

HOUSE BOMBED

A verdict of murder by some person or persons unknown was returned by a coroner's jury at the inquest touching the death of Michael Reynolds, aged about 70, of Clooneagh, Johnston's Bridge, Co. Leitrim, who was shot dead at his home by armed raiders in the early hours of the morning of April 30.

The jury added a rider expressing sympathy with the family, with which the Coroner, Dr. McGauran; Sergt. Devally, Rooskey, on behalf of the Civic Guards, and Lieut. Leavy, National Army, associated themselves.

John Reynolds, son of the deceased, who had been in the B.I.C., deposed that at about 3 a.m. on April 30th he was awakened by knocking at his bedroom window. He asked who was there and a voice asked: "Is this Reynolds?" He said "Yes," and again asked who was there, and the reply was: "I.R.A.; get up at once and open the door and come out."

STAGGERED AND FELL

He proceeded to the other end of the house, where his father and mother were sleeping. His father said they would not let them in, at the same time getting up and dressing, and coming to the kitchen door. A voice from the outside shouted: "Are you not going to open the door?" and the old man said "No." A shot then rang out, and witness saw his father stagger back and fall into his mother's arms, crying: "John, I'm shot and done for."

Other shots followed, the raiders all the while shouting: "Open the door and come out or I will bomb ye." Soon afterwards a loud explosion occurred, driving portion of the kitchen window to the other side of the house, and the place became filled with powder fumes. A number of shots were

afterwards fired, and witness replied, using a revolver.

PRIEST SENT FOR.

Witness afterwards got a neighbour to go for the priest, and went himself to report the occurrence at Rooskey military barracks. He had no idea as to the parties who wanted to get in, nor of the motive, as he was on good terms with the people in the district.

Sergeant Thomas Devally, Civic Guards, deposed he found seventeen marks on the walls of the house, which could have been caused by bullets or bomb splinters. There were two holes in the bedroom window, evidently caused by bullets. The underneath portion of the kitchen window was completely broken off, and the glass on the upper portion smashed. The window-ledge, which was made of stone, was broken. On the kitchen door there were three marks, evidently caused by bullets; one mark was at the lock, and the other two about the centre.

ELEVEN CARTRIDGE CASES.

About three yards from the kitchen door, on the outside, there were two empty cartridge cases of the type that is fired out of a Leo-Enfield service rifle. Deceased's son handed witness another of the same pattern he had previously found. About fifty yards from the house Lieut. Leavy and he picked up seven more empty cartridge cases. Eleven in all were found, and thirteen fragments of what he believed to be a bomb or hand-grenade were picked up in the kitchen.

There were some bullet marks on the walls inside the house, and on the end of the dresser he found a spent bullet, which he believed was fired through the kitchen door.

Dr. Redahan, Mohill, said death was due to a gunshot wound, the bullet entering at

the mouth and passing on to the brain. Death from such a wound would occur inside five minutes.

A CLEAR CASE.

Sgt. Davally, Civic Guards, said the facts were clear, and he was sure the jury would have no difficulty in returning a verdict of murder against some person or persons unknown.

The Coroner said there was no doubt the man was murdered, but he would not suggest it was a case of wilful murder. As a Co. Leitrim man himself he regretted exceedingly that such conduct could go on in the country. It was only very recently he had had to hold an inquest on a very respected doctor of this district (the late Dr. Muldoon).

A verdict as above was returned.