Everyday Violence in the Irish Civil War

Everyday Violence in the Irish Civil War presents an innovative study of violence perpetrated by and against non-combatants during the Irish Civil War, 1922–3. Drawing from victim accounts of wartime injury as recorded in compensation claims, Dr Gemma Clark sheds new light on hundreds of previously neglected episodes of violence and intimidation – ranging from arson, boycott and animal maiming to assault, murder and sexual violence – that transpired amongst soldiers, civilians and revolutionaries throughout the period of conflict. The author shows us how these micro-level acts – particularly in the counties of Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford – served as an attempt to persecute and purge religious and political minorities and to force redistribution of land. Clark also assesses the international significance of the war, comparing the cruel yet arguably restrained violence that occurred in Ireland with the brutality unleashed in other European conflict zones.

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In memory of my grandparents, Walter and Maureen Cassin, and Maureen and Tony Clark
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Abbreviations

DI Detective Inspector
GSWRC Great Southern and Western Railway Company
ICCA Irish Claims Compensation Association
IGC Irish Grants Committee
IMA Irish Military Archives, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin
IPP Irish Parliamentary Party
IRA Irish Republican Army*
JBS Journal of British Studies
NAI National Archives of Ireland, Dublin
NLI National Library of Ireland, Dublin
O/C Officer-in-Command
P&P Past and Present
PRONI Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast
RIC Royal Irish Constabulary
RM Resident Magistrate
SILRA Southern Irish Loyalist Relief Association
TD Teachta Dála: member of the lower house (Dáil Éireann) of the Irish parliament (Oireachtas)
TNA The National Archives, Kew
UIL United Irish League

*The ratification of the Anglo-Irish Treaty on 7 January 1922 split the IRA. Michael Collins’s (pro-Treaty) followers within the organization made up what would become the Free State Army (or National Troops). The anti-Treaty IRA, known as Irregulars, protested against the Treaty’s maintenance of Ireland’s link with Britain and held out for a republic. This book is chiefly concerned with the actions of the anti-Treaty IRA and uses the contemporary label ‘Irregulars’ interchangeably with ‘republicans’.
Map 1. Counties Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford, showing cities, towns, villages and other geographical features mentioned in the text.