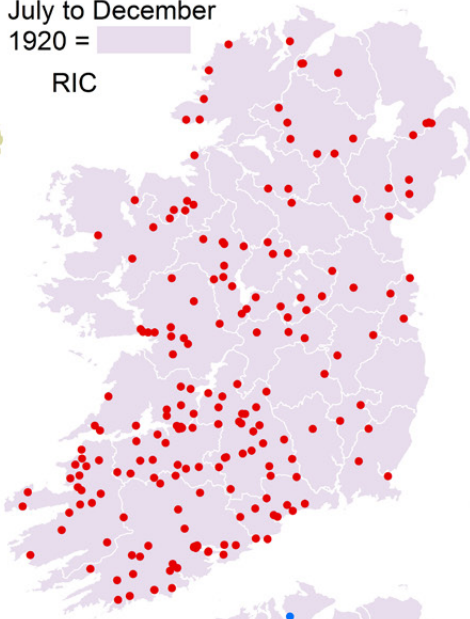
January to June  
1920 =

RIC



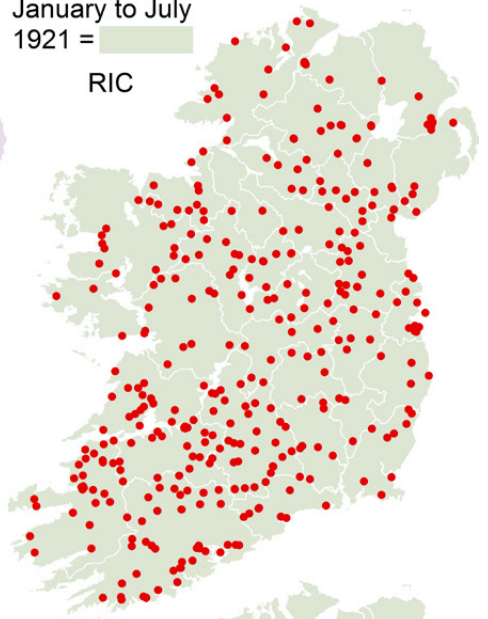
July to December  
1920 =

RIC

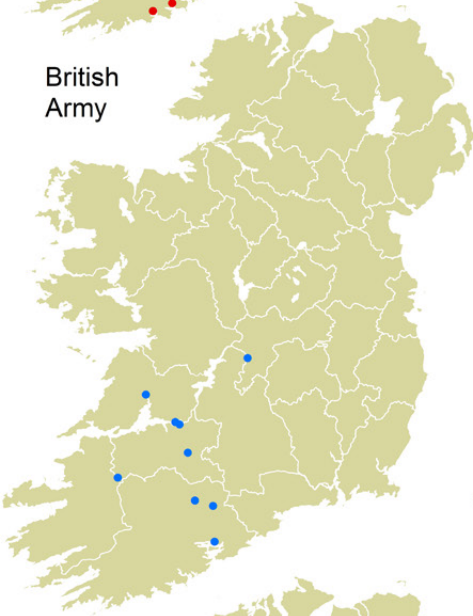


January to July  
1921 =

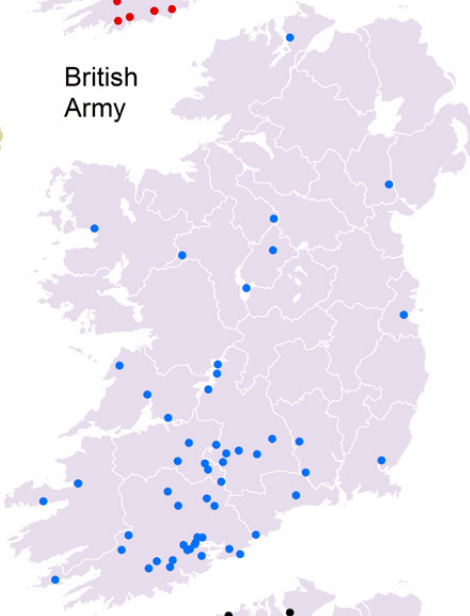
RIC



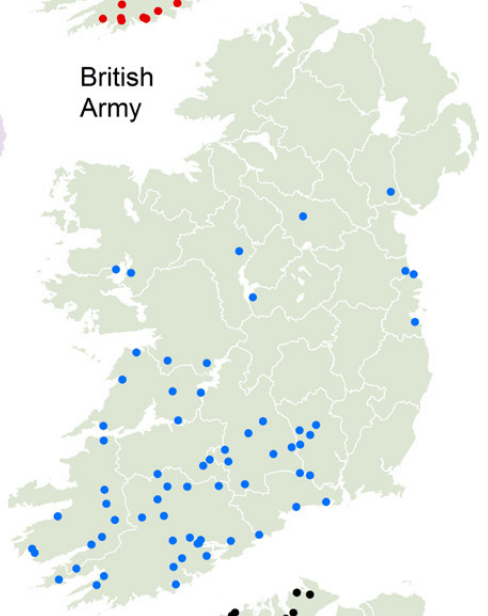
British  
Army



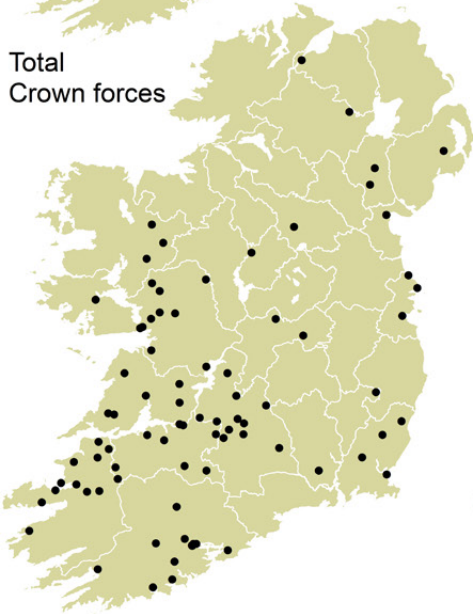
British  
Army



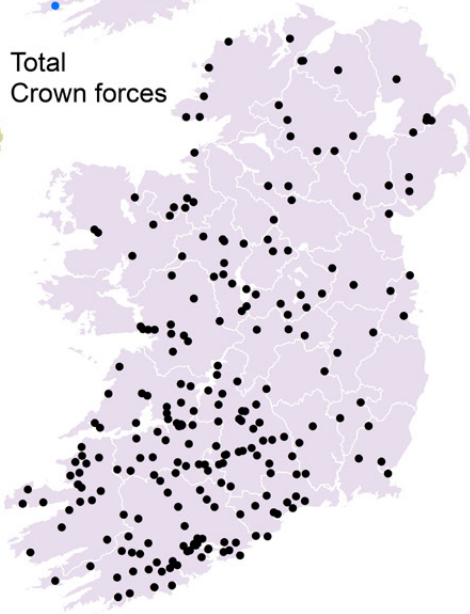
British  
Army



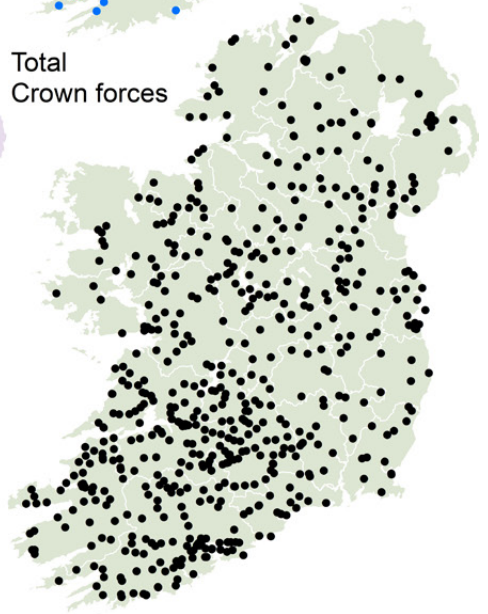
Total  
Crown forces



Total  
Crown forces



Total  
Crown forces



## *Context and Captions*

**Source 12.      PHOTOGRAPH: Scene of an official Black and Tan reprisal, a public house in Templemore, County Tipperary**

The destruction of this public house likely occurred after the assassination of District Inspector William Wilson on 16 August 1920, when British troops wrecked businesses in Templemore and set fire to the town hall. (The town experienced a second military reprisal following another fatal IRA attack on 28 October 1920, which resulted in shops being destroyed along Main Street.) The August reprisal triggered one of the most colourful episodes of the War of Independence, involving the 'bleeding statues of Templemore'. Before the IRA gun attack in August, a teenage farm labourer, Jimmy Walsh, claimed he had seen apparitions of the Virgin Mary, including blood coming from the eyes of statues kept in his house near the town. He carried one of the statues into the town during the British reprisal, and then told townspeople divine intervention had spared the town from even worse destruction by the British. Walsh's statues were put on display daily in a shop window, and were seen to bleed from the eyes. Pilgrims seeking cures descended on Templemore and a neighbouring holy well, with thousands arriving daily, including some who had travelled from Europe and the US. IRA officers levied a lucrative vehicle tax on visiting devotees, and were reassured by Walsh that the Virgin Mary approved of the IRA's guerrilla tactics. However, disapproving clerical and republican authorities (including Michael Collins) ultimately spread word that the bleeding statues were fakes, with the blood coming from hidden alarm clocks inside the statues that released a charge of sheep's blood at designated intervals. In addition, on 29 September the IRA attacked a police patrol along the pilgrimage route. British troops flooded the area, which further discouraged visitors. The Templemore pilgrimage stopped almost as abruptly as it had started.

[Source: NLI HOGW 113. See J. Reynolds, 'The Templemore Miracles', *History Ireland*, vol. 17, Jan.–Feb. 2009]

**Source 13.      PHOTOGRAPH: Ballytrain RIC barracks in County Monaghan, captured and sacked by the IRA on 14 February 1920**

[See BMH WS 519 (Thomas Donnelly); Photo: National Library of Ireland, HOGW 53]

**Source 14.      MAP: Attacks on property by the Crown forces, Sept 1919- Feb 1921, as compiled and listed by the Dáil Éireann Publicity Department**

The list is not exhaustive (for example, only five attacks on newspaper offices are listed, whereas at least eighteen such incidents occurred in this period), but the general pattern is clear. Munster was the worst hit, accounting for 60 per cent of all attacks on property. Cork had the highest number (70), followed by Tipperary (62), Kerry (49), Limerick (36) and Clare (25). Outside of Munster, the highest rates occurred in Galway (25), followed by Dublin (16), Leitrim (16), Sligo (15), Longford (14) and Westmeath (12). Only one attack is recorded for each of the counties of Derry, Kilkenny, Meath, Laois and Wicklow, while Antrim alone has no incident listed. Over 90 per cent of attacks occurred after July 1920. This coincided with the full deployment of the Black and Tans and Auxiliaries, but they were not solely responsible, as the regular Royal Irish Constabulary, and occasionally the British army, also played a role in reprisal attacks.

Attacks on property peaked in November–December 1920, when 180 such incidents were recorded, climaxing in the ‘Burning of Cork’ on 11–12 December 1920. In the first two months of ‘official reprisals’ in January–February 1921, there were seventy-nine recorded attacks. The term ‘sack’ was used in relation to generalised attacks on towns and villages, and implied a measure of looting by the Crown forces.

[Sources: The Struggle of the Irish People: address to the Congress of the United States, adopted at the January session of Dáil Éireann, 1921 (Government Printing Office, Washington, 1921), pp. 14–20; Irish Bulletin, vol. 3, no. 20, 28 September 1920; Dáil Éireann Publicity Department, ‘Map Showing Irish Towns and Villages wholly or partly wrecked by English Forces from Sept. 9th, 1919 to March 1st, 1921’, UCD Archives, p. 0150-1336]

**Source 15.      PHOTOGRAPH: Members of an American Committee for Relief in Ireland delegation being shown around Balbriggan, County Dublin in February 1921**

Large parts of the town had been destroyed by the Crown forces on 20–21 September 1920. The delegation, led by Clement J. France, a Seattle-based lawyer, was in Ireland from 12 February to 31 March 1921 and visited ninety-five locations (cities, towns, villages and creameries) that had suffered destruction or damage at the hands of the Crown forces. The committee, via the Irish White Cross Society, subsequently provided over £4,000 to fund employment initiatives in Balbriggan, which suffered acute unemployment following the destruction, in particular, of the Deedes, Templar & Co. hosiery factory that had employed 120 on the premises, as well as 300 off-site workers.

[Source: National Library of Ireland, HOGW 50. See Reports [of the] American Committee for Relief in Ireland and Irish White Cross (1922)]

**Source 16.      MAP: Properties affected by the sack of Balbriggan in County Dublin by Crown forces on 20–21 September 1920**

Like most of the large-scale reprisals in this period, the provocation was the killing of a policeman in the town. Black and Tans and Auxiliaries from the nearby Gormanstown training camp carried out the sacking. Fifty buildings were destroyed or damaged, twenty-six of which were private houses. Two local republicans were also bayoneted to death. Photographs and reports of the destruction featured in many international newspapers, and, along with the burning of Cork on 11 December 1920, Balbriggan became the best known of the Crown forces’ reprisal actions. The town suffered acute unemployment as a result of the destruction, especially of the Deedes, Templar & Co. hosiery factory, which employed over 400 directly and indirectly. The town’s other hosiery factory, Smyth’s, was apparently only saved by the intervention of a local RIC constable. The Irish White Cross allocated £4,000 to the town to fund employment initiatives in 1921.

[For sources and a more detailed map (© David Fitzpatrick), see D. Fitzpatrick, ‘The Price of Balbriggan’, in Fitzpatrick (ed.), *Terror in Ireland, 1916–1923* (Dublin, 2012), pp. 75–101; see also Reports [of the] American Committee for Relief in Ireland and Irish White Cross (1922); R. O’Mahony, ‘The Sack of Balbriggan’, in D. Fitzpatrick (ed.), *Terror in Ireland, 1916–1923* (Dublin, 2012)]

**Source 17**      **MAP: Premises raided by 'F' Company, Auxiliary Division, Royal Irish Constabulary (ADRIC), 15 October–29 December 1920**

Stationed in Dublin Castle and wearing distinctive uniforms, 'F' Company of the ADRIC played a visible role in Dublin's counter-insurgency campaign. This map identifies the locations of 280 raids conducted by 'F' Company during eleven weeks from mid-October until the end of December 1920. The 'Auxies' routinely searched homes, hotels, pubs, shops and businesses for republican fugitives, arms and incriminating documents. Some premises were visited more than once, while many raids were launched to capture individual suspects. By organising search locations by the week in which they were visited, a rough geography becomes apparent. For example, during the week of 3 December, 'F' Company focused on south Dublin's upscale residential neighbourhoods near Stephen's Green, Merrion Square and Ranelagh. The next week (starting 10 December), it visited locations in the north-side district around Rutland Square (now Parnell Square), an area previously targeted on the week of 19 November. The following week (starting 17 December), 'F' Company concentrated on the Grafton Street area, searching a number of the city's fashionable hotels and bars. The raids shown here comprised a fraction of those carried out in Dublin during 1920–21. 'F' Company was only a small part of the Crown forces garrison in Dublin, which included up to fourteen British army battalions and 9,000–10,000 troops. The latter conducted their own raids, which in early 1921 included multi-day search cordons of sections of urban districts. This map illustrates the heavy footprint made by the British counter-insurgency forces in the capital during the War of Independence.

[Source: National Archives, UK, WO 35/75]

**Source 18.**      **MAP: IRA attacks on 'Bloody Sunday', 21 November 1920**

The IRA offensive against suspected British intelligence agents on the morning of 'Bloody Sunday' delivered a body blow to the British counter-insurgency campaign. Owing to the collapse of intelligence capabilities in the DMP and RIC, the British army established its own 'Secret Service' to target the IRA. During the summer of 1920, scores of specially recruited army officers were assigned to a plain-clothes unit designated the Dublin District Special Branch, attached to MO4x, the British army's military-intelligence department. Living with inadequate security precautions in hotels and boarding houses across Dublin, many of these officers were easily identified by Michael Collins' IRA intelligence department. Early Sunday morning, separate IRA assassination teams simultaneously struck fourteen different premises housing twenty two suspected British agents. The scale of the operation required scores of IRA Volunteers, many without prior shooting experience. Collins sought to strike the British agents at once, choosing an early-morning time when they were most likely to be home. As the map indicates, most shootings occurred in a fashionable part of south Dublin, which was especially popular with Dublin Castle personnel. Some victims died in front of their spouse or partner, and on occasion nervous IRA gunmen missed their prey at point-black range. Not all of those targeted were in fact intelligence agents, though most were. Many on the hit list escaped owing to being out of the house during the assassination raid. The operation eliminated only a minority of British army intelligence officers in Dublin (probably a total of eight), buying the IRA just a short respite. After 'Bloody Sunday', though,

British agents were less likely to live outside of protected military barracks, separating them from the community they sought to infiltrate. The structure of British intelligence also changed, as the army's weakened Dublin District Special Branch soon came under the control of the ineffective director of police intelligence, Sir Ormonde Winter. However, the psychological impact was enormous; the IRA had demonstrated to the British administration in Ireland that anyone was vulnerable to assassination at any time.

[Source: J.B.E. Hittle, Michael Collins and the Anglo-Irish War: Britain's counter-insurgency failure (Dulles, 2011) and J. Leonard, "English Dogs" or "Poor Devils"? The dead of Bloody Sunday morning, in D. Fitzpatrick (ed.), Terror in Ireland (Dublin, 2012), pp. 102–40]

**Source 19.      MAP: Map showing the events at Croke Park on 'Bloody Sunday', 21 November 1920**

Map showing the events at Croke Park on 21 November 1920, when Crown forces opened fire on the crowd during a challenge football match between Dublin and Tipperary, resulting in the deaths of fourteen civilians and the injuring of a further sixty-four. The incident followed the assassination earlier that day of twelve suspected British intelligence agents by Michael Collins' 'Squad', and was followed by the killing later that evening of two leading Dublin IRA officers, Peadar Clancy and Dick McKee, as well as a civilian, Conor Clune. Two Auxiliaries were also killed in Dublin in one of the bloodiest days of the conflict. The Auxiliaries went to Croke Park ostensibly to stop the match and search the crowd for weapons and wanted men; following their arrival shots were fired by other policemen (the British authorities initially claimed the shots were fired by the IRA, which was later discounted), leading Auxiliaries to open fire indiscriminately. In the stampede to escape, many of the crowd were injured and three died – James Teehan and James Burke were crushed to death, and Jane Boyle fell and was trampled upon, having first been hit. Michael Feerey died of wounds after being spiked on the railings attempting to leave the grounds, and Daniel Carroll was fatally wounded outside the ground while fleeing. Tipperary player Michael Hogan was killed as he attempted to crawl off the pitch, and spectator Tom Ryan was shot dead as he knelt by him praying into his ear. The dead included three young boys: Jerome O'Leary (10), Perry Robinson (11) and Billy Scott (14). O'Leary and Robinson were shot dead directly, while Scott was killed by a ricocheting bullet. Nine were killed on the day and five died later of their wounds. Unknown to their killers, two of the dead – Mick Hogan and Joe Traynor – happened to be members of the IRA. Even if the massacre was not a pre-planned reprisal, the event epitomised the ill-discipline and wanton brutality of the Crown forces as the IRA campaign against them intensified and they increasingly engaged in collective punishment against the population as a whole.

[Sources: D. Leeson, 'Death in the Afternoon: the Croke Park Massacre, 21 November 1920', Canadian Journal of History, vol. 38, no. 1 (2003), pp. 43–67; M. Foley, The Bloodied Field: Croke Park, Sunday 21 November 1921 (Dublin, 2014)]

**Source 20.      MAP: Map detailing events during the Kilmichael ambush**

Map data compiled by Mike Murphy from multiple primary and secondary sources, combined with site survey using Trimble GPS and GIS mapping equipment.

**Source 21.      PHOTOGRAPH: RIC Auxiliaries with members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police and Dublin Fire Brigade, after the IRA attack on the Custom House on 25 May 1921**

The Custom House was a symbolic target, being the seat of British local government in Ireland. The burning was carried out by a Dublin IRA party of over 100 Volunteers, overseen by the officer commanding of the Dublin Brigade, Oscar Traynor. Five IRA men died and dozens were amongst the over 100 suspects arrested by Crown forces at the scene.

[Source: National Library of Ireland, HOGW 115]

**Source 22.      PHOTOGRAPH: Suspects held by RIC Auxiliaries following the IRA attack on the Custom House in May 1921**

Over 100 suspects were arrested, including dozens of the IRA men who had taken part in the burning of the building.

[Source: National Library of Ireland, HOGW 122]

**Source 23.      MAP: Names and place of arrest of those tried by Military Court**

The military instituted a range of counter-measures in the martial-law area, including the creation of a military court to try those contravening the provisions of martial law. The military court had two tiers. The summary court dealt with less serious infractions, trying 2,296 people and imposing 549 sentences of imprisonment. The upper tier was responsible for major offences against martial law. It tried just 128 people between late December 1920 and the advent of the Truce in July 1921, sentencing thirty-seven men to death. Fourteen of these men were executed. Military court trials were held at Victoria Barracks, Cork, New Barracks, Limerick and Waterford Barracks. This map shows the places of arrest of those tried in the upper tier of the military court, with the names of those executed inserted in red.

[Source S. Enright, *The Trial of Civilians by Military Courts: Ireland 1921* (Dublin, 2012), pp. 1–27]

**Source 24.      PHOTOGRAPH: Praying for peace outside the Mansion House, Dublin during the negotiations that led to the Truce on 14 July 1921.**

Two days after the opening of the Northern Ireland parliament in Belfast on 22 June 1921, British Prime Minister Lloyd George wrote to Éamon de Valera inviting him to open negotiations on a settlement. On 1 July the Dáil ministry agreed to put forward truce terms. With South African statesman General Jan Smuts and prominent southern Irish unionist Lord Midleton acting as intermediaries, direct negotiations between a de Valera-led team and General Nevil Macready, officer commanding of the British forces in Ireland, began in the Mansion House on 8 July. Midleton recorded that as he approached the Mansion House that day, Dawson Street was 'blocked almost from end to end'; as he made his way through

the crowd, the people 'dropped on their knees with one accord in hundreds, supplicating Heaven for peace'.

[Source: National Library of Ireland, HOGW 124. See C. Townshend, *The Republic: the fight for Irish independence* (London, 2013), pp. 306–11]

**Source 25.      MAP: IRA attacks on the RIC and British Army, 1920–21**

These maps show each individual IRA 'outrage', which can be defined as an armed attack on the Crown forces. The maps are divided into three six-month periods: January to June 1920; July to December 1920; and January to 11 July 1921 (note the eleven extra days). For each six-month period, the data has been organised by (A) attacks on the RIC; (B) attacks on the British army; and (C) attacks on both the RIC and the British army, which combines the data used for A and B. During the first period, IRA activity was largely concentrated in the counties of Limerick, Cork, Tipperary, Kerry and Clare. In the second half of 1920, IRA attacks spread into other parts of the country, with the targeting of soldiers becoming apparent in Munster. During the third phase (1921), the war escalated across the country, with notable spikes in the Ulster border counties and parts of Connacht and the midlands. Note that the maps exclude IRA activity in Dublin city. Many of the IRA attacks listed here failed to cause casualties among the Crown forces, especially during 1921. By that time the police and military had adapted to guerrilla warfare and better protected their personnel. Yet while the IRA's success rate declined, it more than compensated by increasing overall activity levels across Ireland. These maps show that the republican insurgency was still growing at the time of the July 1921 Truce.

[Source: Royal Irish Constabulary, *Weekly Outrages Against Police*, January 1920–July 1921, National Archives, UK, CO 904-148, 904-149, 904-150]