

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21  
No. W.S. 1,072

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

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Witness

Sean McNamara (MacConmara),  
Muckinish Castle,  
Ballyvaughan,  
Co. Clare.

Identity.

O/C. 6th Battalion Mid-Clare  
Brigade, 1921.

Subject.

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BUREAU STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1072

STATEMENT BY SEÁN McNAMARA,

Muckinish Castle, Ballyvaughan, County Clare.

Formerly O/C 6th Battalion Mid-Clare Brigade.

I was born at Ballygowan, Kilfenora, in 1893. When I was only an infant I was taken by my parents to reside in Ballymurphy, Noughaval, Kilfenora, where I lived until all the troubles in this country had finished.

At present I am a rate collector and I also farm about 45 acres of good land at the above address. I am married and have a family of fifteen children.

Such education as my parents were able to afford was given to me, first at Corkscrew Hill and later Kilfenora National School, which I left when I was about 15 years old.

After leaving school I competed successfully at a few feiseanna in Ennistymon, and through this channel I made the acquaintance of Tomás O'Loughlin, veteran I.R.B. man, Land Leaguer and Sinn Féiner, who came from Carron in North Clare.

My association with the Volunteer movement began when a branch of that organisation was formed in Ennistymon in 1914. I had not much to do with the Ennistymon crowd then as I generally went to drill at Kilfenora every Sunday evening, where we had the services of some ex-British Army men as instructors. In addition

to foot drill we also got training in musketry, for which timber rifles were used. Good progress was made by the Kilfenora Volunteers at these drilling exercises until the outbreak of the First Great War, when our instructors were recalled to the colours to fight for England in France and elsewhere. However, when we lost these men members of the company replaced them, and through the aid of military instruction manuals they soon became quite proficient instructors.

Soon afterwards we were faced with a bigger problem. The "Redmondite split" had rent the Volunteer movement throughout the country and we were not sure which side we should follow. I know that in Kilfenora, though a big majority of the Ennistymon Company had gone Redmondite, we took no decision until about a fortnight afterwards. Then a meeting was held one night in the village where there was, I believe, general agreement that the split had the result in separating the grain from the chaff, and that the men who were anxious to serve the cause of their country best were those who refused to accept the leadership of John Redmond. We heard that a company of Irish Volunteers was after being formed at Cloonagh and the Kilfenora men nearly all joined that company.

After a time the Cloonagh Company grew too big and it was decided to form a separate company in Kilfenora. The first O/C of that company was Peadar O'Loughlin; Andy O'Donoghue was 1st Lieutenant and I believe Peadar O'Brien was 2nd Lieutenant. I cannot now remember having received any instructions in the use of a real rifle or having had any practice in shooting prior

to 1916, nor was I involved in any mobilisation of the Volunteers during Easter Week of that year. I do remember having been sent by Peadar O'Loughlin with two despatches during the days of the Rising, one to Ennistymon and the other to Carron in North Clare to a man named O'Connor who was an associate of Tomás O'Loughlin, whom I have already referred to.

I continued as a member of the Irish Volunteers after the 1916 Rising, but in my locality, though the organisation did not disintegrate, we had to lie low. There was a good deal of condemnation of the Rising to be heard among the people in general, and it took some time before the motives of the executed leaders were fully appreciated. Anyway, the framework of the Volunteer movement remained sound, and this became evident as soon as the men interned in English prisons were released in July 1917 and when the by-election in East Clare took place also in that month. The youth simply rushed into our ranks and a goodly number of men between 25 and 30 years who formerly were hesitant to come into any kind of national organisation also joined up. The Irish Volunteer organisation in the district was able to absorb this big influx of Volunteers without being unduly strained or disturbed in any way.

The first occasion after the 1916 Rising that the Irish Volunteers publicly appeared in the Kilfenora district was when it was decided that the company should be represented in the parade which had been arranged to take place in Ennis on the first Sunday after the East Clare election campaign opened late in June 1917. Sections from the outlying districts converged on Kilfenora

and from there proceeded to Ennis by car, bike, cart and even some on foot - a distance of about 40 miles altogether. Two days afterwards, 29th June, there was another parade at Ballyvaughan where Pádraic Ó Máille of Galway and de Valera himself addressed a meeting. I think it was on the following Sunday that a big gathering of Volunteers from different parts of North Clare met in Kilfenora opposite the R.I.C. barracks and from there marched to Lisdoonvarna where another election meeting was held. On that occasion young and old, men and women, followed the parade to the meeting, which was a most enthusiastic one, and it was clear that people in North Clare had swung in large numbers over to Sinn Féin and to the side of the Irish Volunteers. Incidentally, Ballyvaughan and Lisdoonvarna then formed part of the East Clare constituency although situated along the west coast of the county.

In consequence of the big increase in the strength of the Volunteers in North Clare several new companies had to be formed after July 1917. I formed a company myself at Noughaval and was elected Captain. Other officers were: Joe McNamara, 1st Lieutenant; Nicholas Healy, 2nd Lieutenant; my brother Austin was Adjutant, I think. The company which was formed at Ballyvaughan fell through after a short period due to some local squabbling. Peadar O'Loughlin, Tullaha, Kilfenora, who then held some rank higher than mine, sent me to Ballyvaughan to investigate the cause of the trouble and to try and fix things up there. The only practical solution which could be found was to incorporate the Ballyvaughan area in the Noughaval Company. I continued to remain as Captain but the 1st Lieutenant after

the amalgamation of the two companies was Conor O'Donoghue from the Ballyvaughan side, while the Quartermaster, Michael O'Loughlin, was also from that district. This arrangement worked satisfactorily afterwards and continued until the Truce. The area covered was a very wide one, the two extreme ends being about 9 miles apart. This difficulty was got over by getting the men to mobilize by half companies except on special occasions when a company parade would be arranged at some central point.

Throughout 1917 and 1918, so far as I know, the County Clare comprised one brigade and the battalion areas remained the same as they were prior to the 1916 Rising. The district from Inagh to Milltown and northwards to the Galway border formed one battalion, the O/C of which was Seamus Conneally, Cullinagh, Ennistymon. At the beginning of 1919, following the split up of Clare into three separate brigades, East, Mid and West, there was also a reshuffle of the battalion area. Our battalion in North West Clare was created into two battalions - 4th and 5th - the 4th including the district of Inagh, Letterkelly, Glendine, Lavoreen, Moy, Ennistymon, Lahinch and MilltownMalbay, while the 5th Battalion embraced the country north of a line running roughly from Ennistymon along the Inagh river to Inagh. It comprised the districts of Kilfenora, Cloonagh, Ballycullinig, Moymore, Doolin, Kilshanny, Kilnaboy, Ballyvaughan, Noughaval, Carron, Tooraheera, Ballinalacken and New Quay.

In February 1921 the 5th Battalion was again split into two battalions - 5th and 6th. I was appointed O/C

6th Battalion, which embraced the districts mentioned in the final sentence of the preceding paragraph commencing with Ballyvaughan. Attached (see Appendix A) is a list of the officers and men of that battalion which on 11th July, 1921, numbered roughly 230. Though this list is dated 6/10/'21 it is a fairly accurate list also in respect of the period just prior to the Truce. The job of reorganising the 6th Battalion was entrusted to myself and I remained in charge of it until the Truce.

The 6th Battalion area comprised the following companies: Ballyvaughan, Carron, Tooraheera, Ballinalacken, Lisdoonvarna and New Quay.

In the area the R.I.C. in 1917 held posts as follows:

Ballyvaughan - District Headquarters under a D.I.

New Quay - R.I.C. station

~~Yanore~~  
~~Fenore~~ - do.

Lisdoonvarna - do.

Carron - Police hut.

Ballydoura - do.

There was also a Coastguard Station in Ballyvaughan.

This new battalion area was for generations the centre of very active land trouble, resulting in cattle drives and occasional shootings. Sheep stealing was also rampant in the district. As a result the R.I.C. strength there was relatively greater than in the ordinary rural district in other parts of the country, and from time to time up to the end of 1919 I remember upwards of 100 police concentrated there. The normal strength of the R.I.C. in the stations given above was

about 50 men, including the District Inspector and his staff. I think it was after the Ballyaliban ambush outside Ballyvaughan on 3.1.1920 that the R.I.C. stations in New Quay, Fanore, Carron and Ballydoura were closed down and the garrisons withdrawn to Lisdoonvarna. The coastguards were also withdrawn from Ballyvaughan about the same time but they were replaced by a full company of the Royal Marines - approximately 100 men under a Captain. The marines, who were excellent marksmen and dour fighters, got all their supplies by boat and also used the sea to transport personnel wherever necessary.

After the withdrawal of the R.I.C. from the smaller stations there was an immediate upsurge in agrarian trouble in the district and this became a big problem to handle. There was a traditional sympathy among the ordinary people towards cattle driving and such kind of activity against landlords and land grabbers, and in the new situation which had arisen some of the Volunteers or their people were among those who saw an opportunity to redress grievances, especially against the "grabbers". However, all sorts of fantastic claims began to be made and people who had been put out of farms several generations earlier endeavoured to regain possession of such farms. In other instances persons began to agitate for their neighbours lands on no better grounds than that they had it from local gossip that they were the rightful owners. Sheep stealing, too, increased, particularly along the Clare-Galway border.

Generally speaking my battalion area was in a state of lawlessness when I took charge in February 1921 and in accordance with orders from Brigade Headquarters I had to take steps to deal with the situation. Of course



my first move was to get all the Volunteers to disassociate themselves from the land trouble, and in this I succeeded without difficulty. I next dealt with the most dangerous culprits, the people who were simply taking advantage of the upset times to feather their own nests. I arrested a number of them and kept them in detention under a guard of Volunteers until such time as they were prepared to give assurances as to their future good behaviour. On one occasion it was reported to me that the stone fences round certain lands had been levelled by people in the locality who wished to secure possession of these lands. When after enquiries I was satisfied as to who the guilty persons were, I compelled them to re-erect the fences, a punishment which was much more galling to them than arrest or even deportation from the area. In the space of a few months the activities of the land agitators had ceased, and by the time the Truce arrived in 1921 this part of Clare was entirely free from what might be described as its most prevalent type of disorder for generations previously - cattle driving.

Sheep stealing, which I have already alluded to, was another kind of trouble which had to be faced. Due to the vigilance of the Volunteers we were able to pin point the principal offenders, arresting over half a dozen. We held them as prisoners also under Volunteer guards. Owing to raids in the district by the enemy forces we had to shift these prisoners about from place to place, and this at times was very awkward and risky. At any rate the Volunteers managed to overcome these difficulties with the co-operation of the big majority of the ordinary people, to whom this class of crime had become very irritating. A small farmer who had eight or

ten sheep stolen from him was not inclined to be very friendly disposed towards those responsible, and North Clare was largely a district of small farmers. It may appear strange to say so but it is a fact, that the action of the Volunteers at that time practically stamped out entirely ever since this particular brand of criminal from North Clare.

Just about the time the 6th Battalion was formed another job was thrown on the shoulders of the Volunteers that occupied a good deal of my time as Battalion O/C, and that was the collection of the rates for the Clare County Council. I was a member of that body at the time that events occurred which led to this job being entrusted to the Volunteers. It arose from a decision of the Council, then entirely under the control of the I.R.A., to refuse to strike a rate covering awards made under the Malicious Injuries Acts to certain members of the British forces who had been injured. Some of these awards were most fantastic, particularly as in the case of Col. Murray White who, in a burst of hatred against the Sinn Féin movement, attempted single-handed to interfere with a peaceable procession in the town of Ennis in celebration of the release of prisoners or some other such event. On that occasion he ordered the crowd to disperse and tried to use his walking cane to enforce the order. He was roughly handled but by no means left in a serious condition. Later he took proceedings under the Malicious Injuries Acts and was awarded the huge sum of £6,000 in compensation.

Following the refusal of the County Council to include this amount and other similar awards in the rates, the British Local Government Department engaged in a battle

of wits with the Council which ultimately culminated in the Council's decision to request the Volunteers to collect the rates. The Chairman of the County Council at the time was a prominent I.R.A. officer, Michael Brennan, O/C East Clare Brigade, while the rest of the members were either Volunteer officers or members of Sinn Féin Clubs. It became, through official orders, the duty of each Battalion O/C in the county to ensure that ratepayers met the rate demands. Even though there was a splendid response on the part of the general public it meant a lot of extra work for the Volunteers and particularly the officers.

In the area which was subsequently to become the area of the 6th Battalion the Volunteers were without guns until towards the end of 1919. We then began collecting all the arms held by the civilian population in the district. In some instances the guns were surrendered to us voluntarily but in other cases we had to raid for them. Due to wrong information a good many of the raids were fruitless. I was never involved in a raid where the owners of the guns offered any opposition. One gentleman, Mr. Curtin, Queen's Hotel, Lisdoonvarna, made us a very nice present of a long Lee Enfield rifle, a couple of shotguns, a couple of revolvers, a punt gun and a shore gun, along with a large quantity of shotgun cartridges. Mr. Davin, Kilcorney, Carron Ballyaliban, also gave us a rifle and a few shotguns, but for this rifle we could get no ammunition. Along with these we got about six or seven other shotguns. The entire collection amounted to a dozen shotguns and two rifles.

The first armed clash with British forces in which I was engaged and, for that matter, the first engagement in the district between Lisdoonvarna and the Galway border, occurred on 3rd January, 1920. The R.I.C. had been affording protection to a man called Devoren in Ballyaliban who had become unpopular over land trouble. A patrol of four men were usually sent out to his place each night from Ballyvaughan R.I.C. Barracks. I decided to attack this patrol with the assistance of the local Volunteers. A carbine and about 50 rounds of ammunition was loaned to me by Andy O'Donoghue, O/C 5th Battalion. I used the carbine myself, while in the party were eight other men all armed with shotguns and having five or six cartridges apiece. These men were: Conor and Matty O'Donoghue, Mick O'Loughlin, Nicholas Healy, Joe McNamara, Martin Keane, Michael Mullins, Michael Burns, and two scouts - Jimmy and Michael Keane. The former was placed on the Lisdoonvarna road about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the cross from which the by-road leading to Ballyaliban branches off. The second scout was posted just at this cross.

The attacking party were placed behind the walls of the Ballyaliban by-road at a distance of about quarter of mile from the crossroads and approximately one and a half miles from Ballyvaughan. The positions were the men were:

Left-hand side facing Ballyaliban:

First - Nicholas Healy  
 Second - Conor O'Donoghue  
 Third - Michael O'Loughlin  
 Fourth - Matt. O'Donoghue  
 Fifth - Seán McNamara (myself).

Right-hand side of road:

- First - Michael Burns
- Second - Michael Mullins
- Third - Austin McNamara
- Fourth - Martin Keane.

The patrol, as I said, generally consisted of four men armed with carbines, and they came on foot in two pairs separated by a distance of about forty yards between each pair. Of course, from our point of view, the big attraction was the rifles. To meet this formation I divided the attacking party so that we were in two groups, the first, second and third man on the left-hand side and the first and second man on the right-hand comprising one group and the remainder the second group. It was intended that each group would have to deal with two policemen and the men nearest one another in each group were roughly thirty-five yards apart. The shooting was to begin when I opened fire.

It so happened that the police came along marching in pairs in close formation and instead of four there were five and a "special" called Flattery who had resigned from the R.I.C. some time before and rejoined or at least had volunteered to perform police work in the Ballyvaughan district. He was armed with a rifle, too, but wore civilian attire.

When the leading policemen were opposite me I fired and the attack began. It was around half-past ten. Owing to the darkness, perhaps, and due to the fact that all my men were having their first experience in an ambush, most of the police survived the initial outburst of fire

and they replied vigorously. At the outset they threw two hand grenades which exploded fairly close to myself but did no damage. Mixed through their rifle fire they used Verey lights, which were entirely new to us and very upsetting too. In a short time the engagement became almost a hand to hand encounter. So close did we come to one another that one policeman struck the barrel of his rifle against mine, and in the exchange of shots which followed my cap was blown off and I damaged the uniform of that particular policeman by putting a bullet through it.

As far as I can now remember I would say that we kept up the attack for about ten minutes - when the supply of cartridges which we had become exhausted. I ordered a retirement. The Verey lights and the rough bushy country through which we had to retreat made this a tough job for inexperienced men, but it was managed without any casualties other than scratches from blackthorn bushes and torn clothes. We all got out to a safe position and then dispersed to our homes. The enemy had two men wounded, including "Mr." Flattery who got badly wounded and that night finished his activities as a "special" in the area.

Next day there was a lot of enemy activity, the R.I.C. having been reinforced by military from Ennistymon. Widespread searches were made, but they found nothing and there were no arrests. Some of the Volunteers mixed through a group of R.I.C. who were examining the scene of the attack and got into conversation with them. The police spoke a lot about all the narrow escapes which their colleagues had, and could not understand how the attacker whose brains were blown out and whose cap

they had found had got away.

Incidentally, the police must have been as excited as we were during the ambush and afterwards. They fired in all directions and at anything which came in sight. Dr. Keane of Ennistymon, who was returning from a sick call, after we had retreated came along towards the police driving a Buick car. The police fired at the car as it came near and wounded the doctor. He did not spare them in comments, which appeared in the press in connection with the incident, describing the police as cowardly, reckless and irresponsible.

For the attack on Ruane Barracks in October 1920, on instructions from Battalion Headquarters I brought sixteen of the best men from the Ballyvaughan-Lisdoonvarna area to Kilfenora on the previous night. We met the remainder of the men from the 5th Battalion in Miss O'Brien's house. There were so many men available that the Battalion O/C was in a bit of a stew as to whom he should select to go on to Ruane, and eventually he told me to post some of the men who came with me on protection duty around Kilfenora and to instruct the remainder to stay in the village and to hold themselves in readiness for any emergency that might arise during the night. After doing this I was informed that I was to proceed with the party which was to go on to Ruane and which left Kilfenora about 10.30 p.m.

A good part of the journey from Kilfenora to Ruane had to be made across country, and in order to get over wide ditches or drains the party, which was under the command of the Battalion O/C, Andy O'Donohue, had to use ladders. The Battalion Quartermaster, Peadar Considine,

Kilshanny, who was with us and was then a wiry active young man, was bemoaning the fact that Frank Molyneaux was not there. Molyneaux, a chemist and member of the Ennistymon Company, was a big beefy man and physically unsuited to the tricky business of crossing these ladders on foot in the darkness. Considine, of course, was making a joke at Molyneaux's expense, and at the time was negotiating a ladder himself when he overbalanced or slipped and fell into the drain full of water. He managed to get out alright but, of course, was drenched to the skin. However, he persisted in going on and had to remain in his wet clothes until two or three o'clock next day when he got home to Kilshanny.

We arrived at Ruane village just before daybreak around 7.30. The men from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions were also there at the time. I was posted at a crossroads at the outskirts of the village, where I was in charge of a party of six or eight men, all of whom were armed, some with rifles and revolvers, others with shotguns. I had a revolver. After a lapse of maybe a quarter of an hour or so a scout came running towards us from the direction of the village and he shouted "Double to the barracks, lads. The whole thing is a failure". We ran towards the barracks and when we got there we found it had been captured. The Volunteers were removing everything from the building which was of any use to them before setting fire to it. One of the police was dead and another wounded, while the remainder were out in the street as prisoners. A priest was brought along to attend to the police. The dead man was not a Catholic.



Two of the police were taken away by us, Constables Wilmot and Bill Carroll, and we brought them under guard to Carron in North Clare. This really was a bit of bluff on our part to cover up Constable Carroll. It was through his assistance and connivance that the barracks had been captured, and an arrangement had been made by the Volunteer officers with whom he was in league prior to the attack that as soon as the barracks was captured he would join the I.R.A. and go "on the run" with the other wanted men in the Mid Clare Brigade. A rather funny coincidence occurred in his case some time afterwards - just prior to the Monreal ambush in December 1920. The Brigade Column was after being formed and it was billeted in the Licken-Tullaha district outside Kilfenora. I was issuing rifles to the men who had mobilised and among them was Bill Carroll. The rifle which I handed him was the very rifle which he had used while in the R.I.C. I always regarded that as a very singular coincidence as I had about thirty-five or forty rifles altogether and gave them out according as each man came along by simply taking from the stores the first rifle that came to my hand.

At Carron we held a mock Courtmartial for Constable Wilmot's benefit. The "court" decided to release him and to "detain" Constable Carroll as a hostage. Constable Wilmot was told that he was to convey word to his authorities that if there were to be any reprisals by the British troops as a result of the Ruane attack that Constable Carroll would be executed. We now had the problem of ensuring that Constable Wilmot would get back safely to some R.I.C. station, so we decided that it would be best that he should be taken to

Gort in Co. Galway. This task was left to myself to arrange. One of the most reliable men in the battalion, Mick O'Loughlin of Ballyvaughan, had a motor car, and I got him to drive myself and Constable Wilmot from Carron to Tirneevin Cross, about three miles from Gort. Before parting from his guard in Carron, Constable Wilmot insisted on shaking hands with all his captors and was most profuse in his thanks for the good treatment he had received. On the way towards Gort I kept reminding him of the decision given at his courtmartial, and told him a bit of a colourful story of how the I.R.A. had compiled a list of the most prominent Unionists in Co. Clare who, as well as "Constable" Carroll, would all be shot if there were any reprisals by the British troops for the capture of Ruane Barracks, and that the counter reprisals by us would also include the burning of the houses of these Unionists. Constable Wilmot promised to convey all I had said to him, and he seemed to have done so, too, with good effect because there were no reprisals. He was a prisoner on our hands for two days.

At the time of the capture of Ruane Barracks, and for some seven or eight months previously, I was "on the run" and was spending my time in different places around North Clare. My father's house was often raided. About 15th December, 1920, a party of Black and Tans with a few R.I.C. descended on my home with the intention of burning it. They ordered out the occupants, who included my father, mother and sister. As my sister was leaving she shouted to the Tans "I'll call the boys". The officer in charge instantly blew a whistle and ordered his men on to the lorries and drove off. Immediately the family returned and with the aid of some

of the local Volunteers saved the house from destruction, though most of the furniture was burned. In their hasty retreat the marauders left behind them two tins of petrol, which were removed by the Volunteers and hidden. It was remarkable how these tins of petrol came in useful four or five days afterwards. I was wounded in the Monreal ambush on 18th December, 1920. Dr. Pearson of Lisdoonvarna, a great friend of the "boys" though a Northern Protestant, came out to attend to my wound. He was followed for a good distance by the R.I.C. and Tans from Lisdoonvarna and had to make a wide detour through the county before he finally shook them off. By the time he reached me he had not sufficient petrol left to take him home. Some of the Volunteers who had hidden the petrol were around the place and heard of the doctor's plight. In the course of an hour or so they were able to present him with two gallons of petrol so unwittingly supplied by the enemy.

I was away from the district attending a County Council meeting at Ennis when the attempt was made to burn my home. There was another house burned by the same party of enemy troops that day, Markham's of Kilfenora. One or two of the Markham family were also "on the run" then. On my return from Ennis I reported to Joe Barrett, O/C Operations Mid Clare Brigade, who was then after forming a Brigade Flying Column which he had billeted in the townlands of Tullaha and Licken. Peadar O'Loughlin, the Brigade Vice O/C, was also there, and while the biggest percentage of the others were drawn from 4th and 5th Battalions there were also some representatives present from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions. I learned that day that it was the

intention of the officers to attack an enemy convoy of three lorries which was expected to travel from Ennistymon to Ennis on the following day.

The column left the billeting district about 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning of 18th December, 1920. There was a heavy frost and the weather was bitterly cold. We arrived at the ambush position in Monreal before the break of day. As soon as it dawned and I got a chance to have a good look at the ground I felt the position was a bad one and expressed that view to the Vice Brigadier, Peadar O'Loughlin. On the east side of the road the walls, which were built of loose stones, were much too high, while on the other side there was very little cover between the main road and the Cullinagh river which runs at a distance of roughly three hundred yards from the road and more or less parallel to it. Monreal is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the town of Ennistymon on the main road to Ennis and within a quarter of a mile from the crossroads formed where a by-road running from the Drinagh side to Monanagh Bridge intersects the main road. In answer to the opinion expressed by me to the Vice Brigadier regarding the position, he replied "It is the best we can get and what can we do. We're going to meet them anyway", meaning, of course, the British troops. It appears that the men in the Flying Column had been pressing the officers to have a crack at the enemy, and to avoid being accused of doing nothing but roaming through the country the men in charge felt that there would have to be an attack made on the enemy forces without further delay.

At the ambush position the column was divided into two. As far as I remember there were about seventeen

to twenty in each party, one of which occupied positions on the western lower side of the road, while the other party, in which I was included, took up position almost directly opposite on the other side. I would say that nearly all the column were armed with rifles and had about 50 rounds of ammunition per man, and that three or four men carried a Mills bomb. Seán Casey, Ruane, O/C of the 3rd Battalion, was in charge on our side, while the Column Commander, Joe Barrett, had charge on the other side and Peadar O'Loughlin was with him. Among the others who were with me in our position were Mick O'Loughlin, Ballyvaughan, Austin Geraghty, Lisdoonvarna, Connie O'Donoghue, Ballyvaughan, Joe McNamara, Carron, Nicholas Healy, Noughaval, Joe Griffy, Doolin, Andy Donoghue, Liskeen, and Paddy Devitt, Cahersherkin. This position was a sheep and cattle shelter about thirty yards from the road and about 40 yards long and fifteen yards wide. "Windows" were made along the front wall to provide loop-holes and a gap was also cut in the back wall to furnish the party with a safe means of retreat into the field at the rear. The walls around the shelter were like all the walls in the adjoining fields, about 8 feet high, and were built of loose stones which stood badly up to bomb explosions or concentrated machine gun fire. The ground on our side of the road rose rather steeply from the road so that the bottom of the front wall of the cattle shelter was twenty feet or so above the road level, and it continued to rise for forty yards or so behind the shelter when it then stretched out into a flattish plain comprised of good-sized fields for a distance of, perhaps, three quarters of a mile further back towards Cloonagh. Thus an enemy gaining possession of any part of the summit of the ridge could, with machine guns,

make the retreat of poorly equipped forces like ours very dangerous and difficult.

There was a small section of three or four men placed on the south flank of the attacking party on the opposite side of the road, and this section had command of the crossroads and, consequently, of the by-roads leading to Drinagh and Monanagh Bridge. This was a wise move on our part as I believe the men here played a major part in the subsequent fighting. They certainly prevented the British troops at a crucial stage of the engagement from advancing to the bridge and thus enabled the remainder of the column on that side to effect a successful retreat across the river.

The approach of the lorries around half past nine in the morning was heralded by the hum of the engines. The convoy consisted of three vehicles. From our position we had no view of their approach until the first car rounded a road bend on our right. Unfortunately a shot was discharged accidentally by one of the men on the opposite side of the road, and I think this alerted the oncoming enemy because as soon as it happened the lorries seemed to pull up. We immediately opened fire, and when we did the first lorry accelerated and drove towards the crossroads. The second lorry was also engaged but the occupants alighted and replied to our fire with rifles and hand grenades. They soon made our position untenable and, besides, we were endangered by the threat of being surrounded by the troops from the third lorry who were having a relatively uninterrupted advance to the summit of the ridge on our right. At this stage of the fighting I was wounded in the knee

and I was bleeding rather profusely. A Volunteer beside me threw two bombs and I threw one, but they did not appear to have as much effect as we hoped for. I withheld a second bomb which I had as I decided it might be helpful in getting us out of a tight corner later on.

All the men in the shelter got out safely into the fields at the rear, a few of us remaining behind to cover their retreat. We managed to keep the section of the enemy who were threatening us from the right-hand side of the position at bay until eventually the last man got outside the encirclement threat. As far as my memory serves me, Andy O'Donoghue, Paddy Devitt, Ignatius O'Neill and myself were the last four who got away.

Getting out of the shelter into the fields at our rear, where we rejoined some of our comrades, did not finish our worries. A running fight, lasting probably an hour, then ensued. By dividing ourselves into small parties, one covering the retreat of the other, we eventually got into country which had plenty of cover and shelter and the enemy did not attempt to follow us. When we reached McCaw's of Cloonagh, two miles away from the scene of the ambush, I was in an exhausted condition from loss of blood. In that house my wound received a rough dressing from my comrades. We also got some refreshments there. After that I was removed in an ass cart bedded with hay to Daly's of Caherminane. This townland on that particular evening was reminiscent of the scenes one read about in the early days of the First World War. It is something over a mile outside Kilfenora, and more than half of the population of the latter village had fled out of it in anticipation of

reprisals like what had occurred three months earlier in Ennistymon, Lahinch and Miltown Malbay following the Rineen ambush. In Daly's one of these refugees, Mrs. Lysaght, redressed my wound in a very efficient manner and as well attended to other scratches which I had received.

I remained in Caherminane until the following night when I was again removed, this time to Michael Cahir's of Ballydoura where I was treated by Dr. Pearson, Lisdoonvarna. This good man was fearful for my safety as the R.I.C. and Tans had tried to track him on his way to me. He insisted that I should be shifted again to a more isolated locality, and this time I was taken to Quin's in Ballymahony. I was kept there for fourteen days until I was able to move about with the aid of crutches, having the protection of two Volunteers armed with rifles during that period. It was the following St. Patrick's Day before I was able to move about properly and on that national holiday I went to Mass for the first time in several months.

During my period of recuperation I was appointed O/C of the 6th Battalion and from my crutches, so to speak, supervised its formation and directed Volunteer affairs generally, particularly the collection of rates for the County Council. In this interval, too, five prominent Volunteers from the Kinvara district in Co. Galway - Padraig Fahy, Paddy and Joe Kilkelly and Willie and Michael Hynes - came into the battalion area and asked to be allowed to become members of the unit. They were all "wanted" men and their home district, which was in a poorly organised condition, was regarded by them as unsafe. I accepted them, having already known them



as being genuine men, and subsequently I did not regret having done so.

On St. Patrick's Day 1921 I resumed active control of the battalion. Actually on that date an ambush was planned for a lorry or two of Tans at Morrrough, 7 or 8 miles from Ballyvaughan and between the latter village and Black Head. No lorry made an appearance. Between that occasion and the end of March positions were taken up on a couple of occasions along the Corkscrew road between Ballyvaughan and Lisdoonvarna for the purpose of attacking police lorries, but again they failed to show up.

The Brigade Council (Mid Clare) issued an order on 31.3.'21 to each Battalion O/C to bring off some form of attack in his area, and in order to ensure that this was done a member of the Brigade Staff came personally into each of the battalion areas. The Vice Brigade O/C, Peadar O'Loughlin, came to my battalion. I mobilised 20 men armed with rifles and shotguns at about 10 o'clock on the 31st March at the Corkscrew Hill, and with the Vice Brigadier and Dr. Pearson, Lisdoonvarna, who was then the Battalion M.O., we marched to Lisdoonvarna for the purpose of attacking a patrol in the village or shooting any individual policemen which we might catch or, failing that, to snipe the R.I.C. barracks. We had Volunteers scouting in front of the party.

When we were about half a mile from Lisdoonvarna two of these scouts, brothers named Keighrey who lived in the village, came rushing back to tell us that the District Inspector, Dignan, and a force of R.I.C. and Tans were lying in ambush for us at the outskirts of the village. Realising that we had been forestalled

it was decided to call off the attack. Later on I learned that a prominent business man in Lisdoonvarna who had been told by a woman from <sup>Lisdoonvarna</sup> ~~Gorkscrow Hill~~ *Smyal* that we were coming into the village that night, passed on the information to the District Inspector.

During April 1921 I tried to induce the Royal Marines to leave their station a few times in the hope of ambushing them. The tricolour was hoisted on prominent positions to lure them into an attempt to remove it, but there was nothing doing. Knowing their reputation as fighters we sniped the station in the daytime more than once, but still they would not venture out. Of course there were plenty of opportunities for shooting unarmed marines but this did not appeal to me. They came out to meet a few of the local ladies who were friendly with them and also came unarmed for the mails up to early in May 1921.

I think it was after a raid on the mails by us in the middle of May 1921 that it was noticed that the marines had started to send an armed party of about a dozen men under a corporal each day to collect mails at the local Post Office. They came on foot in close military formation four deep about 10 o'clock in the morning. I saw a chance here and asked for the assistance of the O/C of the 5th Battalion, Andy O'Donoghue of Lickeen, Kilfenora.

O'Donoghue at once responded and on the night of the 19th May he came to me with about a dozen men armed with rifles and shotguns. I had twenty men from my own battalion, with rifles and shotguns for a dozen of them. We got into houses of our own supporters

in the village in the early hours of the morning, having decided to remain in them until our scouts reported next morning that the marines were coming, when we would then get into the prearranged positions in the village. The distance between the Coastguard Station which the marines occupied and the village of Ballyvaughan is roughly three quarters of a mile. After waiting for well into the day the enemy did not come along so we withdrew, most of the 5th Battalion men going home with their O/C.

Late that evening while I was visiting "The Residence" on the Corkscrew Hill, a house owned by a Miss Lyne from Kerry who was an active member of the Cumann na mBan and a generous host to all I.R.A. men, another member of the Cumann na mBan, Kathleen McNamara, Kilcorney, Carron, came in. She was after coming from Ballyvaughan where she called at Kerin's Hotel. In the bar there she overheard a marine telling someone that "they would be in next morning at 10 o'clock and that it would be too bad for any 'Shinners' who would be about". I accepted this as hot information and there and then decided to strike next day with the men from my own battalion along with a few of the 5th Battalion men who were still in the neighbourhood. I sent despatch carriers to the men I wanted, instructing them to report at "The Residence" before 4 o'clock next morning, and also notified all the Company Captains in my battalion to have the roads in their areas leading to Ballyvaughan blockaded during the night.

At 5 o'clock on the morning of 31st May I moved out of "The Residence" with all the men I had asked to report. I also posted a big number of

scouts covering all the roads leading into Ballyvaughan - both from the Clare and Galway sides. On the road outside the Coastguard Station I put two scouts, and between that and the village I had another scout at the Protestant Church. The scout at the last mentioned point was Martin Keane. The attacking party got into their positions about 6 o'clock. Here are the details of these positions:

(1) Post Office. This building directly overlooked the main road coming from the Coastguard Station for a distance of about 80 yards, after which the road took a right-hand turn where the Courthouse now stands. The Post Office was occupied by four men armed with rifles - Michael Burns, Austin McNamara, Paddy Ward and one of the Kilkellys from Kinvara.

Left-hand side of road (facing Coastguard Station).

(2) Ruin (55 yards from P.O.) - 2 men here - Paddy O'Loughlin (rifle) and Seamus Murrily (shotgun).

(3) Ruin (60 yards from P.O.) - 3 men here - John Geraghty (shotgun), John Connell (revolver) and myself (rifle).

(4) Wall (80 yards from P.O.) - 3 men here - Brian O'Loughlin (shotgun), Connie O'Donoghue (shotgun) and Tom Collins (miniature rifle).

Right-hand side of road.

(5) On Post Office side of laneway - (65 yards from Post Office) - 3 men here, all with shotguns - Stephen Wall and the brothers Willie and Michael Hynes from Kinvara.

(6) On Coastguard Station side of laneway - (80 yards from P.O.) - 4 men here - Seamus Davenport, Nicholas Healy and Seán Callaghan (shotguns) and Joe McNamara (rifle).

The marines had not left the Coastguard Station up to 1 o'clock in the day and I had just withdrawn the men from their positions when the scout, Martin Keane, came along with the news that the marines were coming. I rushed the party back to the positions they had left. When the marines came in sight I was disappointed to see that they had changed their formation. Instead of coming in marching four deep, they were in staggered extended formation about twenty paces apart in the files and twelve yards or so diagonally.

The leading man was the Corporal - Bolton by name - and as soon as he came opposite me I fired at him. This was the signal shot and all the rest of the attackers opened up simultaneously. The Corporal was killed outright and also another marine named Chandler. The others rushed for cover and engaged us. A hot interchange of shooting lasting about fifteen minutes then ensued, during which two other of the enemy were wounded, one opposite the hotel and the other at Linnane's Gate. Another of them had his rifle broken in his hands, after which he tried to seize one of the wounded men's rifles. As he was doing so his tin hat was shot off by Joe McNamara, and this caused him to run away with his own broken gun. The fight was brought to a close when Michael Burns, Paddy Kilkelly and my brother Austin left the Post Office and began advancing along the open street towards our opponents, who, on seeing this movement, beat a quick retreat to the Coastguard Station.

We immediately collected the arms and equipment which was left behind - 4 rifles, 4 tin helmets, 4 sets of web equipment and a small quantity of .303 ammunition.

Seamus Davenport and myself stripped the man who was lying outside the hotel. We were not aware that he was wounded at that stage and I suppose he did not care about our style of approach, as he began to shout for mercy - pleading that he had a wife and family. Assuring him that we did not shoot our prisoners, we placed him propped against the wall and made him as comfortable as possible. We had no losses.

The marines at the Coastguard Station as soon as the survivors reached it, rattled off in all directions with machine guns and rifles. They also fired two shells or rockets of some kind, but these appeared to be discharged to warn other garrisons, probably across the bay in Galway.

I moved off with the attacking party to Lickeen and put up there, but I had only arrived in that district when I received word to attend a Brigade Council meeting in Kilkamona between Inagh and Ennis. I returned to the Ballyvaughan district next day and kept a watch out for possible reprisals. Nothing in that line occurred for about a fortnight, when the Tans from Lisdoonvarna suddenly sallied out on a Sunday morning and burned the homes of two men who were in the attack - Conno~~r~~ O'Donoghue, Aughyglimine, Ballyvaughan, and Michael Burns, Arbour Hill, Ballyvaughan.

A girl named Mollie Grant was employed as an assistant in the Ballyvaughan Post Office at this period. She was very helpful to us at all times but on the morning of this attack on the marines particularly. It was their practice to ring the Post Office to say that a party was proceeding from the Coastguard Station for

the mails, and fearing that if one of the men placed by me in the Post Office that morning answered the phone the marines might 'smell a rat', she requested me to instruct these four men not to interfere with the telephone and, of course, I complied with this sensible request, and when the phone message did come she answered it herself.

Following the Ballyvaughan ambush the marines got no more mails through the local Post Office and from that time onwards their mails came either by boat or by lorries.

The Coastguard Station was subjected to frequent sniping after this ambush from late in the evening until after midnight by small parties of three or four men armed with rifles. On one such occasion in the month of July 1921 a sentry and a number of marines who were playing football outside the station were fired at and two of the marines were wounded. In the return fire from the station a local man who happened to be walking along the main road in front of the station and who had nothing whatever to do with the attack, was wounded through the lung. The wound did not prove to be fatal.

The Auxiliaries came to Corofin in April or May 1921. Our Brigade Staff was particularly anxious to teach these 'gentlemen' a sore lesson. They were truculent and had a big opinion of themselves as a fighting force. Two attempts in which I was involved were made to ambush them, the first at Toonagh, 4 miles from Ennis, and the other at Inchiquin outside Corofin.

The Toonagh attack was planned to take place some time around May. I took 16 men from the 6th Battalion

to participate in it, and a total of about 60 men from all parts of the Brigade were assembled at Toonagh, which is on the road between Corofin and Ennis. It was expected that a tender or two of Auxiliaries would be travelling on that day. Positions were occupied from about 10 o'clock in the morning to 3 o'clock in the evening but the enemy did not oblige. An accidental shot discharged by one of our men caused the O/C, Frank Barrett, to withdraw and disperse the party.

At Inchiquin it was planned to surprise a party which came out every day for water from Corofin to Elmvale, Inchiquin. This operation, as far as I can remember, was under the control of Andy O'Donoghue, O/C 5th Battalion, and he had men to assist him from 4th, 5th and 6th Battalions. From the 6th Battalion I brought 10 or 12 men.

The Auxiliaries generally came for the water around midday, and our party got into attacking positions about 9.30 in the morning. Again the luck of the Auxiliaries held. On that very day they went to the other side of Corofin on a raiding expedition and did not come to Elmvale until about half-past four in the afternoon. By then we had given up hope that they would appear and our men were withdrawn from their positions prior to dispersal when one lorry load of Auxiliaries came along. A few of our party had actually left and the remainder of us were gathered on a piece of high ground about 300 yards or so to the south side of Patterson's Mills where the Auxiliaries got the water.

The lorry drove into Patterson's yard and while in there were out of our view. Without being seen by us



they dismounted from the vehicle and slipped into positions along the wall of the avenue leading to the mill. While this was taking place the lorry left the yard and drove back to Corofin. After an interval of ten minutes or so there was an outburst of machine gun and rifle fire which hotly peppered where we were assembled. The ground here was covered with blackthorn bushes which made movement difficult. The O/C, Andy O'Donohue, was wounded in the heel as we were making our way back towards country where we could manoeuvre with more freedom and safety. The enemy did not attempt to follow us. Owing to the nature of the intervening terrain we could not hope to gain anything by attempting an encircling movement, especially as the lorry had gone back to Corofin, and since we knew that the danger of reinforcements being rushed out from there, Ennistymon, Ennis and, probably, Gort would render further delay in the locality too risky, it was decided to break off the engagement. The party got safely back to their own areas.

It was never cleared up how the Auxiliaries learned of our presence in the vicinity of Elmvale, but it is most probable that they did not know about us until they were told by somebody in Patterson's place. Patterson was a Unionist and some of his employees, too, were unfriendly to us.

In the Local Government elections held in June 1920 for the Ennistymon Rural District Council and Board of Guardians the Sinn Féin candidates were all returned unopposed and I was elected Chairman of the Board of Guardians. The meetings of both of these

bodies were held fairly regularly from that time up to the Truce, thanks to the assistance of the clerk and his assistant, who, in order to enable the members "on the run" to attend, arranged the meetings in safe places throughout the district. On such occasions the roads leading to the meeting place were well watched by I.R.A. scouts to warn us if any British forces were approaching. To the best of my memory no meeting was interrupted and the business to be transacted was always finished.

Later on I was elected Chairman of the Rural District Council and this position automatically made me a member of the Clare County Council. I also attended some meetings of that body held under conditions somewhat similar to those described already in the case of the Rural District Councils. I have earlier referred to the struggle which had to be waged by the County Council against the British Local Government Department in regard to the collection of rates. Despite the vigilance of the R.I.C. and the other forces comprising the army of occupation during this period we were able to outwit them. No County Council meeting was ever interfered with by the intrusion of the enemy, and in only one instance throughout the county were members of the I.R.A. caught while engaged in the collection of rates or taking the monies so collected to the trustees appointed by the County Council to receive them.

There is one further incident that I omitted to mention when dealing with my military activities in the year 1920 and that is the capture and trial of two British military officers - Captain Collis and McLean.

They were two Intelligence Officers who came into Lisdoonvarna on 5th October under the guise of commercial travellers. They were only in the village a few hours when one of them was recognised by Frank Molyneaux (deceased). Molyneaux, a native of Kerry, was employed locally in a chemist's shop and had previously worked in Ennistymon. He was an active Volunteer in both places. He saw these two men and at once remembered that he had seen one of them in British Army uniform as a member of a Scottish Regiment stationed in Ennistymon Workhouse. He sent word to the Brigade Vice O/C, Peadar O'Loughlin, who that evening came into Lisdoonvarna with Ignatius O'Neill and a few of the local Volunteers. They seized the two officers and took them prisoners to Gardiner's in Ballinalacken where they were kept for the night. On the following night they were handed over to me at Noughaval. I brought the prisoners to a disused house in that townland, but feeling the place a bit unsafe I shifted them, I think on the next night, to a more remote area, Poulabrone. Of course, they were under an armed guard of three or four men while in my charge. After a fortnight, during which I was constantly changing them between Poulabrone and another townland, Poulnacoppal, they were courtmartialled in the former, a disused house being again used for this purpose.

The Court consisted of the Brigade Vice O/C, Peadar O'Loughlin, Ignatius O'Neill, Andy O'Donohue, O/C 5th Battalion, Paddy Hurley, Cahermacnaughton, and a couple of other officers from the 6th Battalion. I was assigned to the prisoners for their defence. They were accused of being spies. The only evidence

which could be produced in support of the charge was the prisoners' own admission that they were engaged on intelligence work. The Court took the view that it would be wrong to execute them solely on the strength of their own admission, and as they both seemed to be candid and decent type of men they were given a chance provided they gave an undertaking to clear out of the country in a specified time - 24 hours, I think. This undertaking was given and they were conveyed to the outskirts of Lisdoonvarna and released.

After their release I found that I had omitted to hand back to the prisoners some personal documents which had been taken from them on the night of their arrest. I then despatched the papers with two I.R.A. officers, Stephen Wall and Austin Geraghty, with instructions to find the owners in Lisdoonvarna and hand over the papers to them. Wall and Geraghty found their men in the bar of the Royal Spa Hotel drinking with a number of Black and Tans. Wall called one of the two aside and gave him the papers. The Tans apparently observed this and wanted to take himself and Geraghty into custody, but Captains Collis and McLean declined to let them do so. The two British officers left the hotel and accompanied the two I.R.A. officers out of Lisdoonvarna, and also left that village themselves the same evening. Nothing more was heard of them in County Clare.

Signed:

*Sean MacConmara*  
(Sean MacConmara)

Date:

15.1.55

Witness:

*D. Griffin*

(D. Griffin)  
(Investigator)

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
No. W.S. 1072

APPENDIX A.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
 BUIRO STAIRÉ ÉILÉITIA 1913-21  
 No. W.S. 1072

ÓGLAIGH NA hÉIREANN.4th BRIGADE.1st WESTERN DIVISION6th BATTALION

Rank	Name	Remarks
1. Commandant	Seán MacConmara	
2. Vice Commandant	Thomas Dillon	
3. Adjutant	M.S. O'Loughlin	
4. Quartermaster	Mat O'Donohue	
5. Engineering	James O'Connor	
6. I.O.	Stephen Hillary	
7. Training	Austin McNamara	
8. Medical	Dr. Garrihy	
9. Signalling	M.S. O'Loughlin	
10. Chemistry	Peter Doolin	
11. Transport		
12. Organisation		
A COMPANY		
1. Captain	Joe McNamara	
2. 1st Lieut.	Conor O'Donohue	
3. 2nd Lieut.	Nicholas Healy	
B COMPANY		
1. Captain	Pat McNamara	
2. 1st Lieut.	John Hehir	
3. 2nd Lieut.	Robert Purcell	

Rank	Name	Remarks
C COMPANY		
1. Captain 2. 1st Lieut. 3. 2nd Lieut.	Joe McNamara James Roche Austin Cullinan	
D COMPANY		
1. Captain 2. 1st Lieut. 3. 2nd Lieut.	Ned Lafferty John Moylan John Geraghty	
E COMPANY		
1. Captain 2. 1st Lieut. 3. 2nd Lieut.	Patrick Gardiner William Whyte Martin Cullinan	
F COMPANY		
1. Captain 2. 1st Lieut. 3. 2nd Lieut.	Nicholas Hawes Christopher Curtin Tom Mulqueeney.	
G COMPANY		
1. Captain 2. 1st Lieut. 3. 2nd Lieut.	Pat McInerney Patrick Bourke Patrick Bourke.	

Rank	Name	Remarks
H COMPANY		
1. Captain 2. 1st Lieut. 3. 2nd Lieut.		
I COMPANY		
1. Captain 2. 1st Lieut. 3. 2nd Lieut.		

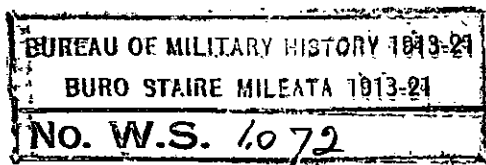
(Signed) SEÁN MacCONMARA

O.C.

6th BATTALION

4th BRIGADE.

Date: March 14th, 1922.



27/10/'21.

Adjutants Department.

H.Q.

6th Batt.

M.C.B.

BATTALION ROLL.

A.1. Joe Mack, Capt.	A.26 Thos. Francis
A.2. Connor O'Donohoe, 1st Lieut.	A.27. Patrick Francis
A.3. Austin Mack, 2nd Lieut.	A.28. James O'Connor
A.4. Edward O'Loughlin, Adjutant.	A.29. Michael O'Connor
A.5. Michael O'Loughlin, Q/M.	A.30. John Gutherie
A.6. Anthony O'Donohoe, I.O.	A.31. John Fitzgibbon
A.7. Michael O'Loughlin I.O.	A.32. Michael Maher
A.8. Martin Keane	A.33. Thos. Maher
A.9. Michael Keane	A. 34. Jas. Maher
A.10. James Keane	A.35. Austin Healy
A.11. Patrick O'Donohoe	A.36. James Healy
A.12. John Callinan	A.37. James Davoren
A.13. Pat Connolly	A.38. Patrick Davoren
A.14. Stephen Connolly	A.39. Miko Mack
A.15. Michael Connolly	A.40. Martin Rabbitt
A.16. Patrick Linnane	A.41. Pat Rabbitt
A.17. John Vaughan	A.42. Terence O'Brien
A.18. Thomas Fitzpatrick	A.43. James O'Brien
A.19. John Minter	A.44. Michael Fitzgibbon
A.20. Peter O'Donohoe	A.45. Martin Hurley
A.21. Patrick Callinan	A.46. James Hurley
A.22. Michael Fahey	A.47. Michael Keane
A.23. John Quinn	A.48. James Keane
A.24. Thos. Quinn	A.49. Andrew Keane
A.25. Michael Francis	A.50. Patrick Flanagan



A.51. Miko Connole		B.84. Miko Thynne
A.52. Austin Connole		B.85. J.J. Howard
A.53. John Connole		B.86. Michael Purcell
A.54. Michael Learey		B.87. Peter Forde
A.55. Michael Morgan		B.88. Martin Flanagan
A.56. Michael Mack		B.89. Denis Lynch
A.57. Mattie O'Donohoe		B.90. Michael Hehir
A.58. Pat Fahey		B.91. Hubert Hehir
A.59. John O'Connor		B.92. Martin Rourke
A.60. Nicholas Healy		B.93. Miko McGuane
A.61. Thos. Connole		B.94. Thomas Gannessy.
A.62. Patrick Doolin	)	B.95. John Fitzgerald
A.63. Michael Mullins	)	B.96. Frank Fitzgerald
A.64. Michael Nilan	)	B.97. Michael Tierney
A.65. Patrick O'Donohoe	)	B.98. Jack Whelan
A.66. Patrick Flanagan	)	B.99. Michael Hehir
	five recruits	<u>B.100. John Farrell</u>
B.67. Patrick Hehir, Capt.		C.101 Joe Mack, Capt.
B.68. James Purcell, 1st Lt.		C.102 Patrick O'Toole, 1st Lt.
B.69. Robert Purcell, 2nd Lt.		C.103 James Roche, 1st Lt.
B.70. Seán O'Brien, Adjt.		C.104 W.P. Driscoll, Adjt.
B.71. Michael Kerin, Q/M.		C.105 W. Driscoll, Q/M.
B.72. James Hynes, Police O.		C.106 Michael Conway, I.O.
B.73. Peter Hehir, I.O.		C.107 John Roche
B.74. John Hehir		C.108 Pat McNamara
B.75. Patrick Clancy		C.109 Michael Reddin
B.76. Pat Mack		C.110 Corney Cullinan
B.77. Thos. Mack		C.111 Austin Cullinan
B.78. John Hynes		C.112 Martin Howley
B.79. J.J. Diffley		C.113 John Cullinan
B.80. Thos. Kerin		C.114 Martin Howley
B.81. John McMahon		C.115 Michael O'Brien
B.82. Austin Nestor		C.116 Michael Fitzpatrick
B.83. Michael Nestor		

C.117 Martin Dowd	E.150 Peter Williams	
C.118 John Howard	E.151 Thos. Williams	
<u>C.119 John Sullivan</u>	E.152 Tom Cusack	
D.120 Austin Gererthy, Capt.	E.153 Peter Scully	
D.121 Ned Laferty, 1st Lt.	E.154 Martin Scullane	
D.122 John Moylan, 2nd Lt.	E.155 Michael Linnane	
D.123 Brian O'Loughlin, Adj.	E.156 Tom Scullane	
D.124 Matt Canny, Q/M	E.157 John Gardiner	
D.125 Michael Cusack P. Officer	E.158 James Scales	
D.126 Patrick O'Loughlin, I.O.	E.159 John O'Brien	
D.127 John Gerarthy	E.160 Martin Kinnane	
D.128 Joe Laferty	E.161 Michael McMahon	
D.129 Pat Canny	E.162 John Reynolds	
D.130 Pat Connors	E.163 John White	) Recruits
D.131 Morgan Callinan	E.164 Connor Cullinan	
D.132 Tom Hogan	E.165 Willie Connole	
D.133 Pat Collins	E.166 James Connole	
D.134 Tom Howard	<u>E.167 Pat O'Brien</u>	
D.135 John Maher	F.168 Michael Considine, Capt.	
D.136 Tim Connell	F.169 Tom Considine, 1st Lt.	
D.137 Joe Connell	F.170 Nicholas Haws, 2nd Lt.	
D.138 Andrew Connell	F.171 John Connole, Adjutant.	
D.139 Peter O'Loughlin	F.172 Michael Hehir, Q/M.	
D.140 John Jordan	F.173 John Finn, P. Officer	
<u>D.141 Willie Fitzgerald</u>	F.174 Paul Burke, I. Officer	
E.142 Patrick Gardiner, Capt.	F.175 Michael Sheedy	
E.143 Willie White, 1st Lt.	F.176 Manus Sammon	
E.144 Peter Doolin, 2nd Lt.	F.177 Thos. Mulqueeney	
E.145 George White, Adj.	F.178 Michael Sammon	
E.146 John Kelleher, Q/M	F.179 Austin Droney	
E.147 John Carley, P. Officer	F.180 James Droney	
E.148 Tom Reynolds, I. Officer	F.181 Michael McGuane	
E.149 Terence O'Brien	F.182 Gus Tierney	

F.183 Michael Finn	G.216 Michael O'Donohoe
F.184 James O'Donohoe	G.217 John O'Donohoe
F.185 Matt Connell	G.218 James Connors
F.186 Tom Burke	G.219 Michael McGann
F.187 Dan O'Keefe	G.220 James Rourke
F.188 Michael Considine	G.221 Thos. Maher
F.189 Pat Foley	G.222 Martin Fahey
F.190 Frank Maher	G.223 Tim Kerin
F.191 Tom Maher	G.224 John O'Loughlin.
F.192 Thos. Hawes	
F.193 Michael Hawes	
F.194 Pat Connole	
<u>F.195 Michael Collins</u>	
G.196 John Fahey, Capt.	
G.197 Pat Nolan, 1st Lt.	
G.198 Peter Healy, 2nd Lt.	
G.199 Patrick Daly, Adjt.	
G.200 Willie Wall, Q/M	
G.201 Patrick McInerney, I.O.	
G.202 John Nestor, P.O.	
G.203 Patrick Linnane	
G.204 Patrick Rourke	
G.205 Martin Nolan	
G.206 Patrick Rourke	
G.207 Patrick Tierney	
G.208 Colman Hynes	
G.209 Pat Connors	
G.210 Pat Connors	
G.211 John O'Dea	
G.212 John Kerin	
G.213 Michael Fahey	
G.214 Peter Linnane	
G.215 James Whelan	

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BUREAU STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21

No. W.S. 4072
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14th. REG'T.

1st. REG'T. DIVISION.

6th. BATTALION.

4th Brigade

RANK	NAME	REMARKS.
1. COMPANY A.	Seán Lynch	
2. VICE-COMD.	Thomas Dillon	
3. ADJUTANT.	Thos. Dougherty	
4. CLERK.	Thos. Donohue	
5. ENGINEER.	James Keenan	
6. I. Q.	Stephen Kelly	
7. TRAINING.	Austin Lynch	
8. REPAIRS.	Dr. Gormley	
9. SIGNALING.	Thos. Dougherty	
10. QUARTERS.	John Doolan	
11. TRANSPORT.		
12. CHEMIST.		
A. COMPANY		
1. CAPTAIN	Seán Lynch	
2. 1st. LIEUT.	Conor Donohue	
3. 2nd. LIEUT.	Nicholas Healy	
B. COMPANY		
1. CAPTAIN	Pat Lynch	
2. 1st. LIEUT.	John Healy	
3. 2nd. LIEUT.	Robert Powell	
C. COMPANY		
1. CAPTAIN	Seán Lynch	
2. 1st. LIEUT.	James Roche	
3. 2nd. LIEUT.	Austin Sullivan	
D. COMPANY		
1. CAPTAIN	Wid. Lafferty	
2. 1st. LIEUT.	John Traynor	
3. 2nd. LIEUT.	John Gormley	
E. COMPANY		
1. CAPTAIN	Patrick Gormley	

RANK

NAME

REGIMENT

F. COMPANY (CONTD.)

21 1st. LIEUT. William Whyte

3. 2nd. LIEUT. Martin Cullinan

G. COMPANY

1st. CAPTAIN. Nicholas Hawes

2. 1st. LIEUT. Christopher Curtin

3. 2nd. LIEUT. Tom Mulganeey

H. COMPANY

1. CAPTAIN. Pat Mcenerney

2. 1st. LIEUT. Patrick Bourke

3. 2nd. LIEUT. Patrick Bourke

I. COMPANY

1. CAPTAIN.

2. 1st. LIEUT.

3. 2nd. LIEUT.

J. COMPANY

1. CAPTAIN

2. 1st. LIEUT.

3. 2nd. LIEUT.

*Sgt MacDonnaka*

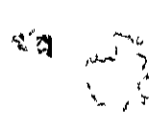
G. C. S.

6<sup>th</sup>

BATTALION,

4th. BRIGADE.

DATE *March 14<sup>th</sup> 1929*



27/10/21  
Adjutants Department

H. G.

6th Batt

Batt Roll

M 16 B

A 1	Joe Mack Capt	A 30	John Guthrie
A 2	Connor ODonohoe 1st Lieut	A 31	John Fitzgibbon
A 3	Austin Mack 2nd Lieut	A 32	Michael Maher
A 4	Edward O'Roughlin Adjutant	A 33	Thos Maher
A 5	Michael O'Roughlin Q-Master	A 34	Ja's Maher
A 6	Michael Anthony ODonohoe P.O.	A 35	Austin Healy
A 7	Michael O'Roughlin I.O.	A 36	James Healy
A 8	Martin Keane	A 37	James Davoren
A 9	Michael Keane	A 38	Patrick Davoren
A 10	James Keane	A 39	Mike Mack
A 11	Patrick ODonohoe	A 40	Martin Rabbitt
A 12	John Ballinan	A 41	Pat Rabbitt
A 13	Pat Connolly	A 42	Terence O'Brien
A 14	Stephen Connolly	A 43	James O'Brien
A 15	Michael Connolly	A 44	Michael Fitzgibbon
A 16	Patrick Linnane	A 45	Martin Hurley
A 17	John Saughan	A 46	James Hurley
A 18	Thomas Fitzpatrick	A 47	Michael Keane
A 19	John Minter	A 48	James Keane
A 20	Peter ODonohoe	A 49	Andrew Keane
A 21	Patrick Ballinan	A 50	Patrick Flanagan
A 22	Michael Fahy	A 51	Mike Connole
A 23	John Quinn	A 52	Austin Connole
A 24	Thos Quinn	A 53	John Connole
A 25	Michael Francis	A 54	Michael Learsy
A 26	Thos Francis	A 55	Michael Morgan
A 27	Patrick Francis	A 56	Michael Mack
A 28	James ODonno	A 57	Mattie ODonohoe
A 29	Michael ODonno	A 58	Pat Fahy

A 69	John O'Connor	B 93	Miko W'Guane
A 68	Nicholas Healy	B 94	Thomas Gannessy
A 67	Thos Bonnole	B 95	John Fitzgerald
A 66	Patrick Doolin	B 96	Frank Fitzgerald
A 65	Michael Mullins	B 97	Michael Tierney
A 64	Michael Milan	B 98	Jack Whelan
A 63	Patrick O'Boonohoe	B 99	Michael Hehir
A 62	Patrick Flanagan	B 100	John Farrell
B 61	Patrick Hehir Capt	B 101	Joe Mack Capt
B 60	James Purcell 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut	B 102	Patrick O'Boole 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut
B 59	Robert Purcell 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut	B 103	James Roache 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut
B 58	Sean O'Brien Adjutant	B 104	W P Driscoll Adjutant
B 57	Michael Keen Qr Master	B 105	W Driscoll Qr Master
B 56	James Hyne's Police Officer	B 106	Michael Conway J O
B 55	Peter Hehir J O	B 107	John Roache
B 54	John Hehir	B 108	Pat W' Mamara
B 53	Patrick Blaney	B 109	Michael Redden
B 52	Pat Mack	B 110	Bomey Bullinan
B 51	Thos Mack	B 111	Austin Bullinan
B 50	John Hyne's	B 112	Martin Howley
B 49	J J Duffley	B 113	John Bullinan
B 48	Thos Keen	B 114	Martin Howley
B 47	John W' Mahon	B 115	Michael O'Brien
B 46	Austin Nestor	B 116	Michael Fitzpatrick
B 45	Michael Nestor	B 117	Martin Dowd
B 44	Miko Thynne	B 118	John Howard
B 43	J J Howard	B 119	John Sullivan
B 42	Michael Purcell	D 120	Austin Gererthy Capt
B 41	Peter Forde	D 121	Ned Lafferty 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut
B 40	Martin Flanagan	D 122	John Moylan 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut
B 39	Denis Lynch	D 123	Brian O'Loughlin Adj
B 38	Michael Hehir	D 124	Matt Lanny Qr Master
B 37	Hubert Hehir	D 125	Michael Busack P Officer
B 36	Martin Bourke		

Five recruits

126 D 126	Patrick O'Doughlin I O	£ 158	James Seales
127 D 127	John Gerarthy	£ 159	John O'Brien
128 D 128	Joe Lafferty	£ 160	Martin Kinnane
129 D 129	Pat Lannoy	£ 161	Michael W. Mahon
130 D 130	Pat Connors	£ 162	John Reynolds
131 D 131	Morgan Ballinan	£ 163	<sup>Recruited</sup> John White
132 D 132	Tom Hogan	£ 164	Bonnor Bullinan
133 D 133	Pat Collins	£ 165	Wilke Connole
134 D 134	Tom Howard	£ 166	James Connole
135 D 135	John Maher	£ 167	Pat O'Brien ✓
136 D 136	Tom Connell	£ 168	Michael Consideine Capt
137 D 137	Joe Connell	£ 169	Tom Consideine 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut
138 D 138	Andrew Connell	£ 170	Nicholas Haws 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut
139 D 139	Peter O'Doughlin	£ 171	John Connole Adjutant
140 D 140	John Jordan	£ 172	Michael Heher Qr Master
141 D 141	Willie Fitzgerald	£ 173	John Finn P. Officer
142 D 142	Michael	£ 174	Paul Burke J. Officer
142 £ 142	Patrick Gardiner Capt	£ 175	Michael Shady
143 £ 143	Willie White 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut	£ 176	Marius Sammon
144 £ 144	Peter Doolin 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut	£ 177	Thos Mulqueeneey
145 £ 145	George White Adjutant	£ 178	Michael Sammon
146 £ 146	John Kelleher Qr Master	£ 179	Austen Dronney
147 £ 147	John Barley P. Officer	£ 180	James Dronney
148 £ 148	Tom Reynolds J. Officer	£ 181	Michael M <sup>c</sup> Guane
149 £ 149	Terence O'Brien	£ 182	Gus Lunney
150 £ 150	Peter Williams	£ 183	Michael Finn
151 £ 151	Thos Williams	£ 184	James O'Conohoe
152 £ 152	Tom Busack	£ 185	Matt Connoll
153 £ 153	Peter Scully	£ 186	Tom Burke
154 £ 154	Martin Scullane	£ 187	Dan O'Keefe
155 £ 155	Michael Lunnane	£ 188	Michael Consideine
156 £ 156	Tom Scullane	£ 189	Pat Foley
157 £ 157	John Gardiner	£ 190	Frank Maher



191	Tom Maher	G 224	John Doughlin
192	Thos Hawes		
193	Michael Hawes		
194	Pat Bonnole		
195	Michael Collins		
G 196	John Fahy Capt		
G 197	Pat Nolan 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut		
G 198	Peter Healy 2 <sup>nd</sup>		
G 199	Patrick Daly Adjutant		
G 200	Willie Walk Qr Master		
G 201	Patrick McInerney J O		
G 202	John Nestor P O		
G 203	Patrick Linnane		
G 204	Patrick Kourke		
G 205	Martin Nolan		
G 206	Patrick Kourke		
G 207	Patrick Tierney		
G 208	Colman Hynes		
G 209	Pat Bonnoors		
G 210	Pat Bonnoors		
G 211	John O'Bea		
G 212	John Kerin		
G 213	Michael Tohey		
G 214	Peter Linnane		
G 215	James Whelan		
G 216	Michael Bonohoe		
G 217	John Bonohoe		
G 218	James Bonnoors		
G 219	Michael Mc Gann		
G 220	James Kourke		
G 221	Thos Maher		
G 222	Martin Fahy		
G 223	Tom Kerin		