

N.S. 1,073

CRIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BUREAU STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21
No. W.S. 1,073

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.
STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,073.....

Witness

James Quinn,
Clenagh,
Newmarket-on-Fergus,
Co. Clare.

Identify.

Q.M. Corrigerry Coy. Irish Volunteers,
Co. Clare, 1917 - .

Adjutant 1st Battalion, 1921.

Subject.

Execution of the spy, John Reilly,
Newmarket, Co. Clare, 19/4/1920.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S. 2372.....

Form B.S.M. 2

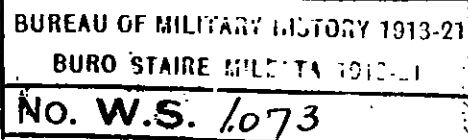
ORIGINAL

W. S. 1,073.

STATEMENT BY JAMES QUINN

Clenagh, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare

(Formerly Adjutant, 1st Battalion, East
Clare Brigade).



I was born on 13th July 1890, at Clenagh, Newmarket-on-Fergus in my present home where I have a farm.

Joining the Volunteers on their formation in Newmarket early in 1914, I remained a member of that unit until a separate company was formed in my own district in Corrigerry in 1917. I was appointed quartermaster of that company. I held that rank until about March 1921, when, following the changes in the staff of the 1st Battalion by the Brigade O/C., I was given the post of adjutant to that battalion.

I think it was on the night of 19th April 1920, that John Moroney, 2nd Lieutenant of the Corrigerry Company, and Paddy Reidy, one of the section commanders of that company, called at my house and asked me to go with them to Newmarket-on-Fergus. On they way they told me that orders had been given to them by the Brigade O/C. (Michael Brennan) to execute a spy named John Reilly, who lived in Weaver's Row, Newmarket. This man was stated to be a British ex-soldier who was known to be mixing a good deal with the Black and Tans in Newmarket. He was married and had no family and was a stranger in the district.

In Newmarket that night we joined about 20 other Volunteers in the vicinity of the curate's house. About five or six of us - Paddy Reidy, Paddy Maher, Ballycar; John Murphy, Rathfoland and myself were among them - went to Reilly's house and knocked at the door. We were all armed with revolvers. The knock was answered by Mrs. Reilly and when she opened the door we entered the house and went directly to the bedroom where Reilly was in bed. He was ordered to dress and did so without demur. He was then taken under guard

about a mile out the Ballycar road and led into a by-road which runs to Monafola. About 300 yards or so down this by-road Fr. Wm. Kennedy, C.C., Newmarket-on-Fergus, was waiting to hear our prisoner's confession. Guards were posted around the spot while he was receiving spiritual attention which lasted 15 or 20 minutes. When this was over a bandage was placed over the prisoner's eyes and he was ordered on his knees. The firing party which, so far as I can now remember, were all armed with revolvers and consisted of ~~Paddy O'Rourke, Moham~~; Jack Brennan, Clonmoney; Florence O'Neill, Rathfoland; Jack Moroney, Corrigerry; Mat McCormack, Ballinacraggy; Paddy Maher, Ballycar; John Murphy, Rathfoland, and myself. We stood about three yards away from our target and, on orders from Paddy Maher, I think, we fired about three rounds per man. Reilly fell back dead and he was then anointed by the priest who witnessed the execution. A label bearing the words: "Spy. Executed by the I.R.A." was then tied to his body which was left on the spot where he was shot until it was removed next day by the R.I.C. and Tans.

I was not present at the courtmartial of this man Reilly and I never learned anything afterwards that would enable me to tell now, with authority, on what proof he was convicted as a spy. My part in his execution was simply in compliance with instructions issued by my superior officer, the Brigade O/C. He made no confession of his guilt to any of his captors and I would like to add that he met his death in a brave and dignified manner. I really felt very sorry for him.

Signed: James Quinn

(James Quinn)

Date: 27-1-55Witness: D. Griffin(D. Griffin)
Investigator.