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ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1919-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1,375

ROINN  COSANTA.

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

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,375

Witness

Matthew Murphy,
Cullen P.O.,
Millstreet,
Co. Cork.

Identity.

Battalion Adjutant Millstreet Battalion
Cork IV. Brigade.

Subject.

National activities, Cullen, Millstreet,
Co. Cork, 1912-1923.

Conditions, if any. Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

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NO. W.S. 1,375

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STATEMENT BY MATTHEW MURPHY,

Cullen Post Office, Millstreet, Co. Cork.

I was born at Gortnacreha, Cullen, on 26th May, 1899.
I was educated at Lislehane National School until I reached the age of 16 years.

The first national organisation in which I became interested was the Gaelic League. This association with the Language Movement in my early days can surely be attributed to the activities and outlook of my schoolteacher - Seán Ó Cadhla. When the Gaelic League paper - An Claidheamh Soluis - was issued he circulated copies amongst the senior pupils and invited us to carry on a discussion on the articles in the paper. He encouraged us to study Irish History, the Language and to take an interest in all things national. While still attending school I took part, with a number of other pupils, in Language competitions at Feiseanna and Aerideachtna throughout the district. It was while engaged in these activities that I first met Padraig Pearse, Fionán MacColum and Peadar O'Hanrahan. My sound foundation on national principles may be due to the education I received at Lislehan National School from Seán Ó Cadhla.

Prior to 1916 there was a branch of Sinn Féin in Cullen. The pioneer members and organisers were :- Denis O'Keeffe, Donal O'Connor and Edward D. Hickey. I did not have any active association with the organisation as I was too young.

There was a small unit of the Irish Volunteers in Cullen prior to 1916. I was not a member but I recollect that the unit was under the control of Denis J. O'Leary. There was no activity

that I am aware of, in the area at Easter 1916.

When the Irish Volunteers were reorganised in Cullen in the late summer of 1917 I joined up. The pioneer organisers were Humphrey O'Donoghue, Tim Condon, Donal MacSuibhne, Dan Moynihan, Dan T. O'Riordan (Sonny), Matt Murphy (witness). All these were, at the time, members of the local Sinn Féin Cumann. In the early stages the strength of the unit was about ten. The O/C. was Dan T. O'Riordan.

Training in the form of close order foot-drill was carried out in the fields and in the hall used for meetings of the Sinn Féin Cumann. The training was carried out under Dan T. O'Riordan. I was Adjutant of the unit and was responsible for keeping all records and dealing with all correspondence. Our unit was attached to Rathmore Battalion of Kerry Brigade.

On the Pattern Day of St. Laitiarian (the Sunday nearest 25th July) in 1917, the members of Kiskeam Sinn Féin Cumann marched into Cullen behind their local band. They carried Tricolour flags and banners indicating that they were Sinn Féiners. The strength of the display created a bit of a stir in the area and some alarm amongst the local members of the R.I.C. I should have mentioned that I was aware in advance of the proposed visit of the crowd from Kiskeam and had arranged to fly the Tricolour from a number of vantage points in the vicinity of the village. This was done after Mass on the Sunday in question but the R.I.C., on their way from Mass later on, removed one of the flags. They were unable to get at the others.. The display by the Kiskeam contingent aroused considerable interest amongst the people of Cullen and as a result Sinn Féin and the Volunteers increased their membership. There was no change in the officers of the Volunteers.

When, towards the end of September 1917, Kiskeam Sinn Féin Cumann organised an Aerideacht, we were able to muster a strong crowd and march to Kiskeam to lend the organisers there our active support. The principal speaker at Kiskeam that day was Larry Ginnell, M.P. He was, at the time, an Independent Member of the British House of Commons representing, I think, Westmeath. He was the only member of that House to speak in favour of the men of 1916, at the time of the Rising. About the same time a large contingent from Cullen area attended an Aerideacht at Millstreet where the principal speaker was Seán Milroy. I have a distinct recollection of the opening words of his address - "Fellow Rainbow Chasers".

Beyond organising and recruiting new members there was very little doing until the British threatened to introduce Conscription in the spring and summer of 1918. This threat led to a large increase in the membership of the Irish Volunteers. Nearly every man of military age in the district joined up and the strength of the Cullen Company reached about eighty. The officers of the Company now were :-

O/C. Dan T. O'Riordan

1st. Lieut. Humphrey O'Donoghue

2nd Lieut. Dan Moynihan

Adjutant Matt Murphy

Quartermaster Tim Condon.

During the period all members of the Company were engaged at one time or another on the manufacture of pikes and the fashioning of other weapons in the local forges. The pikes were made mainly from the springs of side-cars. Others were engaged in the making of buckshot and refilling the available

supply of shotgun cartridges with same. I would like to record that the mould used in the making of the buckshot had come into the hands of Denis Galvin (Battalion Quartermaster) and had been seized in a raid on Allcott's gunshop in Cork by Captain Mackey before the Fenian Rising in 1867. There was no need to raid for arms in the area as all guns were held by members of the Company. The armament of the Company consisted of fifteen to twenty shotguns and about 300 rounds of ammunition. The members, who did not have shot guns, were armed with pikes. When the threat of Conscription had passed the membership of the Company fell to about sixty.

While an Aerideacht, which had been organised by the Volunteers and Sinn Féin Cumann, was in progress at Cullen on 26th May, 1918, British Army planes swooped down on the area and dropped some fire rockets in an effort to disperse the gathering. There were ten bands in attendance at this Aerideacht and the gate receipts were £52. Although a number of those present were inclined to stampede when the planes flew overhead their self-confidence was restored by the action of Father Joe Breen, C.C., who addressed the crowd. The speaker at this function was Professor W.P. Stockley, University College, Cork. He afterwards published an article in the College journal of the time describing the whole incident.

From the reorganisation in 1917 up to this time our Company of the Irish Volunteers (Cullen) was attached to Rathmore Battalion, Kerry Brigade. The Battalion O/C. was Dan Dennehy. At the same time the local Sinn Féin Cumann of which we were all members was attached to Newmarket (Cork) Comhairle Ceanntair of Sinn Féin. The officers of the latter were :-

Chairman :- Michael B. McAuliffe,	Newmarket
Vice Chairman:- Con Sullivan,	Drouminarrigle
Hon. Secretary :- Sean Moylan,	Newmarket
" Treasurer :- D. D. Curtin,	Newmarket.

As we were all politically associated with Newmarket area our Company of the Irish Volunteers was anxious to become a unit of Newmarket Battalion but, in the reorganisation which occurred following the establishment of Cork II. Brigade in January, 1919, our Company was allocated to Millstreet Battalion of the new Brigade.

The preparations for the General Election in December, 1918 were now the main activities of all Volunteers. The candidates for the various constituencies were selected by the representatives of the Sinn Féin Cumann in the area. I was not present at the meeting of the Comhairle Ceanntair at which the Sinn Féin candidate to contest our area (North Cork) was selected. However, I recollect that the names of four candidates - "Paudeen" O'Keeffe, Tom Hunter, Con Sullivan and Seán Nunan - were placed before the meeting. The latter pair were eliminated on a vote. In the final poll Tom Hunter and "Paudeen" O'Keeffe received an equal number of votes. Both names were then submitted to the Standing Committee of Sinn Féin to make the final selection. However, in the meantime Tom Hunter had been selected by the representatives for North East Cork constituency and "Paudeen" O'Keeffe was approved as the candidate for our area. There was no election as he was returned unopposed.

At a meeting of Cullen Sinn Féin Cumann held following the selection of the candidate for the area, grave dissatisfaction was expressed at the manner in which representation had been granted to Cumann at the Comhairle-Ceanntair meeting. It was discovered that three Sinn Féin Cumann had been affiliated from the Parish of Knocknagree while normally there was only one club to each parish in rural areas. These clubs were Umeraboy, Knocknagree and Nohovaldy. In order to prevent a recurrence Cullen Cumann

submitted a resolution to the Sinn Féin Ard-Fheis of 1919 which was approved. The resolution was in the following terms:

"That where in a rural area two or more Cumainn exist in one parish area their representation at Comhairle Ceanntair meetings shall be so limited as not to exceed that of any other parish area.

When Cork II. Brigade was formed in January, 1919, our Company, as stated previously, was, I think, transferred from Kerry Brigade (Rathmore Battalion) to Cork II. Brigade (Millstreet Battalion). The other Companies in Millstreet battalion at this time were :- Millstreet (O/C., Mick O'Riordan); Rathduane (O/C., Denis O'Brien); Rathcoole (O/C., Jeremiah Long); Kilcorney (O/C. Matt Kelleher); and Derrynagree. Millstreet Battalion was the 7th Battalion, Cork II. Brigade. Our Company (Cullen) was "B" Company. The Battalion Officers were :-

O/C. Con J. Neany

Vice O/C. Paddy Healy

Adjutant Jeremiah Crowley

Quartermaster Denis Calvin.

On the anniversary of the air raid on Cullen Aerideacht (25th May, 1919) we had arranged to hold a similar gathering to that of the previous year but the holding of the function was prohibited by Military Proclamation. A large force of military was drafted into the district on the Sunday morning fixed for holding the Aerideacht. We had provided against this emergency by deciding on a different venue. All band instruments had been removed from the Club rooms to a place outside the village. All arrangements regarding the holding of the event at an alternative site were decided on at a meeting held in the out-offices of the home of Denis O'Keeffe, N.T.

The new venue was at Baenagoshell close beside Glaskinlin^{en} R.I.C. barracks. When a decision had been reached on the new venue, messengers were dispatched to our prominent supporters in the surrounding districts to advise them of the altered plans and they, in turn, took steps to mobilise the Republican supporters in their areas. The Aerideacht was held as arranged. The principal speakers were :- Donal Óg O'Callaghan and Seamas Langford - both from Cork City. Just as our Aerideacht was about to conclude Father Tomás De Báll from Drumcollogher, who had earlier that day addressed a similar gathering at Tullylease, arrived. He also addressed the crowd before they moved off to their home areas. While the Aerideacht was in progress the British had scoured the country in the vicinity of Cullen in search of the gathering or for a clue as to its whereabouts, but in vain. When we returned to Cullen the British Military party had withdrawn to it's base. It was on the evening prior to the holding^{of the} Aerideacht that Seán Moylan escaped from Cork Mental Hospital where he had been transferred from Cork Prison while feigning mental illness.

During the summer of 1919 some members of the Company decided to hold up a local J.P. (Justice of the Peace equivalent to Peace Commissioner under existing regulations) named William C. Casey who was hostile to Sinn Féin. He had failed to sign the anti-Conscription pledge or subscribe to the Defence Fund. He had also refused to relinquish his honorary post as J.P. He was held up on his way from Knocknagree fair. A revolver and box of ammunition were taken from him. He was then held prisoner in a house nearby while his home was being searched by some members of the I.R.A. party for further arms. No arms were discovered. He was then released and informed that if he required

any assistance to protect his crops we would be prepared to help him in every way possible but we could not allow him to hold arms. Denis Galvin was in charge of this operation. Others who took part were:- Dan T. O'Riordan, Matt Murphy (witness), Humphrey O'Donoghue, Tim Lynch, David Ring, Dan Moynihan and John D. O'Connor. This was the first activity of this nature in the Company area.

There was nothing out of the ordinary in the area during the remainder of 1919. Normal training and parades continued.

When the G.H.Q. order for the destruction of evacuated ^{enemy posts} was secured at Easter 1920, the R.I.C. post in Culler was one of those marked down for destruction. The owner of the building, Jerry Singleton, was an ardent supporter of Sinn Féin and the I.R.A. In the circumstances the officers of the Company (Cullen) decided that it would have a bad effect on the morale of the movement in the parish if we were to demolish a house the property of one of our own supporters. The views of the local officers were placed before a Battalion Council meeting. It was pretty hard to make some of those present at the meeting see our point of view and I'm afraid some of them felt that we were looking for special treatment for our friends because of ulterior motives. It was eventually decided that, if ^{Jerry} ~~George~~ Singleton - the owner of the evacuated R.I.C. post - transferred his family and household effects from the house in which he was living close by to the evacuated post, no further action would be necessary. Singleton agreed to do this and the Brigade O/C. (Liam Lynch) came to Cullen to supervise the transfer and to ensure that there would be no favouritism.

During 1919 and early 1920 the members of the Irish Volunteers and Sinn Féin in the area helped to keep the interest of the

general public resurgent in national affairs by organising and attending demonstrations in connection with the release of I.R.A. prisoners and helping in every way to prepare for the day when they could avail of a suitable opportunity to strike a blow for freedom.

In the early months of 1920 the men of the Millstreet Battalion were engaged for long periods at night in endeavouring to round up a gang of locals who robbed about £18,000 from bank officials in the area. Some officials of the Munster and Leinster Bank, Millstreet, who were conveying a large amount of cash to Knocknagree fair in Mid-November, 1919, were held up at Ballydaly Cross - on the Millstreet Killarney road - by armed men and the money was taken from them. Suspicion for the raid rested on the I.R.A. due merely to the activities of the R.I.C. who questioned only I.R.A. men in the course of their investigations. In order to clear themselves the I.R.A. were compelled to investigate the matter as they did not want their honour besmirched or sullied. The Brigade O/C. (Liam Lynch) arranged for the investigation and eventually the perpetrators were traced. They were all resident in Millstreet area. Orders were given for their arrest. Accompanied by Humphrey O'Donoghue, Dan T. O'Riordan, Tim Condon and Peter Lucey I went to Priest's Cross on the Millstreet road where we met the Battalion officers and some members of the other Companies in the Battalion. The whole party then proceeded into Millstreet where we arrested - the Buckley Brothers (three), - Carmody and two others. The prisoners were removed to the old creamery in Drishane (now a knitting factory) where they were left under guard. We then returned home. These men were later sentenced to deportation. One of them returned later and during the spring of 1921 members of the various Companies in the Battalion had to take part in "round up" activities in order

to re-arrest him. He was eventually captured and again deported.

When a British Army aeroplane was forced down at Drominagh in August 1920, some members of our Company were mobilised and proceeded to the scene. The party arrived in the vicinity of Drominagh just as the I.R.A. attacking party had broken off the engagement. The members of the Cullen Company were :- Dan T. O'Riordan, Humphrey O'Donoghue, Matt Murphy and Denis Galvin.

When the Sín Féin Courts were established in June 1920 the following were selected as members of the Cullen Parish Court :- Jeremiah O'Keefe, Mologhroe; James Dennehy, Two Gneevis; Donal J. MacSuibhne, Ahane. The Court Clerk was Tim Condon. Courts were generally held in the Catholic Hall, Cullen. This hall was formerly St. James' Roman Catholic Church. Parish Courts only dealt with minor cases such as non-payment of small debts, trespass, non-payment of rates. Cases involving questions of title or where the sum involved exceeded £300 came under the jurisdiction of the District Court. These latter Courts were composed of representatives from the various districts. I think that the members of the District Court were :- Tim Condon, Seán Nunan, Con Sullivan and Michael B. McAuliffe. The Court Clerk was Seán Moylan and later Dan Browne. One of the most important cases heard by the District Court in Cullen area was that of Murphy V. Murphy - both of Ahane. This was a case of the question of title to a farm arising out of a marriage agreement. It had given rise to considerable agitation before the case was submitted to the Court, but after a prolonged sitting the case was settled to the mutual satisfaction of the parties concerned. A case of a somewhat similar nature between John Hickey, Knockragurrane and Tim O'Connor, was similarly settled.

The Republican Police Force was established throughout the country about this time. The members/^{were} usually selected from the members of the I.R.A. by the officers in charge of the local units. The police force in Cullen area was commanded by Dan Mounihan - he was also 2nd Lieutenant of the Cullen Company, I.R.A.

About this time an Emergency man, who had taken over the farm from which Tim Murphy, Coolekeerane, Millstreet, had been evicted some years before, decided to leave the area because the R.I.C. authorities were not prepared to afford him further protection in the changed conditions then existing. This man had been under police protection from the date on which he originally took over the farm. Immediately he evacuated, the local I.R.A. decided to reinstate Tim Murphy, who was somewhat reluctant to take up possession. Due to the persuasion of the I.R.A. authorities he agreed to be reinstated. The I.R.A. then removed his family and household effects to his old home where his family still reside.

Beyond usual training activities which were now becoming slightly more advanced - selected men were being trained in signalling and scouting - there was nothing to report until 16th November, 1920, when a force of military arrived in the area and raided the homes of Humphrey O'Donoghue, Dan T. O'Riordan, Roger Kiely, Jeremiah Cronin and Matt Murphy (witness). The raiding party failed to collect any prisoners as we were all away from home. Following this raid I went "on the run".

The first major activity of the Millstreet Battalion Column, which was organised about Christmas 1920, took place on 11th February, 1921 when the evening train from Mallow, which was carrying a party of military, was ambushed. No members of our Company were engaged as they did not receive instructions to report for duty.

The Battalion Columns from Charleville, Newmarket and Millstreet were retiring from the position which they had occupied for two days at The Bower on the Mallow-Killarney road in the early days of March, 1921. They passed through our area and were accompanied by a Column from Kerry II. Brigade under Tom McEllistrum and "Free" Murphy. The combined Columns were on their way to Clonbanin where an ambush position had been selected. The following members of Cullen Company joined the Columns :- Humphrey O'Donoghue, Dan T. O'Riordan, Matt Murphy (witness), and David Ring. I was armed with a shotgun and a revolver. We travelled to Clonbanin by horse and car. This was 5th ~~June~~^{MARCH}, 1921.

The whole party reached the selected position about half ^{MILE} west of Clonbanin Cross on the Mallow-Killarney road about 8 a.m. ^{rainy day} Two mines were laid in the road - one at each end of the ambush position, which extended over a distance of about six hundred yards. The Millstreet and Kerry Columns were divided into a number of sections and took up positions south of the road. The Newmarket and Charleville Columns were in positions north of the road. With David Ring of Cullen Company I was placed on outpost duty at a point about 100 yards west of Clonbanin Cross to the east of the main position, and north of the road. It was now close on 10 a.m. and all sections were in position. We were behind a sod fence about thirty yards from the road. Seán Moylan was, I think, in charge of the combined columns.

Within a short time the scouts to the east signalled the approach of an enemy convoy from Mallow direction. This convoy consisted of two lorries. They drove into our position and were allowed to pass through as the signal to open fire was not given. It was then about 10.30 a.m. There was no further activity until some time after 2 p.m. when firing broke out to

the west of our position. This was the first indication we had received in our position that the convoy from the west had arrived.

When the fight had been going on for some time and we (David Ring and I) had seen no trace of the enemy we decided to link up with the main body on our side of the road. This we did by crawling along under cover to a suitable vantage point some four hundred yards from where we had been in position. When we reached our new position we met Paddy O'Brien (Brigade Vice O/C.) who ordered us to get down towards the road and to make contact with a party which was covering off the retreat of the main body. Amongst this party were Dan Vaughan, Jim Riordan and Dave McNamara.

We immediately proceeded to carry out this order and, crawling under cover of the fences, eventually made contact with the covering party. We all then began to withdraw towards the main body, who were now on high ground to the rear of our position. When we had moved only a short distance to the rear we suddenly discovered that the enemy were trying to outflank our section. We immediately opened fire on the enemy flanking party which had come into the adjoining field. Some of the enemy fell; the remainder dashed for cover and we availed of the diversion to rejoin the main body of the I.R.A. to our rear. Here I made contact with my Company O/C. (Dan T. O'Riordan). The whole party then withdrew to Lomanagh Cross via Lisheenafeela.

The Charleville and Newmarket Columns then made their way towards Kiskeam. With David Ring and Dan T. O'Riordan I retired to Cullen area. The I.R.A. had no casualties in this scrap. The British lost General Cummings together with several others killed and wounded.

Between March, 1921 and June, 1921, all members of the Cullen Company were engaged, as occasion demanded, on blocking of roads, cutting lines of communication, providing transport for the officers of the Brigade Staff and the various Columns when in the area. In addition, they were building "dug-outs" and dumps. We built two of each in the Company area. The "dug-outs" were made by digging out an oblong section of ground about 10' X 7' to a depth of 6' 6" or so. The earth was removed to a distance and distributed over ploughed fields. The dug-out was then lined with railway sleepers and roofed with galvanized iron which was covered with clay to a depth of about 12". The sods were then replaced and there was nothing to indicate that there was an open section underneath. These dug-outs were built close to a fence on the opposite side of which was a deep dyke covered with bushes and briars. The entrance to the dug-out was through an opening in the base of the fence which was well secured by briars and bushes. During this period also regular guards and scouts were posted each night at vantage points throughout the area. There were two men to each post and all were provided with flash lamps to enable them to signal to each other in the event of a round-up. At the Company parade each week men were allocated to this work and they were inspected at regular intervals by the officers of the Company.

On the night of 9th June, 1921, a large party of Tans and Auxiliaries from Millstreet came to Cullen and raided a number of houses. They did not make any arrests and they returned to Millstreet. Next morning at daybreak a large force of military, accompanied by a Sergeant of the R.I.C. who formerly served at Cullen, carried out an intensive round-up in the locality. They arrested Humphrey O'Donoghue (1st Lieutenant of ~~the~~ Company), Seán O'Leary, Roger Kiely, Dan J. O'Riordan and Martin Dennehy.

They were all taken to Kanturk from where Martin Dennehy was released after a few days. The others were removed to Buttevant and later to Cork, Spike Island and Marvboro'. They were released in December, 1921.

On the evening of 15th June, 1921, the Company O/C. (Dan T. O'Riordan) received instructions to send a number of men to report at Drishanibeg. The following were mobilised at short notice :- Tim Ring, Bill Tarrant, Dan Moynihan, John O'Riordan, Dan Lehare, Dan T. O'Riordan, Matt Murphy (witness). There may have been one or two more but I cannot recollect their names. We walked to Drishanibeg where we met scouts to lead us to Laught at the rear of Rathcoole Wood. It was now about 3 a.m.. There was a big muster of men present as the Columns from Charleville, Kanturk, Mallow, Millstreet and Newmarket Battalions as well as several men from the local Companies, were also assembled there. There were about 150 in the whole party. The site selected for ambush was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Millstreet on the Banteer road.

A number of mines were laid in the road in the early morning. They were spaced at the estimated distance between lorries travelling in convoy. When this work had been completed the whole force, except for a few scouts, retired into the cover of Rathcoole Wood. We remained in the wood throughout the day until we were ordered to our respective sections about 3 p.m.. The members of the Cullen party were all armed with shotguns except Dan T. O'Riordan who had a rifle. In addition, I carried a revolver. I should have mentioned that Paddy O'Brien (Brigade Vice O/C) was in charge of the operation. There were about 80 riflemen. The whole force was divided into a number of sections to cover the mines laid in the road. There were also flanking parties and scouts.

With the exception of two sections which were north of the road, all others were in position on high ground overlooking the road on the south side. Riflemen and shotgun-men were interspersed in all sections. There were eight to ten men in each section. I was a member of one of the sections north of the road. The O/C. was Denny Mullane and the only other member I knew was Ned Cronin, Charleville. We were in position on the Millstreet-Mallow railway line about 200 yards from the road. Denny Mullane was responsible for exploding one of the mines. He was in position behind a turn in the fence about midway between our position and the roadway.

About 3 p.m. we were all moved to the pre-selected positions outlined in previous paragraph. At this time the enemy convoy of four lorries of Auxiliaries, which we were to attack, had made a return journey to Banteer while we were in the wood and had now passed through our position for the third time on the way to Banteer. Some short time after all sections had taken up positions scouts reported the approach of the convoy from Banteer on its return journey. The lorries were allowed to drive into the ambush position until the last lorry in the convoy reached the mine at the eastern end. The explosion of this mine was to be the signal for opening the attack and if all went according to plan the other lorries should each be over one of the other mines laid in the road.

When the mine at the eastern end was exploded it blew up the last lorry. The other lorries halted immediately but were not in contact with the mined positions. As a result Denny Mullane, who was in charge of the mine opposite our position, did not explode the mine, so we did not take any part in the attack.

Fighting went on for about an hour and eventually the signal to withdraw was given.

The two sections north of the road withdrew across the Blackwater through Rathroe, Lyreavocane and Cullen to Doonasleen where we billeted. Amongst those who billeted with me that night were :- John Jones, Dan Vaughan, Jim Riordan, Denny Mullane, Ned Cronin. All were members of Newmarket Battalion Column. Next morning they resumed their journey to their home area and I returned to Cullen. The I.R.A. had no casualties while enemy casualties were reported to be heavy.

There were no further activities beyond road-blocking until the Truce on 11th July, 1921.

The officers of Cullen Company at the Truce were :-

O/C.	Dan T. O'Riordan
1st. Lieut.	Matt Murphy replacing Humphrey O'Donoghue (arrested)
2nd Lieut.	Dan Moynihan
Adjutant	Donal McSweeney
Q. M.	Peter Lucey replacing Tim Condon) (now Battalion Quartermaster).

Just prior to the Truce Cork II. Brigade was divided into two Brigades. The Western Battalions - Mallow, Kanturk, Newmarket, Charleville and Millstreet formed the new Cork IV. Brigade. The officers were :-

O/C.	Paddy O'Brien
Vice O/C.	Ned Murphy
Adjutant	Eugene McCarthy
Quartermaster	Mick O'Connell

My rank at the Truce - 1st. Lieutenant, Cullen Company, Millstreet Battalion, Cork IV. Brigade.

The strength of the Company was about 110.

During the Truce I attended a Battalion Camp at Cullen. The O/C. was Con J. Meany and the training officers were William Kelleher (Kaiser) and Jeremiah Long. At this camp those present were given lectures and instructions on the care and use of arms, scouting, outpost duty, the selection and use of cover, selection of ambush positions. This camp continued for about a fortnight and was held, I think, late in August, 1921. When training at this camp had been completed similar camps were held in each Company area - with Dan T. O'Riordan and Jeremiah Long. I conducted camps at Lisnaboy, Lyreadoune and Clonrath.

When the barracks were being taken over from the British in early 1922 I was called to Carnegie Hall, Millstreet, where Millstreet Battalion had established its Headquarters, and was appointed Battalion Adjutant. The officers of the Battalion now were :-

O/C.	Con J. Meany
Vice O/C.	John Lehane
Adjutant	Matt Murphy
Quartermaster	Tim Condon
O/C., Transport	Jack Regan
O/C., Engineers	William O'Riordan
Signals &) First Aid)	Tom C. Buckley.
I.O.	"Mick" Galvin

Following the outbreak of the Civil War I took part in several engagements with Cork IV. Brigade Columns against Free State Forces in Limerick, Bruff, Knockaney, New Ross and Waterford. I was arrested by Free State Forces on 1st December, 1922 and interned in the Curragh until 1st December, 1923.

Signed: Matthew Murphy
Date: 14th March 1956
(Matthew Murphy)

Witness: P. O'Donnell
(P. O'Donnell)

14th March 1956.

