

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILÉATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 628

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 628

Witness

James Tully,
12 Arnott St.,
Dublin.

Identity.

Member of No. 3 Company 3rd Battalion, Dublin Bgde.,
1919 - ;
Member of A.S.U. 1921.

Subject.

3rd Battalion Dublin Brigade, 1919-1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S.1904

Form B.S.M. 2

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Statement by Mr. James Tully,
12, Arnott Street, Dublin.

I joined the I.R.A. in February, 1919, and was attached to the No. 3 Company, Engineers. There was no Engineer Battalion at the time. No. 3 Company was attached to 3rd Battalion of Dublin Brigade. Liam Archer was O.C. of the Battalion at the time and Mick McEvoy was O.C. of the Engineer Company.

During 1919 our activities were mostly confined to training. We trained at No. 34 Camden Street where we drilled and received lectures on demolitions; methods of derailing trains; destroying bridges and felling trees. In the summer of that year we camped at Bohernabreena and went from there to Rockbrook for instruction in improvised bridging.

On the 12th August, 1920, the Company was ordered to burn Stepside Police Barracks. The 12 men detailed with Mick McEvoy, who was in charge of the operation cycled out to Stepside with the materials required to burn the place. I did not take part in the actual burning, being placed on guard at one of the roads approaching the Barracks.

The job was carried out successfully.

On Saturday evening, 18th September, 1920, part of No. 3 Company went to Camp at Kilmashogue and the rest of the Company, along with No. 4 Company, were to report on Sunday morning.

McGuinness and I acted as covering party.

In June 1921, we were detailed to shoot two auxiliaries who were staying in the Mayfair Hotel, Baggot Street. The party consisted of Paddy O'Connor who was in charge, ^{Michael Stack} Peter Larkin, Jack Hanlon, Jim O'Neill, and myself. My job was to dismantle the telephone. At about 6.30 on a Sunday evening we entered the Hotel. The two auxiliaries with two women and a child were in a room. O'Connor, ^{Stack} Larkin and O'Toole pushed open the door of the room and fired, killing the two auxiliaries. O'Connor took their guns. O'Neill was to have had a car running in Fitzwilliam Street to take the guns away. When I came out I put my gun in the car. O'Neill could not get the car started so it had to be abandoned and I lost my gun. The others, living in the area, had taken their guns with them.

On the morning of the truce, I was detailed to go at 7 a.m. to Inchicore Railway Works and to carry swimming kit. Joe Leonard was in charge and there were about 15 to 20 of us present. We had the place surrounded when the job was called off. I could never find out what we were to do.

Signed James Tully
(James Tully)

Date 17th December 1951
17th December, 1951.

Witness

J. Kearns Comdt
(J. Kearns, Comd't.)

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to have the records destroyed immediately. Just as Stevens opened in the morning we held up the staff, got the files and destroyed the record of the numbers. Dan Hannon who was in charge, Jackie Dunne and self carried out the raid on the Shop Peter Larkin and J. Hanley acted as covering party.

On the morning of the burning of the Custom House I was transferred to the A.S.U. I was one of those detailed for guard duty on Butt Bridge to prevent interference from British Forces. When the fire had been well started an armoured car arrived on the scene and took up a position in front of the Custom House. Several tenders full of Auxiliaries came to the back of the Custom House near Store Street.

They opened fire on the Custom House and were then ambushed from all quarters including the railway overhead. Dan Head was killed by fire from the armoured car. As the fire had got a good hold we dispersed.

I was later detailed for a general hit up of auxiliaries which was to take place in Grafton Street and cafes in the vicinity. Paddy Rigney, Paddy O'Toole and Joe McGuinness and I were to take up position in Chatham Street and at the specified time to shoot any member of the British Forces seen in the Street. The job was called off for some reason but word did not reach us and just on time two auxiliaries came along from the direction of Stephen's Green. Rigney and O'Toole opened fire and killed the auxiliaries. Having made sure they were dead, Paddy Rigney ordered us to disperse. Joe

The party that had arrived on the Saturday went farther up the mountains to try out some explosives Dick Mulcahy, Liam Archer and, I think, Oscar Traynor were present at the demonstration. When we returned to the site of the Camp we found the place in disorder and none of the men due to arrive, around the place. A person who resided near the place told us that the camp had been raided and that one of our men had been shot.

We learned subsequently that when the remainder of No. 3 Company and men of No. 4 Company arrived they were rounded up by Black and Tans in mufti who had been lying in wait for the party. Sean Doyle had been shot trying to escape. We separated and made our way back to town.

We had at this time changed our headquarters from Camden Street to 12 Parliament Street. That night on orders of Company O.C. four others and myself removed the rifles, a Machine Gun, and detonaters from the dump in Parliament Street to Restoration Lane, Adelaide Road.

Early in 1921 I was sent out on armed night patrols. The members of the Battalions at this time used to take over patrolling duty from the Active Service Unit. Some time during this month our patrol of six men with Peter Larkin in charge, ambushed a military car at the corner of Holles Street and Mount Street. Two of the British Military were killed. The ambush party separated and escaped.

In May, 1921, Jackie Dunne and I were detailed to raid the house of a British ex-Service man who

was supposed to have arms and ammunition. We raided the house but found nothing.

In the same month I was one of a party of five of the Company who acting on information received from the Intelligence Section, burned fifty pairs of tyres belonging to the Auxiliaries, which were in the Vulcanising Company in William Street and Chatham Lane.

At about 12 o'clock in the day we walked into the firm, got some petrol in a can and some waste, took the tyres in Chatham Lane and burned them there. The tyres were completely destroyed. We were not interfered with in any way.

Early in 1921 we raided a number of places for tools and equipment. One of these was Pauls of Aungier Street where Tom Byrne and I ordered Cross Cut Saws, Sledges and other tools required by the Engineers. When asked for payment we produced guns and referred them to the I.R.A.

Tom Byrne and myself raided the B.T.H. Suffolk Street and collected a few hundred feet of insulated cable and batteries. Jim O'Hara and Joe Jones acted as covering party.

We also raided the Morgan Mooney Chemical Works, South Wall, for shovels, picks, crowbars and Paul and Vincents for the same type of equipment. We did not meet with opposition in either case.

On the night Tommy Bryan (who was later executed) was arrested he had in his possession a bicycle which he had purchased in Steven's. In case this would lead to his identification we were ordered