

U.S. 808

**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BUREAU STATE MILITARY 1913-21  
No. W.S. 808

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 808

**Witness**

- (a) Richard Willis, 35 Bridge St.,
- (b) John Bolster, 14 Plunkett Terrace,  
Mallow, Co. Cork.

**Identity.**

Members of Irish Volunteers,  
Mallow, Co. Cork, 1917 - .

**Subject.**

Irish Volunteer activities, Mallow,  
Co. Cork, 1917 - .

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

Nil

File No. S.2102

Form B.S.M. 2

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21

No. W.S. 808

JOINT STATEMENT

BY

RICHARD (DICK) WILLIS, 35, BRIDGE ST., MALLOW.

JOHN (JACKIE) BOLSTER, 14, PLUNKETT TERRACE, MALLOW.

MACHINE GUNNERS, ACTIVE SERVICE UNITS,

CORK II AND CORK IV BRIGADES.

Dick Willis was born in Mallow in 1899, and Jackie Bolster also was born in Mallow in 1900.

Both of them joined the Volunteers in Mallow in 1917 following a reorganisation of the force in that year.

Mallow town had a company of Volunteers in 1914, and during 1914, 1915 and 1916 a lot of the surrounding districts had Companies organised.

Perhaps it might be desirable to give a general survey of Mallow district activities and which would embrace the early years of the Movement:

The Mallow district was one in which the volunteer organisation was set up at a very early date. The Mallow Company and all the Companies South and West of Mallow, which later were formed into a Battalion, were mobilised for service in 1916. Dan Hegarty and Chris Connell were arrested. On the reorganisation of the Cork Brigade after 1916 these Companies were formed into a Unit of the Brigade. Officers were appointed and a system of training developed. Those parts of the Battalion area which had had no previous activity were worked over and men were recruited into the organisation in every parish. Arms and ammunition were collected and purchased. An arms fund was raised and an intelligence

service organised.

The Volunteers responsible for the pioneer organisation work were :-

AHIDILLANE COMPANY: P. Waters, Ed. Waters, Batt. Walsh, Thomas Walsh and Ml. Healy.

ANNALEENTHA COMPANY: Tadg Mullane, John Looney, George Church, Jerh. Buckley, Denis Barter, Patrick McCarthy, John McCarthy, Donald McCarthy, John Reidy.

BURNFORT COMPANY: Tadg Looney, Michael Looney, Liam Jones, John Sullivan, Ml. Nagle, Denis Mulcahy, Richard Nagle, John Roynane, Maurice Walsh, Denis Fitzgerald.

DROMAHANE COMPANY: John Bowe, Denis Horgan, Jack Barrow, James Barrow, David Barrow, Michael Kelleher, Denis Hegarty, Michael Crean, Denis Curtin.

LOMBARDSTOWN COMPANY: Dan McCarthy, Michael McCarthy, Jerh. Corkery, Ed. Murphy, M. O'Connell, Phil Singleton.

MALLOW COMPANY: Owen Harold, Dan Hegarty, Ed. Waters, Bryan Kelly, Leo Callaghan, Christopher O'Connell.

TWOPOTHOUSE COMPANY: Organised in 1917.

BALLYCLOUGH COMPANY: Organised in 1917.

The total number of men on the Battalion roll was roughly five hundred and fifty and this number remained practically constant, there being very few changes during the Truce period and practically no defections during the Civil War.

The Battalion Staff on July 11th, 1921, was:-

Commandant	Tadg Byrne (replacing Patrick McCarthy - in Jail).
Vice Commandant	Jerh. Daly (replacing Owen Harold - then in Jail).
Adjutant	Tadg McCarthy.
Quartermaster	Michael Nagle.

COMPANY STAFFS:

'A' COMPANY - ANNALEENTHA - as on 11th July, 1921.

Captain	Jerome Buckley.
1st Lieut.	John Looney.
2nd Lieut.	Philip O'Shea.
Quartermaster	William Cronin.
Adjutant	Daniel Church.

'A' COMPANY - ANNALEENTHA - as on 1st July, 1922.

Captain	Jerome Buckley
1st Lieut.	
2nd Lieut.	
Quartermaster	
Adjutant	

'B' COMPANY - KILSHANNIG - as on 11th July, 1921.

Captain	Denis Horgan.
1st Lieut.	David Barrow (replacing Denis Horgan)
2nd Lieut.	Con Mullane.
Quartermaster	Michael Kelleher.
Adjutant	Patrick Riordan.

'B' COMPANY - KILSHANNIG - as on 1st July, 1922.

Captain	Denis Horgan.
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'B' COMPANY - KILSHANNIG - as on 1st July, 1922. (Contd.)

1st Lieut. David Barrow.  
2nd Lieut. Cors. Mullane.  
Quartermaster Michael Kelleher.  
Adjutant Denis Hegarty.

'C' COMPANY, 5TH BATTALION, CORK NO. 4 BRIGADE.

TWOPOTHOUSE AREA - as on 11th July, 1921.

O.C. Tim Ducey.  
Adjutant William Hutch.  
1st Lieut. Jerh. Kavanagh.  
Quartermaster Joseph Molloy.

'C' COMPANY - TWOPOTHOUSE AREA - as on 1st July, 1922.

O.C. Tim Ducey.  
1st Lieut. Jerh. Kavanagh.  
Quartermaster Joseph Molloy.

'D' COMPANY - BALLYCLOUGH, 5TH BATTALION, CORK 2ND AND 4TH BRIGADE.

O.C. Tadg Mullane.  
O.C. Cors. Mannix (arrested June, 1921).  
1st Lieut. Denis O'Keeffe.  
2nd Lieut. John Ring.  
Adjutant Wm. O'Connor (arrested).  
Adjutant William Morrissey.  
Quartermaster William Moloney

LOMBARDSTOWN COMPANY, MALLOW BATTALION, CORK NO. 4 BRIGADE,

as on 11th July, 1921.

Captain Philip Singleton.  
1st Lieut. John O'Connell.

LOMBARDSTOWN COMPANY, MALLOW BATTALION, CORK NO. 4 BRIGADE.

as on 11th July, 1921. (Contd.)

2nd Lieut. Con Buckley.  
Adjutant. Con Breen.  
Quartermaster Daniel O'Callaghan.

LOMBARDSTOWN COMPANY - as on 1st July, 1922.

Captain John O'Connell.  
1st Lieut. Daniel McCarthy.  
2nd Lieut. Con Buckley.  
Adjutant Con Breen.  
Quartermaster Daniel O'Callaghan.

AHADILLANE COMPANY - as on 11th July, 1921.

Captain Michael Healy.  
1st Lieut. Pat Waters.  
2nd Lieut. J. Mulcahy.  
Quartermaster J.M. O'Keefe.  
Adjutant Cors. O'Hanlon.

AHADILLANE COMPANY - as on 1st July, 1922.

Captain Ml. Healy (arrested start of Civil War).  
1st Lieut. Pat Waters (became Captain on arrest of  
Healy).  
2nd Lieut. P.P. Barrett.

'G' COMPANY, 5TH BATTALION, CORK IV BRIGADE, as on 11th July, '21

Captain Patrick Corbett.  
1st Lieut. John Cahill.  
2nd Lieut. John Saunders.  
Adjutant Thomas McAuliffe.  
Quartermaster John O'Brien.

'G' COMPANY - as on 1st July, 1922.

Captain	Patrick Corbett.
1st Lieut.	John Cahill.
2nd Lieut.	John Saunders.
Adjutant	Tom McAuliffe.
Quartermaster	Timothy Lehane.

BURNFORT COMPANY, 5TH BATTALION, CORK IV BRIGADE - as

11th July, 1921.

O.C.	John O'Sullivan.
1st Lieut.	John Ronayne.
2nd Lieut.	Maurice Walsh.
Adjutant	James O'Sullivan.
Quartermaster	Denis Mulcahy.

BURNFORT COMPANY - as on 1st July, 1922.

O.C.	John O'Sullivan.
Adjutant	James O'Sullivan.
1st Lieut.	Michael Dinan.
Quartermaster	Denis Mulcahy.

The first clash against the British in which members of the Battalion took part, occurred at Fermoy on the 11th September, 1919, when a party of 19 British soldiers armed with rifles were attacked and disarmed. This became known as the Wesleyan raid.

The members of the Battalion concerned were :  
Battalion Vice Commandant Owen Harold, Ed. Waters, Bryan Kelly, Leo O'Callaghan and Dan Hegarty. Richard Willis afterwards brought the small arms used away from Fermoy.

The original Cork Brigade was divided into three Brigades on November 22nd, 1919, and Mallow became the 4th Battalion attached to the 2nd Brigade. Its first general activity began in April, 1920, with the Headquarters order to destroy all vacated police barracks. This order was carried out, with the result that a number of men were sought for by the R.I.C. and had to go 'on the run'.

In June, 1920, General Lucas, the Commanding Officer of the British troops at Fermoy, was captured by members of the Brigade Staff and some troops of Fermoy Battalion, I.R.A., Lucas was brought into Mallow Battalion area (Lombardstown Company) and was kept under guard there until his transfer to Limerick.. The men who formed the Guard were: Cors. Buckley, Daniel McCarthy, Michael McCarthy, Michael Sullivan, John O'Connell, Con Breen, Daniel O'Callaghan, Denis Cremin, Patrick Lyons, all of Lombardstown Company.

At this period a number of raids was made by the Mallow Company at Mallow Railway Station as a result of which a quantity of military equipment and arms was secured and large quantities of stores destined for British military use were destroyed.

On September 28th, 1920, the Military Barracks at Mallow was captured by the Brigade. Two machine guns, approximately 30 rifles, small arms ammunition and stores were captured. All Companies of the Battalion were concerned, but principally those of Mallow, Burnfort, Lombardstown and Annaleentha.

The men of the Mallow Company engaged were: Owen Harold, Ed. Waters, Leo Callaghan, Richard Willis, Thomas McAuliffe,



Dan Connell, Ml. Murphy, John O'Callaghan, Richard Lynch, John Barrett, John Saunders, John Murphy, Jerh. Daly, John Cunningham, Tim Lehane, John Bolster, Jr., John Moloney, Tim Byrne, Joe Morgan, Ml. O'Callaghan, John Bolster (Broom Lane), John Barrett, Denis Bennett, Nicholas Murphy, P.J. Mullane, John Fahy, Pat Corbett, Denis Callaghan, Joe Byrne, Patrick Bennett, John O'Brien, John Egan, John Cahill, John Bowe, Pat O'Keefe, U.S.A., Matt Corbett (of Tipperary), James Mulcahy, John Mulcahy, Ballydaheen, and Timothy Hayes.

The Company Captain - Corbett - who was in charge of local organisation in connection with the attack was in charge of an outpost on the street leading to the barracks. With him was Denis Callaghan. Owen Harold, V/O.C. of the Battalion, was in charge of a section at Ballydaheen which sniped and delayed British troops coming to Mallow as reinforcements. Joseph Byrne was engaged in the cutting of all telephone lines in the town. Patrick Bennett was on outpost duty covering the exit from the R.I.C. Barracks to prevent any interference by the local R.I.C. with the work.

Each road and street radiating from the Barracks was held by the I.R.A. and John O'Brien, John Egan, John Cahill of Mallow Company, with John Bowe of Dromahane Company were engaged on this.

The men of Burnfort Company who participated were:- John Sullivan, Company Captain, Michael Nagle, Richard Nagle, William Jones, Michael Flynn, Michael Rooney, Michael Dinan, James Sullivan, Maurice Walsh, John O'Keefe, Patrick Regan, Patrick Dorgan, Denis Fitzgerald, Denis Mulcahy, David Walsh, John

O'Connell, David Moylan, William Conway, Tim O'Connell. These men entered the Barracks behind the storming party, destroyed the Barracks, seized and carried away all arms, equipment and stores.

The men of Lombardstown Company concerned were:- Ed. Murphy (afterwards Divisional Q.M.), Michael O'Connell (afterwards Brigade Q.M.), Phil Singleton, D. Callaghan, Daniel McCarthy, Michael McCarthy, Michael O'Connell, Michael Finnegan, Daniel O'Callaghan, Con Buckley, Denis Cremin, John O'Connell, John Ring, P. Healy, Tim Murphy, Jerh. Roche, William Roche.

These men were engaged in blocking roads when the storming party had moved out, and were also engaged in the removal and transfer of captured arms and stores from Ahadillane Company to which they were transferred.

Names of men of 'A' Company (Annaleentha) participating in Mallow Barracks attack: Jerh. Buckley, Patrick Buckley, John Buckley, Denis Barter, John Cronin, Daniel Church, George Church, Tim Harold, John Looney, Pat McCarthy, John McCarthy, T.B. Riordan, Phil Shea and Tadg Mullane.

These men were distributed in various positions, some in the barracks, some on outpost on the streets, and all were concerned in moving and protecting captured material. Patrick McCarthy was at this time Battalion Commandant. He and Denis Barter were sentenced to death for the part they played in the attack.

From the date of the capture of Mallow Barracks the

Battalion area was incessantly combed by the British. In spite of this activity Brigade Headquarters, established in the area, (Lombardstown Company) was always able to function successfully, and this only because of the intensive counter activity of the Battalion in the destruction of communications, sniping activities and intelligence work.

In January, 1921, orders were issued from Headquarters to destroy bridges and trench roads and generally make road communications impossible for the British. This order was carried out all over the Battalion area, and from January to the Truce of July the work of trenching and re-opening of roads repaired by the British was a continuous effort.

BRIDGES AND TRENCHES.

'A' COMPANY.

Hacketts, Jordans, Ballinamona, Farrans and Ballyhillogue bridges were destroyed. One trench on the Cork-Mallow road was made and continually worked at.

'B' COMPANY.

All bridges in the area were demolished and the railway line broken on various occasions.

'C' COMPANY.

Twopothouse bridge destroyed. Two trenches cut on Buttevant-Mallow road and kept open. Trees felled continually on Buttevant-Mallow road.

'D' COMPANY.

Trench on Mallow-Kanturk road.

'D' COMPANY. (Contd.)

Trench on Mallow-Killarney road kept open till Truce.  
Copstown bridge destroyed.

Longfields, Roskeen and Eel Weir bridges destroyed in  
co-operation with neighbouring companies.

'E' COMPANY.

Lough bridge destroyed. Railway lines taken up on six  
occasions. Ten trenches in Company area constantly kept open.

'F' COMPANY.

Ahadillane, Rathcoole, Beenalaght, Goulane, McCarthy's  
and Spivit Bridges broken. Twelve trenches in Company area  
constantly worked at and kept open.

'G' COMPANY.

Upper, Lower Clyda Bridge. Railways broken on three  
occasions.

'H' COMPANY.

Thirty trenches made in Company area and kept open till  
July, 1921.

DUMPS AND DUG-OUTS:

'A' COMPANY:	1 dump.
'B' COMPANY:	
'C' COMPANY:	
'D' COMPANY:	5 dumps.
'E' COMPANY:	3 dumps, 1 dugout.
'F' COMPANY:	4 dumps.
'G' COMPANY:	2 dumps.
'H' COMPANY:	

On January 31st, 1921, a party of R.I.C. was attacked at

Mallow railway station. The men who took part were: Jerh. Daly, John Cunningham, Leo O'Callaghan, Joe Morgan, John Moloney, Tim Byrne, Michael O'Callaghan, John O'Brien, Joe Byrne, Richard Lynch, Patrick Bennett, Patrick Corbett, John Bolster, Denis Callaghan, Patrick O'Keeffe, Timothy Hayes, Patrick Mullane.

In an attempt to quell the fighting spirit of the Battalion after the above attack there were unofficial reprisals taken and a number of men were shot that night by Black and Tans. They were all railwaymen and were not associated with the ambush at all. Three were shot dead and six wounded, one dying four years later as a direct result of his injuries.

On the 15th February, 1921, an ambush of British Military took place at Mourne Abbey. Unfortunately the British had been informed of the ambushers' position and had surrounded it with large forces, with the result that a number of I.R.A. troops became casualties. The men from Mallow Company concerned were: Jerh. Daly, Joe Morgan, Leo O'Callaghan, Jack Cunningham, John Moloney, Michael Callaghan, Tadg Byrne, Daniel McDonald.

Lombardstown Company: Edward Murphy, Bill Roche, John O'Connell

Burnfort Company: John O'Sullivan, Michael and Richard Nagle, Tim Looney, Michael Looney (died of wounds), Tim O'Connell, John Ronayne, Michael Sullivan, James Sullivan, John Conway, David Moylan, Pat Regan, John O'Keeffe, Michael Curtin, Con Mulcahy, Thos. Mulcahy (captured and executed in Cork Gaol), Patrick Ronayne (captured and executed in Cork Gaol), Daniel Sheahan, Michael Moylan, Laurence Nagle, Michael Dinan, Michael

Mulcahy, Denis Linehan, Con Hickey, Patrick Sullivan, Denis Cremin, Patrick Dorgan (killed), Patrick Flynn (killed), Edward Creedon (killed).

Annaleentha Company: Tadg Mullane, Jerh. Buckley, Pat Buckley, Geo. Church, John Cronin, John Buckley, Daniel Church, Tim Harold, John Looney.

At this time the Battalion was particularly occupied with the destruction of communications, telegraph wires, bridges, and by digging of road trenches. Ambushes were attempted all over the area. Enemy posts were constantly sniped. Dumps and dugouts were constructed. The Republican Courts were assisted and protected and evil doers punished and controlled. Enemy stores of petrol, equipment, food, passing through the Battalion (in the centre of whose area was an important railway junction) were constantly seized and all the irritating tactics of guerilla warfare employed to keep the British constantly on the move.

During the Truce period the Divisional Headquarters were set up in Mallow Barracks. Barrack duty entailed the full-time service of a number of men. Training camps were set up in all Company areas and intensive training and organisation went on all during the period. The Labour Party took over control of the Mallow Mills in January, 1922, and a number of men from Mallow Battalion, as well as outside battalions, had over six weeks' constant duty on protection of the mills and in seeing that a proper record of incomings and outgoings was kept. This activity ensured that when the strike was over the mills were handed back undamaged to the owners and proper accounts of goods

and moneys rendered to them.

Apart from activities in the Battalion area there was a number of ambushes outside it, in which men from that Battalion participated.

In the attack on Fermoy Aerodrome and in the ambushes at Ballyduff, Doneraile, Tallow, Rathcormac, Labbacally and Castlelyons, Richard Willis and John Bolster were concerned as machine gunners.

In the ambush at Glenacurrane, Richard Willis, John Bolster and Leo Callaghan were concerned.

In the ambush at Fr. Murphy's Bridge, John Moloney, Jack Cunningham, Joe Morgan and Ed. Waters were concerned.

In the Rathcoole ambush John Cunningham, Leo Callaghan, Jerh. Daly, Joe Morgan, Tadg Byrne, John Moloney and Ml. Callaghan were concerned.

. . . . .

To revert to our own personal story:

During 1917 weekly parades were held which mainly consisted of drilling, route marches, scouting and signalling exercises. These parades were normally held at Goulden's Farm near the Castle Demesne. In the Winter period and when weather conditions were unsuitable occasional drills were held in Sinn Féin rooms.

These parades continued during 1918 and gradually a strong spirit of enthusiasm was evident in all the Volunteer

Units, owing to the various incidents happening in all parts of the country and generally a determined opposition became noticeable against all forms of enemy government whether military or administrative.

In response to a request from Waterford about 40 members of our Battalion proceeded to Waterford for General Election duty in 1918, in support of the candidature of Dr. Vincent White.

In 1919 our drilling continued and all our Units came very much out in the open and held ceremonial parades for various commemoration ceremonies, such as, the Manchester Martyrs and Easter Week. The local R.I.C. kept a close watch over these parades; however, we had reached the stage by this time that we ignored them completely.

Following the Wesleyan raid in Fermoy in September, 1919, Dick Willis and Jackie Bolster had been on scouting duty on that Sunday night awaiting the return of the Mallow lads who had participated in the raid, and when the latter had returned safely they returned to their homes. A short time later that night (Sunday, September 11th, 1919), a large detachment of military from Buttevant and Ballyvonaire Camp surrounded the town and made a close examination of all persons and vehicles entering and leaving the town, and even ordinary pedestrians in the town - the military got nothing from this swoop.

A few days after this raid Dick Willis, who was doing a job of work in Fermoy, collected about 6 revolvers from Geo. Power's house (later O.C. Cork No. 2 Brigade) and brought them safely back to the Company Captain (Jack Cunningham). These



revolvers had been used on the raid and had been unofficially loaned from two persons who had then Gun Dealers' Licences in Mallow - a Miss Shehane and Owen Harold's father. The latter, who was a J.P., did not, of course, know that the revolvers had been loaned.

The usual drillings and parades continued and very little of note occurred up to April, 1920. About this period we burned down two evacuated R.I.C. Barracks - one at Ballyclough and the other at Blackrock near the Viaduct at Mallow, and we also carried out a raid on the Income Tax Offices in Mallow, carrying away all documents and other records, which we burned in a cave underneath the "Lovers' Leap" at Mallow Castle. These actions brought about extra R.I.C. activity, but even apart from the Volunteers, the members of the general public would give them no information, hence their efforts and enquiries into these happenings proved fruitless.

Early in 1920, the East Lancs. who garrisoned Mallow Barracks were replaced by a detachment of the Machine Gun Corps and the latter were replaced about June, 1920, by the 17th Lancers, known as "The Death or Glory Boys".

During 1920, on various occasions we burned large quantities of military stores arriving at Mallow Station and passing through the Station for other centres. All the Staff at the Station were reliable, but three men in particular - Jack Barrett, R.I.P., Denis Bennett and Jack Roche, kept us regularly informed of all movements of troops and stores and, in the case of the stores, they placed the wagons containing them on the sidings most suitable to us for their destruction.

On one occasion we burned an aeroplane in transit (less the wings), and for this purpose we used a fairly large amount of petrol consigned to Thompson's garage at Mallow. Intense activity followed all those burnings, and even though the enemy must have known that the railway employees were fully co-operating with us, they could not force the issue, unless they carried out full scale arrests.

In July, 1920, Dick Willis, who at this time was a sort of an unofficial Column Leader for the Mallow Company, was asked by the Company O.C. to carry out a raid of the mails arriving at Mallow Station. Dick selected Jackie Bolster and a number of other reliable Volunteers for the job. When the train arrived and the engine was taking on water Dick placed two men on the engine and gave instructions to the driver to start his train. Dick and Jackie and a number of others travelled on the train and when at Copstown Bridge, about two miles from Mallow, the train was stopped and the mails were handed over to two cars which were in readiness. Leo Callaghan was one of the drivers. The mails were then taken to Dromahane for censorship. A rather amusing incident arose from this raid. Dick Willis and Jackie Bolster were tradesmen employed in Mallow Barracks and were working for a Contractor named Kelleher from Cork City. The raid occurred on a Friday night and the cheque for their weekly pay, which would be in the mails, was naturally not received on the Saturday morning; therefore, they had to do without their pay until several days later. Had we foreseen this at the time we would probably have arranged a different day for the raid.

Some date in August, 1920, we got the tip from one of the railway lads that a big consignment of petrol (2 wagon loads) had arrived at the Station - this was on a Saturday night. We asked the railway employees to put the wagons on the Goods siding, which they did. The petrol was stored in crates - 4 2-gallon tins to each crate. The petrol for the Military Units was in green tins and petrol for R.I.C. detachments mainly in Co. Kerry was in red tins. We discussed this job in great detail: first of all whether we should burn it and, secondly, whether we should remove it for our own requirements. In view of the fact that it was in such handy containers we made up our minds to remove it. Practically the whole Company was mobilised for this job, and it took us the greater part of Saturday night to early Sunday morning. We forced open numerous locks and gates in the railway yard, and also had to force open the sealed wagons. Organising the Company in relays we successfully removed all the petrol (green tins) to a pumping station for Mallow Creamery on the banks of the Blackwater. Despite the large number of men engaged on this mission, the removal and storage of the petrol never reached the ears of the enemy and, although the enemy had both ground and air movements on several occasions in the vicinity of the Pumping Station where it was stored, it was never discovered. This petrol was extensively used by both Brigade Headquarters and the Battalion in the later months as we were keeping three cars on the go all the time, and we also used it for the destruction of some loyalists' houses.

On the Monday following this raid, a peculiar event happened at Mallow station as two persons (a married woman and a brother of hers) who were travelling from Kerry to Dublin got insane and kicked up a big shindy at the station. As the Volunteers were doing most of the normal police duties at this time, it was decided to return them to their relatives in Kerry. Dick Willis and two other Volunteers conveyed them to Tralee same day and handed them over to the Tralee Volunteers. He told the Tralee Volunteers of the petrol removal on Saturday night and of the consignment of red tins for the R.I.C. destined for Tralee. The Tralee contingent took the tip and on its arrival at Tralee removed the petrol to an unknown destination. It was subsequently learned that the Tralee Volunteers were blamed for the whole consignment.

Around this period we carried out raids for arms on a number of loyalist houses and picked up eight or ten shotguns and a few old type pistols.

All during 1920 Volunteers in every Unit were being constantly urged to be on the look-out to secure arms, especially rifles and revolvers, and that no opportunity should be lost where such weapons could be raided for or even purchased from disgruntled members of the enemy.

Dick Willis had been working in Buttevant Barracks since 1917 as a painter for the Cork Contractor already mentioned (Mr. Kelleher). Dick was transferred to Mallow Barracks in a similar capacity about June, 1920, and shortly after coming

to Mallow a vacancy arose for a carpenter in the barracks and Dick got Jackie Bolster the job. Both Dick and Jackie then gave special attention to the possibility of getting rifles and ammunition out of the barracks. When the 17th Lancers took over Mallow from the M.G. Corps and when they were established there for some weeks, Dick and Jackie noted the daily routine which, among other details, included that more than half of the garrison of approximately 40 went out each morning under the Lieutenant in charge to exercise the horses about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the Barracks, and were away from the Barracks about two to three hours. We had mentioned this fact to the Battalion Officers on a few occasions because we saw in it a golden opportunity of capturing whatever weapons and equipment were in the Barracks. At first the Battalion seemed so slow in dealing with the matter, so much so, that Dick and Jackie contemplated picking some selected Volunteers and carrying out the job themselves. However, this drastic action did not become necessary for Tadg Byrne, the Battalion o.c., met Dick after Mass on Sunday, September 26th, 1920, and instructed him to proceed at once to Sheehans of Mourneabbey to meet the Brigade O.C. (Liam Lynch). On his arrival at Sheehan's farmyard he saw a number of lads attired in various parts of uniform, including belts, caps and bandoliers. Dick met Liam Lynch, and also present were: Ernie O'Malley, George Power, Jim Brislane, Paddy O'Brien, Moss Twomey and Paddy McCarthy (later killed in action). They questioned Dick from all angles about barrack routine and layout of buildings and other details, and Dick supplied all the information asked for. Liam Lynch then requested Dick to get Jackie Bolster

to make a pencil sketch of the Barracks, and Dick said it would be done. During the course of this conversation Liam mentioned of a proposed ambush at Mourneabbey for the following morning, but he was prepared to forego this proposal in favour of the barrack capture, and he remarked that he and the others would give very serious consideration to the information supplied and congratulated Dick and Jackie on their initiative. On the following night (Monday), Dick and Jackie accompanied by Jack Cunningham (local Coy. O.C.) met Owen Harold, by arrangement, who brought them to Tadg Looney's home at Burnfort. They met Liam Lynch there, together with all the others Dick had met the previous day. After a full discussion Liam Lynch made the decision to go ahead with the Mallow job the following morning. Rough plans for the project were then discussed, and in the course of the discussion Seán Moylan requested that he, on account of his knowledge of the trade, would accompany Dick and Jackie into barracks the following morning as the supposed Clerk of Works. Liam had other plans for Seán and turned down the request.

On the following morning, Dick and Jackie went into barracks in the normal course as tradesmen. Both, however, were armed with revolvers. Dick left the Barracks shortly after, supposedly to go to the station to collect the supposed Clerk of Works (Paddy McCarthy) who returned and entered barracks with him. Some days beforehand the Garrison O.C. (Lieut. McGrady) had mentioned about the poor water pressure and Dick Willis told him he would mention it to the local Town Clerk (Mr. Wrixon) and also to their Clerk of Works. In the

meantime they had in mind that Ernie O'Malley could be brought in as the Water Inspector.

When Paddy and Dick entered the Barracks, Paddy took out his notebook and started looking at some apparent repairs near the barrack gate and from there they went into the Guardroom where there happened to be seven soldiers instead of the usual three. It was not known at the time whether all of them were armed. Naturally the Guardroom was full of arms. Paddy then commenced to take some measurements in the Guardroom as we were marking time until O'Malley's arrival at the barrack gate. Very shortly after O'Malley arrived and Dick noticed he was having a tussle with the sentry and had a grip of the latter's rifle. Dick and Paddy then made the remainder of the guard put up their hands, and in a room adjoining the Guardroom where there were about twelve soldiers Jackie made them put up their hands. In the meantime Lynch and other members of the Column came in through the main gate and about this time the senior N.C.O. in the barracks (Sgt. Gibbs), noticing the commotion, ran towards the Guardroom. He was called on to halt but did not do so: then a shot was fired over his head and he still kept running - by this time he had arrived at the Guardroom door, and, as we feared a reaction of the members of the Guard, there was nothing for it but to shoot him and Dick Willis fired and fatally wounded him: he died some hours later. Everything then was under control and the Column rounded up all the troops and placed them under guard. A search was then carried out and a total of 2 Hotchkiss guns, about 30 rifles and a large quantity of ammunition, together with a Smith and Wesson

revolver which Dick had taken from Sergt. Gibbs, were captured. Three motor cars which had been arranged beforehand then entered barracks driven by Leo Callaghan and Jack Healy and Patrick Healy of Kilcorney. They took all the stuff away with the exception of the revolver and a rifle each, which Dick and Jackie took with them. The prisoners were lined up and put into cells and bales of hay were procured and saturated with petrol. These bales were put into the barrack buildings and set alight, but after our departure the soldiers got free and put out the fires before much serious damage was done.

Needless to remark Dick and Jackie could not remain as Barrack tradesmen after their part in the affray, therefore that morning they accompanied the Column up to North Brack Burnfort. The strength of the Column was approximately 22. Liam Lynch was in charge and Paddy O'Brien and Patk. Healy were Section Leaders. Dan Shinnick was Adjutant and Paddy McCarthy Q.M.

We remained in Burnfort area for a short period and from there we moved with the Column to Freemount district. Here we received a number of lectures from Ernie O'Malley on various military matters, including Safety Precautions, First Aid and penetrative powers of the bullet. O'Malley got a Manual on the Hotchkiss Gun hurriedly from Dublin and this was passed on to Dick and Jackie who eventually became experts on the use of the guns and used those guns in later actions to very good effect.

Some time later the Column moved towards Dromcollogher for a proposed attack on the Tans garrisoned there, but this attack was called off for some reason - we think the West



Limerick lads were not ready to go ahead at this particular time.

During October, 1920, we were with the Column when an enemy supply lorry was ambushed at a place called Ballydrocane, about a mile from Kanturk. This lorry used to travel almost every day between Kanturk and Newmarket. We had taken up positions behind the hedges when the lorry was signalled. On the lorry entering the ambush position a large volley of fire was concentrated on it and the driver was killed instantly. The lorry then collided with an old milk-cart which was also in the position. A few soldiers returned our fire and then shouted they wished to surrender, and when a few of our lads jumped out on the road to take the surrender they were fired on by a few soldiers who had taken cover underneath the lorry. This fire was immediately silenced and they all surrendered. We captured whatever arms and equipment they had and allowed them to go free. The lorry was not burned as the dead body of the driver was in it.

In October or November the Column was in the vicinity of Millstreet near Keamcarriga, as it was the intention to carry out an ambush in that area. While we were there the local O.C. (Con (Sonny) Meany) made a request to Liam Lynch to assist in the capture of some bank robbers who had carried off some thousands of pounds a short time previously by holding up some members of the Bank Staff going from Millstreet to a Fair at Knocknagree. Some of the gang had been captured, but the leader - Red Hugh O'Brien - had escaped arrest. We surrounded his house the following morning at daybreak, remaining a few

hundred yards from the house. We were not long in position when this boyo came out of the house - he did not see us. When called on to halt he ran back towards the house and a few shots were fired over his head. The Column then moved in towards the house and located O'Brien who was in hiding. Nearly all the stolen money was recovered and, as far as we recollect, O'Brien was deported.

In November, 1920, part of the Column, including Dick and Jackie, moved into Millstreet vicinity with the intention of staging an attack on a Tan patrol in the town. Paddy McCarthy was in charge. Dick Willis and Patk. Carey had the Hotchkiss in position at the end of the town. Paddy McCarthy and a few of the others moved into the town and a short time later a number of shots were heard and it was only later learned that Paddy McCarthy - one of Ireland's best and bravest fighting soldiers - had been shot dead. When the shooting started Dick and Patk. Carey gave a few blasts of fire from the Hotchkiss, but do not know with what result. Every night for the next week we moved into the town but the Tans made themselves conspicuous by their absence and confined themselves severely to the barracks. On the last night we went in we brought the Hotchkiss into a dressmaker's shop facing the barracks and fired a series of volleys into the barrack windows and door. They made no effort to come out.

In later November we went with the Brigade Column to Blackstone Bridge between Watergrasshill and Rathcormac, and, although we waited in an ambush position for about three days, there was no enemy movement.

Before returning to the 4th Brigade area (North Cork) we fired on the R.I.C. Barracks at Rathcormac and we deliberately left the telephone wire intact, with the hope that the military would rush out from Fermoy and we had suitable positions taken up to meet them. We waited for some hours but they failed to appear. The Column then returned to North Cork and when around Con Meany's place at Gurraneduff it was decided to disband the Brigade Column and in its place each Battalion was to form its own active service unit.

Dick Willis, Jackie Bolster, Leo Callaghan, Jim Neill and Jerh. Donovan then joined the Glanworth Battalion which was in charge of Tom Barry of Glanworth. This would be about mid-December, 1920, and on December 17th we went to Galbally where we met Seán Forde and Donnacadh O'Hannigan who was then in command of the East Limerick Column. We moved to Donovans of Knockadea where we found some of the lads airing near the fire a number of home-made bombs which we felt was a rather risky procedure.

On the 19th December, 1920, information had been received that a convoy was supposed to move from Limerick to Cork via Kilfinane and Mitchelstown. We were there in the morning when the convoy passed - two lorries and a touring car - and it was noticed that the lorries contained a number of I.R.A. prisoners who were bound back to back. We selected positions to meet this convoy on the return journey, and the day sticks out in our memory because it was so bitterly cold, and, were it not for some teas kindly provided by some of the local Cuman na mBan, we would have been frozen stiff. Late that afternoon

the convoy returned and the touring car ran into a barricade which had been erected at a road bend. We fired a volley into the second lorry when it came into position and it stopped at once. A fairly prolonged exchange of fire then ensued and we can recollect that our Hotchkiss came in for special attention as seemingly most of the enemy fire was directed towards our position. During a short lull in the firing Dick Willis had a quick look out and saw the muzzles of four rifles lying along an earthen ditch. Knowing the penetrative powers of the bullet he fired a volley about a foot or so below the level of the ditch and this produced very good results because no further fire came from this quarter. The enemy surrendered a short time later and arms, grenades and equipment were captured. We do not know the exact details. The lorries and saloon were burned and the wounded soldiers were placed in nearby farmhouses. We think one of the reasons for this was that when military reinforcements arrived they could not very well burn down those houses where their own troops were being succoured.

The Column was then temporarily disbanded and on Christmas Eve, 1920, Dick Willis, Jackie Bolster and Jack Cunningham headed for Mallow. The night was exceptionally wet and they took shelter for the best part of the night in a graveyard at Killeens. They got drenched and on arrival at Mallow at dawn on Christmas morning every stitch on them was sodden wet.

Early in the New Year (1921) Dick and Jackie reported back to Glanworth where they collected the Hotchkiss and, on the instructions of O.C. Cork No. 2 Brigade, they reported for

duty to Con Leddy, O.C. 1st Battalion (Fermoy), Cork No. 2 Brigade. They were attached for duty with the 1st Battalion, A.S.U. under Jack O'Mahony.

On the 3rd March, 1921, they proceeded with this Column to the vicinity of Mocollop on the Fermoy-Ballyduff road where they took up an ambush position to attack a patrol of R.I.C. and Tans, which was known to operate in this locality. The patrol of about 8 or 10 made its appearance in due course and when they arrived at the selected position we opened fire killing one of them and wounding a few others. We do not remember what arms, if any, were captured, because just as the action was in progress an aeroplane from Fermoy arrived and hovered low overhead and we received the order from the Column Leader to withdraw. The Column then withdrew towards the Mountain Barracks in the Kilworth Mountain and, during our retreat for four or five miles, the aeroplane followed us up and we only lost it on getting into a wooded area on the mountain.

We should have mentioned that shortly before the above action we took up a position also with the 1st Battalion Column in February at Caem, Glenville district, and remained in the district there for about four days. We were awaiting an enemy convoy and some important General (name not known) was supposed to be travelling with this convoy, and all the Columns of the surrounding battalions in as far as Cork City were said to be waiting in readiness for this same convoy. We had taken up our positions every day, and on the fourth day an aeroplane flew very low over our position on a few occasions. One of

the members of our Column was an ex-Naval man and he reported to the Column Leader that from his experience he was sure the aeroplane had us spotted, and as the Column Leader did not want to be caught in a trap, owing to the proximity of Fermoy and other garrisons, we withdrew from the position. This was bad luck for us for we had not gone very long when the convoy passed. We have a recollection that this convoy was hit up by some of the other Units.

In April, 1921, Dick and Jackie, assisted by other members of the Column, made four mines at Paddy Egan's of Desart near Castlelyons. These mines were made of 6-inch piping, with bolt through centre securing a steel plate at each end, and containing 7 or 8 lbs. gelignite, each with the detonator and fuze attached. Our first attempt on the use of these mines was made on Rathcormac bridge. We dug in towards the keystone and fixed the mine in position. Dick then lit the fuze and a huge explosion followed, debris being thrown for almost a hundred yards. The explosion caused a huge breach in the arch and an hour's work with picks and shovels to complete the job made the bridge impassable. The bridges at Aghern and Conna were blown up later with equally good results.

About this period the Column advised, supervised and helped all Companies in the battalion in the blocking of roads by trenches and tree blocks and also the destruction of rail communications.

In May, 1921, we fired several volleys at the troops in Fermoy as a reprisal for the Drumhead Courtmartial and execution of Dan O'Brien (brother of Paddy O'Brien, O.C., Cork

No. 4 Brigade). We also carried out heavy sniping on Moore Park and Kilworth Camps.

About June, 1921, we decided to carry out a fairly big bombardment of the enemy garrison at the Aerodrome, Fermoy, for the enemy planes had been very active during the Spring and Summer months, and we were anxious to give them a shake up and inflict as much damage as possible on the machines or personnel. On the same night we had arranged for attacks on Moore Park and Kilworth, and other members of the Column were detailed with some of the locals for these jobs.

Dick Willis, Jackie Bolster, Con Leddy and Jackie Sullivan, together with some of the Fermoy Company, made their way to the rear of the Aerodrome until they were almost up against the boundary barbed wire fence. In the Camp there was a large tower erected in which a searchlight was located and a man to operate it; therefore, they had to proceed very cautiously to their position. On arrival at the selected place they opened fire with the Hotchkiss first on the hangars to damage the aeroplanes, and then on the Searchlight tower. This fire was maintained for 10 or 15 minutes and before withdrawing we gave a general spray of fire on all the wooden huts in the Camp. On our withdrawal we had only got about one hundred yards to one hundred and fifty yards from the Camp, when the searchlight caught us in its beams. We then fired a few volleys in the general direction of the tower and luckily we stopped the light momentarily enabling us to get under cover and make a safe getaway.

Some days after this when the Column was resting about

four or five miles from Clonmult, we received word of the Clonmult ambush where a number of our lads were surrounded and done to death by the enemy. When we received word of this attack we immediately headed for Clonmult and en route we met some persons who apparently had a wrong slant on the whole affair, because they gave us the impression that most of our lads got clear, which information turned out later to be incorrect. However, as a result of this information we did not proceed to Clonmult as intended. 'Tis doubtful, anyway, if we could have given effective help, unless to attack any rear elements of the enemy, because the damage had been done long before we heard a word about it.

In early June we were with the 1st Battalion Column in the vicinity of Tallow when we came unexpectedly on about a half dozen Tans having a swim in the river. We fired a few volleys at them and they ran for their lives along the opposite bank leaving their clothes behind them.

In mid June we were also in Tallow district for the purpose of attacking a Tan patrol in the town of Tallow. It was the custom of this patrol to stick to real military security measures and they were always well extended both abreast and from front and rear. Their movements had been noted for some days beforehand and we had selected our positions from where we expected to get the best results. A number of our riflemen had got into some houses from the rear and we took up position with the Hotchkiss on Gallows' Hill which dominated the Main Street of the town. When the patrol showed up and arrived at the point where we were to open fire, we opened up first with the Hotchkiss which was the signal for the riflemen to fire.



Immediately after the first few blasts, the Tans ran helter-skelter for the nearest cover and the action only lasted for a few minutes. One Tan was killed outright and two or three wounded.

Some days after the above incident, Jackie Bolster, Bronco Buckley, Tim Ring and Mick Keane went to Rathcormac to shoot up R.I.C. and Tans as it was the practice of a number of them to sit outside in front of the barracks during the Summer afternoons. The lads made their way carefully across country until they got into position in the ditch facing the barracks and only across the road from it. When they had a look out they saw none of the enemy sitting out. After waiting for some time they saw a Tan making for the door of the barracks and they opened fire immediately, but when the Tan had reached the door he was pulled into safety. They continued to fire on the barracks for 5 or 10 minutes and then moved off. They had only gone a few miles when several lorries of military from Fermoy were hot in pursuit and, had the Officer i/c of the military split his force into even two parties, the lads would have been caught in a proper trap, but, as it happened, all the lorries were kept together, which enabled the lads to get clear. At one stage the convoy was less than a hundred yards from them.

About the end of June, Dick and Jackie were located in a dug-out at Ballyard. The O.C. of Cork No. 2 (Geo. Power) came along to the dug-out one evening, and told them that a lad of whom they were suspicious - named Willie Ginn of Castlelyons - a Protestant, had seen him (Geo. Power) entering a house that

day. George asked Dick that in the event of this house being raided, would he be prepared to shoot Ginn. Dick said he would and Jackie agreed also. This house was raided that same night, and on the following day Dick got the usual type-written notice prepared "Spies Beware". Dick and Jackie went to Castlelyons that night to do the job and had a scout working with them. They met a few women and got talking and Jackie made an appointment with one of them for the following night and by a strange coincidence this lassie turned out to be a sister of Ginn whom they were to shoot. They failed to locate Ginn that night and on the following night they went on the same errand. Ginn was seen on the road walking and talking to an old man. Just as Dick and Jackie were making for him the scout came to them and told them that the Brigade O.C. had issued later instructions that Ginn was not to be shot, but instead to bring him back alive. They arrested Ginn and warned the old man who was with him of the direst penalties if he mentioned a word of the arrest to anyone. He swore on oath of secrecy. Dick and Jackie then brought Ginn along to Egan's of Desart where he was tried later by George Power. He had a very narrow escape from death because he partly admitted giving information of I.R.A. movements to the R.I.C. and Tans, but he claimed without any evil intent and denied being a paid spy. George gave him the benefit of the doubt, mostly on account of his youth, and ordered his deportation. He cleared off to England the following day.

During July our main efforts were confined to the destruction of the railway lines in Fermoy and Glanworth areas. We tore up and removed big quantities of the rails. We also

burned every wooden railway bridge in the area.

RANKS HELD.

Shortly following the Truce the Divisional O.C. appointed Dick and Jackie as Training Officers to Cork No. 2 and Cork No. 4 Brigades for Machine Gun, Small Arms and Mines training.

APPENDICES.

The following appendices are attached :-

- Appendix I. Summary of Evidence, procured by Dick Willis some years ago, relating to the trial of a number of I.R.A. for the capture of Mallow Barracks. Names of the witnesses are not given.
- Appendix II. Extract from An t-Oglač, April 15th, 1921, Vol. III, No. 4, dealing with the Millstreet ambush.
- Appendix III. Letter dated 9/11/1920 dealing with "Woman Spies", bearing the initials of Liam Lynch.
- Appendix IV. Letter dated 28/8/1921 from M. O'Connell, Q.M. Cork No. 4 Brigade, to Dick Willis.
- Appendix V. Letter dated 13/9/1921 from O.C. Cork No. 2 Brigade, to Dick Willis, bearing the initials of George Power.
- Appendix VI. Composite photograph showing the arrest of the late Tom Kent at Bawnard House, Castle-

Appendix VI.  
(Contd.)

lyons, in 1916.

Appendix VII.

Two snapshots showing road blocks near Roskeen Bridge near Lombardstown on the Killarney road.

Appendix VIII.

Nominal roll of A.S.U., 5th Battalion, Cork IV Brigade.

SIGNED: Richard Willis  
(Richard Willis)

SIGNED: John Bolster  
(John Bolster)

WITNESSED: C Saurin LT.-COLONEL.  
(C Saurin)

DATE: 21st February 1953

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

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE IN THE CASE OF

OWEN HAROLD, of 49 Main Street, Mallow.

JOHN MURPHY, of Fair Street, Mallow.

DAVID BUCKLEY, of Mourneabbey, Mallow.

DENIS BARTER, of Mourneabbey, Mallow.

DANIEL McCARTHY, of Lackineen, Mourneabbey, Mallow.

TIMOTHY BREEN, of Brittas, Lombardstown, Mallow.

Taken by the direction of the competent Military Authority.

1st Witness: -----

On the 28th September, 1920, I was in command of a detachment of my Regiment and stationed at Mallow Military Barracks. The strength of the detachment was 30 all ranks. About 31 rifles and 7 revolvers were with the detachment. We also had lances, swords and two Hotchkiss Guns. At 8.30 on that date I went out with horses to exercise between 3 and four miles from Barracks. I left about fifteen men in Barracks under my senior N.C.O. - Sgt. Gibbs. My party took, I think, two rifles and four revolvefs in addition to my own revolver. About 10 a.m. just as my party were coming home Private \_\_\_\_\_ galloped up and made a report to me. He was one of the men I left in Barracks. In consequence of that report we trotted back to Barracks, I think about 10.15 a.m. I saw Sergt. Gibbs in the Barracks Warden's house. He was dead. I also saw the woodwork of the passage at the guardroom was slightly burned. I also found a number of arms and equipment missing.

About the end of October, 1920, I was in charge of a party of my Regiment working in conjunction with the Manchester Regiment in the Mourneabbey district. Our job was to search houses. I divided my party into two, placing Sergt. \_\_\_\_\_ in charge

one half. I searched a number of houses and eventually rejoined Sergt. \_\_\_\_\_. He was at a house about 20 yards from the road. He showed me three rifles in a box. The butts had been unscrewed from the barrels. There was also a lot of rifle ammunition in the box. He also showed me two Green Jackets of Officers Pattern, but no khaki and not the same as I wear. The three rifles showed me do not belong to my regiment as all our rifles have "17.L" on the brass butt plate. I then went into the house with the Sergt. I think he was with me, I searched the whole house and found a lot of envelopes and papers addressed to "Denis Barter". A lot of papers bore the same name as Secretary I think of some Labour Union for Mourneabbey district. I left some of these papers in the house and brought two or three away with me, which I later destroyed. After searching the house I went on to the road. I saw about seven civilians in my lorry who had been handed over by the Manchester Regiment. I then spoke to the accused, Denis Barter, who was among them and whom I now identify. I am not sure if I asked him his name or if I said "Are you Denis Barter?" He said he was Denis Barter. About half an hour afterwards I took these eight men into Mallow and then on to Buttevant. I remember being present at five identification parades - four at Buttevant and one in Cork. Three of those in Buttevant were held in the Gymnasium and the fourth in the open beside the Orderly Room. No one was picked out of the latter parade. In the case of the three held in the Gymnasium not less than 15 civilians were placed in line on each occasion. I saw civilians being picked out by men of my Mallow detachment on each occasion. My men were marched into the Gymnasium one at a time. Those who recognised any of the civilians were placed in a corner, and those who failed to recognise any of them were placed in another corner of the

Gymnasium. In the case of the first parade the men who failed to recognise anyone were immediately sent out of the Gymnasium. Sergt. \_\_\_\_\_, 17th Lancers, was present at all these parades at Buttevant and took a note of the names of the men who identified the civilians and the names of those civilians identified.

Signed .....

Cross-examined by the accused Barter:- Q. What did you find in my house ? A. I found in Denis Barter's house papers dealing with a Union.

Signed .....

All the other accused decline to cross-examine.

1st Witness recalled states:-

I arrested the accused Breen whom I now identify, in the first week of November, 1920, at his own house in the Lombardstown District, a few miles from Mallow. He was arrested about 3 o'clock in the morning and I took him to Buttevant.

Signed .....

All the accused decline to cross-examine.

2nd Witness duly sworn states:

On September 28th, 1920, I was stationed at Mallow Barracks. I was out on exercise on that morning with Lt. .... some distance from Barracks leaving about 8.30 a.m. We returned to Barracks about 11 a.m. I saw that the inside of a Barrack Room had been set on fire, this room was across the passage from the Guardroom. The staircase beside the Guardroom had also been damaged by fire. They were only slightly burned. I saw Sergt.

Gibbs in the Barrack Warden's house. He was then dead. There were 31 rifles in the Barracks when I went out to exercise, there were only six rifles in Barracks on my return about 11 a.m. The remainder were missing. I also saw that the door of the magazine had been forced open. I made a list of all the arms in the Barracks and handed it to Lt. ....

On the 27th October, 1920, I was out with a patrol under Lt. .... in the Mourneabbey district. We split into two parties and I was in charge of one. Our job was to search houses for arms, etc. I went to one house quite close to the road, and searched the outhouses. These were built on to the main building of the house. I first found three I.R.A. Uniform Jackets and one green I.R.A. uniform Cap. In another outhouse on the opposite side of the house I found a wooden box containing three Rifles and a large number of rounds of A.A. - some loose and some in a small bag inside the box. The three rifles were broken up, that is the butts were separated from the barrels to fit the box. I took the box with contents and the Uniform on to the road. Lt. .... then came along and I showed him what I found. I then went with Lt. .... to the main door of the house which some of our men burst open. I went in with Lt. .... and assisting in searching it. There was no civilian in the house. I found some blue cards referring to some Trade Union. At the foot of the cards were the signature "D. Barter" or "Denis Barter" as Secretary. Some were signed "D. Barter" and some "Denis Barter". These I found on the ground floor. Lt. .... went upstairs. I don't know what happened to these cards, I haven't any of them now. We then left the house and saw a lorry on the road with three civilians in it in custody of some of my men. Lt. .... went behind and said "Where can I find



Denis Barter ?". There was no answer. I then jumped on the lorry and faced the civilians and asked who Denis Barter was. The accused Barter, who was one of the three and whom I now identify then said "I'm Denis Barter". I said this is your house and he said it was. I asked him where the arms I had found came from and where the other arms were he said he didn't know anything about them. We then returned to Buttevant where I was then stationed. I produce the box containing the three rifles and ammunition and the articles of Uniform which I found.

3rd Witness .....duly sworn states:-

On the 28th September, 1920, I was sentry at the Main Gate of Mallow Military Barracks, having been posted at 9 a.m. Shortly after I went on sentry I saw the three painters, who had been working in the Barracks previous to this date. Their names were Willis, Bolster and another. They were standing at the first entrance of the Barrack buildings and on the right as you enter the Barracks, The painter whose name I do not know was making notes on a book and seemed to be taking measurements. I saw this man glancing at me now and again. About 9.30 a.m. there was a knock at the small door beside the Main Gates, the Main Gate was then closed. I opened the loophole in the door and saw one civilian outside. He showed me an envelope addressed to Mr. .... the Barrack Warden. I then opened the door about six inches to take the envelope. The civilian would not give it to me and said he wanted to see Mr. ....himself. I then tried to close the door but found a foot wedged in it. I then half turned and beconed to Mr. .... who was standing with Sergt. Gibbs in the centre of the Barracks Square about 24 yards from me. They then began to walk towards me, but before they

reached me the door was forced open and two civilians rushed in. The man who had showed me the envelope then got hold of me round the neck with both arms. He then dragged me on to the edge of the door. The second man then took my rifle from me. I then struggled and freed myself by pushing the man who had seized me out of the gate. At the same time another man - I don't know if it was the man who took my rifle - fired three shots from a revolver. He was standing facing me on the threshold of the gate. He was facing the Barrack Buildings. The shots seem to pass over my head. I now identify the accused Murphy as the man who brought the envelope to the door and dragged me to the Main Door. He didn't fire the three shots. Before these shots were fired I saw Sergt. Gibbs running towards the Guardroom. He was not carrying Arms. He was about 14 yards from me when he started to run. I saw Sergt. Gibbs fall on the step at the entrance to the Guardroom passage a few seconds after the last of the shots were fired. Up to the time I saw Sergt. Gibbs fall, five shots had been fired. Three were fired as I have already described, the other two were fired by the painter whose name I don't know, who was still standing at the entrance next the Guardroom. They were fired in the direction of the forge. As soon as I had freed myself I ran to the Guardroom. I there saw the three painters. One (Bolster) was at the Guardroom door, one right inside the Guardroom and one (Willis) in the passage. Willis and Bolster had a revolver each and the third man had two. The N.C.O. and other men of the Guard Lance Corporal - - - - - and Ptes. - - - - - were standing in the Guardroom with their hands up. We were then marched out on the Square where we were lined up without hands up. The Main Gate was then open and I saw a lot more civilians. There would be about thirty altogether inside the Barracks. I saw some of

them enter the Barracks over the wall beside the Magazine. Most of these were armed - about ten with rifles and others with revolvers. Whilst I was on the Square I saw civilians taking swords, belts, bandoliers, waterbottles and Mess Tins, outside the Barrack. About six were holding us up. I saw some civilians taking hay into the Guardroom passage and other civilians carrying buckets into the Guardroom passage. We were standing in the Square about a quarter of an hour. We were then marched into a cell. We remained there until Pte. ----- came and opened the door. I went out then and found all the civilians had left the Barracks. The two shots fired by the painter standing at the entrance next the Guardroom were fired after Sergt. Gibbs fell. Altogether I heard eight shots fired in Barracks that morning. I did not fire my own rifle that morning and did not see any of the other soldiers use theirs. I next saw the accused Murphy at Buttevant in October. He was standing in a line with about 15 others in the Gymnasium there. I then picked out Murphy and was put in a corner of the Gymnasium. Ptes. ----- and ----- were in the corner when I went there. Lt. ----- was present in the Gymnasium at that time.

Signed .....

All the accused decline to crossexamine this witness.

4th Witness duly sworn states:-

On the 28th September, 1920, I was N.C.O. in charge of the Guard at Mallow Military Barracks. About 9.20 a.m. I saw two painters Willis and another standing together in Barracks. I had known Willis working in Barracks before. The one whose name I

do not know APPEARED to be taking measurements at the entrance next to the Guardroom, the first entrance on the right on entering the Main Gate. The building where he was, was not occupied. At that time I also saw Sergt. Gibbs standing on the Barracks Square with Mr.----- . They were standing half right, looking from the Guardroom entrance, and about 15 or 20 yards away. About 9.30 a.m. I was in the Guardroom with Ptes.----- and ----- who with myself and Pte.----- comprised the Guard. I suddenly heard several shots fired in rapid succession. They sounded very close. I heard a bit of scuffling of feet, and glanced through the window but saw nothing unusual. I saw a man in khaki stumble and fall in the passage at the Guardroom door. I did not then know who it was. At the same moment as this man was falling, Willis and the other whom I had seen jump over the man who was on the ground and entered the Guardroom. I made for my rifles and the man with Willis fired two shots at me. He then rushed behind me and covered me with his revolver while Willis remained at the doorway. He first shouted "Hands up" and then "Put them down". I put up my hands. I was then marched out on to the Square and held up there. Several other soldiers were already lined up there, and eventually there were 11 or 12 of us. On my way from the Guardroom to the Square I heard the man in khaki on the ground moaning. I then saw more civilians in the Barracks, chiefly armed with revolvers, some had rifles. One civilian on the Square was standing with a Watch and an Automatic in his hand, and giving orders to the other civilians. He was addressed as Brigade Commander. While standing on the Square I saw civilians carrying arms and ammunition out of Guardroom to the Main Gate where a motor car was drawn up. They placed arms

in this, others were carrying haversacks and other equipment, swords, lances and sword belts. I also saw hay being carried to the living room immediately opposite the Guardroom door. I also saw petrol being carried into Barracks from the street and also from the Magazine. I now identify the accused McCarthy. He was carrying a bucket into Barracks from the Main Gate. He had it on his shoulder. I heard the man who was addressed as Brigade Commander say to him "Hurry up with the petrol". The accused McCarthy split some of it. I then saw smoke issuing from the windows of the room where the hay had been put. Just before this some one asked us if anyone knew first aid. ----- went over to the man who was lying on the ground. I then saw this man being brought out of the passage by ----- and Pte. ----- . I then recognised the man as being Sergt, Gibbs. I now identify the accused Owen Harold. I saw him carrying swords, sword belts and various articles of clothing and a pair of boots all on his left arm. He was carrying a revolver in his right hand. He carried the above articles out the barrack gate. The Brigade Commander then ordered us to be taken up against a wall. We were then moved off the Square into a cell. We remained there from 5 to 10 minutes, 3 civilians meantime remained outside with revolvers in their hands. Then Pte.----- came to the cell. On going out I found that all the civilians had left and the room opposite the Guardroom was still on fire. I went inside and found that parts of the woodwork had just caught alight. The staircase was similarly damaged. We put out the fire. No shots were fired by any of the Guard that morning and I can't as to the sentry on duty. To my knowledge no shots were fired by any of the troops in Barracks. On the morning of the 28/9/'20 the following were in the Guardroom: about 27 rifles, 2 Hotchkiss

Guns, Ammunition for three, 3 boxes S.A.A. 1 Box Vary Lights, 1 vary light pistol, 1 revolver with belt, holster and about 12 rounds belonging to Sergt. Gibbs, also 10 bayonets. When I returned to the Guardroom after the civilians had left, I found all these had been removed with the exception of one Bayonet. I recognise Rifle now shown to me - NO. I.47688, Pte. No.171/481. This Rifle was in the Guardroom on the morning of the 28/9/20 and was amongst those stolen. It was not in use as it had a defect which still exists:- a dip in the barrel towards the muzzle. This rifle had previously been in the possession of Pte. ----- Rifle No. N.43145, Plate No. 171/546, now shown to me, is a 'C' Squadron rifle. I know this by the sequence of numbers. Everyone at Mallow Military Barracks on the 28/9/20 belonged to 'C' Squadron. I next saw the accused McCarthy and Harold at an identification parade in the Gymnasium at Buttevant in October last. From 15 to 20 civilians were lined up and I picked these men out. I am sure these two accused were the civilians whom I saw on the 28/9/'20. Lt.----- was present at that parade.

Crossexamined by the accused Harold:- I am positive that the accused Harold was carrying sword belts, boots, swords, khaki clothing and a haversack.

All the other accused decline to crossexamine this witness.

Signed-----

5th Witness duly sworn states:-

On the 28th September, 1920, at Mallow Military Barracks I was one of the guard. At 9.30 a.m. I was in the Guardroom with

L/Cpl. and Pte.-----, I was sitting reading a book at the corner of the table furthest from the door. The table was up against the window. I suddenly heard shouting outside. I looked outside, saw nothing unusual and continued reading. In less than a minute I heard about six shots from the direction of the Main Barrack Gate. I got up from the table and then saw the two Painters ---- one named Willis and the other I had not seen before, at the Guardroom door. They shouted "Hands Up" and then "Put them down", at the same time pointing revolvers. Each was carrying a revolver. The man whose name I do not know rushed into the Guardroom. Just before he did this I heard two or three shots being fired into the Guardroom. I did not see either of those two civilians fire theirs. When the man rushed into the Guardroom we were all standing with our hands up. We were then fallen in and L/Cpl.----- and Pte.----- were marched out of the Guardroom. As soon as I got out of the Guardroom behind them I turned to the right and ran to the back of the buildings and the upstairs. I there found Cpl.----- and 3 or 4 other soldiers. I looked for a rifle but did not find one. I assisted Cpl..... to hide ammunition under the beds. Cpl.-----threw a bottle out of the window. Then I heard someone outside say "Cover the window" and three pointed revolvers at the window. One of them said "He's a Corporal." "Keep your eye on him". Next 3 or 4 civilians came up the stairs. We were held up and marched downstairs and out to the square where I saw other soldiers standing with their hands up. Of the civilians who marched us downstairs, I only noticed one who was armed, he had a revolver. As I was being marched on to the Square I saw the accused Murphy whom I now identify. When I was standing on the Square I again saw him passing the Cookhouse. He was carrying a revolver and an armful

of equipment, 3 haversacks, 2 or 3 forage caps and sword belts. I don't know how many. He was wearing a dirty grey cap, trench coat, check breeches, black boots and leggings. While on the Square I saw the accused Buckley whom I now identify. I saw a crowd of civilians come in the Main Gate and when they passed me I saw the accused Buckley. The crowd took fire buckets from the wall beside the Cookhouse and went to the Magazine. On the way some of them took an iron post from the ground and battered in the magazine door and went in. I next saw the accused Buckley pass me with a fire bucket full of liquid going towards the Guardroom. He went into the Guardroom passage. I saw the accused Breen whom I now identify. I saw him come up to a civilian who was on the Square and hand him a note. I did not see him carrying anything in the way of arms. I cannot say whether he was armed or not. After handing the note the accused Breen went out of the Main Gate to the middle of the road, looked back to the man to whom he had handed the note and nodded. After three minutes I was marched to a cell in the Barracks with the other soldiers. Just before this I saw bales of hay being carried into the Guardroom passage. We were kept in the cell about 15 minutes. Shortly after I went to the Guardroom and saw that all the arms, except one bayonet, had been stolen. There were 26 rifles there before the civilians entered the Barracks. I did not see these rifles being removed. Just before I heard the first shot I saw Sergt. Gibbs with the Barrack Warden. They had been fixing a hosepipe to a trough and when I saw them they were first going on to the path beside the Barrack buildings and about 8 yards from the Guardroom. The next time I saw him he was just lying outside the Guardroom passage being bandaged up by----- I saw about fifty civilians in the Barracks that morning. About one-third were armed - some with rifles, some with revolvers and



some with both. I next saw the accused Murphy at an identification parade in the Gymnasium at Buttevant. About 15 civilians were lined up and I saw the accused Murphy standing about the middle of the line. This would be about the end of October. After picking him out I was made to stand in a corner of the Gymnasium and saw other soldiers being brought in one at a time. I saw the accused Buckley at another parade a few days later. He was similarly lined up and I picked him out. He was standing about fourth from the end of the line. A few days after this I saw the accused Breen at Lombardstown about 2 o'clock in the morning. I was placed outside a house as sentry and saw him brought out by others of my Regiment. He was then taken to Buttevant. This would be about the 19th of October, about a week after my Regiment left Buttevant. I then saw him at an identification parade at Buttevant a few days later. He was lined up with 20 other civilians in the Gymnasium and I then picked him out. I am sure I saw him at Mallow Barracks on the 28/9/'20. Lt.----- was present at all these parades.

Signed.-----

All the accused decline to cross-examine this Witness.

6th Witness -----duly sworn states:-

On the 28th September, 1920, I was working in the Forge at Mallow Military Barracks, about 9.30 a.m. I heard a scuffle at the gate about six yards from the forge. I rushed out of the forge and saw a number of civilians rushing into the Barracks. Just at this time I heard 13 or 14 shots. I made off in the direction of the Guardroom when two civilians who were standing at the building next to the Guardroom and nearer to the Gate, fired

their revolvers at me. Their names were Willis and Bolster - a painter and carpenter, who had been previously working in the Barracks. As I came out of the forge I saw Sergt. Gibbs running in the direction of the Guardroom. I had seen him first talking to Mr.----- . Sergt. Gibbs was not armed. While he was running in the direction of the Guardroom I saw him shake or flick his right arm by his side. I had gone about 10 yards towards the Guardroom when I was held up by 4 or 5 civilians armed with revolvers. They took me back to the forge. I was kept there about 3 minutes. While there I saw a civilian come through the small door. I now identify the accused Murphy as that man. He was carrying a revolver. I was then brought out of the forge and told to put my hands up and taken out to the Barrack Square. While there a civilian shouted out "Can anybody here do first aid" and I said I could. I was then taken over to the Guardroom where I saw a man dressed in khaki lying in the passage in front of the Guardroom door. I found it was Sergt. Gibbs. The civilian who brought me to him gave me bandages. I saw Sergt. Gibbs was wounded in the wrist and bandaged his wound up. Then he turned over on his back and said "What a thing death is ?" I then undid his clothing and found a wound in each nipple, which I bandaged up. Sergt. Gibbs never said anything else to me. While bandaging Sergt. Gibbs I saw civilians taking rifles out of the Guardroom. A few minutes later Pte.----- came downstairs and gave me a hand at the bandaging. Then one civilian told me to move the Sergt. outside as they were going to destroy the Barracks. I looked up and saw the accused Buckley standing with others at the entrance to the Guardroom passage. I didn't see any arms with him. I then brought Sergt. Gibbs out of the passage and laid him in front of the Guardroom window. While

assisting there I saw the accused Buckley get a fire bucket which was standing against the wall of the Sergeants' Mess. I saw him take it towards the Magazine. Just at this time I was told by civilians to take Sergt. Gibbs away from the Barracks. Pte.----- and I then carried him over and laid him down at the side of the garden and directly opposite the Guardroom passage. While standing there I could see right down the passage. I then saw the accused Buckley rest a bucket on the ground while on the way from the Magazine to the Guardroom. He stayed there a few seconds and then carried it towards the Guardroom. He entered the Guardroom passage. I also saw other civilians carrying hay to the Barracks rooms and saw the accused Buckley still carrying the Buckets coming from the Guardroom passage, the bucket was empty. He had previously passed me carrying a full bucket. He made his way again to the Magazine. There were no water taps or water in the Magazine. I saw Buckley empty the bucket on the hay which was in the Guardroom passage. He then returned to the Magazine and again emptied the contents of the bucket on the hay. He passed me three times. There were several other civilians doing the same but I noticed him particularly. While at the side of the garden I also saw the accused Murphy carrying haversacks, water bottles, mess tins and bandoliers out of the Main Gate. He had a revolver in his right hand. I saw him come into the Barracks three times and carry out equipment. The second time he was carrying soft uniform forage caps. I was with Sergt Gibbs at the side of the garden when I saw some civilians putting matches to the hay lying in the Guardroom passage. Accused Buckley was with these civilians. I don't know if he lit the hay. I saw the other soldiers who had been standing in the Square with their hands up being marched to a cell. They were

there for about five minutes when all the civilians left the Barracks, and Pte.----- went to the cell and opened the door. Later I saw Cpl.----- move Sergt. Gibbs to the Barracks Warden's house. He was then still alive. I next saw the accused Buckley and Murphy on two separate identification parades in the Gymnasium at Buttevant. The first one, at which I picked out Murphy would be about a fortnight after the 28th September, and I picked out Buckley a week later. 30 or 40 civilians were lined up on each occasion. Murphy was about the centre of the line when I picked him out, and Buckley was about twelfth from the end. Lt.----- was present at both these parades. We were marched in one at a time.

Cross-examined by the accused Murphy: I took no notice of how the accused Murphy was dressed.

Signed -----

All the other accused decline to cross-examine this Witness.

7th Witness -----duly sworn states:-

On the 28th September, 1920, I was stationed at Mallow Military Barracks. The strength of the detachment was 38 all ranks. Lt.-----was in Command. On the morning of that date about 8.30 a.m. he left with a party to exercise the horses, leaving about 15 men in the Barracks, including myself. About 9.30 a.m. in the course of my duties as Ordly. Cpl., I was in my Office which look out to the back of the Barrack buildings. While there I heard three or four shots outside and a little later I heard 1 or 2 more. Then I rushed down stairs and out to the Barracks Square, in the direction of the Guardroom. I had just

gone a few yards when I saw about 30 civilians coming across in my direction from the door beside the Main Gate. Those I saw were carrying revolvers. I turned back and ran to the door I had come from and through the passage to the back yard and along in the direction of the back entrance to the Guardroom. My rifle was there. The rifles of all men not on duty were kept there. I had gone part of the way when I saw 1 or 2 civilians who came from the Guardroom passage. I then ran upstairs and saw no one there and no rifles and again ran downstairs. I saw Pte.----- at the foot of the stairs. We ran through the passage at the Cookhouse and was held up by two civilians who had revolvers. I put up my hands and they took Pte.----- and me out to the square. I found several of my own men on the square with their hands up. 10 or 12 civilians stood guard on us. After standing there several minutes I noticed the accused Barter whom I now identify. He was running in and out of the Main Gate which had been opened. He appeared to be hurrying on the men who were removing Arms and Equipment from the Barracks and getting those put on the motor car which was standing outside the Main Gate. He was from 25 to 30 yards from me when I saw him. I saw him several times. On no occasion was he actually carrying anything out. He was armed with a revolver. I never saw any civilian there disguised in any way. I saw swords, lances, haversacks, water-bottles, mess tins and bandoliers being taken out of the Barracks by the civilians. While this was going on I saw some of the civilians burst open the Magazine in which the petrol was kept, enter it, and come out with fire buckets full of liquid. I saw some civilians place hay in the Guardroom passage and then the room immediately opposite and I saw buckets of liquid emptied

on it. The hay was stacked half way along the barrack square, a tarpaulin over it. We were kept standing on the square for 20 minutes to  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour, and were then marched to a cell in the Barracks. We were kept there for some time and then went out and found that the civilians were all gone. The room and passage in which the hay had been placed were just beginning to catch fire. We put the fire out. When I was marched on the square I saw a man in khaki lying on the steps at the entrance to the Guardroom. I saw Pte.----- and Shoeing Smith ----- carrying him over to the corner of the garden, when I saw it was Sergt. Gibbs. I next saw the accused at an identification parade at Buttevant. He was lined with nearly 20 other civilians in the Gymnasium and I went in and recognised him. After recognising him I was put in a corner of the Gymnasium with others. Lt.----- was present at that parade. About the end of October, 1920, I was on patrol in conjunction with a party of the Manchester Regiment. On the way back to Buttevant we stopped at Mallow where two rifles were handed over to our party by the Manchester Regiment. On reaching Buttevant I handed these two rifles to the S.Q.M. Sergt. of 'C' Squadron.

All the accused decline to cross-examine this witness.

Signed -----

8th Witness -----duly sworn states:-

On the 28th September, 1920, I was in the Cookhouse at Mallow Military Barracks, where about 9.30 a.m. I heard 7 or 8 shots. I made my way by the back lane towards the Guardroom where my rifle was. On the way there I met----- . On entering the Guardroom passage I was confronted by two civilians each

armed with a revolver, who made me put up my hands. I was then marched out to the Barrack Square where several of our men were standing with their hands up. ----- was marched out with me. I was there 10 or 15 minutes. While standing there I saw the Main Gate opened from inside and a large number of civilians streamed in, of whom a great number were armed, some with revolvers and some with Carbines having black rifle slings. They were carrying lances, swords, rifles and equipment and boxes of ammunition out of the Barracks. I now identify the accused Murphy as one of these. He was coming out and in with the party taking away the equipment. He had a revolver. There were several others besides him carrying revolvers and going in and out of Barracks with those who were doing the carrying, but I didn't see him carrying any equipment or arms out of Barracks. I also saw another party break into the Magazine with a large wooden pole which was stuck up in the garden. The garden had been used as horse standings. I saw a man named Bolster (who had been working for some days in Barracks) point out to the other civilian the hay which was on the square covered with a tarpaulin. It was then put into the Guardroom passage. I also a tub of oil or petrol being emptied on the bales of hay. I was then marched to a cell with other soldiers where we remained until ----- came to the door. I then went out and saw Sergt. Gibbs lying over against the garden. ----- was with him. He was then alive. I then assisted in putting out the fire in the Guardroom passage. The hay had been set alight after I had been marched off the Barrack Square. The paint of the woodwork was badly scorched by the fire. I next saw the accused Murphy in the Gymnasium at Buttevant sometime in October. He was lined with about 13 other civilians and I picked him out. I was marched in along and after

identifying Murphy I was put in a corner of the Gymnasium. -----  
and ----- were present at this parade.

All the accused decline to cross-examine this Witness.

Signed -----

9th Witness -----duly sworn states:-

On the night of the 23rd October, 1920, I was in charge of the Curfew Patrol in Mallow. About 9.10 p.m. I observed a man running up Fair Street. I overtook him as he entered a house and arrested him. He gave his name as John Murphy. I identify him now. On the 26th October, 1920, I proceeded in charge of a patrol to visit a farm in Lahakineen. I posted sentries around the farmhouse including Pte. ----- and ----- in a lane about 20 yards below the house. While in the house I heard a shout of "Halt" outside. I went out and found Ptes. ----- and ----- in the lane and two civilians with their hands over their heads. I identify the accused McCarthy and Buckley as the two civilians. The two sentries handed me two rifles and saw they were marked 17.L. on the butts. I put the prisoners and rifles in my Crossley and proceeded back to Mallow. Before proceeding back to Mallow I asked the two civilians their names and they said Patrick and Daniel McCarthy. Later in the day 27/10/20 I handed over the two rifles to the 17th Lancers. About 10.30 a.m. on the 27th October, 1920, I went in company with a party of the 17th Lancers to Lahakineen. On approaching the same house I had searched on the previous night my party separated from the 17th Lancers and went on in a tender. On getting within 200 yards of the house I left the tender and approached the house on foot. On getting nearer I noticed several men running in a



south westerly direction away from the house. I saw one man actually run from the house. I gave certain instructions to Sergt. ----- . I myself ran after the civilian I had seen running away. I called on them repeatedly to halt and then fired on them. I eventually overtook them and arrested them all. They put up their hands. I marched them back to the farm. On reaching the farm I saw Sergt. ----- with several civilians lined up against the wall. I took their names. I remember taking the names of the following :- O'Connor of Donoughmore, Denis Barter, John Buckley, David Buckley, John Patrick Buckley and John McCarthy. I now identify the accused Owen Harold and Denis Barter as being among those lined up against the wall. Owen Harold is the man who gave the name O'Connor, Donoughmore. I searched all the men and found nothing incriminating. I put all these men into the tender and joined the party of the 17th Lancers. I handed over some of the prisoners to the 17th Lancers and took the remainder back with me to Mallow. I produce the two rifles handed to me by Ptes.----- and -----.

All the accused decline to cross-examine this witness.

10th Witness -----duly sworn states:-

On the 27th October, 1920, I was on patrol with 2/Lt.----- proceeding from Mallow to Mourneabbey District. On arriving near a farmhouse situated on a hill I was given certain orders by 2/Lt. ----- . In consequence I took four men towards the back of the house. On reaching a point about 40 yards from the house I saw several civilians getting over the garden wall at the back of the house in my direction. I challenged them and they put up their hands. I kept them by the garden wall until 2/Lt.-----

came up. He searched and questioned them. One of them gave his names as O'Connor, Donoughmore. Later at Mallow he said his name was Owen Harold. I identify Owen Harold now. He said he was loyal and had no connections with the Sinn Féin Movement. Another gave his name as Denis Barter. He also said he was loyal and had no connection with Sinn Féin. I identify Denis Barter now. I also identify the accused McCarthy. He was brought to Mallow on the previous night. I identify the accused Murphy. I saw him at Mallow Barracks. The civilian prisoners were then taken in a Crossley to a lorry of the 17th Lancers about two miles from where we arrested them and 5 or 6 were transferred to it. The remainder we took to Mallow. The accused Owen Harold was not transferred to the lorry.

Cross-examined by the accused Harold:- The accused Harold gave his name as O'Connor in the yard at the farm. 2/Lt.----- was present then. Harold was in the centre of the Barrack Square when he admitted this, he was standing still at the time.

All the other accused decline to cross-examine this Witness.

Signed.-----

11th Witness -----duly sworn states:-

On the 25th or 26th October, 1920, I was on patrol at Mourneabbey with 2/Lt.----- We went by motor from Mallow. On reaching a house about midnight I was posted as sentry with Pte.----- about 50 yards from the house on the road. We had been there from 20 minutes to  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour when we heard footsteps and two civilians came up the road. Pte.-----shouted "Halt".

Each was carrying a rifle on his shoulder. They laid their rifles against the bank and came up to us with their hands up. We then went down the road and found the rifles against the bank at the side. We handed these rifles to 2/Lt.----- . They were ordinary short service rifles. We went back to Mallow shortly afterwards. At Mallow I heard the two civilians give their names as Dan and Patrick McCarthy. I identify the accused McCarthy now present as being one of the civilians.

Signed.-----

12th Witness.-----duly sworn states:-

On the night of the 26th/27th October, 1920, I was on patrol with 2/Lt.----- near Mourneabbey. I was placed on sentry on the road with Pte.----- about fifty yards from a house. I had been there from 20 minutes to half an hour, when I heard footsteps. Two civilians then came around the bend of the road. I saw them carrying something on their shoulders. We both shouted "Halt", put up your hands," which they did. One of them handed something to the other who went to the side of the road. They then came forward with their hands up. We took the men up to the lorry and handed them over to the Officer i/c of the party 2/Lt.--- We then back to where we held up the two civilians and found two rifles standing up against the bank. We took the rifles back and handed them to 2/Lt.----- . I did not look at the rifles. Shortly after we left for Mallow with the two civilians. I didn't hear the two civilians give their names. I now identify the accused Owen Harold as one of the two civilians. I am quite sure he was one of them.

All the accused decline to cross-examine this Witness.

Signed.-----

All the accused decline to make any statement and reserve their defence. I certify that the evidence contained in this Summary of Evidence has been taken down by me at the Military Detention Barracks, Cork, on the 20, 21st and 22nd April, 1921, in the presence and hearing of the accused in accordance with the Provisions of the Army Act & Rules of Procedure made thereunder, and that the requirements of the Rules of Procedure 4 (c) (d) & (e) have been complied with.

Signed.-----

FOR/ COMPETENT MILITARY AUTHORITY.

Statement of evidence in the case of John Murphy, David Buckley, Denis Barter, Owen Harold, Daniel McCarthy and Timothy Breen.

13th Witness's -----duly sworn states:

I remember the 28th September, 1920. I was acting as Barrack Labourer at Mallow Military Barracks for Army Service Corps. The 17th Lancers were stationed there at the time. At about 9.10 a.m. Sergt. Gibbs of the 17th Lancers and I began working together at a hose to connect the hydrant with a trough for the Military horses. We were working in the Barrack Square at a point about 40 yards from the Main Gate, 30 yards from the main building and 35 from the forge. Sergt. Gibbs had no arms so far as I could see. At about 9.30 a.m. the sentry beckoned to us. The Sergt. had taken about 2 paces towards the sentry when I saw a civilian grab hold of the sentry. The Sergt. then turned towards the block of buildings. Then I saw another

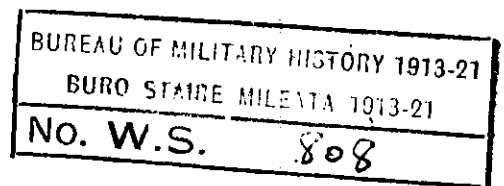
civilian come down through the wicket. He fired two shots when at the gate and about two more after he had entered. I'm not sure at whom he fired them. I went towards the W.C. which is away from the building and remained there until all was over about half an hour. I did not see Sergt. Gibbs fall as I was away at the other side of the Square. I only saw two civilians and could not recognise them again.

Signed.-----

25th November, 1942.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21
No. W.S. 808

COPY



EXTRACT FROM AN T-ÓGLÁC DATED APRIL 15th, 1921.

(VOL. 111, NO. 4).

MILLSTREET AMBUSH - FEBRUARY, 1921.

A BRILLIANT COUP.

The Millstreet Train Ambush on February 11th was a model operation in many respects. The most instructive thing will be to analyse the Report of the Officer in command on that occasion. The vital quotations from his report are:

"The local Coy's O.C.'s got the intelligence and worked up the plans: the A.S.U. came to their assistance to perfect and work up the attack". This is the proper way to work: the man on the spot collects the information and makes the initial arrangements. If he needs extra help the neighbouring units must be ready and willing to give it promptly. Good contact and intelligent co-operation between units are of vital importance.

"Two men from----- Company had instructions to watch train and if it contained Enemy forces to board the engine as soon as the driver moved from Rathcoole station and order him to stop at a certain point where a signal was placed ... In order to be more accurate about the strength and equipment of the enemy on train, one of the men met the train at Banteer Station having more time at this Station to examine carefully their strength and the compartments they occupied - The other man waiting in the meantime at Rathcoole Station with both revolvers". These arrangements practically embrace all the principals of careful

MILLSTREET AMBUSH - FEBRUARY, 1921 (Contd.)

reconnaissance - early information, accurate information, minimum of risk to reconnoitring party, precautions to make sure of getting back with report, etc.

So far the principles underlying the operation were plain and general - applicable to either day or night work, according as the circumstances called for it. But this was a Night Operation - the time was about 7 p.m. on the night of the 11th-12th February: so that it was necessary to co-ordinate operations and do away with all uncertainty likely to arise in the darkness.

The main problem was to have the train halted at the proper place. "Both men thoroughly knew the cutting where train was to be stopped and with the assistance of a lamp placed on the bank at the left-hand side of the Railway brought the train to a standstill just at this point - the ambush party being posted on either side".

There was only one other point to take account of - to make sure the lamp signal was given in sufficient time. "The signal for exposing the light on the bank was a whistle from the engine, which they ordered the driver to give a quarter of a mile before the train reached the cutting". The last possible chance of a mistake was thus eliminated as far as human beings could do so. The success - capture of 14 rifles - was deserved if ever a success was. Especially as the numbers - twelve in ambush party plus two on the engine - were only equal to the defenders.

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COPY

9th November, 1920.

WOMEN SPIES.

Where there is evidence that a woman is a spy or is doing petty spy work, the Brigade Commandant whose area is involved will get up a Court of Inquiry to examine the evidence against her. If the Court finds her guilty of the charge, she shall then be advised accordingly and, except in the case of an Irishwoman, be ordered to leave the country within seven days. It shall be intimated to her that only consideration of her sex prevents the infliction of the statutory punishment of death. A formal public statement of the fact of the conviction shall be issued by Poster or Leaflet form or both according to the local circumstances as a warning and a preventative. Ordinarily it is not proposed to deport Irishwomen, it being hoped that the bringing of publicity on the action of such will neutralise them. In dangerous and persistent cases of this kind, however, full particulars should be placed before G.H.Q. and instructions sought.

By Order

Adjutant General.

L.L.

Comd'nt,

Cork No. 2 Brigade.



COPY

OGLAIGH NA h-EIREANN.

HEADQUARTERS,  
CORK NO. 4 BRIGADE.

28/8/21.

To: Dick Willis.

1. There is going to be a Divisional Musketry Class near Lombardstown starting to-morrow (Monday), so we expect, as you promised myself and Bill Moylan to come to our Brigade to attend as one of the Officers of our Brigade. Paddy O'Brien is most anxious that you should come and all the boys that were in the Barrack attack.

Signed:

Mick Connell.

Quartermaster.

You can report to Phil Singleton Egg Store,  
Lombardstown.

COPY

ÓGLAIG NA h-ÉIREANN.

H.Q. CORK NO. 2 BRIGADE.

FERMOY.

13. 9. 21.

Dept.....

To:

Gunner R. Willis,

Report here with Bolster as soon as possible.  
I would require both of you for training purposes.

Signed:

G.P.

Brigade Commandant.

5TH BATTALIONA.S.U.CORK IV BRIGADE.

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NAME.		ADDRESS.
John Cunningham,	O.C.	Bridge Street, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Richard Willis,		Pearsè Terrace, Mallow, Co. Cork.
John Bolster,		Fair Street, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Jeremiah Daly,		Ballydaheen, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Tadg Byrne,		Ballydaheen, Mallow, Co. Cork.
John Moloney,		Nunes Lane, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Leo Callaghan,		Quartermtown, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Joseph Morgan,		The Creamery, Knocklong, Co. Limerick.
Tadg McCarthy,		Gurranes, Lombardstown, Co. Cork.
Batt Walsh,		Gloohabee, Dromahane, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Denis Mulcahy,		Toureen, Burnfort, Co. Cork.
Timothy Mullane,		Ballyclough, Mallow, Co. Cork.
William Morrissey,		Ballyclough, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Michael Callaghan,		Barrack Street, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Timothy Mullane,		Monaparson, Mourneabbey, Co. Cork.
Michael Nagle,		Knockbrack, Burnfort, Co. Cork.
Timothy Looney,		Island, Burnfort, Co. Cork.
Cornelius Regan,		Monaparson, Mourneabbey, Co. Cork.
Patrick Buckley,		Glynn, Mourneabbey, Co. Cork.
Cornelius Breen,		Glentane, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Thomas Callaghan,		Gurranes, Lombardstown, Co. Cork.
Edward Murphy,		Lombardstown, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Jeremiah Hanlon,		Glashabee, Dromahane, Co. Cork.
Michael Looney,		Island, Burnfort, Mallow, Co. Cork. (Died of Wounds).
Patrick Dorgan,		Island, Burnfort, Mallow, Co. Cork. (Killed in Action).

5TH BATTALIONA.S.U.CORK IV BRIGADE. (CONTD.)

<u>NAME.</u>	<u>ADDRESS.</u>
Edward Waters,	Glashabee, Burnfort, Mallow, Co. Cork. (Killed in Action)
Patrick Flynn,	Monee, Mourneabbey, Co. Cork. (Killed in Action)
Edward Creedon,	Cloheen, Mourneabbey, Co. Cork. (Killed in Action)
Michael Kiely,	Larhan, Lombardstown, Co. Cork. (Killed in Action)
Thomas Mulcahy,	Tureen, Burnfort, Co. Cork. (Executed Cork Gaol).
Patrick Royane,	Greenhill, Mourneabbey, Co. Cork. (Executed Cork Gaol).
Daniel McDonald,	Ballydaheen, Mallow, Co. Cork.
John Barrett,	Bridewell Lane, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Seán Breen,	Glantane, Mallow, Co. Cork.
William Roche,	Gurtmore, Banteer, Co. Cork.
John Sullivan,	Glenovague, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Cornelius Buckley,	Lackandarra, Lombardstown, Co. Cork.
John Ring,	Ballyclough, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Daniel Cremin,	Gloundine, Dromahane, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Timothy Lyons,	Glenogue, Dromahane, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Michael Kelleher,	Dromahane, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Eugene Butler,	Carryclena, Mallow, Co. Cork.
Timothy Sullivan,	Now in U.S.A.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BUREAU STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21  
No. W.S. 808