

W.S. 1,270

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 1270

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.
STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,270.....

Witness

James Cashman,
Knocknamucklagh,
Kiskeam,
Co. Cork.

Identity.

Lieut. Kiskeam Company Newmarket Battalion.
Member of Newmarket Column.

Subject.

Kiskeam Company Irish Volunteers,
Newmarket Battalion, Co. Cork,
1917-1923.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S.2567.....

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STATEMENT BY JAMES CASHMAN,

Knocknamucklagh, Kiskeam, Co. Cork.

I was born in my present home on March 18th, 1900. I went to Kiskeam National School until I was 15 years of age, when I left to work on my parents' farm.

I joined the Irish Volunteers about the middle of 1917 when they were organised in Kiskeam. There were about 20 members in the company. Some of them were: Jim Riordan, Jerry Scannell, Dan Guiney, Con T. Murphy, Tim Cronin, Jerh. Mulcahy, Paddy Dennehy, Dan Flynn, Nick Fitzgerald and John Murphy. The first officers were, I think:

O/C - Jerry Scannell
1st Lt. - Con T. Murphy
2nd Lt. - Jerh. Mulcahy.

Beyond ordinary close order foot drill, which was carried out under our own officers, there was no other training. There was an officer from Cork in the area for a short time in the early stages. He was, I think, acting as an organiser and drill instructor. I think his name was Seán Sullivan. All parades were held in the fields in the district at night and on Sunday evenings. I was one of the youngest members in the unit at this time.

In addition to training as Volunteers we were all busy organising the political side of the movement - Sinn Féin - during 1917. Every Volunteer in the area was a member of the Sinn Féin party, which was composed mainly of the members of the Volunteers and their families.

When our unit was formed originally it was part of Cork Brigade but towards the end of 1917 or early 1918

the area was organised on a battalion basis. Our company now became a unit of Newmarket Battalion, Cork Brigade. The other companies in the battalion were, as far as I can remember, Kingwilliamstown (now Ballydesmond), Taur, Meelin, Tullylease, Newmarket and Freemount. The officers of the battalion were:

O/C - Seán Moylan
 Vice O/C - Paddy Murphy
 Adjt.- Wm. Barrett
 Q/M - Paddy McCarthy.

There was nothing outside ordinary drills and parades during 1917 and early 1918 until conscription was threatened by the British. There was now a large increase in the strength of the company. We had close on 120 members. There was no change in the officers. At this time every man of military age in the district joined up. Nearly all the new recruits under about 35 years of age at the time remained on as members until the Truce.

There was a change in the officers of the company late in the spring of 1918 as the O/C (Jerry Scannell) was dismissed by the Battalion O/C (Seán Moylan) following an investigation into a parade of the company which the O/C (Scannell) arranged with a view to attacking the R.I.C. force stationed at Newmarket. The company was mustered in strength for this parade and were armed with weapons of all kinds - shotguns, pikes and slashers. They marched off to Newmarket but were met on the way by Seán Moylan and ordered to disperse. I was not present on this occasion as I was laid up with a sprained ankle. Con T. Murphy now became O/C of the company.

The dismissal of Jerry Scannell led to a certain amount of dissatisfaction amongst some members of the

unit. Some members held that Seán Moylan had no authority to dismiss the O/C in the circumstances of the case. Eventually in order to regularise the position a full meeting of the members was called and it was agreed after a long discussion that a fresh election would be held for the post of Company O/C. As a result Jerry Scannell was again elected O/C. He retained the position for a short time and then returned to the ranks at his own request. He was again replaced by Con T. Murphy.

During the conscription period all guns in the area not already held by Volunteers or members of their families were collected. All were surrendered voluntarily, although in order to bluff the authorities bogus raids were made in some cases. The company now had about 40 shotguns and 500/600 rounds of ammunition for same. All these cartridges were loaded with buckshot, and in addition the members of the company were engaged at this time in making weapons of all kinds such as pikes, slashers.

The conscription threat had no sooner passed than we were all engaged at work on the political side on behalf of Sinn Féin. We were preparing for the general election of December, 1918, but it eventually transpired that there was no contest in our area as the Sinn Féin candidate - Paudeen O'Keefe - was returned unopposed.

The success of Sinn Féin in the general election gave a boost to all Republican activities. The members of the company became more active and parades in public were a regular feature. There were about 20 battalions in Cork Brigade about this time and they were distributed over the whole of Cork County. It was now decided to divide the county into three brigades, and our battalion (Newmarket) now

became a unit of Cork 11 Brigade. This brigade extended from the Waterford border near Fermoy to the Kerry border at Millstreet and embraced the area of North Cork. There were seven battalions in the new brigade: Fermoy, Castletownroche, Mallow, Newmarket, Kanturk, Charleville and Millstreet. The first officers of this brigade were:

O/C - Liam Lynch, Fermoy.
 Vice O/C - Dan Hegarty, Mallow.
 Adjt.- Tom Barry, Glanworth.
 Q/M - George Power, Fermoy.

As far as I can recollect, Tom Barry and George Power exchanged places within a short time.

The officers of Newmarket Battalion at this time were:

O/C - Seán Moylan
 Vice O/C - Paddy Murphy
 Adjt.- Wm. Barrett
 Q/M - Paddy McCarthy.

During 1919 there was very little doing beyond the normal training and parades. We had, however, become slightly more advanced in the line of drill and movements were carried out in extended order. Scouting, signalling and the use of cover were other aspects in which selected men were trained. At this time there was usually some target practice on Sunday evenings with .22 rifle. This gun had been obtained from Battalion H.Q. Training of this nature continued throughout the year and into the spring of 1920.

When the G.H.Q. order for the destruction of evacuated enemy posts was received at Easter, 1920, there was only one such post in the area. This was Glashakinleen R.I.C. post. Nearly all members of the company were engaged on this

operation. Con T. Murphy and Charlie Reilly received accidental burns when petrol, which had been used to help to set the building on fire, exploded. The building was completely destroyed.

About this time several raids were made on the mails in the area. This became more or less a general practice throughout the brigade at the time. Although nothing of importance came to light in these local raids, they had the effect of making the general public more discreet in their discussions. I was one of a party from Kiskeam Company who took part in a large-scale raid on the mail train from Kerry and West Limerick area at Banteer about mid Summer 1920. Several companies in Newmarket Battalion were represented in this raid as well as a strong party from Kanturk Battalion. A considerable quantity of mails were seized on this occasion and they were removed by car. I do not know where they were taken to, but after examination they were reposted at several post offices throughout the area. As far as I can recollect, the Battalion O/C (Seán Moylan) sent some papers captured in this raid to Dublin (G.H.Q.) by special messenger.

About August, 1920, I was one of a number of representatives from Kiskeam Company who went to Newmarket on at least two occasions to attack a military patrol which operated in the area during curfew hours. Other members from Kiskeam who took part were: Jim Riordan, Dan Flynn Jack Murphy and Jerh. Mulcahy. A number of men from other companies in the battalion were also present. The strength of the party would be about 25. We were all armed with shotguns. On each occasion we took up a position behind the roadside fence about 500 yards from Newmarket Cross on the Glashakinleen road, but the enemy patrol did not put in

an appearance.

Early in October, 1920, four members of the company (Jim Riordan, Dan Flynn, Dan Guiney and another) took part in the ambush of a lorry of military at Ballydrochane, Kanturk. I was not present on this occasion as I was away from home when word was sent to me to travel to Drouminarrigle where the column assembled prior to the attack.

The Battalion Q/M (Paddy McCarthy) joined the newly organised Brigade Flying Column in September, 1920. He took part in the capture of Mallow Military Barracks on September 28th, 1920, and in the ambush of the military at Ballydrochane. The column was in the Millstreet area towards the end of November, 1920, and it moved into Millstreet on the night of November 22nd to attack the enemy forces stationed there. During the course of this operation Paddy McCarthy was killed. Our company was responsible for supplying the coffin which was made in Kiskeam. I was one of a party who took the coffin to Ballydaly, where he was being waked while being guarded by the members of the Brigade Column. I was accompanied on this journey by Seán Moylan, Bill Moylan and Tom McCarthy.

Early in December, 1920, a training camp was established at Tureen, Knocknagree. Selected men from the various companies in the battalion attended this camp, where they underwent a course of training in the care and use of arms (small and rifle), use of cover - advancing and retiring under same - scouting and outpost duty. The camp lasted about 10 days. The training officer was Tom Roche. The O/C of the camp was, I think, Paddy Murphy. Amongst those who attended this camp were: Dan Flynn, Jack Murphy, Dan Fitzgerald, Jim Riordan, Jim Cashman (witness) -

all from Kiskeam Coy.; John Jones, Jerh. O'Leary, Kingwilliamstown; Tom McNamara, Wm. Barrett, Bill Moylan, Dan Vaughan, Dave McAuliffe, Newmarket; Denis Galvin, Taur. This party, together with Mick D. Sullivan, Dan Browne, Con Morley and Wm. L. O'Keefe, formed a Battalion Flying Column early in January, 1921. At this time the officers of the Kiskeam Company were:

O/C - Dan Guiney.
 1st Lt. - Jim Cashman (witness)
 2nd Lt. - Eugene Cronin.

About mid January, 1921, the battalion column was in the vicinity of Meelin when a military convoy made its appearance unexpectedly. Fire was opened on the enemy from a distance of about 300 yards but owing to the arrival of enemy reinforcements the engagement had to be broken off. The column lay in ambush on a number of occasions within the ensuing couple of weeks, but no engagement took place due to enemy convoys carrying hostages or travelling in too great strength. However, towards the end of the month we lay in ambush on the Kingwilliamstown-Newmarket road for two days but the expected enemy party did not turn up.

On the morning of January 27th, 1921, the column moved on to Tureengarrive on the Kingwilliamstown-Castleisland road where we took up positions to await an enemy convoy. The site selected was about 2 miles west of Kingwilliamstown (now Ballydesmond) on the Castleisland road. The column under Seán Moylan, with representatives of Kiskeam and Kingwilliamstown Companies, took up positions as follows:

- (a) Dan Vaughan was in charge of a party of about 10 shotgunmen on high ground to the north of the road. This party were extended over a distance of about 40 yards. They were behind a fence about 30 yards from the road and parallel with same. This party was made up of men from the Kiskeam and Kingwilliamstown Companies.

- (b) The column were south of the road and in position behind stones and rocks. They were extended over a distance of about 40 yards. All this party were armed with rifles and included were: Con Morley, Denis Galvin, Dan Browne, Mick D. Sullivan, Dave McAuliffe, Jim Cashman (witness) and Wm. L. O'Keefe.
- (c) A machine-gun and crew (Bill Moylan and Seán Healy) were also south of the road but some short distance to the east. They were in position on a bend of the road from where they could enfilade the road between the parties at (a) and (b). Seán Moylan, who was in charge of the operation, was with this party.
- (d) In addition to the above groups there were scouts posted to the east and west of the positions and also a small party who were engaged on trenching the road beyond a bend to the eastern end of the position.

All sections were in position at about 9.30 a.m. on the morning of January 27th, 1921, and although we remained in position throughout a very wet day there was no sign of an enemy party. The column then withdrew from the position and retired to billets for the night. The members of the Kiskeam and Kingwilliamstown Companies returned to their home areas with instructions to be back again next morning by 8.30 a.m.

On the morning of January 28th, 1921, all sections again took up the positions evacuated on the previous day and settled down to await the arrival of the enemy. There was nothing to report until sometime after noon when the scouts to the west signalled the approach of an enemy convoy. The convoy, consisting of two cars, was allowed to drive into our position, where it was greeted by a burst of machine-gun fire and a call to surrender. The driver of the leading car accelerated out of the straight stretch round the bend at the eastern end where he was held up by the trench. The second car halted and the occupants of both cars dashed for cover behind the roadside fences. As the enemy did not surrender at the opening burst, all sections of I.R.A. party opened fire. The enemy replied and after

fighting had continued for about half an hour the enemy shouted, during a lull in the shooting, that they were prepared to surrender. The order to cease fire was then given. The enemy left their positions, moved into the roadway and threw away their arms. The members of the column (south of the road) remained in position while the other sections, with the exception of the machine-gun party, went on to the roadway, where they found that one member of the enemy party had been killed and all the others wounded. The enemy party was in charge of Divisional Commissioner Holmes, R.I.C., who had been seriously wounded. He died later. There were also six others in the party.

While the enemy party was being searched on the roadway the I.R.A. scouts to the west signalled the approach of another car. The prisoners were taken across the roadside fence and into a glen where they were held under guard. When this car reached the ambush position it was held up and it was learned that the driver was an inspector of schools. Three of the more seriously wounded of the enemy party were placed in this car and the driver was instructed to take them to the nearest hospital. I should have mentioned that before their removal the wounds of the wounded were dressed and everything done to make them as comfortable as possible. We captured seven rifles, a repeating shotgun, five or six revolvers, as well as a lot of ammunition. The I.R.A. had no casualties.

One of the cars which made up the enemy convoy was badly damaged by rifle and machine-gun fire and could not be driven away, so it was set on fire. The other car was driven away by Bill Moylan and Seán Healy with the machine-gun and a number of members of the column. I then left the party

and returned home, bringing my rifle with me. I then dumped my rifle and awaited further orders.

There was very little activity during February, 1921, but towards the end of the month or maybe March 1st I was again with the column and some members of Kiskeam and Kingwilliamstown Companies when we took up positions at Meenagorman on the Newmarket-Rockchapel road to wait for a patrol of military. However, before the enemy arrived we were informed by one of our intelligence officers that the military had collected a number of hostages in Newmarket and were taking them away with them. In the circumstances we were unable to attack the enemy convoy of three lorries when it passed through our position. The men from the local companies then returned home and the members of the column moved on towards Knocknagree where we billeted.

We were at Knocknagree on the night of March 2nd, 1921, when the Battalion O/C, Seán Moylan, arrived there. Early next morning we all moved into Kerry 1 Brigade area, where we made contact with Kerry 1 Brigade Column at The Bower, on the Killarney-Mallow road. The Kerry and Newmarket Columns took up positions here about 8 a.m. We were not long in position when the Charleville Battalion Column under Paddy O'Brien arrived to join us. The combined forces remained in position all day but the expected enemy convoy did not turn up. We billeted in the area that night and resumed our old positions about 8 a.m. on the morning of March 4th, 1921, and although we remained in position throughout the day there was no enemy activity. About 5 p.m. we withdrew from our positions and after a conference between our officers it was decided to move the joint columns back into Cork 11 Brigade area. Our column (Newmarket) and the

Charleville Column moved back to Knocknagree and billeted in Umeraboy. The Kerry Brigade Column moved to Cullen district and billeted in Ballydaly. While the columns had been moving into billets the officers in charge (Seán Moylan, Paddy O'Brien, "Free" Murphy, Tom McEllistrim and Con O'Leary) went off to select an ambush position. Early on the morning of March 6th, 1921, word was received to assemble at Clonbanin on the Killarney-Mallow road. Arrangements were immediately made to obtain the necessary transport and at daybreak we travelled by horse and car to Clonbanin where the existing force was joined by the Millstreet Battalion Column.

The site selected for the ambush was about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Clonbanin Cross on the Killarney-Mallow road. Our column (Newmarket) and the Charleville Column took up positions on the northern side of the road. The Kerry and Millstreet Columns were in position south of the road. The sections on both sides of the road were extended over a distance of about 600 yards and were on rising ground. All were under cover of various kinds - mainly sod and stone fences - at distances varying from 60 to 150 yards from the road. When we were all in position about 10 a.m. our scouts to the east signalled the approach of an enemy convoy from that direction. This convoy was made up of three lorries and when it moved into our position it was allowed to pass through as the signal to open fire was not given. This convoy was, I believe, proceeding to Killarney area to take part in a round-up of the area in which we had been lying in ambush on the previous day. I was one of a party of six who were acting as a flanking party at the western end of the position north of the road. We were all armed with rifles and were in position behind a sod fence about 200 yards from the road. Amongst those with me were Con Morley, Wm. L.

O'Keefe, Tom Reid and two others.

There was no further activity after the convoy from the east had passed through until about 3 p.m. when our scouts signalled the approach of an enemy convoy from the west. This convoy, which consisted of three lorries, a touring car and an armoured car, travelled in the following order: two lorries, touring car, armoured car and third lorry. I should have mentioned that two mines had been laid in the road - one at each end of the position. The explosion of the mine at the eastern end was to be the signal for all sections to open fire. When the leading lorry reached the mine there was no explosion but fire was immediately opened by all sections. Some soldiers from the leading lorry got through to the east but the remainder of the party were forced to take the best cover they could behind the roadside fences, with the exception of the crew of the armoured car. The latter in an endeavour to get past the touring car ran into the ditch and was halted, but its crew were able to sweep the area with the fire from their machine-guns. We were all busily engaged for about an hour when Seán Moylan arrived at our position and took three men from our section to the south side of the road. These were: Wm. L. O'Keefe, Jim Cashman and Con Morley. Fighting continued for about another hour and eventually the signal to withdraw was given. We then moved round to the rear of Shaughnessy's haggard (which was to the east of our position) where we made contact with the other members of the Newmarket and Charleville Columns. We then retired to Derrynagree area and then billeted at Avorheen and Ruhlill. The Millstreet and Kerry Columns moved off towards their own areas. The I.R.A. had no casualties. The British must have suffered heavily, though I cannot remember having heard

what their casualties were. However, amongst those killed was Brigadier General Cummings.

Following Clonbanin the members of the column lay in ambush on a number of occasions but failed to make contact with the enemy. They were also engaged on guard duty for members of the local companies when the latter were trenching roads and cutting lines of communication.

Early in April, 1921, I went with six other members of the Newmarket Column into West Limerick area where we were to co-operate with the West Limerick Brigade Column in an attack on an enemy R.I.C. and Black and Tan patrol which was operating in Abbeyfeale. Some members of the Charleville Battalion Column were also moved into this area at the same time and the combined Cork 11 Brigade units were in charge of Paddy O'Brien (Brigade Q/M). We remained in Abbeyfeale district for two days but failed to make contact with the enemy, so we returned to our home area. The members of the Newmarket Column on this occasion were: Mick D. Sullivan, Dan Browne, Jack Guiney, Tim Galvin, Dave Curtin, Tim Coughlan and Jim Cashman (witness).

Towards the end of April Liam Lynch left the brigade to become O/C 1st Southern Division. Seán Moylan then became Brigade O/C, but he did not hold the position for long as he was arrested in a round-up in Kiskeam area on May 16th, 1921.

During May, 1921, the members of the column were mainly engaged on training the members of the local companies and in ensuring the destruction of enemy lines of communication.

Early in June our (Newmarket) column under Mick D. Sullivan moved into West Limerick area again at the request of the local O/C, Jimmy Collins, I think. We again moved

into Abbeyfeale to attack a patrol of R.I.C. and Tans which used to parade the town each night. We were accompanied by the men of the West Limerick Column. We took up positions in several houses in the vicinity of the Square and when the patrol appeared there we opened fire. We killed at least one of the enemy and wounded several others, but all who were able dashed wildly back to their barracks. Amongst the members of the Newmarket Column who took part in this engagement were: Mick D. Sullivan (O/C), Jim Cashman (witness), Denis Galvin, Dan Vaughan, Dave McAuliffe, Tim Coughlan, Tim Galvin, Jack Guiney, Dan Browne, Denis Mullane. I think this operation took place on the night of June 5th, 1921, and next day our column returned to the home area.

Nothing of note occurred in the area until the middle of June when the column was again assembled at Keale Bridge on the evening of June 15th, 1921. We moved off to Millstreet Battalion area and arrived at Rathcoole Wood sometime after midnight. Here we found assembled the members of the Millstreet, Charleville, Kanturk and Mallow Columns. The total number of men in the combined columns was about 120. Eighty men or so were armed with rifles, while the remainder had shotguns. In addition to the column men there were a number of men from the local companies to act as scouts, outposts and messengers. The combined force was in charge of Paddy O'Brien who was now Brigade Vice O/C. He had replaced George Power who had been appointed Brigade O/C on the arrest of Seán Moylan.

Rathcoole Wood is situated on high ground south of the Millstreet-Banteer road and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Millstreet. The columns assembled in the wood during the night

and early on the morning of June 16th, 1921, six mines were laid in the road along the frontage of the wood. The mines were spaced at the estimated distances between lorries travelling in convoy and the whole position extended over a distance of about 1,200 yards. The I.R.A. force was divided into about nine sections - one to cover each mine (6), two to act as flanking parties at each end of the position and a party to take up a covering position on the northern side of the road. Leaders of all sections were suitably instructed as to opening of attack and line of retreat. Local scouts were attached to each section to lead them into position. All these preparations were complete by about 8 a.m. and the whole force retired into the cover of Rathcoole Wood, where it remained hidden until the time for action arrived. Of course, scouts and guards were posted as usual.

There was no movement until about 10.30 a.m. when four lorries passed through the ambush position on their way from Millstreet to Banteer. This convoy returned to Millstreet about noon, while our party still remained under cover in the wood. About 3 p.m. four lorries again passed through to Banteer. When these had passed through the I.R.A. force left the cover of the wood and the various sections moved to their pre-arranged positions. My section, which numbered seven, including Mick D. Sullivan, Jeremiah Long, Jim Cashman and three others whose names I cannot recollect, were covering the second mine from the western end of the position. We were all armed with rifles. I should have mentioned that there was also a Hotchkiss gun section covering the mine at the eastern end. This was to be the first mine to be exploded and only when the last lorry in the convoy was passing over it. When the last

lorry reached this mine it was exploded and fire was opened on the remainder of the convoy which was now within the ambush position. Unfortunately none of the other lorries stopped over a mine at this stage, but the leading lorry, which was to the west of our mine, reversed back at the opening burst and the explosion until it was over the mine opposite our position. This mine was now exploded and the lorry disabled. There was, however, still some desultory fire from the occupants or what was left of them. However, there were still two lorries in the centre of the position whose occupants were apparently armed with automatic weapons and who replied vigorously to the fire from all I.R.A. sections. The fight went on continuously for about an hour when all sections got the signal to withdraw. We then withdrew from our position to the rear of Rathcoole Wood where we met the other members of Newmarket Column, and retired to Keam Castle and on to Castlebarnagh where we billeted. We returned to our home area on the morning of June 17th, 1921. The enemy must have suffered heavily in this engagement as the two lorries which had been mined were completely disabled. It was rumoured at the time that about twenty had been killed and the same number wounded. The I.R.A. had no casualties.

As a result of this attack the enemy endeavoured within a few days to carry out a big round-up in the Rathcoole area. They drafted in a considerable number of troops - estimated at 6,000 - and combed the Rathcoole-Musher - Kilcorney area for several days but failed to capture even one I.R.A. man.

At this time our column broke up into a number of small units operating with the newly trained members of the local companies in whose areas they were billeted. They

moved round trying to make contact with the enemy until early in July when the Newmarket Column was again assembled and, together with the members of the Millstreet Column, moved into West Limerick on the instructions of Brigade Vice O/C (Paddy O'Brien). On our way we met some members of the Charleville and Kanturk Columns near Rockchapel. The combined force on this occasion numbered about 70. All were armed with rifles and, in addition, we carried some mines. We moved on to Townafulla where we met the West Limerick Brigade Column, numbering about 50. The date was, I think, July 7th, 1921. We moved on to Templeglantine, where we took up a position on rising ground south of the road between Ardagh and Templeglantine in the early morning. Eight mines were laid in the road, extending over about 1,500 yards, and the I.R.A. force was divided into sections to cover each mine as well as providing flanking sections and scouts. The plan was the same as at Rathcoole - the convoy would pass through the ambush position about 2 p.m. and would be attacked on the return journey. About 2 p.m. four lorries passed through from Newcastlewest to Abbeyfeale, but while waiting in positions some short time later we saw the lorries returning to Newcastlewest by another route. As there was now no hope of another convoy, the whole force was withdrawn from the area to Townafulla where they billeted until the following Monday when the convoy was again expected to pass the ambush position. We returned to the ambush position during the night of July 10th and again took up our positions, but at 11.45 a.m. on July 11th we were informed of the coming Truce and of the conditions of same by our O/C (Paddy O'Brien). At 12 noon the whole column was assembled and dismissed, and within 10 to 15 minutes, while our men were actually removing the

mines from the road, the expected enemy convoy arrived on the scene from Newcastlewest. They were at first hostile when they saw our men on the road, but after some discussion with our O/C they moved on to Abbeyfeale. The Cork Columns then moved off for home, being provided with transport by the West Limerick men.

My rank at the Truce - 1st Lt., Kiskeam Coy., Newmarket Battalion, Cork IV Brigade, and column member. Strength of company - about 130.

During the summer of 1921 I attended a Training Camp at Knocknagree for about two weeks. The training officer was Tom Roche. The officer in charge of the camp was Paddy Murphy. At this camp we underwent an intensive course of training in the care and use of all types of arms, the use of cover, scouting, posting of guards. At the end of the course I returned to my company, where I remained active at regular training until the taking over of the barracks from the British in January, 1922, when I went to Mallow as one of the maintenance party. I later moved to Buttevant. When the Civil War began I took part in engagements against the Free State forces in Limerick, Kilmallock (Ashill Towers) and throughout Cork IV Brigade area. I was wounded and taken prisoner after an engagement with Free State forces at Taur on 16th October, 1922. I was then taken to Limerick prison, from where I escaped in March, 1923. I was later recaptured at home on June 10th, 1923, and interned in Cork and Newbridge until the general release following the cease fire.

Signed: Jas. Cashman

(Jas. Cashman)

Date: 28th September '55

Witness: P. O'Donnell

(P. O'Donnell) 28th September '55.
(Investigator)

