

U. S. 1445
ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
No. **W.S.** 1445

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. **W.S.** 1445.

Witness

Seán Murphy,
Central Hotel,
Dunmanway,
Co. Cork.

Identity.

Officer Commanding, Aultagh Company.
Quartermaster, Dunmanway Battalion, Cork III Brigade.

Subject.

Activities of Aultagh Company, Dunmanway Battalion,
Cork III Brigade. 1916-1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

File No **S.2503** :

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1445

STATEMENT BY SEÁN MURPHY,

Central Hotel, Dunmanway, Co. Cork.

I was born at Moulcragh, Ballinacarriga, Ballineen, on June 16th 1898. My parents were farmers. I was educated at Ballinacarriga National School and Christian Brothers' School Dunmanway until I reached the age of 15 years, when I went to work on my parents' farm.

I joined the Irish Volunteers in Dunmanway in June, 1916. At this time the membership was very small - about nine or ten. All members were also members of the Gaelic League. The pioneers, as far as I can recollect, were Tadhg O'Shea, Con Ahearne, Jerh. Hourihane, Michael McCarthy and his father, Daniel McCarthy, Dick O'Neill. Con Ahearne was O/C. There was very little activity beyond a couple of short parades each week, at which the training was mainly close order foot drill. There were also lectures on subjects of national interest at the time.

Towards the end of 1916 I organised a company of Volunteers in my home district - Aultagh. I was assisted by Jerh. Hourihane and Jim Crowley. The strength of this company soon grew to about fifty. The officers of the company, who were elected by the members, were:

O/C - Jerh. McCarthy
1st Lt.- Seán Murphy (witness)
2nd Lt.- Edmond Cotter.

Beyond weekly parades, at which close order foot drill was carried on, there was no activity until September, 1917, when the company took part in a big parade in Dunmanway to protest against the killing of Tom Ashe, R.I.P., by forcible

feeding while on hunger-strike in Mountjoy Prison, Dublin. The company also took part in a parade of welcome to a number of Dunmanway prisoners who were released from Cork Gaol in October, 1917. The prisoners were, I think: Dick O'Neill, Pat O'Mahoney, Con Ahearne, Tim Coakley and Dan McCarthy. They had been arrested following the parade in connection with the Tom Ashe protest. The next public parade of the company was at the Manchester Martyrs' anniversary parade in November, 1917.

In January, 1918, the Aulagh Company, under their own officers, marched to Coolderrihy near Kilmichael, where they met units from Coolderrihy, Inchigeela and Macroom. The combined companies carried out manoeuvres under Dan Corkery (O/C Macroom).

Several raids for arms were carried out during the spring of 1918. All shotguns in the area were collected to the number of about twenty. Amongst those who took part in these raids were: Seán Murphy (witness), Mick McCarthy, Jack Buttimer, Patk. Buttimer, James Crowley, John Donovan. About this time I purchased a Martini Enfield single shot rifle and a .32 revolver from Con Ahearne for £8.

A Battalion Training Camp was held at Neaskin in June, 1918. It continued for about one week and was attended by the following members of Aulagh Company: Jerh. McCarthy, Seán Murphy, Jno. Kelly, Jas. Crowley, Jerh. Hourihane, Pat Buttimer, Jerry Murphy, John O'Neill, Neilus Horgan, Con Donovan, Con Crowley. Seán Murphy, Cork City, was i/c of the camp. The men at the camp underwent an intensive course of training in close order foot drill, the care and use of arms and the use of cover.

The main difficulty at this time was the absence of sufficient funds to enable the company (Aultagh) to purchase arms, ammunition and equipment. Members were contributing weekly subscriptions of from 3d to 1/- to the arms fund. In order to raise additional cash, the members of the company organised a sports meeting at Kilnadur on June 29th 1918. The meeting received generous public support and a good sum of money - I cannot recollect the amount - was collected at the gate. While the sports meeting was in progress, a British military aeroplane hovered over the field and eventually landed in an adjoining corn field. It was then learned that the plane had been forced down with engine trouble, and we decided to attempt to capture it that night. However, within a short time a guard arrived and was placed on the plane. As the guard was too strong, we were unable to arrange an attack before the plane was repaired and removed.

During the 'flu epidemic in November, 1918, a number of members of the company, including Edmond Cotter, 2nd Lt., died. James Crowley now became 2nd Lt. of Aultagh Company.

Beyond routine training there was nothing of importance doing in the area until August, 1919, when the Aultagh Company sent two representatives - Seán Murphy (witness) and James Crowley, to a Brigade Training Camp which was set up at Glandore. All battalions in Cork 111 Brigade were represented at this camp. The O/C of the camp was Dick McKee (O/C Dublin Brigade). The Adjutant General (Gearóid O'Sullivan) was also present, as well as other officers from G.H.Q. Full military routine was enforced at the camp. Those in attendance were put through a vigorous course of training in close and extended order

drill and the care and use of arms. Lectures on all aspects of military activities were given at night, by senior officers. When the camp had been in session for about four or five days, it was surrounded one morning by a strong force of military and R.I.C. All present were paraded for identification, questioned and searched. Four of the I.R.A. party were arrested, viz. Gearóid O'Sullivan, Bernie O'Driscoll, Seán Murphy (witness) and Denis O'Brien (Newcestown). We were removed under strong escort to Cork Gaol, where we were detained for one week. We were then taken to Skibbereen for trial. We were charged with unlawful assembly and with being in possession of seditious documents. I cannot now recollect what type of documents were found. Anyhow, with Gearóid O'Sullivan and Bernie O'Driscoll I was sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour, while Denis O'Brien received a sentence of three months duration. After sentence we were removed to Cork Gaol, where we went on hunger-strike. We were removed to Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, within a couple of days, where the hunger-strike was called off. Within a short time a "smash up" strike was decided on as an alternative and all prisoners barricaded their cell doors and set about smashing windows, furniture and destroying the dividing walls between cells. Eventually all I.R.A. prisoners were released under The Cat and Mouse Act. I was released on October 15th 1919 and was supposed to report back to Mountjoy on December 15th 1919. Needless to say, I did not return.

While I was in prison a mobilisation of Dunmanway Battalion, at which all companies were present, was held at Balteenbrack. Hugh Thornton and Liam Deasy - two members of the Brigade (Cork 111) Staff, inspected the parade.

I was appointed O/C Dunmanway Battalion - to replace Con Ahern - during the first week in December, 1919. The officers on the staff of the battalion now were:

- O/C - Seán Murphy (witness)
- Vice O/C - Michael McCarthy
- Adjt.- Paddy O'Brien
- Q/M - Mick Dwyer.

The companies in the battalion at this time were: Dunmanway, Aultagh, Ballinacarriga, Behagh, Ballineen, Togher, Shanaway, Clubhouse, Kilbarry, Togher, Coppeen, Derrincaharagh.

The first activity in which representatives of the battalion were engaged took place in February, 1920, when Farnivane R.I.C. barracks was attacked. This was a Brigade job and, as far as I can recollect, the Brigade O/C (Tom Hales) and his brother, Seán, (O/C Bandon Battalion), were in charge. There were also representatives from, I think, Bandon and Clonakilty Battalions present. Due to failure to make contact with some scouts, the attack was not undertaken until early in the morning (about 5 a.m.), and after the attacking party had fired several rounds at the barracks we were ordered to withdraw. The Dunmanway section then withdrew to their home area. Amongst those from Dunmanway Battalion who took part in this operation were: Pat Buttimer, Larry Sullivan, James Crowley, John Donovan, Dan Sullivan and Seán Murphy (witness). There were a few others whose names I cannot recollect. The R.I.C. garrison evacuated Farnivane post next day.

At the end of February, 1920, there was a change in the officers of Aultagh Company. The O/C (Jerh. McCarthy) was dismissed and was replaced by James Crowley. The new 1st Lt. of the company was John Donovan.

When the G.H.Q. order to destroy evacuated enemy posts was received at Easter, 1920, I took charge of a party drawn from Kinneigh, Coppeen and Behagh Companies which destroyed Kinneigh R.I.C. Barracks. The building was destroyed by fire - the floors and walls being saturated with petrol and paraffin and then set on fire.

Training became more intensive as the year 1920 advanced. Battalion manoeuvres were held at week-ends during the summer months. All companies were put through a course of training in the use of arms, selection of cover and suchlike. Scouting and intelligence work received particular attention. Regular reports on the movements of enemy forces were transmitted to Battalion H.Q. by the various Company Intelligence Officers. When received at Battalion H.Q., these reports were condensed and co-ordinated before the submission of a report on the battalion to Brigade H.Q.

Three meetings of Cork III Brigade Council were held at my home at Ardcahan during the months of May, June and August, 1920. The local company was responsible for all scouting and safety arrangements on these occasions. While the May meeting was in progress, scouts reported the approach of a party of British military, so those present at the meeting withdrew from my home. The business of the meeting was concluded at an assembly point in Aultagh Wood.

Arrangements were made to ambush a military cycle patrol at Manch on the Dunmanway-Ballineen road on May 12th 1920. The attacking party, to the number of about forty, were drawn from Togher, Derrynacaheragh, Aultagh, Behagh, Coppeen, Kinneigh and Ballineen Companies. Nearly all were armed with shotguns. We took up a position behind

a roadside fence north of the road and were extended over a distance of about 100 yards. Positions were occupied about 2 a.m., but although we remained in position until after 7 a.m. the expected patrol did not arrive. Pat Harte (Bde. Q/M) was in charge of the party, while I was second in command. Some of those who were present were: James Crowley, John Donovan, Neilus Cotter, Tim O'Connell, Denis O'Connell, Seán Murphy, Pat Donovan, Pat Crowley, Dan Sullivan, James Buttimer, Jerh. Cahalane, Jas. Donovan, Jerry Murphy.

When positions were occupied at Derrigra near Ballineen on Dunmanway-Ballineen road on June 24th 1920, by much the same party as was at Manch on May 12th 1920, there was no appearance by the enemy. The officers in charge were: Pat Harte (Bde. Q/M) and Seán Murphy (witness).

Towards the end of August, 1920, I went to Drimoleague with four or five others to ambush a patrol of R.I.C. We took up a position behind roadside fence on the Dunmanway-Drimoleague road just outside the village, but although we remained in position for about four hours from 10 p.m., there was no appearance by the enemy patrol. Some members of the party were Tom Lucey and Mick McCarthy. I cannot recollect the names of the others. The position occupied was on high ground south of the road.

Liam Deasy (Bde. Adjt.) was in the area on September 8th 1920 when positions were taken by a strong party at Manch on the Dunmanway-Ballineen road. The position was occupied about 4 a.m. The party took up positions behind the roadside fence south of the road. With the exception of a few riflemen, the main body were armed with shotguns. There was nothing to report until about 10 a.m., when two

men named Cotter from Ballineen were observed hunting rabbits in the fields close to our position. They were placed under arrest by our outposts, as we did not wish them to return to Ballineen where the military convoy which we were awaiting was stationed. About 3 p.m. one of our scouts - John Twomey - reported that he had observed some enemy forces which, he thought, were endeavouring to surround our position. Liam Deasy, who was in charge, then gave the order to withdraw in a southerly direction. Before the withdrawal had been completed, a lorry of military from Ballineen drove into the ambush position. Some of our party dashed back and took up positions on the railway embankment south of the road. The lorry of enemy troops halted some one hundred yards beyond the western end of the position which we had been occupying, and detrucked. They immediately took up positions and opened fire on our party on the railway embankment. Our section of nine or ten replied to this fire, but as the enemy were in a position to outflank us, we were forced to withdraw south across the Bandon river to Girlough area. Some of those who took part in this engagement were: Michael McCarthy (Battalion V/C), Con Ahearne, Ned Young, James Crowley, John Donovan, Jerh. Murphy, Con O'Neill, Tim O'Connell, James Buttimer, Jerh. Cahalane, "Neilus" Donovan, "Neilus" Kelly, "Neilus" Cotter, Jerh. Cotter, Pat Crowley, James Hennessy, Wm. Forbes, Seán Murphy (Battalion O/C).

The Brigade Column, under Tom Barry (O/C) and Liam Deasy (Brigade Adjutant), together with some locals, took up positions at Fanlobbus on the Dunmanway-Ballineen road on September 28th 1920. The position selected was south of the road about two and a half miles from Dunmanway. We were in position behind the roadside fence. Although

the party were in position from about 11 a.m. until dusk, there was no appearance by the enemy. The Brigade Column then withdrew to billets in Ahakeera and later moved on to Newcestown. The men from Dunmanway Battalion returned to their home areas.. Amongst the men from Dunmanway Battalion present on this occasion were: James Crowley, John Donovan, Jack Buttimer, Pat Murphy, Seán Murphy (witness), James Buttimer, Jerh. Cahalane, Jerh. Murphy, John White, John MacSwiney, "Neilus" Kelly, Tim O'Connell, Michael Murphy.

A meeting of the Brigade Council - at which all battalions were represented - was held at Glaun North on November 21st 1920. The money which had been collected throughout the brigade for the arms fund was handed in at this meeting. The scouts and guards posted for this meeting were: Denis O'Connell, Pat Griffin, Jack Healy, Jerh. Cotter, Jerh. Murphy and Jim Kelly. It was decided at this meeting to put the Brigade Column, which had been operating for some weeks, on a regular footing. It was arranged to assemble the column at Clogher near Togher, Dunmanway. A disused house was taken over as H.Q. and a column was assembled there next day. The column, after training under Tom Barry at Clogher for three days, moved to Ahalinane, Ballineen, from where it moved to take up positions at Kilmichael on Sunday morning, November 28th 1920. The representatives of Dunmanway Battalion on the Brigade Column at this time were, as far as I can recollect, Michael McCarthy (Battalion V/C), Ned Young, Dan Hourihane, Faddy O'Brien, Sonny Carey, John Donovan, Tim O'Connell, "Neilus" Cotter, Mick O'Driscoll, Jack Hennessy. I was not present on this occasion.

Subsequent to Kilmichael, Dunmanway Battalion was represented on the column in several engagements, including one at Gaggin on the main Bandon-Clonakilty road on December 8th 1920. The column was disbanded prior to Christmas, 1920, and all members returned to their home areas.

When the column was reassembled about mid January, 1921, the following members from Dunmanway Battalion were present: Seán Murphy (witness), Dan Crowley, Michael Murphy, Tim Cotter, Pat Donovan, Jerh. Cahalane, James Buttimer, Pat Murphy, Paddy O'Brien, Tim Warren and Dan Hourihane. The strength of this column was in the vicinity of seventy. Tom Barry was in charge. After a few days training we took up positions at Mawbeg, about midway between Bandon and Ballineen, about 8 a.m. on January 22nd 1920. Although we remained in position all day, the expected enemy convoy did not arrive. All members of the column were armed with rifles and about fifty rounds per man. I should have mentioned that on this occasion the body of an ex-British soldier who had been shot as a spy that morning, was placed on the roadside in the hope that the enemy forces would come out from Bandon to collect the body. As there was no appearance by the enemy, the column withdrew to billets in the area.

Early on the morning of January 23rd 1921 the column moved into a position at Laragh within about three and a half miles of Bandon on the Newcestown road. Another spy was shot on this occasion. His body was labelled to indicate that he was a spy, and again left on the roadside. Word was sent in to Bandon that there was a man dead on the roadside, but although we waited all day the enemy did not come out to examine the position.

The column was again withdrawn to billets for food about 4 p.m. As far as I can recollect, we had only withdrawn from the position when two or three lorries of military passed, but this was the luck of the game. The Dunmanway Battalion representatives were the same as those referred to in previous paragraph.

The column crossed the Bandon river at Baxter's Bridge during the night of the 23rd January, and in the early hours of the morning reached billets in the neighbourhood of Crossmahon. On the evening of January 24th 1921 we moved to Crossmahon within a couple of miles of Bandon, and were then told that we were to move into Bandon to attack a curfew patrol of British military that night. The column was divided into a number of sections. I was with a section which took up a position on the outskirts of Bandon west of the military barracks. We were under cover of a stone wall and in position to attack any party which might attempt a sortie from the barracks. We were south of the main Bandon-Dunmanway road. We were in position about 11 p.m. while other sections were covering the R.I.C. and operating in the centre of the town. We remained in position until about 3 a.m., when, following the firing of some shots in the centre of the town, our party opened fire on the military barracks. We continued to fire for about ten minutes, when the signal to withdraw was given. We then withdrew in a northerly direction. The section with which I was operating on this occasion numbered about ten and included Paddy O'Brien, Dan Hourihan, John Donovan from Dunmanway Battalion.

When Innishannon R.I.C. Barracks was attacked on January 26th 1921, I was one of a party which lay in ambush

at Brinny Crossroads with a view to intercepting any reinforcements which might come from Bandon. There was no activity - the enemy did not put in an appearance.

My next operation with the column took place on the night of February 23rd 1920, when the column, to the number of about forty, entered Bandon to attack a military patrol which paraded the town each night. The column was divided into three sections - two sections of six/seven each and the main body of about thirty. Tom Barry (Column O/C) took the latter section into the town to attack the patrol, while the other sections entered the town in search of any other military or police who might be out of barracks. I cannot recollect who was in charge of my party, but some of the members were: Paddy O'Brien, Dan Hourihan, John Donovan. We moved into town about 8.30 p.m. and took up a position beneath the R.I.C. church, but we did not make any contact with the enemy. Tom Barry and some members of the main body, however, made contact with a small party - four or five, of Black and Tans and opened fire on them. Shortly after the firing had ceased in the centre of the town, where Tom Barry and the main body were operating, the signal to withdraw was given and our section withdrew. We were soon joined by the remainder of the column.

Following the attack on Bandon on February 24th 1921, I was ordered back to Dunmanway Battalion with Paddy O'Brien (Battalion Adjutant) and Dan Hourihane (Battalion Q/M) by Liam Deasy (Brigade Adjutant). We returned to the Dunmanway Battalion area early in March and took up the work of organising activities amongst the companies in the battalion. These activities were mainly confined to raids on mails, from which no information of military value was gleaned.

A Brigade Council meeting was held in Curraghdrinagh early in March, 1921. This meeting was attended by the Brigade O/C (Charlie Hurley), who had been wounded at Upton on February 23rd 1921. At this meeting he (O/C) stressed the point that, with the exception of Kilmichael, all the ambushes which had taken place would be only minor activities compared with those which were to come. He stated that all engagements in future would be planned on a bigger scale. The revised plans were soon in operation, as at Crossbarry on March 19th 1921 the strength of the I.R.A. column engaged was over one hundred. I was not at Crossbarry, but amongst the representatives of the Dunmanway Battalion who took part were: John Donovan, Patk. Murphy, Jack Buttimer and Michael Hurley.

Towards the end of March, 1921, the column was moving round the area and was in the Rosscarbery area on the night of March 30th, when arrangements were made to attack Rosscarbery R.I.C. Barracks. I was not with the column at this time, but Dunmanway Battalion was represented by John Donovan, Patk. Murphy and Jack Buttimer. The enemy post was burned out on this occasion. The same representatives took part in the ambush of a train carrying enemy forces at Ballinascorthy about this time.

About this time - April, 1921 - the enemy forces in the area used bloodhounds for the first time to track members of the I.R.A.

The normal training and organisation of the various companies was carried on at this time. Scouts, dispatch riders and men for intelligence work were regularly on duty throughout the battalion. In addition, the members of the various companies were engaged on cutting enemy lines of communication, trenching roads, demolishing bridges.

When the general order to shoot up all enemy personnel on sight, as a reprisal for the execution of I.R.A. prisoners of war, was received in May, 1921, the Brigade Vice O/C (Ted O'Sullivan), who was in the area, took charge of the operation. I was second in command. The men for this job were selected from the neighbouring companies and numbered about forty. The party was divided into four sections - one under the Bde. Vice O/C (Ted O'Sullivan), one under witness (Seán Murphy), and the third and fourth under Paddy O'Brien (Battalion Adjutant) and Sonny Dave Crowley (Battalion V/C). Each section numbered about ten. The section under Ted O'Sullivan moved into The Square, Dunmanway, via High St., while my section moved in via Castle St. We joined forces as we reached The Square. Meanwhile, Paddy O'Brien and Dave Crowley had led their sections into The Square from the south. The sections from the north had taken along two horses and carts loaded with sandbags. These were used to block the exits from The Square and at the same time give cover to our attacking party. All sections entered the town about 12 noon, and although we remained until about 2 p.m. we saw no sign of the enemy. All sections then withdrew after firing several shots at the enemy post in the town. Some of those who took part in this operation were: Ted O'Sullivan (Bde. V/C), Seán Murphy (witness), James Crowley, John Donovan, Patk. Donovan, Jerh. Hourihane, James Buttimer, Jerh. Cahalane, John O'Neill, James Donovan, Paddy Cotter, "Neilus" Kelly, Michael Murphy, John MacSwiney, Patk. Crowley, Michael Murphy, Jerh. Murphy, Denis O'Sullivan, Denis O'Connell, Wm. O'Connell, Patk. Murphy and John Buttimer.

About this time the enemy were only moving round the area in very strong parties. Major Percival - an officer of the Essex Regiment - had been operating throughout the area with a column of approximately three hundred. They moved across country on foot and on bicycles, travelling very often by the minor roads. These activities threw additional responsibilities on the members of the local units, who were responsible for the security arrangements of the I.R.A. column when in the area.

The Brigade Column, under Liam Deasy, moved into ambush positions at Gloundaw on the main Dunmanway-Drimoleague road on the morning of May 28th 1921. On this occasion I was in charge of a section which was in position at the eastern flank of the ambush site on the Kilbarry road. The strength of the party was about twenty. We had about six rifles and the remainder were armed with shotguns. There was no activity, as the enemy party did not travel.

On June 7th, 1921, Dan Crowley, a member of the Aultagh Company, was shot dead by Black and Tans near his home at Behegulane. The raiders were apparently looking for his brother, who was O/C of the unit at the time.

The train to Cork was held up by a party under my control on June 15th 1921. We seized all mails and removed them to Battalion H/Q. for censoring. When the mails had been censored, they were returned to the nearest post office for dispatch to addressees. No information of a military nature came to light as a result of this raid. The members of this raiding party were: Seán Murphy (witness), Paddy O'Brien, Dan Hourihan, Sonny Dave Crowley, Tim Warren and John Nyhan.

During the month of June, 1921, a party armed with revolvers entered Dunmanway on four occasions with the intention of shooting up any enemy forces who might be visible on the streets. The visits were in vain as there were no military or R.I.C. to be seen. However, when the party entered the town on June 29th, one Black and Tan was to be seen, but he was in the company of an R.I.C. man who was friendly to the I.R.A. and who often passed on information regarding proposed enemy raids. In the circumstances, no action was taken. The members of the I.R.A. party were: Pat Buttimer, James Buttimer, Jerh. Cahalane, Jack Cahalane, Jerh. Hourihan, Pat Murphy, Michael Murphy and Seán Murphy (witness).

A training camp was set up at Droumfeigh, Dunmanway, at the end of June, 1921. The camp was under the control of Denis Lordan, Adjutant Brigade Column. It was attended by the following men from Dunmanway Battalion: James Crowley, Jerh. Hourihan, John O'Neill, Pat Buttimer, Jim Buttimer, "Neilus" Kelly, Pat Donovan, Jerh. Cahalane and Michael Murphy.

On July 7th 1921 I arranged an ambush of a party of Tans who usually came to swim in the river at a place known locally as "Foxe's Hole". Among those who took part were: James Crowley, Jerh. Hourihan, John Donovan, Jack Buttimer, Jerh. Cotter, Michael Murray, "Neilus" Horgan, Con Collins, Michael Murphy, Con Ahearne, Seán Murphy (witness). Two of the enemy party were wounded - one was reported later as having died of wounds. The I.R.A. party were armed with rifles.

Ambush positions were taken up at Ardcahan on the Dunmanway-Macroon road by a party under my control on July 8th

1921. Although we remained in position all day, there was no appearance by the enemy, and in the evening we withdrew to billets. The party on this occasion was: Jerh. Hourihane, James Crowley, Jack Buttimer, Pat Buttimer, Pat Murphy, Michael Murphy, John Donovan, Jerh. Cotter, Jerh. Murphy and Seán Murphy.

Liam Lynch, O/C 1st Southern Division, was in the area some time early in May, 1921. He presided at a meeting held at Shanacrine in connection with the organisation of the new Division. There were a number of officers from other brigades present. I recollect that Liam Deasy was one of the officers present from Cork 111 Brigade. In connection with this meeting, the Battalion Q/M was responsible for supplying rations for the visiting officers. He arranged to have a sheep seized and killed. A number of members of the local company were sent to catch a sheep. They entered a field in which were a flock of about sixty and set about rounding up one. Eventually a sheep was captured and killed. It was then discovered the sheep killed was the property of a farm labourer employed by the farmer whose sheep they had been chasing. All the other sheep in the field were the property of the farmer.

A meeting of Dunmanway Battalion Council was held on July 9th 1921. Liam Deasy (Bde. O/C) presided. As a result of this meeting, I was replaced as Battalion O/C by Seán Lehane from Schull Battalion area, and was instead appointed Battalion Q/M. The officers of the battalion now were:

O/C - Seán Lehane
 Vice O/C - Sonny Dave Crowley
 Adjt. - Seán Murphy
 Q/M - Seán Murphy (witness).

My rank at the Truce - Q/M, Dunmanway Battalion,
Cork 111 Brigade. Strength of the battalion - about 800.

The officers of the Dunmanway Battalion in the
period from its foundation in 1918 up to date of Truce were,
as far as I can recollect:

1918:

O/C - Con Ahearne
V. O/C - Liam O'Driscoll (left area June, 1919).
Adjt.- Paddy O'Brien
Q/M - Mick Dwyer.

December, 1919:

O/C - Seán Murphy (witness)
V. O/C - Michael McCarthy (killed Kilmichael
28/11/1920)
Adjt.- Paddy O'Brien
Q/M - Mick Dwyer.

December, 1920:

O/C - Seán Murphy
V. O/C - "Sonny" Dave Crowley
Adjt.- Paddy O'Brien
Q/M - Mick Dwyer, removed March, 1921.

March, 1921:

O/C - Seán Murphy, appointed Q/M July 9th 1921.
V. O/C - "Sonny" Dave Crowley
Adjt.- Paddy O'Brien
Q/M - Dan Hourihane.

9th July, 1921:

O/C - Seán Lehane
V. O/C - "Sonny" Dave Crowley
Adj. - Seán Murphy
Q/M - Seán Murphy (witness).

Signed: Seán Murphy.
Date: 20th June 1956

Witness: P. Donnell
(Investigator)

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 1445