

Castlecomer man killed in Easter Insurrection

by Jim Maher

PADDY BAYLON, Loon, Clogh, Castlecomer, was shot in the North King Street area of Dublin on April 28, 1916.

During the Insurrection, British troops had come under severe fire from several barricades erected by the insurgents across King Street, in Church Street, and from many buildings overlooking that area. It took the troops from 10 a.m. on April 28 to 2 a.m. on the following day to force their way from Linenhall Street to Church Street, a distance of some 150 yards. The casualties sustained by the British Regiment at this spot numbered five officers wounded, and 14 non-commissioned officers and men killed.

During the tough encounter, Father Albert, the Capuchin priest brought up in Kilkenny, came up to the insurgents and shouted to them, "My poor fellows, it's all over, Pearse has surrendered". This was between five and six o'clock on Saturday evening, and was the first that the North King Street Volunteers had heard of the surrender. Instead of surrendering the Volunteers under Peadar Breslin dashed across to Monk's Bakery and took it over.

The British soldiers were so close to the bakery that it looked as if their last stand would develop into a hand to hand fight. But again the familiar figure of Father Albert was seen standing on the roadway. He turned towards the bakery and lifting his arms called to the insurgents, "For God's sake, and for the sake of the dead, dying and wounded, listen to me". He pleaded with the Irish

Volunteers to surrender. On the following morning (Sunday) the 32 occupants of the besieged bakery surrendered.

Patrick Baylon worked as a foreman in Mrs. Mary O'Rourke's licensed house, North King Street, close to where the bitter fighting took place. Patrick had acted as a dispatch carrier for the Volunteers during the bloody battle. British military entered Mrs. O'Rourke's premises just before the surrender of the insurgents. They arrested Baylon and took him downstairs to the cellar. They then told him to climb the stairs again and when he got to the foot of the steps, they shot him. Paddy Baylon was thirty years of age. His body was not discovered in the cellar until May 10, a fortnight later.

An inquest was conducted and the jury's verdict was: "*We find that the said Patrick Baylon died from shock and haemorrhage, resulting from bullet wounds inflicted by a soldier or soldiers, in whose custody he was, an unarmed and unoffending prisoner. We consider that the explanation given by the military authorities is very unsatisfactory, and we believe that if the military authorities had any inclination, they could produce the officer in charge.*"

Paddy Baylon was brought back to Castlecomer for burial, and his remains now lie in Castlecomer Cemetery, adjoining the Parish Church.