

**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21.  
BURO. STAIRÉ MEE-JA. 1913-21.  
NO. W.S. 823

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

**STATEMENT BY WITNESS**

**DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 823**

**Witness**

- (a) David Moloney,  
Castletown,  
Pallaskenry,  
Co. Limerick.
- (b) Ned Enright, Plallaskenry, Co. Limerick.

**Identity.**

- (a) Member of Irish Volunteers, Pallaskenry, 1914 -  
Lieut. same Company, 1918 - .
- (b) Member of Irish Volunteers, Pallaskenry, 1914 - .

**Subject.**

Pallaskenry Company, Irish Volunteers,  
1914-1921.

**Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.**

Nil

File No. S. 2087

Form B.S.M. 2

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BUREAU STAIRÉ MILITAIRE 1913-21

No. W.S. 823

JOINT STATEMENTBY

DAVID MOLONEY, CASTLETOWN, PALLASKENRY,  
O.C. 'C' (PALLASKENRY) COMPANY,  
4TH (RATHKEALE) BATTALION,  
WEST LIMERICK BRIGADE.

EDWARD ENRIGHT, PALLASKENRY, CO. LIMERICK,  
VOLUNTEER, 'C' (PALLASKENRY) COMPANY,  
4TH (RATHKEALE) BATTALION,  
WEST LIMERICK BRIGADE.

When the Volunteers were started in Pallaskenry we joined. The usual drilling and marching went on here as elsewhere. We had no O.C. that I can remember, but some ex-soldiers used to take charge of us and drill us. This was late in 1914 and continued on through 1915 and up to Easter Week. Nothing could be attempted when we heard of the fighting in Dublin as we had no arms. Nevertheless, when the family of an R.I.C. man killed in Dublin hoisted a Union Jack outside the house on a tree, it was taken down. When put up the second time it could not be removed on account of thorny wire being wound around, so a shotgun was let off nearby as a threat. The D.I. came the next day and ordered the people to take it down.

The Company was reorganised later, and in 1917 it was a grand Unit. The strength was 106. Our arms were only a few old shotguns. We held parades in public and were not interfered with by the police during this year. James Halpin was our Company O.C. then.

In 1918, when the conscription threat came, a considerable number more joined the Company and, as well, we had the backing of the old men too. We managed to keep up the new strength.

In March I (Ned Enright) was arrested for singing a seditious song and was tried in the Courthouse in Pallas-kenry and was sentenced to two months' imprisonment which I served in Limerick and Dundalk Gaols. I remember in Dundalk there were Diarmuid Lynch, Mícheál Brennan, Ernest Blythe, Tom Derrig, Frank Henderson, Mícheál Colivet, Jim McInerney and Seán Tracy. Tracy used give out the Rosary every night.

I was released in June, 1918, and was only a short time out when James Halpin, who was O.C. Pallaskenry Company, and Tom Wallace, the 1st Lieutenant, were arrested.

I (David Moloney) became 1st Lieutenant then, and the A/O.C. was John Joe Nestor, who had been 2nd Lieutenant. The Company continued the normal training of the times. Towards the end of 1918, Halpin and Wallace were released and the former became O.C. 4th Battalion and the latter came back to the Company. Nestor left the Volunteers and I became O.C. Pallaskenry Company, being elected to the appointment. My brother Patrick became 1st Lieutenant and Tom Murphy 2nd Lieutenant. These appointments were held up to the time of the Truce.

Paddy Brennan of Clare was 'on the run' in 1918 and was brought across the Shannon by Ned Enright and stayed in Wallaces at Washpool for about ten days.

During the General Election in 1918 there was no contest in West Limerick, so a number of the Company went to assist in other constituencies. We provided guards over the ballot boxes and generally acted as security

during the whole time.

After the rescue of John Joe Hogan at Knocklong he and Seán Tracy and Dan Breen and Seamus Robinson came into the Company area and were billeted in Wallaces at Washpool near the Shannon. The Company provided scouts and guards while they were there. Arms were shotguns. No one hostile came near the place and they were moved across the river into Clare after a few days.

In 1920 any R.I.C. Barracks that were evacuated were destroyed. The Pallaskenry Company was responsible for the destruction of the Courthouse and Barracks in that place and the Barracks in Kildimo.

Before this, when the last Court was being held in Pallaskenry, it was decided to ambush the R.I.C. coming there from Kildimo. Coming back from the Court they were ambushed. This was in March and was carried out in daylight. There were three R.I.C. men on bicycles and two of them were wounded. The ambush party consisted of seven, apart from scouts, and were armed with shotguns and revolvers. The three R.I.C. men's revolvers and ammunition were taken. Two of the ambushers were from our Company.

Dan Neville of the Ballysteen Company in the next parish to us was killed in a raid for arms and was buried temporarily in a field. He was given a proper burial place in Castletown within our Company area some six or seven weeks later. We provided the transport - a motor car with coffin inside - and escort for the purpose.

An R.I.C. man was sniped at near the school in Pallaskenry village. Though a shotgun was used at close range he was not hit. This aggravated the police and they tried to make things hotter for us during the remainder of their stay in Pallaskenry.

The West Limerick Column under Garrett McAuliffe was moved across the river from our Company area. We provided the men to scout the district during their passage and also the boats to bring them across. They were going over for an attack. We also conveyed gelnite for them a couple of miles through the area in carts and on board boats to cross the river. There must have been about three or four cwts. of gelnite. Ernie O'Malley was in Clare at the time and connected up with the Column.

The Column returned without carrying out their intended attack and we assisted them in the same way out to the West. Their presence in the West of the County attracted a big amount of military traffic and we impeded their passage through the Company area as much as we could by trenched roads and knocked trees to barricade them.

Mail-cars were raided and postmen held up to try for correspondence to or from suspected informers. There were none of these ever caught out, if they actually were active.

A Volunteer, Pat Ahern, who had been wounded getting away in a raid, was escorted from Baliston to Limerick Hospital. We scouted the road before him through the Company area and he got in safe.

General Lucas was being brought a prisoner across to Clare under escort, and the Company provided security patrols and scouts as far as the river and had a boat ready for the crossing.

We commandeered the services of people hostile to us and made them come out and trench roads.

We disarmed a civilian who was carrying two revolvers, fully loaded. We brought him to his own house for more arms and got a couple of shotguns there. He used have a guard of R.I.C. men at the house sometimes. They used come from Askeaton Barracks but were not there this particular day. He was caught by us nearly a mile away from his own house on the way to church at Castletown. He had shot Neville, already mentioned, and wounded four others, when they raided his house for arms. This raid had been done by Volunteers outside our Company area and who did not know the type of man they were up against.

When a Sinn Féin Court was held in the area in the Library at Pallaskenry, or at Kildimo, the Company acted as police during the sitting of the Court and also had a cordon of scouts around to guard against surprise. All types of cases were brought up, public-house charges, knocking of trees without authority and land disputes.

About thirty houses in the area were raided for arms and shotguns were got in all of them and one revolver. There were big farmers who were not in sympathy with us raided, and an emergency man's house also. The houses of the so called gentry were raided. Their cars used be

commandeered, too, for the use of the Column, but these were returned again.

A dump containing three shotguns in the graveyard at Killouragh was discovered. It was located in a vault and was raided by the R.I.C. Another dump in Dromore Castle - in an outhouse - was discovered also, but by chance. There were four shotguns taken here.

The Company area was a good one for harbouring the Column, which came to us fairly often for billeting and for getting in touch with East Clare. As well as billets and boats, we provided security measures in the shape of scouts and guards.

At Barna, beyond Newcastlewest, a big ambush was planned for just the week before the Truce in 1921. There were about 100 or more for this job and the Pallaskenry Company supplied eight men. They were supplied with rifles by the Column. A big convoy of military and Tans were expected on the road between Newcastlewest and Abbeyfeale and it was intended to hit them up in the evening on their return journey. The road was mined and everything ready but the convoy came back a different road. We did not get the chance, for the Truce was on the following Monday. Actually the Column, with its additional men, waited until the 11th July, but nothing happened up to 12 o'clock.

Before the taking of the R.I.C. Barracks at Newmarket-on-Fergus in Clare, during the council to decide on the plan, I (Ned Enright) was across with Miceál Brennan and

acted as scout for the council, being armed with a revolver for the purpose. The R.I.C. man, Buckley, who was to hand over the Barracks was there, so it was very important that no one would get wind of what was going on. I was at Hogans in Mohill, near Bunratty, where the council took place, and was sent into Newmarket-on-Fergus to reconnoitre before the actual taking of the Barracks, and also on the evening after. After the event the place was swarming with military. The Sergeant in charge of the Barracks was so upset over losing it with all arms - about eight good rifles and revolvers - that it was said he attempted to cut his throat. Constable Buckley had to go on his keeping.

SIGNED: David Moloney  
( David Moloney )

SIGNED: Red Enright  
( N. Enright )

WITNESSED: C. Saurin Lt. COLONEL.  
( C. Saurin )

DATE: 25th March 1953

