

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913 21

No. W.S. 430

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S.430.....

Witness

Thomas Barry,
29 Pembroke Road,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin.

Identity

Battalion Adjutant, Irish Volunteers,
Co. Cork, 1918-1919.

Subject

Military activities, Co. Cork,
1918-1921.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

N11

File No. S.1507.....

Form BSM 2

ORIGINAL

W.S. 430

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 430

Statement by Thomas Barry,

29, Pembroke Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin.

I joined Glanworth Company of the Irish Volunteers in 1915. John Ellard was Company Captain. We carried out the usual routine methods - drilling, training, parades. The only arms we had at that time were a couple of rifles, which we managed to retain after 1916, until such time as re-organisation came about in 1917. None of the Company were taken in the British round-up after Easter Week.

1917

The strength of the Company at that time would be about eighteen members, with the same Company Commander. I was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in 1917. At that time each Company was in direct touch with Brigade Headquarters in Cork City. Tomás MacCurtain was Brigadier at the time. This made the organisation pretty slow because we had to send all our despatches by road and rail to Cork City, which was about twenty-six miles away. Our route would be through Ballyhooly, Glenville, Carrignavar, Whitechurch to the City - by cycle.

We had open drill at that time, and even though we always had a couple of R.I.C. in attendance at drill parades, no one was arrested. Our general business was organising and training and procuring arms as far as possible. The first revolver I ever got was from Tomás MacCurtain at that period.

1918

In January, 1918, I was appointed Captain. The Battalion was formed at Castlelyons in March, 1918, and Tomás MacCurtain presided at that appointment.

The Companies were;-

Ballyhooly
Castletownroche
Glanworth
Kildorrery
Kilavullen
Mitchelstown
Shanballymore

I was appointed Battalion Adjutant in March. Patrick Barry was then O/C.; Jim O'Neill, Vice O/C.; T. Palmer, Quartermaster.

We had the conscription period in 1918. We took in all shotguns and arms of every description that were available in case conscription would be enforced. We enforced organisation, training, etc. and the making of the usual home-made bombs.

During the conscription time we had a visit from Seán McLoughlin from Headquarters. Dan Breen was present at the same meeting in Mitchelstown, also Mick Sullivan, Captain. This was a meeting of Battalion Officers.

The Battalion was represented at the Waterford Elections - a Bye Election in March and a General Election in December. A number of men from each Company, about sixty in all, were on protective duty at the meetings. I was in charge on both occasions.

About September of this year we had planned the capture of arms from the British on their way from Fermoy to Ballincollig. We had made arrangements to take them at Ballyhooly but the end of the War stopped this, and the affair did not come off.

I held the two ranks of Company Captain and Battalion Adjutant up to January, 1919, at the formation of the Brigade.

1919

Cork II Brigade was formed at Mourne Abbey on 6th January, 1919. Tomás MacCurtain was O/C and presided. Seán Murphy, Q.M., also attended. The Battalions then were;-

- 1st Fermoy
- 2nd Mallow
- 3rd Castletownroche
- 4th Charleville
- 5th Kanturk
- 6th Newmarket
- 7th Millstreet.

Liam Lynch was appointed O/C.; Denis Hegarty, Mallow, Vice O/C.; myself, Adjutant; George Power, Quartermaster. In August I exchanged with George Power. He then became Adjutant and I became Quartermaster.

In the late summer of 1919 there was a general raid for arms. Imperialists' houses were raided with success.

We pushed on the general organisation more extensively, especially arms drilling. Lynch's policy was to get the Brigade into a working machine before any active measures would be taken. He brought off the Wesleyan raid in Fermoy

At the time of the ambush on the British troops I was engaged in taking care of two men, Ned O'Brien and Jimmy Scanlon (Galbally) of the Knocklong rescue. The British evacuated Glanworth and Ballyhooly R.I.C. Barracks about this time.

Our first Brigade Council meeting was held at Tom Hunter's at Castletownroche just after the forming of the Brigade in 1919. During this time I was getting revolvers, drill books, despatches and bombs from G.H.Q. for the Brigade. David Barry, who was Manager of the Co-op. at the time, acted as receiver. I also got despatches from G.H.Q. The despatches were received through Miss Kelleher and Miss Wilkinson - covering addresses. That lasted until late in 1920 when it became too serious.

1920

In January, 1920, I was sent back by Liam Lynch to take charge of the Castletownroche Battalion. James O'Neill was Vice O/C.; Danny Shinnick, Adjutant; John Curtin, Q.M.; Patrick Barry, I.O.; Patrick Coughlan (Mitchelstown), Engineer; Seán O'Regan (Kilavullen), Engineer. We had seven Companies in the Battalion at that period, and in May there were Companies formed at Ballindangan, Dorraille and Kilbehenny, making ten Companies in the Battalion with a strength of about eight hundred.

The Battalion Area was surrounded by Enemy Forces as follows;-

On the South-East; Fermoy	- we had military Tans and R.I.C.
On the East; More Park Kilworth Village Kilworth Camp	- military - Tans and R.I.C. - military

On the North-East; Mitchelstown -	military, Tans and R.I.C.
On the North; Kildorrery -	Tans and R.I.C.
On the North-West; Charleville -	Tans and R.I.C.
On the West; Ballinvonare -	military.
Buttevant -	military, Tans and R.I.C.
Mallow; -	military, Tans and R.I.C.
Kilavullen; -	Tans and R.I.C.
Castletown- roche; -	military, Tans and R.I.C.

The Battalion was cut on the South by the River Blackwater.

The enemy occupied five Company areas in the Battalion; - Mitchelstown, Doneraile, Castletownroche, Kildorrery and Kilavullen. The Battalion area would be about eighteen to twenty square miles. There were about five thousand British military, R.I.C. and Tans at the time; we had about eight hundred in the Battalion.

An attempt was made to ambush an R.I.C. patrol at Airhill, Glanworth in March, 1920.

The burning of the unoccupied R.I.C. barracks at Ballyhooly and Glanworth was completed in April, 1920. We made two attempts at ambush on the R.I.C. at Glanworth and Ballindangan Railway Stations in connection with the trial of Mick Fitzgerald who later died on hunger strike. These attempts failed as the R.I.C. did not travel back by rail.

About the same period we held up an R.I.C. Sergeant near Glanworth, took his revolver, ammunition and despatch. He was going from Castletownroche to Mitchelstown.

In May, 1920, the Battalion was actively engaged in the local elections and assisted in the organisation of same.

The Battalion took up the job of the Courts. These Courts were held in cases of criminals and dealt with cases of ordinary crime. Courts were held at Shanballymore, Glanworth, Mitchelstown and Ballindangan. Volunteer officers and Sinn Féin representatives constituted the Courts. We appointed a prosecutor and a defending council. The Courts imposed fines, and there was one case of deportation - this man being a suspect.

The Battalion also helped in the road obstruction for the Kilmallock and Ballylanders R.I.C. Barracks attack. The whole Battalion carried out the obstruction work, felling trees, etc. to prevent enemy forces coming from the east and the south to Ballylanders and Kilmallock during the attack. Donncadh Hannigan, (East Limerick), asked for my co-operation.

There was a general seizure of mails from trains and cars and we carried out a censorship of the mails when we got them, in case of spying. In March, 1920, I was forced to go "on the run". Davy Barry was arrested and sent to Wormwoods Scrubbs Prison.

During this time Liam Lynch stopped house raids for arms owing to robberies being carried out under the guise of the I.R.A. Despite this we attempted a raid on the house of Charlie Oliver in Rockmills near Kildorrery. This man was an Imperialist. He fired on us and we fired on him in return and wounded him in the leg which he afterwards had to get amputated. We had no success with

this raid as we thought he was dead. There were several arrests following this. One fellow was identified by the lady of the house. They were brought up about twelve times and remanded and released on a Friday morning, and they arrived for me that night.

In July, 1920, we had an attempted ambush at Rockmills on the R.I.C. and Tans coming from Kildorrery to Rockmills while on patrol, but we were given away. They were informed of our presence and attempted to take us in the rere. We had no option but to retreat. On the same day Danny Shinnick attempted to disarm an officer at a Feis in Castletownroche. Two other officers came to the rescue and he had to abandon the idea and lose himself in the crowd.

Members from Castletownroche, Shanballymore and Kilavullen attempted an attack on two British Officers at "Close", Castletownroche, but they escaped out the back way, leaving their motor bike, which was burned, behind. Subsequently a boycott was enforced on the house the imperialists were visiting. This boycott was carried out for about six months to leave them as an example to others.

On 7th October, 1920, there was an ambush at Kildorrery. I arranged that ambush with Donncadh Hannigan; part of his column were in my area. We were about to bring off this ambush when I met Donncadh. We decided that we would select some members from our area who would not be missed. I was the only one on the run at this time. Donncadh had about twelve men and I had about ten or eleven. A patrol of six Tans and R.I.C.

were walking from Kildorrery village. Donncadh Hannigan took charge of the ambush. The Tans and R.I.C. were armed with rifles and had about 250 rounds of ammunition. We opened fire on them and called on them to surrender but they opened fire on us, which we returned, capturing the six of them; all were wounded and one killed. After a short while they surrendered. We took their arms and equipment and marched them away to a house a short distance away and ordered them to remain there. A Nurse O'Sullivan who was with Donncadh Hannigan, attended to the wounded. We then returned towards Kilavullen and I got Donncadh's party fixed up in billets.

A couple of days after we attempted another ambush at Carrick near Mallow, but the military did not turn up. I directed Donncadh Hannigan's Column back to his own area.

Whenever there was occasion to travel where payment was involved, the men paid their own rail expenses, also for the Waterford Elections.

The evening previous to the Kildorrery ambush (7th October, 1920), three of us - David Bernard, Tim Barry and myself- took over an unoccupied cottage close to the ambush position. We remained there for the night on a bed of hay, convenient to that position, and our breakfast next morning consisted of a jug of milk. We then joined the other members of the Battalion area and Donncadh Hannigan's Column and took up ambush position about 7 a.m.

The ambush proper took place about 10.30 a.m. in the morning. There was a hay field behind us in the ambush position and three men were working there. One lad was named Kennedy. On our instructions they kept working until we gave them the signal and they retired behind the fence until the ambush was over. None of our party was killed or wounded in that ambush, nor were there any arrests. Next morning, Sunday, the military raided Glanworth, Shanballymore and Kildorrery and looted and attempted burning an office in Glanworth.

Early in November a Tan named Woods returned for Kennedy as a reprisal for the ambush and although they had him surrounded in the house, he escaped. About 23rd November they visited the same house again and they murdered a lad named O'Donnell.

Up to this period we had no Column in the Battalion. Jobs were carried out within the Battalion area by picked men within the Companies.

About May, 1920, a party of fellows and girls were fired on by military and two were killed. This incident is referred to in "Rebel Cork's Fighting Story", as is also the shooting of O'Donnell.

In September or early October, 1920, the Brigade Column was formed and I was asked by Liam Lynch to take charge of it, but two days before the Column was organised I accidentally wounded myself in the knee with a parabellum and I was unable to take over. Paddy O'Brien, Liscarroll, then took charge. Danny Shinnick was Battalion Adjutant. Others were - Michael O'Halloran,

Ned Creed, James O'Neill, Jerry Donovan, Jerry Clifford and William O'Regan, who were in the Brigade Column. We sent men from the Battalion to the Column. They assisted the Brigade Column in the taking of Mallow Barracks, and also assisted at the Kanturk and Millstreet ambushes.

In November, 1920, Liam Lynch, Brigade O/C decided that we should form Battalion Columns with a strength of say, roughly, fourteen or fifteen men, and draw assistance from the Companies in any area convenient. Towards the end of November he disbanded the Brigade Column and had a Column in each Battalion. He sent the members of the Brigade Column to each Battalion and their experience helped greatly. This meant there were seven Columns operating the Brigade area and in some cases two Battalions co-operated in the one engagement. Each Battalion Column had already men experienced through their work in the Brigade Column and through their actions in taking part.

When the Battalion Column was formed - the 3rd Batt.- I took charge. Our first attempt was on R.I.C. and Tans at Doneraile, but that failed; the second on a motor cycle combination coming from Ballyvonaire to Doneraile, but while waiting for them a party of Lancers arrived and as they were too strong we decided to take no action and withdrew.

The shooting of O'Donnell in Kildorrery led up to an ambush on the British military at Glanworth. This ambush took place on a Friday evening, November 26, 1920, at a place called Labbacally. A party of military had been in Kildorrery early in the day including staff

officers and the Crown Solicitor. They were holding an enquiry into the death of young O'Donnell. The Column was paraded near Glanworth. We got word from the local Company that they had passed through. Some of the East Limerick Column were paraded with us. They had two spies and they were unable to join us in the attack as they had to take the two spies away. We took up ambush position on a very steep hill at Labbacally. There were no other means of obstructing the lorry. About 5 p.m. we saw them approach and as we were anxious to get the Staff Officers and the Crown Solicitor we had arranged to let the first lorry pass, but as it had come more than half-way to the ambush position, somebody opened fire and the remainder in their positions also opened fire. There were three military killed and four wounded. The lorry got away on us. There was a bomb thrown on the lorry - Dick Smith landed the bomb into the lorry - and following the explosion we found an officer on the road when the lorry had passed. He was badly wounded in the leg. We took his revolver, ammunition and equipment and bandaged him. There was a wallet taken out of his pocket by some of the Column members and he asked to know who was in charge. When I informed him he requested that he get back the wallet, that it was of no military value - just personal papers. I handed him back the wallet and he thanked me and said he would not forget it - he might do as much for me some day.

We learned later that the staff car had been pulled up at the bottom of the hill for to let the lorry get clear first. As the first lorry did not come into the ambush position proper all the men were unable to get

firing at it and we were informed later that the lorry with the officer and the Crown Solicitor got away through the fields and got back to the Barracks in Fermoy. I got a slight wound in the wrist and another lad, John Leamy, got a slight wound in the face. These were the only casualties on our side.

We remained around the village in case of reprisals. Although the military did arrive out and searched houses they did not do any damage except the usual looting. We retreated to Tobin's house where the Column was put up at Skehanagh, Doneraile. We had twenty-three taking part in the ambush, which took place about three miles from Fermoy, and we retreated two miles from Ballyvonaire and Buttevant. We took up the ambush position about 4 o'clock p.m. and except for to have a meal about 12 that night we did not get our billets until 8 a.m. next morning. During our journey it started to rain heavily with the result that nearly all the Column had to go bed until their clothes were dry.

About four days later we attempted an ambush near Doneraile. The local Company felled some trees hoping to draw out the military, but they did not oblige. We removed then to Ballyvesteen the north side of Kildorrery. We made an attempt to get a Tan named Woods whom we knew had been in the shooting of O'Donnell. We were badly directed and he escaped before we had time to have him covered.

We then moved to Mitchelstown area. This would be about 10th December, 1920, and got in touch with Donncadh Hannigan's Column there with the intention of ambushing a convoy which used to travel regularly from Tipperary

town to Kilworth Camp with prisoners and to Fermoy with mails. We had intended bringing off this ambush but whether the military suspected it or not, the day after our arrival in the area, they searched the wood, in Glenacurrane and fired some shots in it. The two Columns were training in the use of arms in two fields at the time of the search so we decided to withdraw into the East Limerick area to a place called Knockadea until things quietened down. About a week later, on Friday 19th December, 1920, we decided we would ambush the military convoy passing through. We got our men out of bed at 4 a.m. in the morning and marched to the position which would be about three or four miles distant. There was frost and snow on the ground and we went into position about 8a.m. Donnchadh Hannigan decided that Thomas Malone and myself would arrange all the men in position so we marked them out in sections.

William O'Regan had charge of a section on the right-hand side of the road leading from Mitchelstown to Galbally. Jack MacCarthy took charge of a section on the left-hand side leading from Mitchelstown. Thomas Malone took charge of the central section on the left-hand side which included the hotchkiss gun and gunners:- Dick Willis and Leo O'Callaghan. Danny Shinnick was in charge of the section at the left-hand side nearer to Galbally.

We had members from the Mitchelstown and Anglesboro Companies on outpost positions at the Mitchelstown end and the Galbally end. We saw the military pass towards Fermoy at about 12 noon, consisting of two lorries. We learned later that the armoured car which was travelling with them had broken down at Galbally. We had a mine ready and when we learned the armoured car did not pass we did not use it.

We had a tree cut at the Galbally end to draw out in front of the lorry coming back and the instructions were when I opened fire the Column in general would take up the attack. This would be about 4 p.m. When the scouts passed on the word that they were coming, I ordered the tree to be left down; almost immediately the first lorry pulled up quite close to it and I could actually hear them talking in the lorry, so I opened fire with a revolver - I was only about twenty yards away. The two Columns opened fire on my signal. The lorry at the Galbally end reversed back thinking that it was getting out of the danger zone, and the lorry at Jack MacCarthy's end advanced thinking they were getting clear of the ambush position with the result that the two collided right in the centre of the ambush position and directly under the machine-gun. They returned the fire but when they considered the case was hopeless after about five minutes, they surrendered. There were eighteen in all in the two lorries and in the fight there had been two killed and three wounded. We suffered no casualties. We captured eighteen rifles and about five or six hundred rounds of ammunition. We had about thirty men, including the machine-gunners, in my Column, and Donnchadh Hannigan thirty-five to forty men.

Donnchadh Hannigan and Tom Malone dealt with the prisoners and wounded. I was left to take charge of both Columns, to withdraw them from the rear of the ambush position and check up in case of casualties and see we had left nobody behind.

We had already set fire to the lorries before we withdrew, but when Jack MacCarthy had arrived from his position he informed me that the fire in one of the lorries

had gone out and would I go back and burn it. I said, "Yes". I picked about four men from each Column to do so. When we arrived at the lorry I noticed something like sacking in a corner of the lorry, and on investigation found it contained two parcels of bombs which we had overlooked. There were two dozen bombs of the Mills pattern in it. The arms, bombs and ammunition were divided between the two Columns.

We also found some sacks of mail in the lorry which we loaded on to an old Ford car which Tom Malone had. In the search of the mails afterwards we found three silver medals - one which I possess now. It is inscribed, "To Lieutenant E.R. Litchford, Lincolnshire Regiment, for gallant conduct in Ireland, 19th November, 1920". Donnchadh Hannigan also got one belonging to a Sergeant; a lad named Paddy Buckley got another - a Corporal's. This was the first time I became aware they were awarded decorations for gallant conduct in Ireland.

When the prisoners and wounded had been attended to, as well as other prisoners whom we had held until the ambush was over, and when both Columns got together, we retired towards East Limerick area again.

On the following evening we got information that a military tender passed from Kilfinnan to Mitchelstown. We took upposition on the Kilfinnan road, but having waited several hours it did not turn up and we decided to withdraw. We also decided that both Columns would retreat towards Kildorrery until things quietened off. Tom Malone decided to take the hotchkiss gun and gunners himself, and Danny Shinnick (Battalion Adjutant) and myself in his car. Donnchadh Hannigan decided to remain with his Column and I left William O'Regan, Vice O/C, to take charge of my Column, and they retreated to Kildorrery.

We had started from a place, Sweenmys of Darragh near Kilfinnan, which would be about 400/500 yards off the road. When we were about 200 yards out the lane Tom Malone found he had no water in the engine and he returned to the house for a bucket of water. While he was away he found a lad running towards us, breathless, and he told us he had been down at a shop for oil and that he was held up by the military who were in an ambush position inside the wall near Darragh public-house, and they took whatever money he had left and let him go. He must have known we were quite near. Had we gone on we would have gone into the ambush position. With five men and a machine gun in a Ford car we would not have had much chance of putting up a fight, so we owe our lives to that lad. Unfortunately I don't know his name.

We then went back and joined the Column and decided to change our retreat to Kilclooney near the wood made famous by O'Neill Crowley shot in 1867. After remaining there for a day or two the East Limerick Column withdrew to their own area and we retreated to Glanworth. As this was close on Christmas there was no further engagement during that period.

In November, 1920, the usual round-up took place in the Battalion area. A lot of members were arrested and interned in Ballykinlár and Kilworth Camps. This meant a general reorganisation again in the Battalion area. At this time the Battalion staff would be:-

Myself -	O/C.
William O'Regan-	Vice O/C.
Danny Shinnick-	Adjutant.
John Curtin-	Quartermaster.
Patrick Barry-	Intelligence Officer.
Patrick Coughlan-	} Engineers.
Seán O'Regan-	

1921

All the Battalion officers were ordered back to their Battalions - principally the Battalions O/Cs., as the Brigade O/C considered that each Battalion needed to be reorganised due to the arrests in late 1920. I appointed a Battalion training officer, David Bernard, and he and I undertook the reorganisation of the Battalion. We visited each Company, spending about two nights with each - one night with the Company staff and the other with the members of the Company.

William O'Regan was appointed Column O/C. He was already Battalion Vice O/C. About this time Ernie O'Malley visited the area; this was his second visit (he visited prior to the taking of Mallow Barracks.) Each Battalion Column leader was directed to attend a course of training at Nad under O'Malley's direction. About the same period the Brigade O/C. called a general council of the Battalion O/Cs., with the Brigade staff and Ernie O'Malley from G.H.Q. This was held at Lombardstown and was to cover a period of three days. At the end of the second day the Brigade O/C and Ernie O'Malley had fully gone into all the details of my Battalion area, and as the training had been completed the Column O/Cs, William O'Regan and I, were directed to go back to the Battalion.

On our return we decided to stay at Gallagher's, Clonkinty, Glanworth, but on our way we found we were both short of cigarettes and we decided to call to a place where there were two local members of the Company residing and also to let them know where we were going to stay, in case of any enemy activity, as we were returning a day earlier than they were expecting us. This was fortunate because next morning the area in which

we were was surrounded and there was a general round-up by the military. One of these lads, O'Keeffe, got a scout when he saw the military going our direction to tip us off. The house where we were staying would be about forty yards in off the road, and when the scout arrived at the entrance on the roadway he was held up, but cute enough he said he was going to work. Jerry Anglum (now deceased) was his name. We were in bed when he arrived - this would be about 8 o'clock a.m. We had nothing to do but jump out and dress quickly and collect our equipment. We had no retreat at the back as the river was flowing in that direction. When we got into the yard we could see that the military held all the vantage points surrounding the place. We had no option but to go up the laneway. About two hundred yards up there was a cottage and a plot of land. Lucky for us we met no military on the way, so we got in through the cottage and forced ourselves in on a fence under a bunch of briars. I took the position facing out to the fields, and O'Regan the position facing into the lane and the cottage. We were scarcely there when the military arrived and searched the cottage and also a cock of hay in the centre of the acre but did not come down to our position. At the same time an officer and two or three soldiers were searching the fence coming up in my direction, but fortunately when they got centreways the fence looked bare and they went straight across the field to make another search. We were fully armed at the time and we had no option but to fight, as martial law was in force and it was a case of being executed for carrying arms. They also searched the house we had left, also the outhouses, hay, straw, etc., but by a remarkable coincidence they did not search the room we were in. They

withdrew about 3.30 in the evening and we remained there until about 4 p.m. By this time we were fairly sore from lying flat on the briars without anything to eat or without cigarettes. It was actually in this area the Column had reorganised earlier in the New Year and it was suspected that they were seen by some informers. The Column had left the previous day and we fell into it.

We next arranged for the Column to attack Castletownroche R.I.C. Barracks. I selected a number of men from the Glanworth, Ballindangan and Ballyhooly Company areas and we took up a position at Convamore (Lord Listowel's residence). Our object was to await reinforcements from Fermoy. We did not expect to capture any but to cause as much casualties as possible. We had, I think, only two rifles, revolvers, bombs and shot-guns. After waiting all night until about 6 a.m. nothing turned up. We learned later that when the Column were going into the attack some member who had been brought on from a local Company, let off his shotgun by accident or otherwise, when they were going closer to the Barracks and this warned the military.

Early in February, 1921, the Brigade O/C had received a despatch from G.H.Q. Intelligence showing the arrangements for a meeting of all Generals from the Munster areas to be held at Cork under General Strickland. The information showed that the meeting was to be held at 2 p.m. on the 15th February, 1921. He directed me to attend a meeting - myself and the Battalion Adjutant - at Glenville to meet the O/C Fermoy Battalion, Con Luddy, and also George Power who was then Brigade Vice O/C. to make arrangements for both Columns to join the attack. I had decided on a job on the by-road from Ballyhooly to Glenville, as if they were to pass my area they had no

alternative as all the other roads were blocked, bridges blown up, etc. The understanding was that the Fermoy Battalion would blow up the only bridge linking Glenville with Fermoy on their area and in this way they should pass through our area at this position, but instead the Fermoy Battalion decided on taking up a position in their area and that we hold our position in our Battalion area. The Fermoy Battalion had the hotchkiss machine gun and the two gunners. About 12 noon the same day an aeroplane passed ahead of the military convoy, but as the aeroplane was passing some scouts or other members of the Column exposed themselves, and when the convoy arrived the aeroplane had passed on word to them and they got out and searched the area, so the Column had no option but to withdraw. We had scouts connecting the two Columns and when they informed us we withdrew about 2 p.m. In our position, which was a mountainy district, we had natural trenches behind the fences which would range about 60 feet overlooking the road. George Power often regretted that he did not decide on the first arrangement to blow up the bridge between us as with the two Columns united and the hotchkiss gun we were in a great position.

After this I returned to organise the Column again. On the following Saturday I was surrounded in the house I was staying and arrested. There were to be Stations in this house next morning and I decided I would go to Confession and Communion. Lucky for myself, I left all my arms and equipment in another house in the area, as I would not have had a chance. I had two scouts out but

whatever happened neither saw the military until they were ordered to put their hands up. I was taken to Castletownroche Military Barracks, and after the usual interrogation I was transferred to Fermoy New Barracks. About three days later I was taken out, as a hostage, to Cork, handcuffed to the bar of the lorry, and after being left for a night in Victoria Barracks (in what was known as The Cages) I was returned back to Fermoy Barracks again. I was there about four days when I was brought out for an identification parade by Lieutenant Milton, the man whom we had captured at Labbacally, but after a few minutes he remarked that he had never seen me before. I learned afterwards that he did know me as he told one or two people when the fight was over; but on account of the way I treated him in the Labbacally ambush, he decided "one good turn deserves another".

I was brought out on three further occasions for identity - one for the O'Leary's Cross ambush, Glenacurrane and Mallow Barracks, but was not identified on either occasion. I was kept in close confinement during all this period with the exception of half an hour's exercise every day. On the 6th May I was tried by courtmartial and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. This was later commuted to six months' hard labour and eighteen months' internment.

During the time I was in Fermoy Barracks I was searched for wounds and they paid particular attention to my hand. Apparently they had some information of the wound I got in Labbacally, but this was only a slight wound and was not noticeable. I had a knee breeches at the time and I was able to cover up the wound on the knee I think that they were mixed up with the name Barry, and not

finding the wound they suspected it was Patrick Barry. Another thing which helped my case was that the Battalion still kept up the activities until the Truce and from later computed communications it showed that they had Tom Hunter as being responsible for all the attacks in the area as Column O/C - this would show that their Intelligence system was not perfect despite all their military and police strength in the area.

About two days after being sentenced I was transferred to Cork Prison, together with another lad, Eddy Power, Kilmacthomas, who was doing a like sentence. We were taken with the usual convoy and sent to the prison that night with the curfew patrol. We were put into "The Cages" in the evening. There, I first met Seán Collins in the "The Cages", and I next met Mossy Twomey in Cork Prison. He had been Brigade Adjutant before his arrest.

After being there for about six weeks I was transferred to Spike Island. There was a large number of long-term sentenced men there, including, the Clonmult prisoners, Jerry Ryan, Tipperary, Seán Moylan, Billy MacNamara, Ned Punch, Limerick, Neylon of Clare, and Mick Murphy, Cork, all who were most active until their arrest.

During the time we were there we had two short hunger strikes; one of four days for better conditions, and the second also for better conditions. During the strike they took out some of the leaders and put them in cells in the old prison, so then we decided we would burn the place and smash it up generally. After setting fire to it and breaking all the windows they confined us to the burning buildings and would not let us out in the yard, so we bored through the centre walls and made communication from one end to the other, the whole length

of the compound.

At the end of eight days while on this strike I was selected with a number of other short-term prisoners and sent back to Cork Prison. This would be about the end of September. We continued the strike until our arrival in Cork Prison and I was elected O/C in charge of the prisoners.

We were taken out by boats at night. The Cameron Highlanders were in charge and they went around to each prisoner to see if any of the Clonmult men were amongst the prisoners. One Sergeant came to me and started chatting. He asked me what was I there for. I said I was only doing three months and had about a week to go, for consorting with rebels. He said; "Blimy! what's that?" I said I was in with a couple of wanted men of the I.R.A. he said, "poor beggar, it's tough on you". He pulled out some woodbines and supplied us with smokes - another chap, Matt Browne, was handcuffed to me - and as we were going into the jail gates he handed me two more packets of woodbines.

The charge on which I was courtmartialled was, Section 27(79) of the D.O.R.A. (Restoration of Order in Ireland) Act, for evading arrest and consorting with rebels.

When we were in Spike Island, convicted men were not allowed to smoke, but after some time the Governor allowed us two cigarettes a day and one parcel of food in the week. This gave us the opportunity of getting cigarettes from our pals across the wire who were interned, as they were allowed cigarettes and parcels. They often gave us cigarettes on a Sunday morning at Mass.

After about two days in Cork Jail we were allowed cigarettes and parcels and the same conditions as the internees, so we called off the hunger strike which had lasted for about ten days.

The burning of Spike Island was a fortunate thing for me because my term of imprisonment had expired on the 4th October and under the terms of the Truce I should have been released outside the prison walls and re-arrested to serve my term of internment, but under the Truce conditions I had to be released.

I returned to the Battalion area and was later attached temporarily to the Brigade Staff. I found in the meantime that the Battalion had been divided into two Battalion areas and also the Brigade area.

From the time I went "on the run" I had several close escapes from arrest. One, at Marshalstown, where P. J. Leddy, Dan O'Keefe and myself were arranging for an attack on a cycle patrol when a military cycle patrol came along, led by an R.I.C. man, and they covered us. I gave a false name, having no documents or otherwise. We stated we were employed in Mitchelstown and that was our half-day, so they departed, much to our relief.

On another occasion I was going down a back street in the village of Glanworth, when turning up into another roadway I saw a British soldier with a rifle and bayonet. He had his back turned to me, so I calmly turned back the way I had come. I found out afterwards they were raiding David Bernard's house across the road.

On another occasion I was at the funeral in Castletownroche of Mrs. Hunter (Tom's mother), and as I was going down one street, the military who had probably received word from the R.I.C., passed up another street in two tenders, but before they had time to surround the area I got away on a bicycle.

On another occasion a chap named William Barry and myself were passing through the village of Glanworth at about 9 p.m. when we saw two military tenders approach. We turned back into a public house went out through the rear and escaped. The military in the meantime, searched several houses in the village.

On another occasion I was staying in a house in Glanworth belonging to Miss Gallagher. This was the night before Terence MacSwiney's funeral in Cork. When I looked out in the morning I saw a soldier standing outside with a rifle and bayonet on guard. I got up and dressed and I found that the whole area had been surrounded. After about an hour this soldier and the others withdrew. I found they had searched the house on either side of me and also searched other houses in the village. The laneway where this soldier was standing was covering the three houses.

On another occasion I was going through the village when I was told by two travelling women that the military and R.I.C. were up the village and not to walk into them. So I just turned round and up another street when I saw them approach up the street and I got away.

One night I was conveying Liam Lynch to O'Callaghan's house near Mallow. We were to meet a scout half ways near Kilavullen, but having waited for about two hours he did not turn up. I decided I would accompany Lynch to the

town of Mallow. We were both fully armed as he was a much wanted man at the time being wounded in the Wesleyan raid, Fermoy. When passing through Mallow we passed two R.I.C. men but they did not seem to notice, and on my return they were still in the same place. As he had only about two miles to travel in the dark country road he decided he would continue on his own.

After receiving my accidental wound I was in a house in the village of Glanworth. My brother David called to see me. We slipped outside the door to have a chat and the next thing appeared was a cycle patrol of military. They jumped off about ten yards away. I just turned in quietly to the house and got away out the back. David carried on and was held up. There was a general hold-up in the village that evening.

In November, 1920, my brother David was arrested more or less as a reprisal when they could not find me. I was "on the run" for nearly twelve months at that time. He was interned in Ballykinlar until after the signing of the Treaty. This left us in a bad position at home as there was only my mother and sister to manage the farm.

The pioneers of the movement who were members of Sinn Féin since 1913 in the district would be; William Barrett, John Daly, George and David Barry.

In all the engagements in which the Battalion took part, we suffered no fatal casualties. The only casualties would be two near Mitchelstown, already referred to, and the shooting of William Burke of Ballyhooley.

On the political side I was returned unopposed as a member of the Fermoy Rural District Council in May 1920, and also the Board of Guardians. I was elected Vice Chairman of the R.D.C. but of course being "on the run" I think I attended only one meeting until after my release.

In February, 1922, I was appointed to take over Kilworth Camp from the British military, and by a curious coincidence the man who handed over the Camp to me was another Corkman, Lieutenant Daly of the Buffs Regiment. As he marched out I marched in at the head of my whole Battalion, and this was my last engagement with the British Army of Occupation.

Principal activities in 1921.

March

Ambush of British military forces at Doneraile. Five enemy wounded; machine guns put out of action. No casualties on the I.R.A. side.

April

Kildorrery R.I.C. Barracks attacked on two occasions. Fermoy Aerodrome sniped at. Kilworth Camp and Moore Park Camp sniped at.

May

Fermoy Aerodrome and Kilworth Camp again sniped at. Kildorrery R.I.C. Barracks attacked. Destruction of residences of loyalists - official order; Lord Listowel's, Convamore, Ballyhooly; Penrose Wilsted, Shanballymore; Oliver's, Rockmills.

A party of Black and Tans were ambushed at Rockmills; two Tans killed. No casualties on the I.R.A. side.

Train held up at Ballindangan; coal supplies for enemy destroyed. Two spies executed near Kilavullen, suspected of informing on Tom Hunter. He was lucky to escape when the raid took place.

Black and Tans attacked at Castletownroche. One killed and one wounded. No casualties on the I.R.A. side.

June

Kildorrery R.I.C. Barracks attacked. Enemy losses; two killed. No I.R.A. casualties.

Crown Forces attacked at Castletownroche. Three enemy wounded. No I.R.A. casualties.

Kildorrery R.I.C. Barracks attacked. Crown Forces ambushed at Grange, Glanworth. One soldier wounded. No I.R.A. casualties.

First Aid ambulance captured at Glanworth; medical supplies taken. Crown Forces attacked at Ballindangan. Train raided at Ballyhooly; enemy mails and £3,000 British Army pay captured. Enemy despatch rider held up at Skennakinna. One revolver, ten rounds of ammunition and despatches taken.

Crown Forces attacked at Glanworth. Two prisoners and two revolvers taken. No I.R.A. casualties.

Crown Forces ambushed at Drumdeer, Doneraile. Two soldiers taken prisoner and disarmed.

Crown Forces attacked at Ballyhooly. Attack on Crown Forces at Fermoy miscarried.

July

Ambush at Doneraile on Crown Forces. Enemy losses; one killed. No I.R.A. casualties.

Ambush at Mitchelstown Creamery. All arms captured. This is dealt with in "Rebel Cork's Fighting Story".

Surprise attack by Crown Forces at Glanworth. No casualties on the I.R.A. side.

Castletownroche - B. L.

In addition to above activities up to 11th July, 1921, there were several minor operations including attempted ambushes, sniping, raiding of mails, cutting of trees, road trenching, bridges blown up, and in general cutting off all enemy communications.

After my arrest, William O'Regan, Doneraile, was appointed O/C.; P. J. Luddy, Mitchelstown, Vice O/C.; Danny Shinnick, Castletownroche (deceased), Adjutant; Michael O'Connor (late of Doneraile), Quartermaster; Patrick Barry, Glanworth, Intelligence Officer; Seán O'Regan and Patrick Coughlan, Engineers.

The Battalion was divided into sub-Battalions in April, 1921, and remained as such until the end of July 1921, when it was finally divided to form two separate Battalions, i.e. Castletownroche and Glanworth Battalions.

Sub-Battalions - O/Cs

Glanworth	Timothy Barry (now Ballinahinch)
Ballindangan	
Kildorrery	
Mitchelstown	William Roche, Mitchelstown.
Ballygiblin	
Castletownroche	John Lane, Kilavullen. (now in Australia).
Ballyhooly	
Kilavullen	
Doneraile	W.J. Griffin, (deceased).
Shanballymore	

Glanworth Company;

Timothy Barry O/C
John O'Driscoll Ist Lieutenant.
William Barry,
(String, Glanworth) 2nd Lieutenant.

Ballindangan Company;

Michael Murphy O/C
Joseph O'Keeffe Ist Lieutenant.
Michael O'Halloran
(Now in U.S.A.) 2nd Lieutenant.

Kildorrery Company:

Edmond Creed
(Deceased) O/C
John Noonan Ist Lieutenant.
David Bermingham
(Now, Kill,
Co. Waterford) 2nd Lieutenant.

Kilbehenny Company;

James Luther O/C
John O'Brien Ist Lieutenant.
Patrick Quinlan,
(Labbacally,
Glanworth). 2nd Lieutenant.

Mitchelstown Company;

Dan O'Keeffe,
(Draper, Nenagh) O/C.
William Roche,
(Mitchelstown) O/C.
Seán O'Neill
(Skeeheen) Ist Lieutenant.
Joseph V. Skinner
(Solicitor) 2nd Lieutenant.
Jerry Clifford,
(Garda,
Caherconlish,
Co. Limerick). 2nd Lieutenant
(Interned).

Ballyhooly Company;

John Leahy decd.)	O/C (Interned)
Patrick Burke (deceased)	O/C
James Higgins (U.S.A.)	Ist Lieutenant.
Michael Dennehy (U.S.A.)	2nd Lieutenant.

Kilavullen Company;

Michael Nagle	A/Captain.
John Lane	O/C with Column.
D. Hunter (Curragh, Upton)	Ist Lieutenant.
T. Sheahan, (Ballymagoorly, Mallow)	2nd Lieutenant.

Shanballymore Company;

J. Griffin (Deceased)	O/C
John O'Brien	Ist Lieutenant.
Joe Curry	Ist Lieutenant with Column.
Michael Curry	2nd Lieutenant.

Doneraile Company;

D. Magner (Castlepoucha)	O/C.
Daniel O'Connor	Ist Lieutenant.
T. O'Gorman (Cork)	2nd Lieutenant.

Castletownroche Company;

James O'Neill (Deceased)	O/C with Column.
M. J. Madden (Australia)	A/Captain.
Matt Browne (U.S.A.)	Ist Lieutenant.
T. Palmer (Deceased)	2nd Lieutenant.

William O'Regan, VICE O/C Battalion, had British Army Service and was consequently a great acquisition to the Column in the training of arms, field drill, etc. He took part in all the Column engagements.

Names of Column Members (3rd Battalion)
up to my arrest.

Glanworth;

Tom Barry
Tim Barry
William Barry, String.
David Bernard, (U.S.A.)
William Kearney (U.S.A.)
John Sullivan
Patrick Cronin (U.S.A.)
John Leamy.

Doneraile:

William O'Regan
Dan O'Connor
Patrick Casey
James Murphy (deceased)

Mitchelstown;

James O'Mahony.
Patrick J. Luddy
Jerry Glifford
Dan O'Keeffe
Maurice Walsh (U.S.A.)
Leo Skinner (Solicitor)
James Walsh (Deceased)
William Gallagher (U.S.A.)

Ballindangan;

Richard Smith (U.S.A.)
Michael O'Halloran (U.S.A.)
Joseph O'Keeffe
Michael Rowse (Deceased)
John Curtin.

Kildorrery;

John Noonan
Edmond Creed (Deceased)

Kilbehenny;

James Luther
John O'Brien

Castletownroche;

James O'Neill (Deceased)
Matt Browne (U.S.A.)
Thomas Hunter (Deceased)
Danny Shinnick (Deceased)
James O'Callaghan (Deceased)

Shanballymore;

Jeremiah Donovan (Deceased)
Joseph Curry.

Kilavullen;

John Lane (Canada)
Thomas Sheahan

Ballyhooly;

David Collins.

With the Column we had Richard Willis, Leo O'Callaghan, and John Bolster (machine gun crew), all from Mallow; David Barry, Glanworth (deceased), William Burke, Ballindangan, with the East Limerick Column, Patrick Buckley with the East Limerick and 3rd Battalion Columns.

The following members of this Column also served with the Brigade Column;

Jerry Clifford
Michael O'Halloran
Ned Creed.
James O'Neill
Danny Shinnick
Jeremiah Donovan
William O'Regan

The following members from Mitchelstown Company assisted in the Glenacurrane ambush;

William J. Ryan
Michael O'Sullivan
John Keane T.D.
Mark Ahearne
Martin Lynch.

The following members of Glanworth Company assisted in the Labbacally ambush;

John Quane (Dromina)
Batt Sullivan (U.S.A.)
Michael Kelleher (Deceased)
John Fenton (Deceased)
P. Norton (U.S.A.)
William Crowley.
Stephen Kelly
John O'Neill
William Bernard (U.S.A.)

Kildorrery - Ned Creed (deceased); David Bermingham.

The following is a list of houses where the Column and Volunteer O/Cs were billeted;

Glanworth; - William Barry, Ballylegan .
Patrick Reynolds, "
Joe Quirke
Mrs. Stackpoole, Dunmahon.
Mrs. Hawe.
Dan Gallagher, Clontenty.
Edmond Burke, Currohoo.
Thomas Burke, "
Bridget Burke "
Mrs. P. O'Neill "

Ballyhooley; Mrs. Leahy
Mrs. Bourke.
P. J. Barry.
M. Lombard.
J. Murphy.
Mrs. Dennehy .

Kildorrery; Mrs. Hennessey.
Mrs. Clanchy.
Mrs. Gallagher.
John Noonan.
Dr. Buckley.
Seamus Dwane.
Mrs. Bourke. .

Castletownroche; D. J. O'Sullivan.
Lawrence McCarthy.
Timothy Fonhy, Miss Hunter.
Bob Buckley.
Ml. Buckley.

Doneraile; Garrett Hooper
James Tobin.
Dan O'Connor.
Jack O'Connor.
Mrs. Heaphy.

Kilavullen; Mrs. Roche.
David Magnier.

Ballindangan; Edmund O'Keefe.
Patrick Aherne.
John Murphy.

Mitchelstown; Larry Moriarty.
Martin Lynch.
Misses Clifford.
Mrs. O'Neill.
P. J. Luddy.

Shanballymore; Mrs. Magnier.
James Byrnes.
James Daly.

The following is a list of I.R.A. houses in the
Battalion area which were burned by British Forces as
reprisals 1921;-

Ballyhooley; James Lenehan.

Castletownroche; Danny Shinnick.

Glanworth; Patrick Barry.

Kildorrery; William Stackpole
Ed. Creed.
Michael Walsh.

Shanballymore; James Daly
Denis Daly.

Signed; *Thomas Barry*

Date; *29th Sept '50*

Witness; *W. J. Conroy*

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 430

S U P P L E M E N T A R Y .

1921.

In January, 1921, a meeting of Brigade officers from the Munster area was held at William Barry's, Ballylegan, Glanworth, for the purpose of pushing on the fight in the weaker areas.

Liam Lynch, O/C. Cork 2, presided. Others present were :

Seán Hegarty, O/C. Florrie O'Donoghue, Adj.)	Cork I.
Charley Hurley, O/C. Dick Barrett, Q.M.)	Cork 3.
Seamus Robinson, O/C. Con Moloney (acted as Secretary to meeting) Adj.)	South Tipp.
James Leahy, O/C.)	Mid Tipp.
Denis Hannigan, O/C. Thomas Malone, V. O/C.)	East Limerick.

The following areas were not represented - Kerry, Clare, Waterford, West Limerick, Limerick City, North Tipp.

Liam asked me to personally supervise the guarding and scouting and to hold the Battalion Column in the area for the safety of the officers.

Glanworth and Ballindangan Companies provided billets and scouts.

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

SIGNED *Thomas Barry*

DATE *29th Sept 1950*

WITNESS

W. J. J. Bonds