ORIGINAL

ROINN COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 650

Witness

Mr. W. Kidd Davis,
Rathlin,
Dargle Road,
Bray,
Co. Wicklow.

Identity.

Eye-witness of raid at Kilmashogue,
Co. Dublin, 20.9.1920.

Subject.

Raid by British Forces on Irish Volunteer Camp
at Kilmashogue, Co. Dublin,
20.9.1920.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S.281

Form B.S.M. 2

m.s.b.

Tagairt.....

PUNCH HERE

leaṫán mionuairisce.

PUNCH HERE

MEMO.

According to an anniversary notice in this day's Irish Press this incident occurred on 20th September 1920.

S. CONNOLLY
KEEPER OF RECORDS.

20th September 1947.

J9841.Wt.3694.D.497S.O.G.Est.320.1,500,000.6/51.D.(D.P.S.)Ltd.

ORIGINAL

RATHLIN,
DARGLE ROAD, BRAY,
Co. WICKLOW.

Sunday. Oct. 6. — 1946.

To The Minister of Defence.

NOT ACKD.

Dear Sir.

Reading the Irish Press I noticed the leading article referring to the compiling of historical facts in connection with the fight for freedom commencing 1916.

as an Eye witness of Kilmichael affair when I was there during. I noted the facts as I observed them it take place.

Little or nothing was known of what really happened. as the men on top was buried in a quarry hole a head or two nothing. and the men below knew nothing. until they reached. they cleared. away the ferns. & bracken down the mountain.

This record may be of some interest at the time the facts are correct.

Yours Sincerely.

Wm. Cadd Davis.

W. KIDD DAVIS, A.M.I.MECH.E.
Chartered Mechanical Engineer—

ORIGINAL
(1)

TELEPHONE: 35306.

ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
23 CASTLE AVENUE,
CLONTARF, DUBLIN.

"Rathlin"
Dargle Rd. Bray.

The Minister of Defence.

Ref an Eye witness account of what happened at "Kilmashogue" Rathfarnham - Co Dublin and the shooting of Ald. Doyle's Son, on the mountains overlooking the City of Dublin and the Coast. There was a camp consisting of one tent known as the "Sinn Feiners" who were always present on the week-ends. and as nobody asked any questions that was as far as we knew, or wished to be concerned. This camp was in existence for nearly a year, and as which might be termed an impregnable position, was raided one Sunday morning about 11 a.m. by 20 to 30 picked British armed forces, many Service Rifles dressed in civilian clothes.

The raid was sudden, quick, and unexpected, and made from the Rear of the Camp, taking the "Shinners" by complete surprise who scattered and ran in all directions down the Hill leaving behind them, Aldermans Doyle's Son who was shot dead, most of the Irishmen who fled, ran the gauntlet under British rifle fire and finally ran in the forries on the Road and before they left the Camp turned, a state of confusion existed and a deserted Camp, leaving behind the Raiders under the command of a British Major - who finally departed - reporting the death of one. To me. This information was passed on to a lonely Sentinel at the Camp, who apparently knew nothing of what had taken place

W. KIDD DAVIS, A.M.I.MECH.E.
Chartered Mechanical Engineer—

TELEPHONE: 35306.

(2)

ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
23 CASTLE AVENUE,
CLONTARF, DUBLIN.

and asked if I would wait until he returned with instructions upon the information I had given him. He very soon came back with others and we searched for the man who was reported shot. We found him quite near by, dead.
Well I remember a young fellow dressed in a gabardine raincoat lying on his back as he fell, dead. Shot in the breast.
It would appear from the information received he attempted to offer resistance in place of running away, by which he met his death.
The spot indicated when last seen does not appear to be in the correct position."

W. Kidd Davis

Commentary.

In view of the disclosures which followed it would seem the members of the Irish Army who fired a shot as a decoy, distracting the Bombers forces attention from the principle object "The testing laboratory for bombs and explosives" in the quarry - hole just above the scene of the Raid in which were some of the leading

W. KIDD DAVIS, A.M.I.MECH.E.
Chartered Mechanical Engineer—

TELEPHONE: 35306.

ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
23 CASTLE AVENUE,
CLONTARF, DUBLIN.

(3)

members of the organisation were working and consequently escaped without notice. No effort being made in defence or retaliation. The existence of the Bomb testing depot in Courtney's Quarry was not known to neighbours or any outside people. It was therefore a closely guarded secret. but the Camp was effectually to everyone who passed that way who took care in minding their own business & going about what did not concern them from a defensive point of view. The position of this Camp was good. and and that hardly anyone would with to attack. which accounts for the British attacking from the rear. after crossing Tiek Knock Mountain a River and thence up the Slopes of Kilmacapoe Mountain in order to advance in open order in the charge with Pointed Rifles. They were successful in taking the Camp by Surprise and everyone else including the Officer who mistook them for the Irish Brigade in training and on the point of being shot.

Had this position been properly protected by scattered out posts the attackers could readily

have been annihilated by machine gun fire.
In place of this everyone as previously mentioned were taken by complete surprise resulting in Chaos with the loss of life of many Volunteers who fought a gallant rearguard the circumstances

COPY.

RATHLIN,
DARGLE ROAD, BRAY,
CO. WICKLOW.

Sunday: Oct. 6 - 46.

To: The Minister of Defence.

Dear Sir,

Reading the Irish Press I notice by the leading article reference to the compiling of historical facts in connection with the fight for freedom commencing 1916.

As an eye-witness of Kilmashogue affair where I was then living, I record the facts as I observed them to take place. Little or nothing was known of what really happened as the men on the top were buried in a quarry hole and heard or saw nothing and the men below knew nothing until they were routed; they cleared amongst the ferns and bracken down the mountain.

This record may be of some interest; at the least the facts are correct.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) W. Kidd Davis.

STATEMENT OF W. KIDD DAVIS,

"Rathlin", Dargle Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

: The Ministry of Defence.

Ref: An Eye-witness account of what happened at Kilmashogue, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin, and the shooting of Alderman Doyle's son.

On the mountains overlooking the city of Dublin and the coast there was a camp consisting of one tent known as the "Sinn Feiners" who were always present on the week-ends, and, as nobody asked any questions, that was as far as we knew or wished to be concerned. This camp was in existence for nearly a year and as what might be termed an impregnable position, was raided one Sunday morning about 11 a.m. by 20 to 30 picked British armed forces, carrying service rifles, dressed in civilian clothes.

The raid was sudden, quick and unexpected, and made from the rear of the camp, taking the "Shinners" by complete surprise, who scattered and ran in all directions down the hill, leaving behind them Alderman Doyle's son, who was shot dead. Most of the Irishmen who fled ran the gauntlet under British rifle fire and finally ran in the lorries in the road where they were captured; a state of confusion existed and a deserted camp, leaving behind the raiders under the command of a British major who finally departed, reporting the death of one to me. This information was passed on to a lonely sentinel at the camp who apparently knew nothing of what had taken place and asked if I would wait until he returned with instructions upon the information I had given him. He very soon came back with others and we searched for the man who was reported shot. We found him quite nearby, dead. Well I remember, a young fellow dressed in a gaberdine light raincoat lying on his back as he fell, dead, shot in the breast. It would appear from the information received he attempted to offer resistance in place of running away by which he met his death. The spot indicated when last seen does not appear to be in the correct position.

(Signed) W. Kidd Davis.

COMMENTARY:

In view of the disclosures which followed it would seem the members of the Irish army who fled acted as a decoy, distracting the British forces attention from the principal object "the testing laboratory for bombs and explosives" in the quarry-hole just above the scene of the raid in which were some of the leading members of the organisation working and consequently escaped without notice, no effort being made in defence or retaliation. The existence of this bomb testing depot in Courtney's Quarry was not known to neighbours or any outside party and was therefore a closely guarded secret, but the camp was open and spectular to everyone who passed that way who took care in minding their own business and ignoring what did not concern them.

From a defensive point of view the position of this camp was good and one that hardly anyone would wish to attack, which accounts for the British attacking from the rear,, after crossing Ticknock Mountain, a river, and thence up the slopes of Kilmashogue Mountain in order to advance in open order in the charge with pointed rifles. They were successful in taking the camp by surprise and everyone else, including the writer, who mistook them for the Irish Brigade in training and on the point of being shot.

Had this position been properly protected by scattered outposts the attackers could readily have been anniliated by machine gun fire. In place of this everyone as previously mentioned were taken by complete surprise, resulting in chaos with the loss of life of one young volunteer who perhaps acted indiscreetly under the circumstances.

(Signed) W. Kidd Davis.