

W. S. 1,137

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1,137

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,137

Witness

Patrick Connaughton,
closetoken,
Loughrea,
Co. Galway

Identity:

Captain Closetoken Company
Irish volunteers, Loughrea Battalion, Co. Galway.

Subject.

Closetoken Company Irish Volunteers,
Loughrea Battalion, Co. Galway 1914-1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No.S.2429.....

Form B.S.M. 2

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BÚRO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1137

STATEMENT BY PATRICK CONNAUGHTON

Closetoken, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

I was born in January 1897 at Closetoken in the parish of Carrabane. I was educated at Ballymana N.S. and later at Carrabane N.S. which I left at about the age of fourteen. My father was a farmer. He was one of the pioneers of the Land League and was interned in Galway Jail for six months in the year 1882. I often heard him speak of the fight against the landlords and the hardships of that period. I heard him tell of the proclaiming of a Land League meeting in the town of Loughrea. The meeting was held despite the proclaiming. The R.I.C. used batons and rifle butts on the people who attended. A man named Morrissey from Craughwell died the next day as a result of a blow on the head from an R.I.C. man's carbine. I heard many stories of evictions, high rents, emigrations, etc. My father also told me that he was a member of the I.R.B. and that he paid for a rifle but only got a revolver which he lent to his brother-in-law and which was eventually buried and lost.

I joined the Volunteers in 1914. The company was Closetoken which became linked up later with Loughrea Battalion. The Volunteers from the Kilconiron part of the joint parish of Closetoken and Kilconiron were later linked up with Athenry Battalion. The Closetoken company was formed shortly after the formation of the Loughrea Company early in 1914. John Keary of Killiland Mills and Thomas Keane of Closetoken were the Company officers. The strength of the Closetoken Company was about 60 men. There was drill every Sunday and on two nights every week during the Summer of 1914. The instructor was a man named John Kelly, a British army reservist from Loughrea.

I remember the split in the company. It occurred about November 1914, and arose out of the question as to whether the company should attend a review of Redmond's Volunteers at Tuam.

The committee in charge of the company met. Thomas Keane was decidedly against the company attending. He said that any member who wanted to go could go with the Loughrea Company who were almost to a man in favour of Redmond. Some of us in the company thought it would be a good idea if we could get the rifles which we heard Redmond was going to give out at Tuam; and so, about eight men of the company, including myself, went to Tuam. When I arrived there I found that there was no review of Volunteers. What, in fact, was there was a recruiting meeting for the British army addressed by Redmond, Gwynn and Hazleton. After this our company dwindled until it finally fizzled out. In 1915, I remember that Patrick Finn, Frank Fahy and Michael Fahy went from here to O'Donovan Rossa's funeral. Joseph O'Flaherty from Loughrea also went.

There was no company of any kind in the Closetoken part of the joint parish of Closetoken and Kilconiron in 1915 or 1916. In the Kilconiron portion of the parish there was a company of Irish Volunteers under the command of Captain John Hanniffy and Patrick Coy, who later became quartermaster South East Galway Brigade. I was too young at the time to take a very deep interest, but after Easter 1916 my sympathy for the martyrs was aroused.

I joined Closetoken Company of the Irish Volunteers when it was reorganised in the summer of 1917. It was organised by Patrick Coy whom I have already mentioned. He was assisted by Michael Smyth. Officers were:- Captain, Patrick Coy (afterwards Q.M. Galway S.E. Brigade); 1st Lieut. Michael Smyth, 2nd Lieut. Thomas Tierney. The strength was, at first, only 17 or 18. Parades were held twice a week and the company was drilled by Captain Coy. I cannot remember any route marches. We had no arms except shotguns, except that Captain Coy had a revolver. I remember that Captain Coy

had some pikes made by William Dolly of Monivea, but these were never used for any purpose as far as I know. There is nothing that I consider worthy of relating as regards the year 1917.

Parades and drilling were continued in 1918 under the same officers. Laurence Burke of Kilnadeema was the Battalion O/C. The other companies in the Loughrea Battalion were: Loughrea, Kilnadeema, Bullaun, New Inn, Kilrickle, Kilcreest, Leitrim and Mullagh. There was only one man from our company area in the R.I.C. and he did not come home on holidays. There was nothing noteworthy up to the General Election of 1918. A Sinn Fein Club had been organised in Closetoken in 1917 by Patrick Coy, captain of the company, and Michael Fahy, brother of Frank Fahy, afterwards Ceann Comhairle, Dáil Éireann. I was a member of the committee of the Club. The parish was canvassed on behalf of the Sinn Fein candidate (the late Frank Fahy) shortly before the General Election. We did it in pairs, each pair being allotted a certain portion of the area. I think my colleague in the canvass was Frank Fallor now retired on pension from the D.M.G. At conscription time a meeting was held after which almost everybody in the parish contributed to a conscription fund. Later on, when the Dáil Loan was floated, the conscription fund contributions were turned into it. We got no extra Volunteers at conscription time as far as I can remember.

I was sick with influenza on polling day. The company was called into the town of Loughrea on the eve of polling day and the following day to help in giving an opportunity to the people to vote freely. They were being intimidated by a gang in Loughrea of British ex-servicemen and their friends. The Volunteers were armed with stout sticks and hurleys.

There is nothing of interest to record of events in the year 1919 except that I took part in the collection of

subscriptions to the Dáil Loan. I cannot remember anybody in the parish refusing to subscribe. There was a good deal of trouble later in getting a refund for people who had lost their receipts, but everybody got a refund in spite of the loss. There was a Parish Court in the parish of Closetoken. The two Justices I remember were John Callanan of Boherduff, an elderly man, and Peter Martin of Doograne, also an elderly man. Both are now deceased. I cannot recall any case that came before the Court.

Some raids for arms were carried out by the company in 1919 or early 1920. It is hardly correct to term them raids as the people handed over any arms they had quite willingly. The R.I.C. had raided for the arms but the people had hidden them from the R.I.C. and kept them for the I.R.A. The company collected about 10 or 12 shotguns altogether. In addition, we raided St. Clerin's House and took two rifles from it. As far as I can remember, they were Mausers. We only got ten rounds of ammunition to fit the rifles. We met with no opposition as there was nobody in occupation except servants and they were friendly. The name of the family at St. Clerin's House was Burke. They were landlords, and very bad ones at one time. We also raided Dunsandle House. Owner was Lord Dunsandle (family name was Daly). We got no arms at Dunsandle House as the guns had been handed up to the R.I.C. at Bookeen Barracks, but we were not aware of this at the time of the raid.

In the late Spring or early Summer of 1920, our Company blocked all roads in the company area leading from Loughrea to Craughwell, to protect the attackers at Moyvilla R.I.C. Barracks. This attack did not materialise for what reason I do not know. It was the O/C. of the company, Captain Patrick Coy, who gave the order to block the roads.

I remember an aeriocht being held in Loughrea in June 1920. The evening of the aeriocht I accompanied Captain Coy

to James Flynn's publichouse in the town. There was a meeting held. Those present at the meeting included: Patrick Callanan ('The Hare'), a brigade staff officer; Laurence Burke, O/C. Loughrea Battalion; Martin Nevin, Q.M. of the Loughrea Battalion; James Flynn, one time adjutant of the Loughrea Battalion.

Martin Nevin, Q.M. of the battalion had a plan of Bookeen R.I.C. barracks and the meeting discussed plans for the attack of this post. I remember that 'The Hare' had contacted, or was to contact, the O/C. Galway Brigade (Seamus Murphy) who was to send two Volunteers from University College Galway Company with explosives to blow in the gable or the front wall. "The Hare" appointed me to cover off the windows in the gable at the Kiltulla side. Captain Edward Burke, Killimor Daly Company, was to smash in the roof with a light stone hammer, pour in petrol and set it alight. At the same time, a charge was to be set off to blow in the gable at the Kiltulla end. Gilbert Morrissey, O/C. Athenry Battalion, was to take charge of the riflemen at the front of the barracks. They were the plans as discussed at the meeting, as well as I can remember them. No doubt, 'The Hare' had had meetings with the officers of the Athenry Battalion also before this meeting. I remember also that the breach made by the explosive was to be rushed, but I cannot remember anybody or any party being detailed for this job.

The attack took place on the night of the 1st/2nd July 1920. I remember the date because there was always a fair in Athenry on the 2nd July. I remember that the people going to the fair from Closetoken parish could not get past the blocked roads between Bookeen and Loughrea. I remember distinctly the people trying to get cattle past the blockades on the roads.

On the evening of 1st July I met Captain Patrick Coy and Volunteer John Finn at the Common near the Yellow Bog on the Loughrea/Craughwell road. We had arranged to meet the Kilnadeema Company there. They were there at the appointed time. As far as I can remember, their names were:-

Laurence Burke	O/C. Loughrea Battalion
Laurence Kelly	O/C. Kilnadeema Company
John Kelly	Volunteer do.
Patrick Kelly	do. do.
Michael Power	do. do.
Martin Murray	do. do.
Thomas Fahy	do. do.
Thomas Fahy	do. do.

There were two Volunteers named Thomas Fahy in the attack. I think there were more Volunteers from Kilnadeema Company than I have named, but I cannot now remember them.

We marched across country to Dunsandle. We met 2nd Lieut. Thomas Tierney and Volunteer Martin Keogh of Closetoken Company at St. Clerin's. We met all the attacking party at the rere of the Protestant Church in the Dunsandle Demesne, roughly 400 yards from the Bookeen R.I.C. barracks. I could not see anybody who appeared to be in charge. There was disappointment when the two Volunteers from University College Company did not turn up. There was a meeting of the battalion officers. I do not know what was discussed, but I overheard Captain Coy say: "We'll burn it anyhow, explosives or no explosives".

I took up my position opposite the gable on the north side, i.e. opposite the gable facing Kiltulla Church. I was armed with a double barrel shotgun and covered off the two gable windows. Volunteers Martin Murray and Thomas Fahy of Kilnadeema Company, and Volunteer John Finn of Closetoken Company, were with me, all armed with shotguns. We heard the hammering of the slates at the back of the building. Captain Edward Burke, Kilconiron Company, and Captain Patrick Coy, Closetoken Company, had climbed on to the roof by means of a ladder and broke in some of the slates. Petrol was poured

in through the hole. I heard somebody say that it had not caught fire and that they had gone up again with a torch. The flames could be seen coming out through the roof in a few minutes.

I heard an R.I.C. man inside yawning as if he were wakening up. They did not seem to hear the roof being broken, because they did not open fire for about 10 minutes. When they did open fire they seemed to fire through the roof and the flames seemed to get brighter. Captain Laurence Kelly, Kilnadeema Company, and Volunteer Frank Fallon of Closetoken Company, were stationed opposite the back door. There was no window at the back. When the garrison commenced firing the police dog broke out of the building through the back door. The two men at the back fired when the door opened and I heard they wounded the dog. I heard him running and roaring down the Kiltulla road.

When the roof was blazing and the R.I.C. had just commenced firing, fire was opened by all the attacking party except the two at the back. It continued for some minutes and was very heavy from both attackers and attacked. The Volunteers were shouting at the R.I.C. to surrender and calling them names and threatening what they would not do to them when they came out. After a while the roof collapsed and the first floor took fire. After some time there was a warning given, very likely by scouts, that troopers were coming from Athenry, on the Carnalea road. I heard the horses galloping. Everybody was ordered across the road into Dunsandle Wood. I crossed the road with the rest and, when halfway to the Wood, I heard that it was a false alarm and that it was caused by horses that had broken out of the fields and galloped along the road.

I forgot to mention that Verrey lights went up almost immediately the R.I.C. opened fire. I heard an R.I.C. man

screaming inside as if he had been hit. I saw no sign of any R.I.C. man at the gable windows at my side. There were steel shutters on the front lower windows as far as I know.

After the alarm about the troopers, many of the Volunteers went back and stayed looking at the fire. We were sure that all were dead inside. Day was breaking and we were all ordered home. I cannot remember who gave the order. I think that word was passed along, one telling another and so on.

Our big disappointment was that we did not get the rifles, revolvers and grenades of the R.I.C. There were roughly about ten in the barrack when it was attacked. We heard next day that they escaped by going into the wash-house at the rere of the building while we were away at the time of the alarm about the Cavalry coming from Athenry. The Volunteers suffered no casualties. As far as I know, the R.I.C. all escaped without injury and went into Loughrea on foot the next day clad in shirt and trousers.

A month, or maybe more, after the attack on Bookeen barracks, Kilnadeema and Closetoken companies decided to attack an R.I.C. patrol that went every single evening from their barrack in Kilchreest to Taylor's Cross, a little over a mile from Kilchreest in the direction of Loughrea. The patrol consisted of six to eight men. They travelled on foot and in pairs with six or seven paces between each pair. They walked leisurely from Kilchreest to Taylor's Cross, stood at the Cross for awhile and returned to their barrack. About 28 men from the two companies took up positions at Millmount Gate about halfway between the village of Kilchreest and Taylor's Cross. We were placed in sections of five inside the wall of the road with ten yards between the sections. The Volunteers were armed with shotguns mostly. A few had revolvers. Volunteer John Kelly of Kilnadeema Company had a rifle. He was in a position at Millmount

Avenue gateway. He could sweep the road travelled by the R.I.C. from his position. Volunteer Kelly afterwards became Brigade Engineer in Galway South East Brigade. Laurence Kelly, Captain, Kilnadeema Company, a brother of John, was in the centre of the ambushing party to give the order "Hands up" to the patrol before giving the order to fire to the Volunteers. He was in charge. The patrol did not come that evening, nor did it ever come afterwards. Michael Smyth, 1st Lieutenant, Closetoken Company, who lived quite close to the village of Kilchreest, supplied the information on the movements of the patrol on which the plans were made for the attack. I remember he walked up and down the road scouting for us.

I was a committee member of the Sinn Fein Club in the parish (Closetoken). Most of the Sinn Fein candidates in the local elections were returned unopposed. Captain Patrick Coy was elected unopposed. I think that Stephen Carty, a member of the Club, was also returned unopposed.

In the end of the year 1920, after Brigadier Seamus Murphy had left County Galway, Captain Patrick Coy was appointed to the battalion staff and I then became captain of the company. I was the unanimous selection of the company. I remember that at this time a man named Michael O'Keefe, a native of Portumna, was, as far as I knew, appointed Brigade O/C. for all Co. Galway instead of Brigadier Murphy. I remember that Battalion Staff Officer Patrick Coy went to Portumna to contact O'Keefe the moment he heard about his appointment. He told me when he returned from Portumna that he failed to find O'Keefe. That would have have been the end of October or November 1920

Company routine was as usual. Battalion Council meetings were held at various venues, sometimes in the Leitrim Company area in the Kilnadeema area and in my own Company of Closetoken. There was great disappointment at this time because we had no Brigade O/C. and no Brigade

staff officer to take any interest in us. Company and battalion officers were very disappointed. It was not until the Spring of 1921 that our battalion was included in a scheme of reorganisation by Michael Brennan of Clare. Up to then Kilnadeema and my company were trying to work together independently without a battalion commandant. (He was on the run and eventually arrested).

Volunteer John Kelly, Kilnadeema Company, was an engineer by profession. He had served in the Royal Engineers during the first Great War. In the late harvest of 1920, he went to Ballyduggan House in the parish of Kilmeen to obtain first-hand information about a half company of British Dragoons who were stationed there. They were a protection party for Burke of Ballyduggan House who asked for them owing to land trouble. Under the pretence that he wanted to obtain the dimensions of a sheep-dipping bath, he ascertained that the Dragoons went out at a certain time every evening to exercise the horses, leaving all their rifles under the guard of a sergeant or corporal and three or four men. He also learned that this small guard was very careless. It was not difficult for Volunteer Kelly to obtain the information, as he had been an officer in the British army during the recent Great War. On the information furnished by Volunteer Kelly it was decided that it would be an easy job to rush the guard-room and capture the arms of the Dragoons, about 50 rifles. He arranged with Battalion Officer Patrick Coy, afterwards Brigade staff officer, Galway South East Brigade - killed in Kerry during the civil war - that members chosen from the Closetoken and Kilnadeema companies would carry out the task, which was arranged for a Sunday evening. I remember I was taking part in a hurling match at Athenry on the appointed Sunday. It was harvest time of 1920. When I arrived home from Athenry, word had been left for me at home that the job

was off, as the Dragoons had left the day before. What happened was that Burke had got tired of the protection party of Dragoons who were helping themselves to his fowl and everything in the food line that they could take. He appealed to the higher officers in Garbally, Ballinasloe, to take them away, which they did.

We were very disappointed, as we had great faith in Volunteer Kelly's ability to carry out the job successfully. We were only to use revolvers on the job. The number of men engaged was to be small. I was to be on the job and one or two of my company. We got the loan of a revolver or two from Bullaun Company, but I cannot remember much about that.

At Christmas 1920, there was a big meeting of officers at Leahy's barn in the Leitrim company area. There were many company officers and battalion staff officers Martin Nevin and Patrick Coy. It was decided to draw out a patrol of Loughrea R.I.C. by raiding the mails. If the patrol came they were to be attacked in the Leitrim company area. Members of all companies in the battalion were to take part. Some time shortly after New Year's Day the following Volunteers from my company area accompanied me to Dalystown Wood:

Patrick Coy	Battalion staff officer
Thomas Tierney	Lieutenant
Matt Stradford	Volunteer
Frank Fallon	"
Patrick Finn	"
Edward Quirke	"
John Keogh	"

We met the Kilnadeema Company at Kilnadeema and went on with them to Leitrim where we met the Leitrim Company. The Leitrim Company seemed to be intent on drawing us away from their own area to Ballinakill Company area. The Ballinakill Company objected to any attack taking place in their area and a row developed between members of the two companies. The dispute was still going on when the mail car came near daylight. It was held up in the Ballinakill Company area

The letters were examined and left on the road. It was then agreed not to have any ambush in Ballinakill. About fifty Volunteers had assembled. All dispersed and went home except the Kilnadeema Company and Patrick Coy and I from the Closetoken area - about thirteen men. We proceeded to Dalystown Wood hoping that the patrol would come out from Loughrea. We waited there until late evening, but the R.I.C. did not come out. We then withdrew and went home.

There is one thing I would like to add and that is that it was a pity there was disagreement between the Leitrim and Ballinakill Companies, because the R.I.C. from Woodford actually came to the place the mail car was held up and took away the mails we had left on the road. We had a big number of Volunteers and if the R.I.C. did not surrender we could easily deal with them and capture their rifles. In addition to Volunteers from our own battalion area we had the assistance of three men armed with rifles from the Ardrahan and Gort battalions. They were:

Peter Howley, Vice Commandant Ardrahan Battalion.
 John Fahy, O/C. Gort Battalion
 Martin Fahy, afterwards Brigade Engineer, Galway S.W.Bde.
 Frank Fallon, Volunteer, Closetoken Coy. had a Mauser rifle

The night following these incidents, 2nd Lieut. Thomas Tierney, Volunteers Frank Fallon, Michael Prendergast and Patrick Tierney were cleaning - in Tierney's barn at Doograne the guns we had the day before. Local R.I.C. and Auxiliaries and Black and Tans from Galway came and tapped at the barndoor. They had evidently seen light. One of the Volunteers inside said: "Come in". Volunteer Fallon, hearing strange accents, got suspicious and went to the door. He heard a strange voice say: "Open please". He kept the door closed from the inside but a hand holding a revolver was thrust through from the outside. Volunteer Fallon twisted the revolver out of the hand. The man with the revolver shouted: "Blaze, blaze, I'm disarmed". Volunteer Fallon fired a shot through the door

and the four Volunteers then left by the back door. Lieut. Tierney split his knee-cap in two on a stone outside. When the four were leaving they took all the guns with them except the barrel of one and the stock of another. The R.I.C. fired through the door of the shed, but none of our party was hit. Volunteer Patrick Tierney was captured and put up against the wall of his own house to be shot. He ran and turned the corner of the house. Several shots were fired in his direction, but Volunteer Fallon fired again and held up the advance of the R.I.C. and all four got safely away.

Lieut. Thomas Tierney had a hard time on the run with his broken knee. After some time he was brought to a Dublin hospital by Volunteer John Kelly, where a good job was done on his knee. He was killed in New York in a motor accident. His brother Patrick was appointed 1st Lieutenant of the company about this time, in place of Lieutenant Smyth. After the barn affair my house and that of Patrick Coy, and of Volunteer Stratford were raided by R.I.C. It was very pointed that a member of these three houses had been out on active service duty the day before, but we had no clue as to why they were picked out for raiding. From that on, the three houses were raided several times a week. Tierney's house was raided twice a day sometimes. None of us could sleep at home after the raids commenced. We were very welcome in most houses in the company area, but we did not want to trouble the people that much. We built two dugouts convenient to the village of Doograne where we slept at night. It was just a mile from Tierney's house as the crow flies. All the neighbours were very loyal to us and we did not have to steal home for meals, as we got them in every house. We slept there all the time until the Truce in July, 1921.

There was very little activity in the first three months of 1921, except raids on the mails which we usually took from the postmen. Patrick Coy usually ordered those raids. We read all the letters very carefully and left them on the road for the postman to take away when we had finished. I cannot remember finding anything of importance in those raids or anything whatever of interest.

In March or early April 1921, there was a meeting of all the officers of the Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Portumna Battalions in the home of Laurence Kelly, Captain of Kilnadeema Company. It was called by Michael Brennan, O/C. of one of the Clare Brigades, who had been promoted by G.H.Q. to be officer in charge of a Division. His Division was to include two brigades in Galway, viz: Galway South East and South West. At this meeting that I speak of Captain Laurence Kelly of Kilnadeema Company was appointed O/C. of the Galway South East Brigade, comprising three battalions named above. Seamus Reilly, Captain of Tynagh Company, Portumna Battalion, was appointed Vice O/C. and Patrick Coy was appointed Q.M. of the brigade. I cannot remember who was appointed adjutant.

I remember that Brennan wanted information about each company officer and whether he was inclined to be active or otherwise. He travelled about to different company areas attended by his brother, Paddy, Pat Houlihan and Jim Hannon. He visited Kilrickle, Bullaun and Closetoken Companies on a tour of inspection. I put him up for a day and a night in my company area and posted sentries. He came again with his brother, Paddy, soon after to organise Athenry Battalion area. I again put him up for two nights in my company area. All company officers of Athenry Battalion had a meeting with Brennan. Thomas "Baby" Duggan was also present at the meeting which was held in Derryhoyle. "Baby" Duggan was a brigade staff officer.

In June 1921, Volunteer Frank Fallon and I went to "Baby" Duggan's camp at Attymon Bog to ask for a loan of five rifles which had been promised us for an ambush of R.I.C. and Tans who were in the habit of going every Sunday at about 2 or 2.30 p.m. from Loughrea to Bookeen Protestant Church for Divine Service. They always returned to Loughrea immediately after the Service. "Baby" told us that the rifles he promised us the loan of had been given to the Headford Battalion. He promised that he would get us all the stuff he could and in about a fortnight after we got from him a half dozen Mills No. 4 grenades. The Brigade O/C, Laurence Kelly and Brigade Staff Officer Patrick Coy decided to attack the patrol without the rifles, but I think that General Brennan promised to send some of his flying column to assist us. The attack was fixed for the Sunday before the Truce. The men from Brennan's column were expected all the day Saturday and Saturday night. They were to come first to Fahy's of Dunally and from there to Castle Daly where Volunteers Patrick Finn and Patrick Buckley of my company were to contact them. I had those two Volunteers posted early on Saturday. They remained there until they got word that the column was not coming on Saturday. They did not come until some time on Sunday evening, too late for the attack on the party going to Church. The attack was to take place at Dunsandle Wood.

I got a dispatch from the Brigade O/C. Laurence Kelly early that Sunday morning to bring our three rifles and our shotguns and the six hand grenades to Boherduff at 11 p.m. I mobilised my company and while the mobilisation was taking place, another dispatch came from the Brigade O/C. instructing us to proceed instead

to Sycamore Lodge, -Kilnadeema company area. It was very late on Sunday evening when I got the second dispatch, with the result that when we arrived in Kilnadeema the Brigade O/C. and the men sent by General Brennan from his flying column had left. I and about twelve of my company then returned home on the orders of the Brigade Q.M., Patrick Coy.

The Brigade O/C. and the Claremen carried out an attack the next morning on a patrol of five or six R.I.C. men at a place called the Fishpond between Kilchreest and Roxboro in which I believe one R.I.C. man was wounded. Volunteer Patrick Finn of my company took part in this attack, and I have no doubt he will gladly give an account of it.

In conclusion, I would like to make a correction. I now remember that there was no Republican Court in the parish of Closetoken until the Truce, although Mr. Martin Ryan of this parish was a member of an Arbitration Court that sat in Loughrea prior to the Truce. Rev. Father Dunne, then of Kilnadeema and now Parish Priest of Kiltulla, was also a member. I cannot remember who was the third member.

Signed: Patrick Connaughton
(Patrick Connaughton)
Date: 26th. March, 1955

Witness: Con Moynihan
(Con Moynihan)

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURÓ STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1137