Taobh istigh, bothán de chuid Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann sa Pháirc Nua, Baile Uí Fhiacháin, Contae Mhaigh Eo, 1869. *The Illustrated London News*, 28 Bealtaine, 1870.

Interior, RIC hut at Newfield, Newport, County Mayo, 1869. *The Illustrated London News*, 28 May, 1870.

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BOTHÁN SOGHLUAISTE DE CHUID CHONSTÁBLACHT RÍOGA NA HÉIREANN

Tháinig méadú ar an bhforéigean ar thiarnaí talún agus ar a ngníomhairí sa dara leath den naoú haois déag. Bhí ionsaithe á ndéanamh ar dhaoine aonair agus ar a maoin, rud a chothaigh fadhbanna do na húdaráis. Bhí neart ceantar tuaithe ann nach raibh láithreacht bhuan póilíní ann. Ba é an réiteach ar an scéal díormaí armtha de chuid Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann a chur chuig na ceantair seo go dtí go suaimhneodh cúrsaí arís. Thóg Constáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann botháin shoghluaiste a bhí mar chóiríocht dóibh agus iad sna ceantair ina raibh aighneas.

Bhí dearadh na mbothán bunúsach. D'fhéadfaí iad a chur le chéile agus a bhaint as a chéile arís taobh istigh de chúpla uair an chloig. Bhí siad déanta de phlancanna adhmaid a bhí línithe le plátaí iarainn a bhí mar chosaint ar urchair ó ghunnaí do na daoine istigh. Thiocfadh leo piléir a scaoileadh amach trí na poill chuartha i ngach balla. Is beag troscán a bhí iontu agus bhí an solas lag. Bhí na suíocháin agus an trealamh cócaireachta bunúsach. Bhíodh an chuid is mó den spás sa seomra líonta le boscaí stórais na gconstáblaí, boscaí armlóin agus soláthairtí. Cheanglaítí leapacha luascáin na gconstáblaí le balla amháin nuair nach mbíodh siad in úsáid.

Tá an múnla seo bunaithe ar bhothán soghluaiste ó 1869. Ní raibh an bothán féin mórán níos mó. Bhí sé 12 throigh faoi 9 dtroithe (3.6m faoi 2.7m) agus bhí spás go leor ann do 7 fear.

PORTABLE RIC HUT

The latter half of the nineteenth century saw an increase in agrarian violence toward landlords and their agents. Attacks on individuals and their property were posing a problem for the authorities. Many rural areas had no permanent police presence. The solution was to send armed RIC detachments to these areas until peace was restored. While in a troubled area the RIC constructed portable accommodation huts for themselves.

Taobh amuigh, bothán de chuid Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann sa Pháirc Nua, Baile Uí Fhiacháin, Contae Mhaigh Eo, 1869. *The Illustrated London News*, 28 Bealtaine, 1870.
Exterior, RIC hut at Newfield, Newport, County Mayo, 1869. *The Illustrated London News*, 28 May, 1870.
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The huts were of a basic design and could be assembled and taken down in a few hours. They consisted of wooden planks lined with iron plates to shield those inside from gun-fire. Fire could be returned through the round loopholes in each wall. The interior was sparsely furnished and badly lit with rudimentary seating and cooking equipment. The bulk of the room was occupied by constables' storage boxes, ammunition boxes and provisions. Constables' hammocks could be tied up to one wall when not in use.

This interior is modelled on one such portable hut from 1869. The original hut was not much bigger. It measured 12 feet by 9 feet (3.6m by 2.7m) and when in use accommodated 7 men.