

**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STAIRÉ MILE'TA 1913 21  
No. W.S. 1,613

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1613.

**Witness**

Comdt. Seán Sheridan,  
"The Rocks"  
Crossdoney,  
Co. Cavan.

**Identity.**

Member of Drumbrade Company, Ballinagh Battn.,  
Irish Vols., Co. Cavan.

**Subject.**

Ballinagh Battn., West Cavan Brigade, I. R. A.  
1918 - 21.

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

Nil.

File No .. S. 2894. ....

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STATEMENT BY COMMANDANT SEAN SHERIDAN

The Rocks, Crossdoney, Co. Cavan.

I was born at Drumcrow, Corlismore, Co. Cavan, on 24th December 1902. I received my primary education at the local National Schools. When I had finished my primary education at the local school, I went as a day student to St. Patrick's College in Cavan Town. There was nothing in the curriculum of the National School or the college at that time of an outstanding Irish nature, but while at the National School we did receive a thorough grinding in the Irish language. This instruction was given to us by a visiting teacher named Gillic and took place after normal school hours.

In May 1918, I joined the Drumbrade Company of the Irish Volunteers. This company was part of the Ballinagh Battalion. My brother Thomas was captain of the company and it was he who took me into the Volunteers. There was no oath or declaration to be made on joining then. The company was about 40 strong. My brother Tom was company captain, John Delaney was 1st Lieutenant, and Charles Finnegan, 2nd Lieutenant. The armament of the company consisted of one Lee Enfield service rifle, a few shotguns and a few small calibre revolvers. Parades for training were held weekly. My brother, or either of the other two officers imparted the instruction given. My brother had no previous military experience, but he had some British army instructional manuals and he made a thorough study of this material.

At this time, the conscription crisis was at its peak and parades and drilling were carried out openly and in full view of the R.I.C. who did not interfere. There were also numerous anti-conscription meetings held, at which the

Volunteers paraded, and the Volunteers also collected a large sum of money for the anti-conscription fund. A large amount of tinned foodstuffs was collected and stored away in dumps and the Cumann na mBan were busily engaged in making bandages and first aid kits. The arms position in the company remained the same. There was no attempt made to make pikes or other armament locally. There was an active Sinn Fein Club in the parish at this time and most of the Volunteers were also members of it.

When the conscription crisis passed, all of our forty or so Volunteers remained active and, contrary to what happened in other areas, there had been no big influx into the Volunteers during the crisis. A by-election was held in East Cavan in July 1918, and the late Arthur Griffith was elected on behalf of Sinn Fein. Although the election took place outside our area, which was West Cavan, we marched to meetings in the East Cavan area and did duty at meetings there and generally assisted the East Cavan Volunteers. In Kilnaleck the R.I.C. warned our company about illegal drilling in the street and took some of the Volunteers' names, including my brother Tom's, but they did not arrest anyone. Tom stayed away from home for some time after this as he was expecting they would come and raid him, but they did not do so.

After the by-election in Roscommon in February 1917, the Ballinagh Company had lighted bonfires in the streets to celebrate Count Plunkett's election, and four Volunteers from that company received four months jail sentence for singing the Soldier's Song. Two of my other brothers were members of that company.

When the general election took place at the end of 1918, we had no activities in Co. Cavan as the Sinn Fein candidates were returned unopposed. On the morning of polling day

our company was drafted into Carrigallen in Co. Leitrim. We assembled at 5 o'clock in the morning and travelled by horses and cars to Arva and then marched the remaining four miles to <sup>CARRIGALLEN</sup> ~~Kilnaleck~~. We did duty on the polling station in that town and in the town itself. We also indulged in personation on a large scale and several of our men voted two or three times for the Sinn Fein candidate. There were no incidents of any kind in Carrigallen and we all got back safely to our homes.

The First Dáil met early in January 1919 in the Mansion House, Dublin, and set itself up as the First Government of the Irish Republic and reaffirmed its allegiance to the Proclamation of 1916. The Dáil floated a Loan to provide moneys for its undertakings, and the Volunteers took an active part in this in the way of canvassing and collecting for the Loan. The people as a whole responded remarkably to this appeal to provide funds for the new Government and a large amount of money was collected. I think it was my brother Michael who acted as agent and receiver for the moneys collected in our area. The Dáil now took over the control of the Volunteers and it was decreed that all officers and men were to swear an oath of allegiance to the Dáil as the Government of the Irish Republic. As far as I can remember, all our members subscribed to this oath. There may have been one or two who objected.

Our company was part of the Ballinagh Battalion, the other companies being Bruskey, Denn, Gowna, Mullahoran and Cormore. Peter Paul Galligan was the 1st Battalion O/C. The adjutant was Sean Kincart and the Q.M. was Charles Fitzpatrick. Originally, Fitzpatrick was company commander in Ballinagh and he was succeeded by Peter Moynagh. My brother Tom was appointed battalion vice O/C. and he was succeeded in

the Drumbrade Company by Jack Delaney as company captain. Bruskey Company was commanded by John J. McCabe; Denn Company by Bernard Galligan; Gowna Company by Luke Smith; Mullahoran Company by Brian Dowd, and Cormore Company by Hugh Brady. I do not know what the armament of the battalion was as I was only a Volunteer. The Ballinagh Battalion was one of the battalions of the West Cavan Brigade, the O/C. of the brigade being the late Thomas Fitzpatrick of Ballinagh. I do not remember who the other brigade staff officers were. The battalions comprising the brigade were: Ballinagh, Cavan Town, Belturbet and Corlough.

Early in 1920, orders were received that all Volunteers were to provide themselves with bicycles. Some of our men had not got bicycles. My brother Tom and a party of the Drumbrade Company raided the premises of the Killeshandra Creamery stores and took from it about eight or ten new bicycles. They walked to the stores and rode the bicycles back. The machines were given to Volunteers who had no bicycles and various means were adopted to camouflage them, such as changing the saddles of old machines on to them and so forth.

In March 1920, the same company raided the mail car on the road between Cavan and Crossdoney and took from it about £75 - old age pension money. The money was handed to the battalion O/C. and with it he bought seven rifles from G.H.Q. Dublin and also a few automatic pistols. The rifles came down by train from Dublin in a case consigned as ordinary merchandise to Connolly & Co., Ballinagh, who were merchants in that town. My brother Tom had made arrangements with a railway porter at Drumhownagh Station to take the rifles off there. This the porter did and my brother collected them from this station with a donkey and cart belonging to a man named Donoghue and took them to the Drumbrade Company area where they were safely dumped.

There was some ammunition for the rifles and pistols also.

In May 1920, a fair was being held in Crossdoney. It was usual for a couple of the R.I.C. to proceed from Ballinagh to Crossdoney and do patrol duty there during the Fair. The police were usually armed at this time with revolvers and it was decided to hold them up en route and relieve them of their weapons. Strict orders were received from the battalion O/C. that no lives were to be taken in this attempt. My brother Tom and six or eight men took up a position behind the hedges on the roadway between Crossdoney and Ballinagh. Only three or four of this party were armed with revolvers of different calibre and these included my two brothers Tom and Pat. The remainder of the party were unarmed and it was their duty to disarm the police when they were held up and then to tie them up so that they could not get back to the barracks and raise the alarm until our men were clear away. One man was positioned on some high ground and his duty was to warn the main party of the approach of the R.I.C. The men taking part in the affair were Tom Sheridan, my brother, who was in charge; Pat Sheridan, another brother; Peter Reilly, who manned the lookout position; John Delaney, Harry Masterson, William Brady, John Finnegan, Edward Smith, Joseph Caffrey and John Corr. All the party wore masks.

A sergeant and a constable left the barracks in Ballinagh and proceeded on foot towards Crossdoney and were duly signalled as approaching the ambush position by the lookout man. When the police had reached the required position, my brothers Tom and Pat and Delaney and Masterson jumped on to the road and called on them to put their hands up. The sergeant, as if surprised, stepped backwards and, as he did so, he drew an automatic pistol which was an unusual weapon for police to carry, and opened fire. My brother Tom was hit immediately -

three bullets entering his hip and groin. Pat was also hit - receiving a bullet in the leg below the thigh. This bullet travelled down his leg and made its exit around the calf of the leg. It did not strike any bone, but the impact knocked him down and in falling he fractured his leg between the thigh and the knee. Our men returned the fire and the sergeant was severely wounded in the leg and the constable put his hands up immediately. Both men were relieved of their weapons. We heard afterwards that the sergeant had his leg amputated. I don't know if this is correct or not. When Tom was hit he crawled across the fence into the field and got off the road. A man named Connolly, who was going to the fair with a horse and cart, put Pat into the cart and took him away from the scene. Delaney and Masterson remained with my brother Tom and the other Volunteers dispersed.

I was at Crossdoney railway station when Delaney arrived there looking for help to carry my brother Tom away. He told me what happened and I went back with him. I found my brother lying in the field alongside the road. Delaney, Masterson and I carried him across country to a house named McMahon's. He was seriously wounded and bleeding profusely and was asking for a priest. I immediately proceeded on a bicycle to Ballinagh Chapel. The Curate, Father Tom Kelly, had just finished saying Mass and he came immediately to my brother. Although I had passed the R.I.C. Barracks on my way to the chapel I did not see any police or activity by them. A doctor had also been sent for, but he had not arrived so far. Father Laurence Corr also arrived at McMahon's, having heard of my brother being wounded.

After the priests had attended to my brother, and while we awaited the doctor, we could see the police beginning to move in our direction, so we were compelled to move him again.

He was placed in a horse and trap and driven to a point on the road where a motor car picked him up and took him to the Columcille area in Co. Longford. Soon after he had left for Longford, Dr. Charles Burke arrived. He followed my brother in his car to the Columcille area, where he treated him. That night, he was moved by the Longford Brigade to the Mater Hospital, Dublin, where he was entered as a patient under the name of Thomas Murphy of Kilkenny. The shooting took place on Thursday, 27th May 1920, and he died on the following Saturday morning. My father and mother travelled to Dublin to see him on that day, but he was dead when they got there.

Some form of inquest was held at the Mater Hospital at which the local R.I.C. attended. His remains were taken to Ballinagh on the following Monday or Tuesday and he was buried in Ballinagh Cemetery with full military honours. A firing party of Volunteers armed with revolvers fired three volleys over his grave. The R.I.C. did not interfere with the funeral and kept indoors while it was taking place.

My brother Pat was also taken by horse and trap to Co. Longford on the day of the shooting. The Longford Brigade had him conveyed to Jervis St. Hospital, Dublin, where he was a patient for three months. He made a complete recovery except for a certain shortening of his leg and a certain amount of permanent disability. The police did their utmost to trace him, but did not succeed. When he left hospital he stayed with friends in different parts of the country. The police were continually raiding our house and questioning us about his whereabouts. Finally, we struck on the idea of having friends of ours in America write a letter to us, stating that they had met Pat there and that he was well. This letter was left on the mantelpiece in our house where the police would find it on their next visit. They did, and this seemed to satisfy them that he had left the country. At this time he was in



Belfast. We had a covering address to communicate with him.

On the night of the shooting (27th May 1920) masked men whom we believed to be R.I.C. visited our house at 2 o'clock in the morning. They took my father out and abused him and questioned him about the whereabouts of his two sons. They then put him back in the house and closed the door and ordered that no one should leave the house or they would be shot. I was sitting near the window and now and again I could see small flashes of light. Next, a whole piece of the roof of the house - which was of thatch - fell down outside and on fire. I now realised that the roof of the house was on fire. My mother and sisters were also in the house at this time. We now rushed out and my sister ran to the neighbours to get help. Soon a number of the local people assembled and they got on to the roof and succeeded in putting out the fire. About a third or so of the roof was destroyed. There was a strong smell of petrol around the place and it seemed as if this had been thrown on the roof before it was set alight. There were many raids on the house between that night and the Truce, but no further attempt was made to burn it.

From now on my other brother and I were on the run voluntarily. My mother would not let us stay at home as the R.I.C. had threatened us that if their sergeant had died another Sheridan would die also.

An item that I should have mentioned previously was that in May 1918 the local Volunteers had a Mass celebrated in Drumbrade Chapel for the leaders of the 1916 Rebellion. Father Caul, who was in full sympathy with the Volunteer movement, said the Mass. During the Mass a guard of honour of Volunteers were in position, I think, inside the altar rails. The sequel to this was that Father Corr was removed from the parish and transferred to the English Mission where

he remained for three years. The Most Rev. Dr. Finegan, who was then our Bishop, was an out-and-out imperialist.

In the latter end of 1919 and early 1920, consequent upon attacks being made on their barracks and, in some cases, their capture by the Volunteers, the R.I.C. evacuated a number of their smaller outlying stations and concentrated their men on the larger ones, principally in the towns. Mountnugent Barracks in our area was evacuated and was destroyed on Easter Saturday night, 1920. It could not be burned, as it was one of a terrace of houses, so it had to be destroyed by smashing up the roof and so forth with bars and pickaxes.

Sinn Fein, which was now pretty well organised throughout the country, had their local Courts operating. The people as a whole took well to the Sinn Fein Courts and the old-established British Courts were practically deserted. Amongst the men who acted as judges or arbitrators at the Sinn Fein Courts were Paul McShane, Laurence Masterson and Michael Reilly. The police at first did not interfere with the Courts, but later they did their best to locate them and the sittings had to be a very secret affair. The Volunteers now took over the policing of the countryside and, although it was only a part-time duty for them, they did it very successfully. The Volunteers had the co-operation of the vast majority of the general public, a thing which the R.I.C. could never get. There always had been a void between the people and the R.I.C. and, since the advent of Sinn Fein, this had become accentuated, so that in real fact the R.I.C. were boycotted. The people had never forgotten the actions of the R.I.C. during the Land League days and the Fenian rebellion and looked upon them more as the instruments of a foreign power than as a police force. The Volunteers had to make a few arrests in the area for petty robberies. The culprits were taken to another

battalion area and confined there. They were made to work as labourers or tradesmen, as the case might be, in the area in which they were confined, and this acted as a penance for their offences. One offender posed as a member of the I.R.A. and robbed a local postman. We had no place of detention in our area, which was a blessing.

Around the middle of August 1920, a very sad affair took place outside Cavan town. There was a man named Joseph McMahon who came from Kilmealy, Co. Clare, residing in Cavan town, where he worked as a coach-painter or coach-builder. I believe he had come to Cavan in connection with the Belfast Boycott which was in full swing at this time. He was an ardent Volunteer. This man with Patrick Roche, who was intelligence officer of the Cavan Battalion, and some others were testing a home-made bomb outside Cavan Town at a place called Oldtown. This was 15th August, which was a Catholic holiday. The bomb was thrown but failed to explode. McMahon and Roche, who was from Mayo, and the others went forward to examine the unexploded bomb. McMahon picked it up and was examining it when it exploded. McMahon was killed outright and Roche had his hand blown off. I came on the scene shortly after the explosion took place and assisted in carrying the bodies to the ambulance from the County Poor Law Hospital which had arrived by now. It was said afterwards that these men did not get medical attention before being brought to hospital, but that is wrong. Surgeon B.T. Cullen attended to them on the spot where they were wounded. I was speaking to Surgeon Cullen there. McMahon was buried locally and, a few weeks later, his coffin was taken up and brought to his native place in Co. Clare. Roche was treated at the hospital and then, I think, removed to a Dublin hospital. He made a good recovery.

A curious thing about the affair was that the police and the military who were stationed in Cavan seemed to ignore the whole thing completely. They never went near Roche in the hospital or made any investigation. It is unlikely that they were unaware of it.

On the orders of G.H.Q. a general raid for arms was carried out in the harvest time of 1919. It would appear that the R.I.C. were about to collect all the arms in the country. Our G.H.Q. had information about this impending operation and issued orders that the Volunteers were to forestall the police and collect the arms instead. The operation from the Volunteer point of view was a rushed affair as a result and it often happened that the R.I.C. and military were in an area on a certain day where the Volunteers had taken up the arms the previous night. We collected a large number of shotguns of all types - some serviceable and a lot unserviceable, and a small supply of shotgun cartridges. There were also a few small calibre revolvers collected, but no service weapons of any type. Some of the weapons had to be taken forcibly, but generally the people handed them over quietly; in fact, I believe in some cases they were glad to be rid of them as they were becoming a menace under existing conditions. In some cases, the owners were absent from the houses and they had to be entered forcibly. The whole operation went off quietly and in no case had shooting to be resorted to. The guns were placed in dumps. Wooden boxes were constructed and these were put into the facing banks of bog cuttings or into banks. The whole surrounding countryside was cleared of weapons before the police and military got there.

On Saturday night, 25th September 1920, Arva R.I.C. Barracks was attacked and captured by the Longford Brigade

I.R.A. Arva is in Cavan, but on the Longford border. The operation was carried out by the Longford Brigade, but Cavan, Leitrim and Meath Brigades co-operated. Their duty was to block all roads and cut all communications between Arva and the surrounding areas and prevent enemy reinforcements from reaching Arva. The Longford Brigade, as well as I can remember, also got a loan of the rifles from our battalion for the attack. We were engaged blocking the roads to prevent reinforcements going out to Arva from the military barracks in Cavan town. No reinforcements attempted to get through from that point - so we had no clash with them. I do not think they were aware that Arva Barracks was attacked and captured until many hours after the event, as all communications to Cavan were cut. On the days following the Arva affair the R.I.C. and military carried out extensive raiding around the area, but no arrests were made. Our house was usually raided twice per week at this time.

After the shootings in Dublin on "Bloody Sunday", which was 20th November 1920, the police and military arrested a number of men around our area and they were interned in Ballykinlar Camp, Co. Down. The Black and Tans now arrived and reinforced the local police and things began to get very lively. Raids, holds-up and searches became a common feature of life. These raids and searches were linked with the abuse and beating up of individuals and it was soon apparent that the British forces, particularly the police elements, were out to establish a reign of terror in an effort to frighten the people out of their allegiance to Sinn Féin and the I.R.A.

In December 1920, it was planned to attack and capture Ballyjamesduff R.I.C. Barracks. Ballyjamesduff was in the East Cavan area and the Crosserlough Battalion area, and this battalion undertook to carry out the operation. Our battalion was detailed to supply six men armed with rifles and ammunition

who were to report to the O/C. Crosserlough Battalion O/C. at a certain hour on the night in question. This party was to be the spearhead of the attack. The remainder of our battalion were to block the roads leading from the town of Cavan to prevent the military from getting from there to Ballyjamesduff and to cut all communications on that side of Ballyjamesduff. The men from our battalion detailed to take and use the rifles were: John Joseph McCabe, John Delaney, Luke Smith, Harry Masterson, Patrick Finnegan and John Finnegan.

On the night planned for the attack, the party as detailed proceeded to the dump to collect the rifles. They found that one of the rifles had something lodged in the bore and they spent a considerable time trying to remove this object, but failed to do so. They now left this rifle in the dump and taking a shotgun in its stead set out for Crosserlough Hall where a guide from the Ballyjamesduff Battalion was to pick them up. John Joe Coyle was to be the guide. The arms dump at which the rifles were kept was at Buskey, so it entailed a journey of from 10 to 12 miles by very bad byroads on cycles. They could not travel any main road for fear of meeting up with enemy forces. The party were due to report at Crosserlough Hall at 9 p.m. but, owing to the time spent at the dump with the dud rifle and some short delays en route while scouting had to be carried out, they did not arrive until 9.30 p.m. a half hour late.

When they got to Crosserlough Hall they could not find any trace of the guide. An Irish language class was being held in the Hall and they inquired of the teacher if she had seen John Joe Coyle. She said she had not. They waited in the vicinity of the Hall for about an hour, but no guide turned up. The party could see Verrey lights being sent up

by the police in Kilnaleck Barracks which indicated that the police there were aware that something was afoot. They now decided that waiting further would serve no useful purpose and they set off to return to Buskey, which they did and re-deposited their rifles in the dump.

As a result of the failure of the Ballyjamesduff guide to contact the party, the attack on the barracks there was called off. The local men had only shotguns and some explosives. The rifle with the choked barrel defied all efforts to clear it and it was not till after the Truce that it was cleared when more suitable tools were available. It was found that a piece of strong copper wire had been rammed down the bore and was stuck dead tight in it. The rifle, I understand, had been bought from a British soldier who had probably sabotaged it before handing it over. It was lucky that this had been discovered as, had it been fired in that condition, the barrel would have burst, probably killing the firer.

There were no further activities in 1920. Paul Galligan, our Battalion O/C., was arrested in September 1920, and Charles P. Fitzpatrick replaced him as Battalion Commandant. Peter Moynagh now became captain of Ballinagh Company. Tom Fitzpatrick, the Brigade O/C., had also been arrested and spent a period in jail. His place as Brigade O/C. was taken by Frank McKeon of Cootehill. Fitzpatrick was a very strong-willed, stubborn sort of man, of the type who would never be subdued. In consequence of this, he was continually in serious trouble during his period in jail and he received very rough handling and beatings from the prison warders and other enemy forces with whom he came in contact. On his release, his mind went astray and he had to be put into a mental home.

My brother Michael was arrested and interned in January

1921. He was then, I think, a lieutenant in the Ballinagh Company. All my brothers were now gone and I, although still very young, was the only one left to help my father with the farm work. I suppose it was my youth kept me from being arrested also. On account of my being the only boy left and what my family had gone through, the powers that be decided that I should be left to help my father and from then on I was out of touch more or less with the Volunteer activities. My brother was sent to Belfast Jail.

About March or April 1921, an active service column was organised in the area. C. Fitzpatrick, Peter Moynagh, John Delaney, J.J. McCabe and James and Bernard Galligan were amongst the party forming this column which would be about 15 to 18 strong. I think Charles Fitzpatrick was in charge of the column. The column had seven or eight rifles and the remainder had shotguns and a few revolvers. The rifles were the ones which had been in Longford for the Arva Barracks attack and also connected with the Ballyjamesduff affair.

Some time in April, Seamus McGoran and Thomas Fox - both now colonels in the army, and a few others arrived in our area from Belfast and got in touch with the column. They were all men who were on the run from the Belfast area. I think McGoran was sent on an organising mission by G.H.Q. Dublin. There were also a few from the Monaghan area.

The column moved around from district to district putting up at the local houses and being fed by the occupants. Most of the members of the column were men who were on the run.

In May 1921, some of the column set up camp at Lappanduff between Cavan and Cootehill. I do not know what the object of this move was. McGoran and Fox were amongst



the party there. The position selected for the camp was a very bad one, to my mind. It was on top of a hill which stood up like a pimple on the surrounding countryside. The sides of the hill were rough and provided good cover for an encircling force. Enemy forces somehow became aware of their presence there and moved into the area and encircled the hill. The occupying party apparently had no scouts out and no liaison with the local Volunteers who would have been able to warn them of the enemy's approach. The encirclement of the area started on the evening of 8th May. It is said that one of the column left the camp in the early morning of the 9th with a tin can to fetch water from a well or stream and that the morning sun, glinting on this can as he swung it around his head, telegraphed or signalled to the enemy forces that the place was occupied.

In the early hours of the morning enemy forces started closing in on the hill top from all directions. Spasmodic firing took place for a couple of hours and, meanwhile, the enemy forces kept closing in. Sean McCarthy from Belfast was killed and a few other Volunteers were wounded before our men were finally compelled to surrender. Fox and some 12 to 18 other Volunteers were captured. McGoran succeeded in making good his escape. The British force had a soldier or two killed and some others wounded.

The whole party were taken to Belfast Jail where they were subsequently tried by courtmartial, They were all sentenced to death, but the intervention of the Truce saved them from execution. The most of the arms available to the column were lost in this encounter, as well as most of its members, and this put an end to the column and its activities. I do not think the column was ever re-organised again, although McGoran remained in the area as organiser.

The usual intelligence system was organised and functioned well in the battalion area. So far as I am aware, no contacts were made with any members of the British forces and no information was obtained through that source.

As I have already stated, the Volunteers had the co-operation of the majority of the general public. The remainder, perhaps, through fear, were not openly antagonistic. Only in one instance was it found necessary to execute a man found guilty of giving information to the enemy. The man, named <sup>Patrick</sup> Briody, was a shoemaker in the <sup>Island</sup> Mullaghoran area; he had a good opportunity of picking up information through listening to the conversation of his customers who were sometimes indiscreet.

The R.I.C. visited him very often under the pretext of taking their shoes for repairs. It was eventually discovered that he was giving them any information in his possession. As a result, he was arrested, tried by courtmartial and shot as a spy.

This, to all intents and purposes, finished the Volunteer activities up to the Truce. There were, of course, the usual activities of destruction of communications which continued up to the Truce.

I am not in a position to give any details as to the position existing in the brigade at the advent of the Truce as regards morale, discipline, etc., but I do not think it was very robust. The Lappanduff affair was a very bad setback to the morale of the force. For reasons already stated, I was very much out of touch with Volunteer activities and, therefore, I am not in a position to arrive at any conclusive opinion.

Signed: Sean Sheridan

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> May 1957.

Witness: James Conway

