

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURU STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 252

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 252.....

**Witness**

Mr. Laurence O'Brien,  
26 St. Helen's Road,  
Booterstown,  
Co. Dublin.  
**Identity**

Member of 'C' Coy. 4th Battn.  
I.V's. Dublin Brigade 1915;

O/C Bray Coy. 1919.

**Subject**

- (a) Roe's Distillery, Easter Week 1916;
- (b) His imprisonment and release;
- (c) Destruction of Income Tax Records  
and attack on R.I.C. Bks. Bray 1919.

**Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness**

Nil

File No. .S.920.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

# ORIGINAL

STATEMENT BY MR. LAURENCE O'BRIEN,

26 ST. HELEN'S ROAD, DUBLIN

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At the time of the formation of the Irish Volunteers I was employed in England as a Civil Servant. I was, however, kept fairly well informed as to the progress of events by my brother, Patrick, both by letter and by the posting of weekly Irish papers such as An Claimheamh Soluis, Nationalist, The Leader, etc.

During the year 1915 the British Parliament passed an Act to provide for compulsory military service of all males within certain age limits. The Act applied to Ireland as well, but it became a dead letter insofar as Ireland was concerned. Up to the time of the passing of the Act the procedure followed in the Civil Service for persons wishing to join the British forces required the written permission of the head of the department before attestation. In only a limited number of cases was permission granted because of the shortage of trained staff. At this time there were practically no women employed in the service, even the shorthand typist posts were filled by men. At a later stage women were recruited in large numbers to release men for service in the forces. The Conscription Act, as it was called, provided first for the registration of all persons resident in the country. This was done by means of a form designed for the purpose and handed to each householder by a policeman who later collected the completed form. There was practically no chance of evading registration for those living in digs. Following registration, all males between certain ages were required to attest at the nearest recruiting offices upon which they were handed a khaki armlet to be worn on the left arm as evidence of attestation. The principal purpose served by the armlet was the avoidance of annoyance which was common at the time on account of the practice which prevailed of presenting young men of military age and not in uniform with a white feather. This was done in practically all cases by women who frequented football matches, theatres, etc. where their activities had greatest effect. The

attestation scheme was in charge of Lord Derby and was known as the Derby Scheme.

Towards the Autumn of 1915 the British Treasury issued a circular directing that permission to enlist was no longer to be refused to any Civil Servants who wished to attest under the Derby Scheme and that arrangements would be made for the replacement of those who were eventually released for service in the forces. The circular instructed that the Divisional Officer should summon a meeting of all members of the staff and explain the terms of the circular to them. When notification of the meeting was given and the terms of the circular available the five Irishmen serving in the West Midlands Divisional Office (Birmingham) held a meeting to decide their attitude to the question of attestation. The decision arrived at was to refrain from making application for permission to enlist and to walk out of the Boardroom at a pre-arranged time during the meeting.

The day of the meeting duly arrived and the Divisional Officer, a Mr. J.J. Homer, presided. He was accompanied on the platform by a Captain of the Warwickshire Regiment who carried a copy of the Bible in his hand. The Divisional Officer in a short speech explained the circular and added that no compulsion was being employed. Every officer was free to attest now if he so desired; by doing so he would avoid the compulsory clauses of the Act which would be enforced later. For the sake of convenience an Army officer was attendance to administer the oath.

My Irish colleagues had refrained from making in advance their formal written application for permission to enlist. This, of course, had been noted, and the Divisional Officer pointed out that this could still be done at once, again emphasising the fact that any officer who did not wish to avail of the Derby Voluntary Scheme was free to leave the room. Although I was by far the youngest of the Irishmen present I was the only one to leave the room. I at once sat down at my desk and wrote out my resignation from the service.

I would like here to pay a tribute to the conduct of my English colleagues of that time. Without exception, their conduct was all that could be desired in the circumstances. The Divisional Officer sent for me the following day, and a long interview, lasting over an hour, ensued. He was accompanied by the assistant Divisional Officer and another senior officer, a Quaker, who, as events proved, was brought in for a special purpose. The Divisional Officer opened the discussion by advising me in a friendly way not to be such a young fool. He actually tore up the notice tendering my resignation and said that if I felt I would be subjected to any annoyance in a large office he would arrange for my transfer to a small Labour Exchange at Leamington at which there would be only myself and the officer in charge who, he explained, was a co-religionist. All that was necessary was that I should attest. He could not give me any guarantee in writing, but he would give me his word that I would not be released for service in the forces. He told me that when five Irishmen were allocated to him he had made the strongest possible protest against accepting them. Now he was prepared to make the strongest possible protest against losing a single one of them. The Asst. Divisional Officer then took a hand and pointed out that if I wished to avoid service in the Army the best place to do that was at a Government desk. In reply to him I pointed out that the whole question with me was one of principle and there was no point in having principles at all if one did not act up to them. The Quaker then explained his religious belief to me and said that he had the same difficulty in regard to the question of principle, but on the grounds that he would not actually be called upon to fight, he was able to reconcile his views on the question. At this stage the Asst. Div. Officer inquired what I proposed to do if my resignation were accepted. In reply I told him that I proposed returning to my home in Dublin whereupon he pointed out that I would be caught by conscription equally so in Dublin, to which my reply was that I would have a chance of fighting against it in Dublin. This reply caused great amusement. Following the interview I re-wrote my resignation which was accepted this time without

comment and I left the service on the last day of January 1916. On the day of my departure practically every member of the staff shook hands with me and wished me well. I am glad to say that in every case I felt that their wishes were genuine. Later I had a letter from one of them advising me that the police had been to the office for the purpose of obtaining my home address in Dublin. Later still, a visit was paid by the Dublin police who informed my parents they had an English warrant for my arrest for evading conscription. The policeman smiled when my mother told him that she had not the faintest idea of my whereabouts. After a couple of such visits the police gave up.

On my return to Dublin I joined the Irish Volunteers, C/Coy. 4th Battn. with headquarters at Kimmage Mill. in which Coy. my two brothers, Patrick and Denis, were already serving. After some weeks of training I was given an Italian carbine (Martini) which later was replaced by a Howth Mauser. My Coy. Captain was Tom McCarthy, and my Battn. Comdt. Eamon Ceannt. I saw the latter for the first time at a Battn. exercise which took place early in 1916 at which the whole battalion paraded with full kit, field kitchens, etc. and 12 hours' rations, and marched to Glendhu in the Dublin mountains. When we arrived there the Glen was covered with several inches of snow making operations somewhat difficult.

During the following months the Coy. took part in night operations in the fields at Crumlin adjacent to Kimmage Mills. A couple of weeks before Easter the Coy. raided the British military training ground at North Crumlin and captured a large quantity of sandbags. The operation was carried out under cover of darkness and the British were not aware of the raid until next day.

The first real inkling of the Rising was given to the rank and file of the Company towards the end of Holy Week when, at a company parade, we were advised by the O/C. to go to confession. Practically the whole company in a body attended at Mount Argus immediately after the dismiss for this purpose.

The mobilisation order for Easter Sunday morning stated that full kit, arms, ammunition and 12 hours' rations were to be carried. On the way to early Mass that morning I met Vol. Peter Ward who informed me that the Rising was off. This was confirmed by the notice in the "Sunday Independent" which I purchased a few moments afterwards. On Easter Monday morning I was on my way to Amiens St. Railway Station to meet a friend arriving on an early train when I accidentally met Mr. J.S. O'Connor who inquired from me whether I had received a mobilisation notice for that morning and, on my replying that I had not, he advised me to return to my company area at once. I did so and then learned that the company had already been mobilised for Emerald Square, Dolphins Barn. I immediately got my rifle ammunition and equipment and, although I was about an hour late, I am glad to say I reached the mobilisation point before the battalion moved off. The battalion marched from Emerald Square shortly after 11 a.m. and proceeded down Cork St. to Marrowbone Lane. At Messrs. Wm. Jameson's Distillery, Marrowbone Lane, a short halt ensued while A/Coy. took up position in the distillery buildings. F/Coy. had already marched down Cork St. to take up position in Messrs. Watkins, Jameson & Pim's Brewery at the junction of Cork St. and Ardee St. The remainder of the Battalion proceeded via Robert St., Grand Canal Basin, James's St. to the South Dublin Union which was occupied by Companies B, D and E. C/Coy. proceeded down Cromwell's Quarters to Bow Bridge and occupied Roe's Distillery. I was placed on outpost duty on Bow Bridge whilst a detachment was barricading the bridge. While on this duty I was plainly visible to the sentry on duty at the Royal Hospital Hqrs. of the British Forces in Ireland. This man did not seem to take the slightest interest in the fact that an armed man was within easy range and I had to assume that the activity on the Bridge was not visible to him, otherwise I don't suppose I would have remained long at my post. However, as soon as the barricade on the bridge was completed I was recalled and took up my position within the Distillery. Very shortly after the sound of firing on our left flank told us that the Rising had started and that our comrades in the South Dublin Union were in action.

Our signallers tried to make contact with the Union garrison, but failed to do so. In fact, I believe that we did not succeed in making contact with this garrison at any time during the week. In the meantime C/Coy. had come under fire from the Royal Hospital. Heavy rifle and machine gun fire continued for some hours, but as the enemy was not visible, we replied very sparingly in order to conserve our limited supplies of ammunition. Actually we had only what each man carried on his person, the battalion reserve being in the S.D. Union. No casualties occurred in our force at Roe's, but during the day we could see the dead body of Vol. John Owens lying on the slope of the hill in the Union grounds. Towards evening the firing ceased, but we could still hear distant rifle and machine gun fire as other garrisons continued the fight. Nothing worthy of note occurred during the night, but on the following morning the O/C. ordered a working party to break a passage from the Distillery cellars to the basement of the house next door. Very little activity occurred on Tuesday. There was some desultory rifle firing during the early afternoon and later an uneasy quiet seemed to settle over the Distillery building. It was then discovered that the section manning the top floor was the only section left in the building. For some reason that has never been explained satisfactorily the building had been evacuated earlier without any notification to the section holding the top of the building. There was no officer left to take charge and an informal conference was held at which it was decided to evacuate and make contact with the garrison at Marrowbone Lane. A very large percentage of the section remaining did in fact report at Marrowbone Lane.

On arrival at Marrowbone Lane I was questioned closely by Captains S. Murphy, Con Colbert and Lieut. Jos. McGrath regarding the evacuation of Roe's Distillery. Lieut. McGrath was inclined to doubt the statement that Capt. McCarthy had evacuated Roe's Distillery. Capt. Colbert, however, declared unequivocally that he was prepared to accept the statement and the small party was admitted to the Marrowbone Lane garrison, where we remained until the surrender which took place the following Sunday.



During the afternoon of Sunday the main gate was opened to admit Comdt. E. Ceannt who was accompanied by a senior British officer and a Capuchin priest from Church St. The garrison officers were then informed by Comdt. Ceannt of the surrender and instructed to fall in all members of the garrison to accompany the S.D. Union garrison to the place arranged for the formal handing over of all arms and equipment. As the men fell in, one of the junior officers advised that any man without uniform who could should escape quietly. Comdt. Ceannt on hearing this suggestion at once took steps to counteract the suggested move. He at once addressed the men, informing them of the surrender and added that we were disciplined troops and would surrender as such. A small number had already taken advantage of the suggestion to get away, but the balance marched behind the S.D.U. garrison to Bride Road. The route was as follows - Marrowbone Lane, Cork St., Ardee St., The Coombe, Dean St., Patrick St., to Bride Road. With the exception of the British officer who marched with Comdt. Ceannt at the head of the column we had no other escort and were free up to the time we entered the Bride Road to speak to our friends and to send messages home to our relatives. At the junction of Patrick St. and Bride Road we were met by British Infantry in some force who lined all one side of the road. The 4th Battn. occupied the other side. After a short delay Comdt. Ceannt called the Battn. to attention, gave the order "shoulder arms" followed by "quick march" When the Battalion was within 3 paces of the British ranks we were halted and given the order "ground arms" after which we were marched back to our original position on the other side of the road. The grounded arms and ammunition were loaded into lorries and at the same time our names, addresses, etc. were taken down, following which we were marched under heavy escort to what was then called Richmond Barracks, Inchicore. The route followed was via Patrick St., Nicholas St., High St., Thomas St., James's St., Kilmainham, Inchicore. We were lodged in the barrack rooms, each room being very congested. No beds were provided and no meal was given that evening. During the night, individual prisoners were being added



in ones and twos throughout the night. We remained at Richmond Barracks for the next few days, during which time detectives from Dublin Castle mixed amongst the prisoners picking out those who were of any prominence in the movement. It is worthy of record here that when Capt. Con Colbert was asked by a fellow prisoner what was likely to be our fate his reply was "For you a long term of imprisonment. For myself, I fear it will be a firing squad". This saddened us a good deal especially when we saw Comdt. Ceannt, Sean MacDiarmada, Willie and Phil Cosgrave with other leaders marched away under armed escort. The next step was to segregate all those who were under 18 years of age. When this was completed, we were marched under armed escort to the North Wall via Kilmainham through the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Conyngham Road, Kingsbridge and North Quays. The route along the quays was cleared and even persons living in the houses along the quays were not permitted to look out through their windows. If a face should for a moment appear at a window a peremptory order was issued backed by a pointed rifle to "get away from that window". For the first time I saw O'Connell Bridge bathed in brilliant sunshine without a single occupant. O'Connell St. was also deserted except for a few firemen here and there among the ruins.

Arrived at North Wall we were placed on board a cargo vessel and kept below decks until we reached Holyhead, where we entrained for Knutsford, arriving at the latter place at about 6 a.m. and were quickly marched through the streets to the military jail there. Some weeks later we were transferred to Frongoch, South Camp, where we were housed in an old distillery and in wooden huts. This was a great relief to us after the solitary confinement at Knutsford. The domestic arrangements in the camp were in the hands of the prisoners. A Camp Council elected by the prisoners looked after the organisation. Sometime about the beginning of June together with about 100 others I was transferred to Wormwood Scrubs in London travelling by train to Paddington and by bus to Wormwood Scrubs. Our stay in London was confined to 3 or 4 days. Each

prisoners was interrogated by Lord Justice Sankey, who held his court in the prison. Before entering the court each prisoner was met by a man who stated that he was a solicitor who had been instructed to assist the prisoners appearing before the court. As far as I am aware, no one availed of his services. Shortly after our return to Frongoch, a large number were released and given tickets to Dublin. Although there was a railway station at Frongoch we were obliged to march to Balla, about 5 miles away, to get a train for Holyhead. We were accompanied by a sergeant to the railway station. Arriving at Westland Row about 6 p.m. on a June evening we were welcomed home by our relatives and a large cheering crowd.

As a married man my first problem was to find employment as early as possible. My anxiety in this direction was relieved immediately. I received a message the following day, from my former employer, who was a Protestant and Unionist and very pro-British in outlook, to the effect that my job was there for me if I wished to return. Upon reporting for duty my successor was called in and in my presence was reminded of the terms of his engagement which were that he was only engaged until such time as I was again available.

A few weeks after my return to Dublin I was summoned to a meeting in a house in Rathmines. Cathal Brugha presided at the meeting which was for the purpose of reorganising the Irish Volunteers. Plans were discussed and agreement arrived at to reorganise. C/Coy. was re-established and weekly meetings arranged for at the Weavers' Hall, Donore Ave. Garry Byrne, a young Dublin silk-weaver and former officer of the Coy., was appointed to take command. For the first week or two we merely met and discussed events, but it was not long until we were parading at secluded fields in the Crumlin area, and drilling, training and re-arming became the order of the day again. News of this, no doubt, reached the ears of the authorities and our drilling grounds were occasionally raided by police or military. No captures were, however, effected and, with the exception of a few bicycles captured on one occasion, we suffered no losses. Our first important operation was the guarding of the Irish Volunteer

Convention held at Croke Park in 1917. No incident of note occurred and the convention passed off uneventfully. I was eventually appointed Quartermaster and later Adjutant of C/Coy. in succession to Jack Plunkett. I held the latter rank until July 1919 when I went to reside in Bray. I was then given the job of organising a Coy. of Volunteers in that town. I got about 40 men together and was elected Captain of the Coy. which was attached to the 3rd Battn. Later Shankill and Enniskerry were brought in. An attempt to organise a section in Greystones did not prove successful.

The first operation of the new company was the destruction of the Income Tax records held by the collector at his residence at Meath Road, Bray. With about half dozen men I raided his house on a Saturday evening. A party was in progress at the collector's house when we arrived. This added slightly to our difficulties, but we collected all his official papers and books, loaded them in a hired cab and later burned them in a field at Shankill. This operation was later followed by raids for arms in private houses. A number of revolvers, miniature rifles, one or two Lee Enfield rifles and a number of shotguns were acquired in this way. Further additions to the company's armament were acquired by purchase and from Battn.H.Q. The Coy's strength rose to about 90, but at no time were we able to arm more than one quarter of the men. The company's next operation was the destruction of a military motor ambulance which was consigned by rail to the military garrison at Enniskerry. Before the military could take delivery the Volunteers visited the railway siding at Bray and set it alight.

We next planned to attack the R.I.C. Bks. which at the time was situated in a commanding position at Bray Bridge. The plan as first conceived was a modest affair, but when presented to the Battn.Council for approval it was agreed to make it a major operation in which the whole battalion would take part. Briefly, the amended plan provided that the Bray Coy. would take the major part in the attack while the other companies would take up strategic positions surrounding Bray in order to prevent reinforcements reaching Bray. Saturday night

was selected for various reasons as the most suitable. Everything was in readiness for the attack which was timed to take place at 8 p.m. The Coy. had been mobilised. Additional arms for the occasion had been safely transported to the area when, at about 7 p.m., Brian McNeill called on me to cancel the arrangements. The reason given for the cancellation was that somebody was working on the production of a small cannon and it was thought better to await its completion. There was nothing for it but to disband the men. During the week, permission was given for the original proposal, and the following Saturday night the attack was planned on a modest scale, but it created more noise and did more damage (mainly to private property than was ever expected from the more ambitious plan. Strictly speaking, there were only three men armed with 3 Lee Enfield rifles engaged in the attack. These consisted of Volunteers Tom Sutton, Pat O'Brien and myself. We took up position at about 9.55 under cover of the low wall which bound the Dargle River on the Dublin side and within 50 yards of the barracks. The signal for the attack was to be the throwing of 2 Mills grenades at 10 p.m. sharp by two other Volunteers who were to get away to their homes immediately. The bombs were duly thrown but were not very effective as the door of the Barracks, which was usually open, was closed. A few moments were allowed to lapse to allow our two comrades and, incidentally, any civilians in the neighbourhood to get to safety. We opened fire at 50 yards range. The police, who had come out to investigate, retreated within the barracks and from behind their armoured shutters concentrated a fierce fire on the Main St. and Bridge. The fire continued unabated for about half an hour. After the first volley we ceased fire and remained there until the firing from the barracks died down to a few desultory shots. A second volley was now directed towards the barracks. This resulted in a fierce fusillade similar to the first and again in the wrong direction towards the Main St. We were content to hold our fire, of course, and did so until there were signs of abatement from the police. We then gave them a third volley and leisurely retreated down the Dargle River towards the Golf Links where we dumped our arms safely. as a precaution

we had arranged to sleep away from our own homes that night. The Coy. Adjutant had arranged to meet me at midnight to conduct me to some house where he had arranged for us both to sleep for the night. After waiting for half an hour for him I was obliged to return to my own home as the auxiliaries had arrived in the town and were shooting wildly all along the Quinsboro Road and the roads leading off it. On arriving home my wife noticed that I was bleeding pretty freely from a slight wound in the chin. My collar and shirt were accordingly saturated. They were immediately dumped in the kitchen range and burned. The wound which was superficial was dressed and the flow of blood stopped only just in time as the Auxiliaries came thundering at the door with the butts of their rifles. After a thorough search of the house I was arrested and taken outside where I found my Coy. Adjutant a prisoner. His explanation for not keeping his appointment was the intensity of the police fire which prevented him leaving his house. He complained of having been beaten by the Auxiliaries in his own home prior to his arrest. He was again beaten by the Auxiliaries with butts of rifles as were most of the other prisoners taken that night. The local police did not take any part in the beating up of the prisoners. The following day the prisoners taken that night were conveyed to Arbour Hill Military Prison where a large number of Republican prisoners were already housed.

Here I met many of my old comrades in the 4th Battn. and a plan of escape on a fairly large scale was planned. The exercise grounds of the jail consisted of two, an inner and smaller yard leading to a larger outer plot where the 1916 leaders are buried. It was the practice to allow the prisoners into the outer yard in the afternoon. While in the outer compound the prisoners were guarded by 4 armed sentries placed on platforms about 10 feet high. These naturally were in position before the prisoners were allowed into the compound. In order to reach their platforms the sentries carried short ladders and this gave us our idea. With a ladder in one hand and a rifle in the other the sentry would be pretty

powerless against any sudden attack. We collected sufficient pieces of iron and hard wood to arm a selected number who at the critical moment would spring on the armed party as they passed through the midst of the prisoners, disarm them and seize the keys of the gate which were carried by an unarmed sergeant. With 4 loaded rifles in our possession and the necessary ladders it would be a simple task to take the wall and hold it while our comrades escaped.

In order to ensure the greater chances of success we arranged for assistance from our comrades outside. This assistance took the shape of an armed party which would occupy some neighbouring houses during the operation and keep the prison guards from concentrating their fire on the escaping prisoners. Everything was in readiness for putting the plan into operation, but on the day before the appointed one, exercise in the outer yard was stopped and was not resumed during my stay in the jail. Evidently the authorities got word of the plan through one of the many spies they employed and who were placed among the prisoners ostensibly as prisoners.

Shortly after this I was released with two others unconditionally. I often thought that it was significant that a man bearing my Christian and surnames was shot dead that night in Bray. The report given to the newspapers stated that the man failed to halt when called upon by the Black and Tans.

During my period of imprisonment the barracks was attacked again by the local company and shortly after my release a party of military on its way to Bray Bks. was ambushed at Crinken, about a mile from Bray Town. One of the soldiers in the lorry was wounded (not seriously). There were no casualties on the side of the Volunteers. Many other activities took place about this time, such as cutting telephone wires and telegraph cables, digging trenches on main roads to hinder military communications and, incidentally, to keep greater numbers tied up in the repair of the damage. These activities were being carried out on a large scale throughout the country and imposed a heavy strain on the military in more senses than one. They



were not long, however, in thinking out counter moves which took the shape of round-ups of civilians, especially those known to be members of or sympathetic to the Volunteers. In some areas the civilians made a resolute stand against filling in trenches; when taken to the scene of operations these parties flatly refused to work and the military were powerless. That was soon altered and I very nearly missed the <sup>chance</sup> ~~misfortune~~ of being the first victim.

The Bray Coy. had opened a series of trenches on the road between Bray and the military camp at Enniskerry. The following day about noon I was taken from my office at Bray, placed in a military lorry in which there were about 30 or 40 other local people, none of whom were members of the Irish Volunteers. When I saw the direction the lorry took I guessed the object of the round up. I at once canvassed those in the lorry to join me in refusing to fill in the trenches, but without any success. When we reached the scene of the trench digging at Dargle Bridge we were ordered out of the lorry. Those first out were told to take a shovel and start work on the filling in. A wedding party including two Catholic priests, from a neighbouring hotel at Enniskerry were already hard at work on the job of filling in. I had decided that I at least would not do any filling in. When I saw the priests working, however, I became so indignant that I forgot for the moment to refuse, but instead, I walked a short distance to where a local R.I.C. constable was standing, whom I knew to be a Catholic. I roundly abused him for being a member of a body that forced clergymen of his own faith to perform manual work. He protested that it was the military and auxiliaries who had done this and he was only present on ordinary police duties. The argument between us continued for the whole time the trenches were being filled in and my absence from the party was not noticed until the return journey was about to take place. The officer in charge was quite angry about it, but the R.I.C. Constable said that he was more or less to blame. Before returning to Bray the O. i/c. addressed the party about the disturbed state of the country and informed us that if there was any more disturbances



within a five mile radius of Bray the following persons would be held responsible - the Chairman and Mr. P. Martin, a prominent member of the Bray Urban District Council and myself. He was not prepared to say what form the punishment would take, but it would be sufficiently drastic to deter others from committing similar offences. Shortly after this episode an intelligence officer who had access to Bray Police Bks. actually saw the order from Dublin Castle for that particular round up. The order contained provisions for the shooting as an example of any person who refused to fill in the trenches on that occasion.

The incident just described took place a few weeks before the Truce and little of any note occurred between that and the Truce.

As soon as the Truce operated, plans were made for the reorganisation of the Battalion and a new Brigade, known as Dublin No. 2 Brigade, was formed. The Brigade area covered roughly all South Co. Dublin, North and West Wicklow and North Kildare.

Signed: Laurence O'Brien

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> May 1949

Witness: William J. J. Connolly

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