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**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 10.3.21  
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21  
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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,339

Witness

Sean Healy,  
Young Grove,  
Midleton,  
Co. Cork.

Identity.

Member of Brigade Column,  
Cork II Brigade I.R.A.

Brigade Engineer, Cork IV Brigade.

Subject.

Kilgorney Company Irish Volunteers  
Co. Cork, 1915-1923.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S.2615

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# ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1983-20  
BURD STAIRS INGLETON 1983-20  
No. W.S. 1,839 39

STATEMENT BY SEÁN HEALY,

Young Grove, Midleton, Co. Cork.

I was born at Kilcorney, Banteer, Co. Cork, on 13th October, 1897. I was educated at Kilcorney national school until I reached the age of 16. When I left school I went to work as a labourer in my home district.

When the Irish Volunteers were formed in Kilcorney in 1915 I was one of the pioneer members. Others were: Paddy Healy, Mattie Kelleher, Cornelius Barrett, Jerry Burke. The strength of the unit was about a dozen. As far as I can recollect, the O/C was Paddy Healy. The only training carried out by the unit consisted of ordinary close order foot drill.

I went to work in London in January, 1916, and when I had reached the age of 19 years I was called up for service in the British Army under the Conscription Act which was in force at the time. I was called up in November, 1916, and was attached to the Royal Engineers. After undergoing a short course of training I was sent with my unit to France, where I served until early in November, 1919. Following the return of my unit to England, I was demobbed and returned home to Kilcorney. Within two weeks of my return to Kilcorney I rejoined the local company of the Irish Republican Army. The O/C of the unit at the time was Paddy Healy. The other officers were, I think:

1st Lt. - John O'Shea  
2nd Lt. - Matt Kelleher.

I had only just joined the company when some members of the staff of the Munster and Leinster Bank, Millstreet, were held up by armed men at Ballydaly Cross on the Killarney road and a sum in the region of £20,000 was taken from them. There was considerable police activity by the R.I.C. following this hold-up but there were no arrests. The R.I.C. concentrated their investigations mainly amongst the members of the I.R.A. and, as a result, it began to become an accepted fact amongst the general public that the robbery was the work of the I.R.A. When this fact was brought to the notice of the Brigade O/C (Liam Lynch) he immediately ordered an investigation by the I.R.A. Intelligence service in the area. As a result a number of men from Millstreet area - all non I.R.A. men - were arrested during the spring of 1920. They were tried by members of the Brigade Staff and were sentenced to deportation. These sentences were enforced in all cases.

The general order for the destruction of evacuated enemy posts at Easter, 1920, found the members of Kilcorney Company operating in conjunction with the men of Rathcoole Company in the destruction of Rathcoole R.I.C. post. This was the only evacuated post in the area. The building was destroyed by setting it on fire. Nearly all members of the unit were engaged on this operation.

About May, 1920, I went to work in Cork City, where I joined 'A' Company, Battalion 1, Cork Brigade. The Company O/C was Dick Murphy and I think that the Battalion O/C was Dan O'Donovan ("Sandie"). While attached to this unit I took part in an attack on two British Army lorries in Dennehy's Cross district.

One of the lorries had broken down and was being towed along slowly by the other when our party of about seven stepped into the roadway and held up the drivers. I jumped on to the cab of the leading lorry and presented my gun at the occupants. The driver allowed the lorry to collide with the fence and the occupants of the cab decamped across the fields. The men in the second lorry did likewise. Our party then set fire to the lorries, which were completely burned out. Dick Murphy was in charge of this job and we were accompanied by five or six others whose names I cannot recollect. We were all armed with revolvers of one kind or another. I know that the revolver handed to me for this job did not have the correct type of ammunition and I feel that I was lucky that, when I pulled the trigger, there was no explosion.

On the night of Terry MacSwiney's arrest in the City Hall - August 12th, I think - I was arrested by a curfew patrol and detained in the Bridewell. Next morning I was served with a summons to appear in court on the following Saturday and was then released. I immediately left Cork City and returned to Kilcorney area.

Early in September, 1920, I was called with <sup>Paddy</sup> ~~Peter~~ Healy (Vice O/C Millstreet Battalion) to serve on the Brigade Column which was now being formed. We were the representatives selected from Millstreet Battalion. Other members of the Brigade Column, as far as I can recollect, were: Paddy O'Brien, Liscarrol; Thos. Coughlan, Charleville; Dan Vaughan, Boherbue; Dan Shinnick, Castletownroche, Jim O'Neill, do.; Jerh. O'Donovan, do.; Paddy McCarthy, Meelin; Mick Sullivan, do.; Dan Brown, do. Dan Daly, Rathcormac; George Power, Fermoy; Lar. Condon, do.

We (Paddy Healy and I) reported to Hickey's, Glenville, where we met Liam Lynch and Ernie O'Malley. We spent about 10 days in this district, during which we underwent a course of training in musketry, fire control, tactical training and signalling. We then moved to Burnfort where we continued our training.

The column were armed with the rifles which had been captured in an attack by some men of the Fermoy Battalion on a British military party at the Wesleyan Church in Fermoy in September, 1919. All members also carried revolvers.

Towards the end of September, 1920, the column took up an ambush position on high ground overlooking the Keam-Glenville road, I think, and within about 20 yards of same. There was one G.H.Q. hand grenade amongst the munitions and I was selected to throw same. We were expecting a lorry of British military to pass through our position. When the lorry approached I threw the bomb - allowing for the usual 5 seconds interval as in the case of the Mills bomb of the time - but it did not explode in time and the lorry passed on. A few shots were fired but the lorry was not stopped. The column then withdrew to billets at Burnfort.

Early on the morning of September 28th, 1920, I was instructed by the Brigade O/C to report to the O/C Mallow Battalion (Paddy McCarthy). I was accompanied by Paddy Healy. When we reported in the Analeentha area we found that the motor car of a retired British Army officer, Capt. Horne, had been commandeered - the members of his household being left under I.R.A. guard. The car

was now taken over by Paddy Healy, who drove it to Glantane with Paddy McCarthy and myself as passengers. At Glantane I took over another car which had been seized by the members of the Lombardstown Company from Dr. Ryan - the local M.O. I should have mentioned that we were all aware at this stage that it was proposed to make an attempt to capture Mallow military barracks and that the transport we were commandeering was to be used to remove any captured material in the event of a successful raid. Both cars were Model T. Fords. It was now about 7 a.m. I drove my car to the road leading to Longfield's Bridge where the car driven by Paddy Healy had already arrived. We were accompanied by Paddy McCarthy, O/C Mallow Battalion. We remained here until about 8.30 a.m. when we moved off for Mallow.

When we reached Mallow we parked our cars in Beecher St., which was directly opposite the street leading to the military barracks. Shortly after 9 a.m. we received a signal to proceed to the barracks and I drove my car to the gate, where I turned the car so that I could return in the direction of Beecher St. Similar action had been taken by the others cars engaged - a Buick driven by Leo O'Callaghan and the Model T. Ford driven by Paddy Healy. All cars were immediately loaded with arms and equipment being taken from the barracks by the party from the Brigade Column who had already rushed same. Leo O'Callaghan's car was first away. He was followed by Paddy Healy's car. My car was last away and I was accompanied by Paddy McCarthy (O/C Mallow Battalion.) We drove out the Navigation (main Mallow-Killarney) road, crossed the river

Blackwater at Longfield's Bridge and continued through Dromahane and Beeing to Glashabuidhe. When I reached Glashabuidhe the local Volunteers were waiting to remove the captured material to dumps. I then drove my car to the vicinity of Glantane, where I abandoned it and then returned to rejoin the Brigade Column in Burnfort area. The captured stores included 27 rifles, 2 machine-guns with a stock of ammunition, as well as lancers, swords and saddlery.

On the night of the raid on Mallow barracks, the Brigade Column, assisted by some members of the local companies, took up positions in the vicinity of Mourne Abbey creamery in anticipation of reprisals by the British, but there was no enemy activity in the area.

After a few days the Brigade Column moved around the district but failed to make contact with the enemy. It later moved into Newmarket Battalion area near Drouminarrigle, where it went into billets.

On the morning of October 11th, 1920, the column, in co-operation with representatives from the Newmarket and Kanturk Battalions, took up positions on the Kanturk-Newmarket road about one mile from Kanturk at Ballydrocane. The combined force were lining the roadside fence north of the road on a straight stretch. The machine-gun crew - Matt Flood and Seán Healy (witness) were placed at a slight bend of the road at the eastern end of the ambush site. Ernie O'Malley was also at this post. From our position we were able to enfilade the straight stretch of road to the west where the

riflemen and shotgunmen were lining the fence. It was sometime around 9 a.m. when we were in position, as we were worrying about the danger of children on their way to school entering the position.

About 10 a.m. a lorry of military passed our position travelling in the direction of Newmarket. As it passed us, a cart was pushed on to the road at the western end of the ambush site in order to block the roadway and halt the lorry. As the lorry reached the centre of the position, fire was immediately opened by all sections and some grenades were thrown. The driver was apparently killed by the opening burst and the lorry collided with the cart. The occupants of the lorry endeavoured to take cover underneath it, but after a burst or two from the machine-gun they were shouting that they wished to surrender. Firing then ceased and some members of the main body of I.R.A. jumped on to the road and the enemy surrendered. In addition to the driver, who was killed, nearly all members of the enemy party were wounded. The I.R.A. had no casualties. We captured eight rifles and a few hundred rounds of ammunition. As the dead driver was still in the cab we did not burn the lorry. Liam Lynch and Ernie O'Malley were in charge of this operation.

Following this engagement the column withdrew to Drouminarrigle, where it remained during the day. In the late evening it moved into position in the vicinity of Allenbridge creamery and Kanturk in case of reprisals. The column was reinforced for this operation by local Volunteers from the Kanturk and



Newmarket Battalions. There were no reprisals and all sections withdrew in the early morning of October 12th, 1920 - the locals to their home areas and the column to Drouminarrigle area where we billeted.

The column remained in Drouminarrigle and Freemount area for some days. They were still undergoing training in various aspects of guerilla fighting, while special attention was being paid to the training of Hotchkiss gun crews. Our initial attempt had only been in a hit or miss category, but Ernie O'Malley had now got a Hotchkiss instruction book from H.Q. and several selected men were making themselves conversant with the operation of this weapon, especially Con Moylan, Liam Moylan, Seán Healy, Matt Flood, Dick Willis, Leo O'Callaghan, Denis Galvin.

Towards the end of October, 1920, the column moved into Millstreet Battalion area, where they billeted at Drishanebeg. They were still in this area about the third week in November, 1920, when reports were received that the Black and Tan garrison in Millstreet were making themselves very objectionable to the public. They were visiting publichouses, demanding and getting free drinks, smashing windows and damaging doors. It was decided to teach them a lesson, so the Column, in conjunction with the members of the local companies, who were acting as scouts, moved into positions in the town of Millstreet about 9 p.m. on 22nd November, 1920. Sections were placed in the Market Yard (machine-gun crew and riflemen), Mill Lane (riflemen) and in a few more positions. I

I was in charge of the machine-gun crew at the Market Yard. Although it was intended to fire a few shots from some of the positions if any of the enemy garrison made their appearance, the main purpose of the operation was to prepare a reception for expected enemy reinforcements from Macroom. As a result, my instructions were not to use the machine-gun when any members of the enemy garrison on the streets were being attacked. It was anticipated that the local garrison would call for reinforcements if a few shots were fired at them. The only base from which these forces could be expected to come was Macroom, and to reach the R.I.C. barracks in Millstreet they would have to travel into the direct line of fire of the party in the Market Yard and one or two more sections. A few shots were fired at some Black and Tans who appeared on the street by some of the other sections, but there was no activity in our position. Amongst those with me in the Market Yard were Bill Moylan, Patk. Healy and Denis Galvin.

When we had been in position about an hour we received word that Paddy McCarthy - a member of the Brigade Column and Q/M Newmarket Battalion - had been killed at Mill Lane. We were to withdraw to a prearranged position at the western end of the town, where we made contact with the other sections a little later. The column then withdrew to billets at Kippagh and Paddy McCarthy's body was removed to Sullivan's, Gurtna~~y~~ehy, where he was waked until removed for burial next night to Lismire.

The Brigade Column returned to Millstreet on two or three nights following these events but failed to

make contact with any enemy forces.

In December, 1920, the Brigade Column was disbanded. The members, except the machine-gun section, were sent back to their home areas with instructions to organise columns in their home battalions. The machine-gun section (Bill Moylan, Con Morley, Denis Galvin and witness) were sent to billets in Newmarket Battalion area, where they were to be available to operate in any battalion area as required.

On the morning of January 27th, 1921, the machine-gun section moved to Tureengarrive on the Castleisland-Kingwilliamstown (now Ballydesmond) road. We were accompanied by the members of the Newmarket Battalion Column and some shotgunmen from the local companies. Some of the members of this column on this occasion were Mick D. Sullivan, Jim Cashman, Dan Browne, Dan Vaughan, Denis Mullane, Dave McAuliffe, Jack Duane, Wm. L. O'Keefe. The position was about 2 miles west of Kingwilliamstown. The whole party was divided into three sections:

- (a) About 10 shotgunmen on high ground north of the road. They were extended over about 50 yards and were within about 25/30 yards of the roadway.
- (b) The Battalion Column to the number of about 12 were in a similar position south of the road.
- (c) The machine-gun crew (Seán Healy - witness - and Bill Moylan) were on high ground south of the road to the east of the main position. Seán Moylan, who was in charge, was with this section. This position was on a slight bend.

There were also scouts and outposts from the local companies. The road was trenched at the eastern end just on the bend.

All positions were taken up in the early morning - about 8 a.m. Although we remained in position throughout the day, during which it rained continuously, there was no trace of an enemy convoy. The column withdrew to billets just before dusk and the members of the local companies went to their own districts. All units were to report back to the same position next morning.

On January 28th, 1921, the column and the other sections again took up positions in the early morning. There was no activity until about midday, when the approach of an enemy convoy of two cars was signalled by our scouts from the west. The leading car drove into the position until it reached the trench, where it halted. The second car, which was about 50 yards behind, continued until it reached the leading car. All sections then opened fire. I concentrated the fire from my machine-gun on the second car in order to ensure that it could not reverse out of the position. At the opening burst the occupants dashed from the cars and took cover behind the roadside fences. They continued to fight for about 15 minutes before surrendering. It was then discovered that one member of the party had been killed, while Divisional Commissioner Holmes was dying. In addition, all other members of the party were wounded. There were no I.R.A. casualties. We captured seven rifles, a repeating shotgun and six revolvers, with a supply of ammunition for all weapons.

When some members of the I.R.A. party were collecting the booty and searching the prisoners as well

attending to their wounds, the scouts to the west signalled the approach of another car. The prisoners were removed across the roadside fence, where they were kept under guard while all I.R.A. sections took up their old positions. When the car drove into the ambush position it was halted. It was then learned that the driver was a school inspector. Three of the more seriously wounded of the British party were placed in the car and the driver was instructed to take them to the nearest hospital. He was, however, instructed not to move the car for at least twenty minutes. All sections of the I.R.A. party then withdrew.

The leading car in the enemy convoy had not been damaged except the back tyres. The trench was filled in to enable the I.R.A. party to take the car across it. We (the machine-gun crew) then set fire to the second car and drove off in the direction of Kingwilliamstown in the other car, taking the captured rifles and stores with us. The captured car was then driven towards Newmarket and was later dumped in Glounthanefinane. In order to confuse the enemy, one of the roads in the area was blocked by fallen trees, so leading them to believe that the car had travelled on this road when, in fact, it had moved away on one of the roads which were still open.

There was not much activity during February, 1921, but towards the end of the month I fell sick and had to go into Millstreet Hospital, where I was detained for a few weeks. As a result, I missed the engagement at Clonbanin on March 6th, 1921.

As well as being a member of the Brigade and Battalion Column machine-gun crew, I was engaged during the spring and summer of 1921 on the manufacture of mines, making of gunpowder and the repair of arms. About this time I was appointed Assistant Brigade Engineer.

The mines were made by filling a piece of 4" metal piping about 12" long with gelignite or powder (as supplies were available). The case was closed at both ends by steel plates held in position by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " bolt running through the centre of the pipe - a hole being made in the plate at one end to enable a cable to be inserted to connect with the detonators. The mine was usually buried in the roadway to a depth of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ' to 3' and the road material which had been excavated was then replaced. The mine was connected to the observation post by an electric cable and was exploded by an exploder consisting of a number of flashlight batteries suitably connected. Each mine was filled with about 6 lbs of gelignite or powder. This was the normal charge in mines up to the date of Rathcoole ambush (June 16th, 1921), but the mines exploded here did not do the damage anticipated and it was then decided to increase the amount of the charge to 18 lbs of explosives. This latter type of mine was later accepted by G.H.Q. as the standard mine to be used in future operations. In the circular issued to engineering units it was referred to as the Rathcoole mine.

I was not present at Clonbanin on March 6th, 1921, where the mine failed, but from enquiries made

later I came to the conclusion that the failure was due to the fact that in the transport of the wet batteries, which were used there, the electrolyte was spilled. The engineering section were not made aware of the loss. As a result, when the button was pressed there was no electricity and no explosion. This failure led to a firm decision to use only dry batteries in future.

During April and May, 1921, I was mainly engaged on engineering activities and the members of the various Battalion Columns were engaged in training the members of the local companies and in destroying enemy lines of communication. About this time many members of the local companies were engaged every night on the destruction of bridges, digging trenches etc., as well as doing scouting and outpost duty when the Brigade or Battalion Staff were in their areas.

During the first week in June I moved into West Limerick area with some members of the Newmarket Column. There were also some men from Charleville Battalion. We moved into Abbeyfeale to attack a patrol of R.I.C. and Black and Tans which moved about the town each night. This visit was made on the invitation of the O/C West Limerick, with whose column we joined up in the vicinity of Abbeyfeale. We took up positions in several houses about the Square and when the patrol appeared we opened fire. Some of the enemy patrol were killed but the remainder retired in haste to their base. Some of those who took part in this engagement were: Mick D. Sullivan, Denis Galvin, Dan Browne, Denis Mullane, Dan Vaughan, Jim Cashman, Dave McAuliffe, Tim Coughlan and Seán Healy. Our party returned to the home area on the day following this attack.

About June 13th, 1921, I was sent to my home area - Kilcorney - in Millstreet Battalion area. On the evening of June 15th I made contact with Paddy O'Brien, Brigade Vice O/C, who had been examining an ambush position at Rathcoole Wood on the Millstreet-Banteer road. The movements of an enemy convoy over this road had been under observation for some days. The site selected for the ambush was about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Millstreet and on high ground overlooking the road.

During the night of June 15th-16th, 1921, six mines were laid in the road fronting Rathcoole Wood over a distance of about 1,200 yards. The mines were spaced at intervals approximating to the distance between the lorries travelling in the convoy during the period of observation. The convoy usually consisted of four lorries.

The columns from Newmarket, Kanturk, Charleville, Mallow and Millstreet Battalions were assembled in Rathcoole Wood during the night of June 15th-16th, 1921. There were, in addition, a number of men from the local companies who were engaged as scouts and runners. The combined force numbered about 120. The armaments consisted of 80 rifles and 40 shotguns. There was also a machine-gun which had been removed from an armoured car captured in Dublin. This gun was, on this occasion, operated by, I think, Leo O'Callaghan (Mallow Battalion).

The combined force was divided into a number of sections - one to cover each mine and two to act as



protection parties on each flank. All these sections were on high ground south of the road. Shotgunmen and riflemen were interspersed in each section numbering 10 to 12 men. There was, in addition, a small section north of the road to prevent the enemy taking cover behind the roadside fence on the north side.

When all arrangements had been completed, in the early morning - about 7 a.m. - of June 16th, 1921, the whole force, except for a few scouts, retired into the cover of Rathcoole Wood. About 10.30 a.m. a convoy of four lorries passed through from Millstreet in the direction of Banteer. This convoy passed through to Millstreet on the return journey about 12.30 p.m. As this followed the usual procedure, Paddy O'Brien, who was in charge, was quite satisfied that the convoy would make another trip in the evening. About 3 p.m. the convoy again passed through to Banteer, and when the "all clear" signal was given by the scouts the various sections moved into their positions to await the return of the enemy party. I was with the section covering the mine at the eastern end of the ambush site and was responsible for exploding the mine opposite this position. This mine was not to be exploded until the last lorry in the convoy reached it. The explosion of this mine was to be the signal for the opening of the fight, and if our estimate of the distance between the lorries in the convoy was correct each of the other lorries should then be in contact with a mine position at the same moment. About 3.30 p.m. the scouts to the east signalled the approach of the enemy and within a few minutes the leading lorry came

into view. I allowed the first three lorries to pass by my section and as the last lorry reached my position I pressed the button. The mine opposite my position exploded and the lorry was driven into the ditch. However, the other lorries in the convoy were not at this time in contact with the mined positions and all of them halted at the sound of the explosion. All I.R.A. sections opened fire at the agreed signal. Fighting continued for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours but we were unable to silence the enemy fire and the signal to break off the engagement was given. The I.R.A. sections then withdrew to the rear of Rathcoole Wood, where orders for dispersal to their home areas were given. The I.R.A. had no casualties and the enemy casualties were not established. The Newmarket Column returned to its home district. I moved to my home area, where I remained for a few days before rejoining the column in Newmarket district.

I was again engaged in the manufacture of mines and explosives until the column was again assembled in the first week in July, 1921, when we proceeded with members of Millstreet, Charleville and Kanturk Columns into West Limerick area. The strength of our combined force was about 70. All were armed with rifles and, in addition, I took along eight mines. Paddy O'Brien (Brigade Vice O/C) was in charge. We moved on to Tournafulla, where we met the West Limerick Column under, I think, Jimmie Collins. This column numbered between 40 and 50 and were mainly armed with shotguns. The combined force then moved to

Templeglantine, where we took up a position on high ground south of the Ardagh-Templeglantine road. Eight mines were laid in the road, spaced over a distance of about 1,600 yards, fronting the ambush position. The combined force was then divided into ten sections - one to cover each mine and two sections to act as flanking parties. There were, in addition, some scouts and signallers. All sections were in position in the early morning and had to remain there until the return journey of the convoy, which was estimated would pass through the ambush site on its journey from Newcastlewest to Abbeyfeale about 2 p.m. The return journey (when it was proposed to attack) would be made in or about 4 p.m. The convoy of four lorries passed through to Abbeyfeale about 2 p.m., but while we were awaiting its return our scouts reported that it had returned to Newcastlewest by another road. On this occasion I was again responsible for exploding the mine under the last lorry in the convoy. As it was unlikely that there would be another convoy on this road before the following Monday (July 11th, 1921), all sections were withdrawn to billets in Tournafulla area. The mines were, however, left in the road.

During the night of July 10th, 1921, the combined columns, which had been at Templeglantine on the previous Friday (July 8th), returned to the area and again took up the old positions. We were all still awaiting the convoy at 12 noon on July 11th, 1921, when we were informed of the Truce by our O/C (Paddy O'Brien). The combined columns were then dismissed and we set about removing the mines from the road.

While doing so, the convoy which we had been expecting arrived, but the Truce precluded any further action on our part. When we had removed the mines all the Cork Columns moved off for their own districts.

When the 1st Southern Division was formed towards the end of April, 1921, Liam Lynch was appointed Divisional O/C. His place as O/C Cork 11 Brigade was taken by Seán Moylan, who was captured by enemy forces on May 16th, 1921. About this time arrangements were being made to reorganise the area and it was decided to divide Cork 11 Brigade into two units - Cork 11 and Cork 1V. The reorganised Cork 11 Brigade was to include the Lismore Battalion of West Waterford Brigade as well as Fermoy and Castletownroche Battalions of the old brigade. The latter battalion was to be divided into two battalions (Castletownroche and Glanworth). The battalions in Cork 11 Brigade at the Truce were: Fermoy, Glanworth, Castletownroche and Lismore. The officers of this brigade were:

O/C - George Power, Fermoy.  
 Vice O/C - Wm. O'Regan, Doneraile.  
 Adjt.- Dan Shinnick, Castletownroche.  
 Q/M - Cannot recollect.

The western area of the old brigade, comprising Mallow, Kanturk, Charleville, Newmarket and Millstreet Battalions, now became Cork 1V Brigade. The officers of this brigade were:

O/C - Paddy O'Brien, Liscarrol.  
 Vice O/C - Ned Murphy, Lombardstown.  
 Adjt.- Eugene McCarthy, Charleville.  
 Q/M - Mick O'Connell, Lombardstown.

I was appointed Brigade Engineer of this brigade.

Rank at the Truce - Brigade Engineer, Cork IV  
Brigade. Strength of brigade - about 2,500.

During the summer of 1921 I organised and conducted engineering camps throughout the brigade area. The first camp was held at Knocknagree and was attended by battalion engineers and their assistants. Camps were later held in each battalion area and were attended by engineering sections from each company. I also conducted a brigade engineering camp in West Limerick area, concentrating principally on the manufacture and use of mines. At these camps the engineers in attendance were instructed in the use and handling of explosives, the manufacture of mines and gunpowder, demolition work. When the work of these camps had been completed, I took up the administrative work of Brigade Engineer, which entailed quite a lot of correspondence as well as tours of inspection and such other duties as tended to make the engineering section a thoroughly efficient unit. I continued at this work until April, 1922, when I was sent to the 3rd Southern Division as Divisional Engineer. I operated in this area until I was arrested by Free State forces in August, 1922. I was interned in Maryborough and Tintown No. 2 until released at Xmas, 1923.

Signed:

Sean Healy

Date:

23<sup>rd</sup> January 1956

Witness:

P. O'Donnell  
(P. O'Donnell)  
(Investigator)

(Sean Healy)

23rd January 1956.

