

W.S. 1,062
ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURÓ STAIRÉ MILITIAIRÉ 1913-21

No. W.S. 1062

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,062

Witness

Laurence Garvey,
Corbally,
Kilrickle,
Loughrea,
Co. Galway.

Identity.

Lieutenant, Athenry Company Irish Volunteers,
Co. Galway, 1917 - .

Subject.

Irish Volunteer activities,
East Galway, 1914-1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

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1062

STATEMENT BY LAURENCE GARVEY

Corbally, Kilrickle, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

I was born on 20th June 1882, at Poppyhill, Kilrickle, Loughrea. I was educated at Mullagh National School which I attended regularly until I reached the age of 14. The first national movement I remember was the National League. My father, who was a Fenian, started a branch of the League and the committee met in our house once a week. He kept a small grocer's shop and brought supplies every Saturday from Ballinasloe. He also brought with him from Ballinasloe every Saturday a copy of the "Weekly Freeman", the only newspaper I remember in my young days. It gave news mainly of evictions which were then very common all over Ireland, but especially in the estates of Lord Clanricarde. The evictions at Woodford, not far from my native place, were carried out with great cruelty.

The people of my native parish of Mullagh were very poor. They worked for 8d a day when they could get work. The wages helped to pay the rent which was £2 per annum an acre. I remember a widow being evicted from her farm for non-payment of rent. Her neighbours went by night and saved her crops from the bailiffs. Some of them were arrested including my father and his brother. They were not tried in Galway. They were tried in Carrick-on-Shannon where the jury disagreed. They were next tried in Wicklow where they were convicted and sentenced to periods of imprisonment in Tullamore Jail. They were very badly treated there. My father served a sentence of six months which had a very bad effect on his health afterwards. When he was released there were bonfires to welcome him, but the R.I.C. kicked out the fire and batoned those around it, even women and children.

About the year 1906 the National League was scapped and was replaced by the United Irish League. Meetings of the new League were held in our house after Mass on Sundays.

About this time our family came to live at Mullagh beside the Catholic Church. Cattle drives were then very common. They arose out of evictions. Very often when a farmer was evicted for non-payment of rent, a greedy neighbour took the farm from the landlord at a low rent. These greedy land-grabbers were detested and boycotted. Their cattle were driven off the land. I took part in many of those cattle drives. On one occasion I was sentenced to six months imprisonment in Galway Jail and was fined on several occasions.

In 1910 the late Thomas Kenny of Craughwell started a Sinn Fein Club in Mullagh. I was its first secretary and again got into trouble with the R.I.C. who I refused to admit to our dances or hurling matches.

I joined the Irish Volunteers in 1914. I remember signing the register of Volunteers after Mass one Sunday in Father O'Donoghue's parlour. He was Catholic Curate at the time. Hubert Hanrahan was company captain. I myself was first lieutenant, John Manning was second lieutenant, Michael Manning (a brother of John's) was adjutant, and Michael Finnerty was quartermaster. An ex-British soldier who worked for my father drilled the company at the start. Captain Hubert Hanrahan procured some British army drill books later on and soon after he took charge of the drill. We paraded twice a week in the evenings after work. There were then no battalions. Company officers attended meetings at Athenry Town Hall. These meetings were held monthly. I represented our company at these meetings which I attended regularly. Lieutenant John Manning and I attended two meetings at a cinema in Galway. The Volunteers I remember attending the Athenry meetings were:-

Larry Lardner)	
Stephen Jordan)	Athenry
James Barrett)	
Sean Broderick)	

Joseph Howley, Oranmore (afterwards killed in Dublin)

Michael Newell)	
Brian Molloy)	Castlegar

John Mulryan)	
Sean Ruane)	Claregalway

J.J. Gormley)	
John Nelly)	Gort

Gilbert Morrissey		Craughwell
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William Dolly		Monivea
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Padraig Fahy		Ballycahalan
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Michael Fleming		Clarenbridge
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Patrick Walsh		Killeeneen
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Larry Lardner was always in charge of the meetings. He was the Brigade O/C. and Athenry was brigade headquarters. I cannot remember anybody from Loughrea or Tuan or from Connemara. Mullagh was then the only company in East Galway as far as I remember.

Early in 1915 I met Liam Mellows when he came to our area to organise the Volunteers in East Galway. He asked me if I could get him a place to stay in Mullagh. I fixed him up at my mother's house. Clonfert was the only place in which he succeeded in organising a company. In other places he recruited some Volunteers, but not sufficient to form a company. Nevertheless, he was always cheerful and happy. He spent a fortnight in our house on his first visit. He then went back to Athenry. He came and went, spending three or four days with us sometimes. At other times he remained only one night. He said the Rosary with the family every night before retiring.

We continued our drill twice weekly. Liam Mellows was with us at our parades many evenings in the summer of 1915. We had target practice with a .22 rifle. Liam supplied the ammunition. We paid a few pence each week to defray the cost of ammunition. We continued our parades - two a week - during

1916 up to Easter Week. Our company area coincided with the parish of Mullagh. There was one R.I.C. barrack in the area at Gurtymadden. It was occupied by six R.I.C. men and a sergeant.

I remember spending a very pleasant week at Ballycahalan near Gort in the summer of 1915. Liam was camped there in a bell-tent. He invited me to the camp. Stephen Jordan, John Cleary and 'Sonny' Morrissey, all of Athenry, were there. Liam went on with his organising work every day. The rest of us strolled about. In the evenings Liam played the violin and we danced a few sets with girls from the neighbourhood. There was no military training. It was just a week's holiday at Liam's invitation and very enjoyable.

The first thing I remember about Easter Week 1916 was getting instructions from Athenry to have a hurling match at Mullagh on Easter Sunday so that Liam could speak to the Volunteers of our company. I can't remember who gave me the instructions, but they came from Athenry. The match was held. Liam Mellows came. I met him on the road but did not know him. He was dressed as a priest and his hair was black. He spoke to me and asked me if I knew him and I said I did not. He spoke to the Volunteers. I cannot remember what he said but I am certain that he did not say anything about the Rising in Dublin next day. He left on his push bicycle about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Somebody was with him. I think it might have been Eamon Corbett of Killeeneen. Killeeneen was the first place in Balway that Liam came to. I think he was brought there by Father Feeney or Father O'Meehan.

On Easter Monday morning 1916, John Cleary and James Barrett, both of Athenry, came to my house on push bicycles. They said the Rising was on in Dublin and that the Galway Volunteers had occupied the Agricultural Farm at Athenry. They told me to go with them to Ballinasloe. They said they

had to deliver a dispatch there. I got Michael Manning, company adjutant, to go with them as I had to attend my nephew's funeral. They came back from Ballinasloe and told me to go to Athenry where I went on Tuesday. I met Thomas Cleary of Athenry (now deceased). He told me that the Volunteers had changed to Moyode Castle, two miles from the Model Farm. I went to Moyode, an unoccupied castle belonging to Lord Ardilaun. There were sentries posted along the avenue to the main entrance, but they did not challenge me. It was then evening, about an hour before night. I saw about six R.I.C. prisoners who were taken from their barrack at Tallyho Cross. I met Larry Lardner, Liam Mellows, Stephen Jordan and others. Larry Lardner was in charge of the Volunteers who were scattered all about the house and avenues. I had a few words with Mellows. He told me that I would have to go to Ballinasloe next morning with a dispatch. The next morning (Wednesday) I left Moyode for Ballinasloe on a push bicycle. I met some of my own Mullagh company on the way. They had been mobilised and were anxious for news. I gave them Mellows's orders that they were to remain 'standing to' and were not to move without orders. I delivered the dispatch in Ballinasloe to Joseph Gaffney, professor at St. Joseph's College, Ballinasloe. I returned to Mullagh and stayed there Wednesday night. On Thursday, about noon, I started off for Lime Park as I heard that the Volunteers had gone there from Moyode. I arrived there early in the afternoon and stayed there until we were disbanded on the following Saturday.

It was hard to know how many men were at Lime Park as they were scattered about the house, in the outhouses and through the fields. We were paraded on Saturday and told to go home as quietly as possible. I cannot be sure who addressed us. It could have been Fr. Feeney or Liam Mellows or Larry Lardner. I cannot remember. I carried no arms as I was carrying dispatches. Mullagh Company remained 'standing to' from Monday to Friday. They went home to work in the fields for part

of each day but they could come together very quickly if required. There were 12 shotguns in the company during Easter Week. The orders for Mullagh Company during the week were given by Liam Mellows to Lieut. Sean Manning (deceased). They were to destroy the bridge across the Shannon at Banagher when given definite instructions to do so. No such instructions were received during the week.

I was arrested near my own home the week after Easter Week by R.I.C. and taken to Gurtymadden R.I.C. Barracks where I was interrogated about my movements the previous week. I was taken to Loughrea and released next morning. I was arrested again on 10th May. My house was surrounded by R.I.C. with Head Constable Farrell of Loughrea in charge. I was the only one arrested from Mullagh Company area. I was brought to the R.I.C. Barracks in Loughrea where a sham courtmartial was held on me. I was told I was to be drowned in the lake as I was not worth the cost of a bullet. The R.I.C. kept jeering me in this way while I was in the R.I.C. Barracks in Loughrea.

I was taken to the Bridewell, Loughrea, next day. There I saw 8 or 10 Volunteers from Craughwell and Templemartin including three brothers - Gilbert, Richard and Patrick J. Morrissey; two Rooney brothers - Martin and John; Martin Newell Darby Deeley, John Fahy and Patrick Golden. We were all taken to Athenry and kept there two nights. Thomas Hynes was brought in a prisoner while we were in Athenry. From Athenry we were brought to Richmond Barracks, Dublin, where we were kept about eight days, We were there the day James Connolly was executed.

Our next move was to the North Wall, Dublin, where we were put aboard a cattle boat bound for Glasgow. We were marched through Glasgow to Barlinnie Prison on the outskirts of the town. On the way we heard people shouting "shoot the swine". Our worst enemy seemed to be a Chinaman. He had a

big fat face, yellow as a sovereign and a pigtail, the first I ever saw. He was dressed like a woman and kept shouting for our blood along the route. We spent six weeks in Barlinnie after which we were removed to Frongoch. On the way there the officer in charge of our escort was an Irishman named Roche. He treated us exceedingly well on the way, buying tea, cigarettes and tobacco for us. He allowed nobody to insult us at the railway stations on the journey.

I was in Frongoch about a month when I was brought to Wormwood Scrubbs prison where I was interrogated by men in civilian dress for about a quarter of an hour. They asked me how far I lived from Athenry, whether I knew Tom Kenny of Craughwell, and some other questions that did not seem to me to be of any great importance. Joseph Gilchreest of Loughrea and Stephen Jordan of Athenry were interrogated the same day as I. I spent four or five days in Wormwood Scrubbs and was then taken back to Frongoch. I was released in August 1916. I had no pocket money. Mary McSwiney, sister of Terence McSwiney, treated us to tea and cigarettes in Dublin. I think she was on the boat/^{on}which we came across. I arrived home before anybody knew I was coming.

There was no need of reorganisation in our company. We always remained in touch with one another. We held meetings in my house and discussed plans for the future. We commenced parades again in the summer of 1917. Perhaps once a fortnight at first with the same Volunteers and the same officers. I was the only member of the company arrested in 1916. Names of company officers and men as far as I remember them are as follows:

Captain	Hubert Hanrahan, Ballyvahan, Kiltormer, Ballinasloe
1st Lt.	Myself - Laurence Garvey
2nd Lt.	Sean Manning, Abbeycormicane, Kiltormer.
Adjt.	Michael Manning do.
Q.M.	Michael Finnerty, Ardrigool, do.

Volunteer	John Kelly, Abbeycormicane		
	Andrew Finnerty, Eskerboy, Kiltormer		
	Joseph Martin Mullagh		
	Thomas Connors, Corbally, Kilrickle,		Loughrea
	Martin Daly, Poppyhill	do.	do.
	Michael Boland, Killoran, Kiltormer.		
	Malachi Kelly, Bzillylogue,	do.	
	Thomas Lowry, Coolagh,	do.	
	Patrick Gannon	do.	do.

I think it was very late in 1917 or early in 1918 that our company fired at a temporary R.I.C. hut at Cappatagle Cross. Those with me on that occasion, that I can now remember, were Volunteers Martin Daly, Michael Kelly, Michael Boland and Joseph Martin. We were armed with shotguns and fired from across the road. I cannot remember the R.I.C. returning fire. We heard that British military were coming along the road and we retired after firing a few volleys. It was Bertie Fallon of the Loughrea Company who planned the attack. He was an Insurance Agent and travelled about the country a good deal. He is now deceased. I cannot remember who was in charge.

We got a few extra recruits for the company in 1918. They were:- James Reilly, Lismagquige, Kiltormer; Patrick Hobbins, Abbeycormicane, and Joseph Gilchrist, Coolagh, Killimor.

During the year 1918 the R.I.C. raided two houses in Mullagh for arms but did not get any. We arranged with Tynagh Company to come to our area and collect all the arms there. We asked the Tynagh men to do this job as they would not be known in our company area. Amongst those who came from Tynagh were Seamus Reilly, later Vice O/C. Galway South East Brigade; Ignatius Harney, recently deceased, and Bernard Geoghegan, later Q.M. Portumna Battalion. We collected about 14 shotguns and four or five dozen cartridges. The owners gave up the guns willingly as they did not want the R.I.C. to get them.

About a week after this I and about five others from Mullagh Company went to Tynagh Company area and collected all the shotguns there. We met with no resistance except at the

house of Patrick Kennedy who was a land-grabber earlier in his life. Kennedy barricaded himself into a room. I fired a revolver shot through the door of the room and then he opened the door and handed us a single barrel shotgun. In all we collected seven or eight shotguns and one .22 rifle. I was nearly shot at the first house we raided in Tynagh. One of the Volunteers was examining a shotgun when it went off accidentally. Volunteer Ignatius Harney of Tynagh Company entertained us in his house after the raiding had been completed.

The local M.P., William J. Duffy, held meetings at which he encouraged young men to join the British army. One such meeting was broken up at Aughrim. Some of the Aughrim Volunteers spoke against Duffy. It might have been Patrick Beegan, now Deputy Beegan. I was at the meeting and helped to cause the disturbance which broke it up.

There was no election in East Galway in 1918 as Liam Mellows, Sinn Fein candidate, was returned unopposed. I helped the Sinn Fein candidate for South Galway, the late Frank Fahy who later became Ceann Comhairle in Dáil Éireann. William J. Duffy, the sitting member, was the parliamentary candidate for South Galway. The evening before the polling day, I made arrangements for a long car to take members of the company to Loughrea. We arrived in the town on the evening before polling day. I can't remember who gave us the instructions to go. When we arrived we paraded the town. Captain Hanrahan was in charge. We were then ordered to the Sinn Fein Hall in Bride St. Again I cannot remember who gave the orders or who was the Volunteer officer in charge during that day or election day.

Some Volunteers from Craughwell and Athenry companies came in later. Leitrim Company also came. Clonfert Company came very late and joined us in Bride St. On the next day - polling day - we were attacked while endeavouring to see that voters were not intimidated. The mob that attacked were the ex-British

soldier element. They were encouraged by the R.I.C. They used stones, bottles, sticks. We held them in check with crude home-made batons. I saw bottles hopping off the windscreen of Mr. Patrick Hogan's car. Mr. Hogan was election agent for Mr. Frank Fahy, Sinn Fein candidate. The conduct of the mob on that day helped to turn the sympathy of many people towards Sinn Fein.

Mr. Frank Fahy, the Sinn Fein candidate, was elected. He took no part in the election campaign as he was imprisoned at the time. When he was released in June 1919 I took charge of the parade of Volunteers that met him at Loughrea Railway Station. They included Volunteers from Loughrea town and surrounding districts including Closetoken, Mr. Fahy's native place. Mr. Daniel Corry, cattle-dealer, father of the famous army rider, Colonel D. Corry, assisted me in forming up the Volunteers that night. There was no interference by the R.I.C.

Gurtymadden R.I.C. Barracks was evacuated in the summer of 1919. I remember it was summer as there was a hurling match in Mullagh in very fine weather. Some cars and lorries brought people to the match. I took four or five tins of petrol from the lorries and cars to burn the barracks which the R.I.C. had left a few days previously. It was burned that night. It was a stone two-storey building. We got a ladder and entered by one of the upper windows. We burned the building except the walls and a little bit of the roof. The full company were engaged in the destruction of the barrack with Captain Hubert Hanrahan in charge. Some of the men were scouting on the roads leading to the building.

In 1919 several prisoners were brought to our company area. The prison was Ballydonnellan Castle in the Cappatagle company area. The Castle was approved as a prison at a battalion meeting held in Flynn's publichouse, Main Street,

Loughrea. Our first prisoner was a man called Michael Keane. He was arrested in Bellaun Company area and brought to our area by Michael Healy, a Bellaun company officer, and one or two Volunteers from the same company. They said that they had seen him go to the R.I.C. batracks regularly every month and had concluded that he was giving information to the R.I.C. When I saw him his hands were tied very tightly together with a thin hard rope at the wrists which were almost bleeding. He had two £1 notes in one hand He was not able to reach to his pockets to put the notes there. I pitied him. Martin Jennings, a battalion officer from Ballinasloe Battalion, was with me. We questioned the prisoner and he told us that he went regularly every month to the R.I.C. Barracks to have papers signed with a view to drawing his British army pension. We made tea for him after removing the rope from his wrists. I cannot now recall what inquiries we made about him or who gave the order for his release. In any event he was released next day and was conveyed on his way home as far as Kilrickle.

I remember seeing two prisoners from Banagher. As far as I can recollect, they were imprisoned in connection with stealing money. They were in Ballydonnellan Castle for a few days in charge of Cappatagle Company. I cannot remember their names, whether they were convicted at the time I saw them, or what sentence if any they got.

The next prisoners I remember were two R.I.C. men named Curley and Dempsey. Curley was a native of Clontuskert, and I think Dempsey was from Aughrim, Ballinasloe Battalion area. They were both held in Ballydonnellan Castle. I brought food to them occasionally. Dempsey was held for a week and Curley for three or four days. Curley did not want to associate with Dempsey. He said: "You can shoot me or do anything you like with me, but keep me away from Dempsey". Dempsey was stationed in Cork. I heard he was secretary to Divisional Commissioner Smyth, who was shot in Cork after leaving Listowel.

Curley resigned from the R.I.C. He signed some papers which Seamus Hogan, now Professor in Cork University, presented to him and he got a job in Ballinasloe Mental Hospital through Dr. Ada English. As far as I remember, Dr. English arranged jobs in the Mental Hospital for any R.I.C. man who could be induced to resign. Dempsey was passed on to Tynagh Company. He was kept in Pallas for a while and then sent on to Gort Battalion. He always claimed to be doing intelligence work for the Volunteers in Cork. I never heard since what became of Dempsey. Both prisoners were blindfolded when entering and leaving our area, but were not blindfolded while actually in prison. It was in the papers at the time that Dempsey was secretary to Divisional Commissioner Smyth. He seemed to be a very clever young man and insisted that, although he was in the R.I.C., he was working for the Cork Volunteers.

An R.I.C. man named Brock was the only other prisoner I remember. He was brought to me by some Volunteers of Kiltormer Company. I always held the keys of Ballydonnellan Castle- an unoccupied castle where prisoners were held. Brock promised to resign from the R.I.C. He signed papers presented to him by Seamus Hogan. He was released. He went back to his R.I.C. Barracks but I believed he resigned soon after.

I was a justice of the Republican (Parish) Courts. I remember that Dr. Dignan, Administrator in Ballinasloe - afterwards Bishop of Clonfert, was President of the Circuit Court which often sat in the Town Hall, Ballinasloe. I don't remember very much about it except the case of two farmers named Killeen and Quigley. Killeen married Quigley's daughter and they were always quarrelling about land. The captain of Tynagh Company - Michael Brehony - asked me to go to Ballinasloe where case was heard. He thought the parties would be more

impressed by a stranger like myself taking part. The case was heard in Ballinasloe. Quigley was bound to the peace, failing which he was to be imprisoned. Dr. Dignan asked me to see to it that the decision of the Court was carried out. There was no occasion to arrest Quigley as he gave no more trouble afterwards.

I also remember the case of two men who were arrested by Tynagh Company for stealing timber at Flower Hill. They were arrested in Portumna during a circus performance. Captain Brehony of Tynagh Company asked me to attend for their trial. It was arranged with Father Larkin, C.C., Tynagh, that he would be on the road near Tynagh with a motor car. He was to be held up and the car commandeered. I believe it was Fr. Larkin himself who suggested this. We 'commandeered' the car as arranged, collected the two prisoners from Portumna, and brought them to Pallas where the Court was held in an unoccupied house. They were found guilty, fined £1 each and released. I think that this was a military court. I know I was a dvocate for the prisoners. Captain Hanrahan and Lieut. Manning were judges, as far as I know. Volunteers Joseph Gilchrist and Thomas Lowry were in some way connected with the trial. I cannot remember the time, but I think the Parish Courts had not commenced to function.

I forgot to mention, when speaking of prisoners held by us, that our Company had all arrangements made with Tynagh Company to arrest an R.I.C. man home on leave. His name was Keane and he was a native of Rathmore, Killimor. The Tynagh Company failed to arrest him. Very likely he got a hint from somebody. He went back to his barrack in Co. Tipperary. That would have been in 1919. I have a bad memory as regards dates.

I collected the subscriptions in my company area to the

Dáil Loan in 1919. As far as I can remember, Captain Manrahan Lieut. Manning and Company Adjutant Michael Manning were with me on the job. Nobody gave less than a £1. Some gave as much £5. In all we collected about £200 which I handed in at a meeting in the Town Hall, Ballinasloe. I cannot remember to whom I gave the money, but I got a receipt for it. All the subscribers got their money back years after with interest - 5/- for each £1 subscribed.

Some time in 1920, Ballydonnellam Castle was surrounded by British forces from the Curragh Camp and Athlone. There were hundreds of them including cavalry with field guns and ambulances. I believe they found out about the castle being used as a prison through some of the Volunteers guarding prisoners coming outside the building one fine day and lying on the grass outside. Apparently they were seen and the matter was reported to the R.I.C. We never found out who reported it.

About October 1920, my home was being constantly raided by R.I.C. Windows were smashed regularly. I went on the run, but continued to attend all parades and meetings. I stayed every night at Cappanaughton about a mile from my own house. I also secured places for the two other officers on the run. One of these was Peter Howley, a battalion officer from Gort Battalion and the other was Martin O'Regan, adjutant of our own (Loughrea) battalion.

On 8th January 1921, the house where I was staying at Cappanaughton was surrounded by British forces. They told me to dress. When I had my pants on they said that was enough for a short journey from which I concluded that I was going to be shot. They blindfolded me with a towel, took me outside and questioned me about Rev. Father O'Meara, C.C. Killoran, his connection with the I.R.A. and demanded the names of all my comrades in the I.R.A. When I refused to answer they brought me further along the road in my bare feet. They stopped and

questioned me again. When I refused to answer they beat me with revolver butts and kicked me in the legs. I put up my hands to save my head and they broke the little finger and first finger of my right hand. An officer, judging by the way he spoke, then told them to stop beating me as his orders were to bring me in alive. I believe it was R.I.C. men who beat and kicked me although I could not see them. They did not speak but they did things to me that I would not ask you to write down. I was bleeding all over my head and body.

I was then told, in spite of what the officer said, that I was to be executed in Dartfield, halfway between Mullagh and Loughrea, where they said I had prepared an ambush for them. I would like to say here that there was no ambush prepared at Dartfield, but about a month before I was arrested there was an ambush laid at Ballydoogan in Kilmeen Company area for R.I.C. who often passed from Portumna to Loughrea. They did not turn up the day the ambush was prepared. The ambush party remained in position for three hours. I cannot remember who was in charge. Volunteer James Reilly, Thomas Lowry and Lieut. Sean Manning were with me at Ballydoogan.

To continue the story of my arrest. They did not bring me to Dartfield as they had threatened, but to Ballinasloe via Kiltormer. I knew Kiltormer by the dripping of the trees overhead. At Clontoosker, as far as I could make out, they took me out of the lorry, questioned me once more and, when I did not answer, fired shots over my head. At Garbally, a big military post near Ballinasloe where the 6th Royal Dragoons were stationed, I was put into a rat-infested outhouse in a wood. There was a guard posted outside. I was given my clothes. It was then about 4 a.m. I was weak from loss of blood.

In the morning the door of the outhouse was opened by a British soldier. He inquired if I was all right. I said:

"Do I look all right?" He said it was a shame. He washed the blood off me and gave me a drink of water. Another soldier then came and tied up my hand and bandaged my head and dressed my other wounds. A British officer then came in. He said my mother was dying and that I would be released. if I told him all I knew. I said it couldn't be helped about my mother. He showed me a roll of banknotes and said that there were £600 in it. He told me he would give me the notes and arrange for my passage to America if I told him all I knew. I said I had nothing to tell. I think he said "Sorry, Paddy" or something like that and left me.

Some days after I was brought to Renmore Barracks, Galway, where I saw Patrick Connaughton, Closetoken Company, Volunteer Thomas Hally, Peterswell Company, Joseph Patten of Laurencetown and John Monaghan of Wilkinstown. Patten and Monaghan had been in the R.I.C. before joining the Volunteers. After a week I was removed from Renmore to Galway jail. About two days after my arrival there Patrick Rutledge, later Minister for Justice, was brought in a prisoner. He had been beaten very badly. He and I wrote statements about our illtreatment and had them passed out of the jail. The two statements were published in "Young Ireland" in the issue of 15th June 1921, as far as I remember. A copy was sent to the Department of Defence with my application for a Military Service Pension in 1938. When I refused to allow my photograph and finger-prints to be taken in Galway Jail I was sentenced to a month's hard labour. This sentence gave us much more freedom than we had up to then in jail, as we had an hour extra for exercise. Sean Broderick, Athenry; Martin Daniels, Kilrickle Company, and a few others I cannot remember were also sentenced for the same "offence". I was to be brought to Spike Island with Professor Liam O'Briain of Galway University and a Volunteer called Comer from Co. Mayo, but the boat could not

sail on the day arranged owing to bad weather.

In April 1921 I was brought with about 100 other prisoners to Rath Camp, Co. Kildare, and lodged in Hut 36, D. Line, where I remained until my release in December 1921.

There was no branch of Cumann na mBan attached to Mullagh Company up to the time of my arrest. The local people were very loyal to the I.R.A. We had no spies in the company area. The local R.I.C. were definitely bad without exception.

I omitted to mention that I was sworn into the I.R.B. by Peter Howley, Gort Battalion, in 1917 in Sean Manning's forge at Abbeycormicane, but I cannot recall attending subsequent meeting of the I.R.B.

Signed: Laurence Garvey
(Laurence Garvey)

Date: 12th January, 1955
12th January, 1955.

Witness: C. Moynihan
(C. Moynihan)
(Investigator)

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