

W.S. 1390

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1390

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1.390

Witness

Brian O'Grady,
70 Shandon Park,
Phibsboro,
Dublin.

Identity.

Captain Ballylongford Company Irish
Volunteers, Co. Kerry;
Battalion Adjutant.

Subject.

Ballylongford Company Irish Volunteers,
Co. Kerry, 1913-1921.

Conditions, if any. Stipulated by Witness.

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STATEMENT OF BRIAN O'GRADY,

70 Shandon Park, Phibsboro, Dublin.

I was born in Ballylongford in the year 1895, and attended the local national school until I was thirteen years of age. While attending school, I won several prizes for Irish history, on which I afterwards lectured to I.R.A. The prizes were put up by The O'Rahilly and Councillor Paul Jones, a lawyer of New York and a native of Ballylongford. After leaving the national school, I attended St. Michael's College, Listowel, for eighteen months.

An I.R.B. Circle was established in Ballylongford in the year 1913 by Michael Griffin, a schoolteacher living in Listowel. I was not a member. In the month of May 1914, a company of Volunteers was formed in the village. A man named Rodger Mulvihill became Captain, and I became Lieutenant. Our strength was sixty men.

An ex British soldier named Tim Enright was drill instructor. A committee was appointed for the purpose of procuring arms, but up to Redmond's speech, offering the Volunteers to England in her "fight for small nationalities", we did not succeed in obtaining any arms. Our only arms were wooden rifles with which we drilled at the time. Following Redmond's offer, two men of the company joined the British army. Our drill instructor, who was on the army reserve, was called up at the same time. After this, we became disorganised for a short while.

On 17th March 1915, Eoin MacNeill visited Killarney for the purpose of reorganising the Volunteers in Co. Kerry. The meeting was attended by Volunteers from all over the county, including two from

Ballylongford. Subsequent to this meeting, I was appointed acting company captain, Eddie Carmody, 1st Lieutenant, and Tom Carmody, 2nd Lieutenant of Ballylongford company. After my appointment, I corresponded with The O'Rahilly in Dublin on the purchase of arms and other military matters. We did not succeed in purchasing any arms at the time. When The O'Rahilly's office was raided by the military and police during Easter Week 1916, my name was found among his papers. I was arrested and taken to the local R.I.C. barracks and questioned, but was not detained.

I was released after arrest because of the fact that the order applied to a number of elderly men whose names were sent to The O'Rahilly as being prospective members for a Sinn Féin club. The names were forwarded by a man who went to the local school with The O'Rahilly, without acquainting the men concerned.

The local Sergeant - James Brennan- who died a few years ago refused to arrest them. My wooden gun, bayonet and haversack were taken by a friendly constable who advised me to burn any correspondence from The O'Rahilly which I might have in the house, as the military might come any day to search it.

After the surrender in Dublin, Volunteer activity ceased in Ballylongford until about April 1917, when a Sinn Féin club was formed. Rodger Mulvihill became President and John Creedon became Secretary. I was not at home at the time.

In October 1917, a Volunteer organiser from Dublin visited Ballylongford. A meeting of the Sinn Féin club was held in the local hall. At the meeting, the

organiser - I forget his name - addressed the members and appealed to the young men present to reorganise and join the I.R.A. With about fifteen others, I joined after the meeting. Each of us signed a declaration to be loyal to the Republic proclaimed in 1916. Among those who joined were Tom Carmody, Michael and Matt Brasill, Paddy Cox, Thomas Creed, Dan Finucane, Richard Murphy, Ger Hunt, Michael and John Moroney, Patrick McNamara and John Heaphy. I again became acting company captain, Eddie Carmody, 1st lieutenant, and Tom Carmody, 2nd lieutenant. Our arms consisted of two .32 revolvers and one shotgun.

Liam Scully, a Gaelic teacher, became local organiser of the Volunteers around this time. In the month of November, Liam was responsible for a mobilisation of the battalion, which had only just been formed, in Ballybunion. About three hundred Volunteers were present and were reviewed by Austin Stack. A few days later, Liam Scully visited Ballylongford, when we consulted him on the purchase of arms.

In January of 1918, five members of Ballylongford company, namely, I, myself, officer in charge, Lieutenant Eddie Carmody (killed at Ballylongford on 23rd November, 1920), Paddy Ahern (now living in Kildare, having retired from the Garda), Tom Ryan and Jack Dennehy (who never took part in any operation with the I.R.A. afterwards), with members of Ballydonoghue company, namely, Paddy Corridan, Jack and Murt Galvin (brothers of Michael Galvin, killed in the Kilmorna ambush) and Jack Sheahan, a member of Moyvane company (shot dead by Auxiliaries near his home), raided farmhouses in the area and collected a number of shotguns. The guns, which

numbered twenty-five, were used for drilling and in route marching and field exercises. The Moroney brothers, who had taken no part in the raid for the guns, were arrested and charged with having done so. Although the jury which tried them did not return a unanimous verdict of guilty, they were detained for eighteen months imprisonment. They were informed that they would be released if they pleaded guilty and signed a form to the effect that they would have nothing to do with the I.R.A. in future. They pleaded guilty, signed the form and were immediately set free. When the facts were reported to headquarters, the Moroney's were dismissed with ignominy from the I.R.A. I was the officer in charge of the raids.

During the conscription scare, our strength increased to ninety. Drilling was intensified, and further shotguns were collected. When it was all over, most of the new men left which reduced our strength to fifty. From then to the end of 1919, our main activities were weekly drilling and route marching. In this year - 1919 - the R.I.C. became very active and raided my house and other houses of Volunteer officers from time to time to effect our arrest for Volunteer activity. I left home in October of this year and went on the run.

In October 1919, as far as I can remember, a Constable Clarke was shot at and wounded by two local I.R.A. men, named Tom Ryan and Michael McNamara, for interfering with a priest while saying his office. On the following Friday night, a man, dressed in black and brown uniform, entered my house at Ballylongford, with a revolver in his hand. My aunt, an elderly person, was the only one in the house at the time. The man had had

some drink taken, and he asked her, "Is Brian, the Shinner, in?" My aunt informed him that I was not, and added that she did not see me for the past three weeks. He searched a couple of rooms and then left, using some nasty expressions.

I was not sleeping at home during that period, but I used to call on Friday nights for a change of clothes. If I had been at home at that time, I would have been in the kitchen when the gun-man came in, and I would not have any chance of escaping with my life.

I arrived about half an hour after the incident, and was informed by my aunt of what had occurred. She seemed to be badly frightened. As I had heard one or two shots when cycling towards my home, I came to the conclusion that some Volunteers were in trouble. I went immediately and got a single barrel shotgun and some cartridges which I had hidden nearby in case of emergency. There was a dead silence as I proceeded down the street, with the hammer raised on the gun. I could not see any person until I went to Kean's corner. At the north side of the corner was a labourer, named Michael Buckley, who had some drink taken and who had been held up by the strange gunman. I interrogated Buckley, and he informed me that the soldier, or whatever he was, had called on some young men to halt and they refused and started to run for cover. He thought some Volunteer was wounded as a result of the shots fired by the gunman. I asked him where had the gunman gone, and he replied that he had gone to the barrack about a quarter of an hour previously.

A short time afterwards, I contacted some of the Volunteers and learned that Volunteer John Heaphy was seriously wounded, as he had received a bullet in the

lung. I was present when Dr. Conor Martin (who died a couple of years ago in Fairview, Dublin, where he had a large practice) ordered his immediate removal to hospital in Limerick. The surgeons there were afraid to operate on him and, as far as I am aware, he still has the bullet in his body. Volunteer Heaphy rendered good service, as he was out at least three nights a week from January to July 1921, keeping roads open and assisting in other Volunteer activities.

No one knew what the gunman was until they saw the Tans at a later period - early in May. That he was the first Black and Tan to come to the south of Ireland cannot be doubted. Some local person must have shown him my house and given information to those that sent him in respect of the time and day I used visit my home.

The big raid for guns in January 1918, also those raids for arms when conscription threatened, and the shooting of Constable Clarke were regarded by the British authorities as being my work. I was informed afterwards by a constable who was stationed in the barrack at the time and resigned the force in June 1920.

On the occasion of the attack on Ballybunion R.I.C. barracks on 13th March 1920 by members of Listowel, Ballyduff and Ballybunion companies under battalion officers James Sugrue and Paddy Landers, the members of Ballylongford company trenched all roads in the company area. In the month of April, we learned that a Colonel Scott-Hickey, who lived in our area, had a shotgun which had not been collected. With other members of the company, I seized a motor car from Boland's garage and went to Scott-Hickey's house and demanded the shotgun.

He informed me that the R.I.C. had taken the gun and handed us, instead, a .22 rifle, some cartridges, a machine for filling cartridges and a .32 revolver. Colonel Hickey was very friendly towards us. As a result of the raid, Boland's garage, which contained a number of cars, was burned by the R.I.C. As a reprisal, at a later date the courthouse was burned by the I.R.A.

Around the latter end of June or early in July, a reorganisation of the battalion took place. The battalion consisted of eighteen companies. These were divided, and a second battalion was formed which was known as the Lixnaw or 3rd battalion. Ballylongford company remained in the original battalion which was the Listowel or 6th battalion. The companies with Ballylongford which remained in the 6th battalion were Newtownsandess, Tarbert, Listowel, Finuge, Bedford, Beale, Knockanure, Asdee, Duagh and Behins.

On the last Sunday night in October, having heard that an R.I.C. man and a Black and Tan were interfering with the congregation leaving church after devotions, I collected some members of the company and arrested the two of them. They were not armed, and neither were we, as three weeks previously we had got an order from brigade headquarters directing us to have all arms placed in a dump in the country and not to attempt to carry out any operation until we got orders from them. (We would be waiting yet!) Of all the blasted, inefficient, cowardly so-and-so's - please excuse the language - but the fact remains that, had we been left to use our own discretion, Lieutenant Carmody would not have been killed on 23rd November, 1920. All our plans had been upset. We took one of them to Newtownsandess and handed him over

to the local company; the other was taken to Ned Sullivan's of Ahanagran. In the meantime, the military arrived in the village and issued a forty-eight hours notice for their return. They threatened to burn down the village if the two men were not returned by then. Carmody and I went to Newtownsandes for the man we had taken there, but the local company captain would not release him without a note from the Brigade O/C, Paddy Cahill. After a few days when the order for their release was received from Cahill, the two men were released. The Black and Tan, named Muir - a Scotchman - committed suicide forty-eight hours after his release.

On the night previous to 22 November 1920, Eddie Carmody, who had been on the run, visited Ballylongford and informed the local I.R.A. that he had received information that a large force of R.I.C. and Black and Tans under District Inspector O'Sullivan of Listowel were to carry out a raid on the village next day. Next morning, several lorries of R.I.C. and Tans arrived and began a house-to-house search, adjourning from time to time to visit publichouses which they looted, eventually becoming almost mad from drink. In the streets they assaulted everyone they met and fired several thousand rounds of ammunition. By order of the brigade staff, our arms at the time had been dumped some distance outside the village.

Carmody had been at a crossroads with some of the local I.R.A. when he heard footsteps approaching, which he took to be members of the local company. He went towards the sound of the footsteps and discovered they were those of a group of Black and Tans. He turned and ran. They opened fire, wounding him, after which he was

arrested, placed against a wall and shot dead. It was a night of severe frost, with a full moon. I had to swim the tidal water as I was fired on by a party of Tans from behind the co-op. creamery. I had warned Lieutenant Carmody and all the members of the company, as good information had been received, to keep out of the village as the British forces were to start shooting and burning around the third week of November. I had just crossed the river-nearby and actually heard Carmody being shot. Having shot him, they returned to the village and burned down Collins's creamery and timber yard, a public house and hardware premises, some private houses, including my own, and broke windows in several other houses. During all this, the people, especially the women, were terrified. They went through a terrible ordeal.

At the latter end of November, I went to West Limerick and joined up with Seán Finn, the Brigade O/C, Michael Colbert, James Roche and five or six others who had previously taken part in an attack on Kilmallock R.I.C. barracks and other engagements. There was nothing doing in West Limerick at the time, so, after five weeks, I returned to North Kerry. Shortly after, a flying column for the area was formed. Paddy Ahern, Tom Carmody and myself were accepted from the Ballylongford company at the start. We numbered twenty-seven men. Tom Kennelly became O/C. At first, we were billeted in the Newtownsandes area.

In about the middle of January, we left Newtownsandes and proceeded in a body to Duagh. We were not long there when the company captain of Duagh -

James Costello - got word that the enemy knew of our whereabouts and that they were to round-up the area next morning. We left immediately for a place called Derk, and later arrived in Rathea where we stayed for the night. Next morning, a strong force of military, R.I.C. and Black and Tans arrived in Duagh and raided every house in the village.

That evening, we left Rathea and proceeded by way of Glenalema to Stack's mountain in a continuous downpour of rain and lashing wind. We had just settled in on the second night when Con Brosnan and Dan O'Grady, who were on guard outside, saw lights moving on the mountain and reported the matter to me, as Tom Kennelly was away for the night and I was in charge. I suggested to Jack Lynch to go out and see if there was any danger. He went out and was back inside two minutes. He came running in and shouted at me, "Holy, they are on top of us!" Some of the boys were asleep on the floor, and I shook them and told them to keep cool as there was an attempt being made to surround us. I had already sent a Volunteer to the other houses to caution the Volunteers staying in them to come as quickly as possible. I said to Jack Lynch that we would go east and, as he knew the locality, he should go in front.

We retreated east for some distance, and took cover in an old fort where we remained all the next day. It was one of the worst nights I ever remember. A biting north-westerly gale, with heavy rain and sleet, went through our clothing into the skin. The bad night saved us, as they retreated. When dawn was breaking in the morning, I was looking towards the main road through a pair of German field-glasses; and I saw six big lorries

moving off towards Listowel. They thought we had gone east, as next morning about 10 a.m. we saw the Auxiliaries on the mountain east of us, with the aid of a naval telescope. We were in the old fort, and they came within a mile of us. At dusk, we left the fort and proceeded towards Lixnaw where we crossed the rivers Gale and Feale and eventually reached the Ballyoneen area where we rested for a day and two nights.

Early in the month of February, while located at a place called Guhard, our scouts informed us that the military were filling in trenches on the main road between Ballylongford and Listowel, near Gale bridge. In the absence of Tom Kennelly, I was in charge and I decided that it was a good opportunity for an attack. When we arrived there, we found that the military had left, after rounding up a number of civilians to fill the trenches.

Returning to Guhard, we were told by Con Brosnan that the Tans were raiding houses in the Liselton area. I was still in charge, as Tom Kennelly was at Liselton. He sent word to come at once. I gave the column the order to double march. The Tans, it appears, heard of our approach and rushed for a train standing on the line. We got there as the train was leaving. We opened fire on the train as it left. One Tan only returned our fire and wounded one of our men, Paddy Dalton, later killed at Gurtaglanna.

While located in the Tullamore area about a fortnight after the attack on the train, the O/C decided to attack simultaneously Tan patrols in Ballylongford and Ballybunion. The column was divided for the purpose. One half went to Ballybunion in charge of Tom Kennelly.

I was in charge of the half that went to Ballylongford. The column numbered thirty men at this time. The attacks were carried out on 23rd February with the aid of the local companies. When my party arrived in the village, I first placed two or three men in a position covering the barracks. I placed the remainder on the right hand side of the street as we faced the barracks. Five of the men had rifles; the others had shotguns. We were not long in position when the Tans appeared. We opened fire. One of them was killed; the other was wounded and died later. We left the area immediately and retreated to Newtownsandies. Among the column members who took part in the attack were Denis Quille, Con Brosnan, Jack Ahern and Dan O'Grady.

In the early hours of the following morning, several lorry loads of Black and Tans and R.I.C. arrived in the village and burned down the local hall, the private house of Tom Carmody, his mother's private house and that of Eugene O'Sullivan, Mrs. McCabe's, Mrs. Barrett's, Martin Collins', as well as Martin Collins' publichouse, Michael Morris' butcher shop and Mrs. Enright's sweetshop. Two houses on the Well road were also burned. All shops were looted; barrels of stout and whiskey were machine-gunned. Shops looted included the drapery houses of Messrs. Lynch, Sanbury and Finucane.

In between the incidents referred to, with other members of the column, I paid several visits to Tarbert for the purpose of attacking a Tan patrol in the area, but except for one occasion, the attacks never materialised. On this occasion, when the attacking party reached about a mile from the village, they were halted while Jack Ahern and another man went into the

village to ascertain the position there. When the two men got there, they discovered that two or three Tans were located in a publichouse.. Ahern sent his companion back to the members of the column to come in for the attack. Ahern's companion had only just left him when the Tans left the pub. As they did so, Ahern, from a corner opposite the pub, opened fire single handed and wounded at least one of them. As the Tans ran for the barracks, Ahern returned to the column men waiting outside the village.

In April of this year, following the death of Robert McElligott, the then Battalion O/C, by shooting at Derrymore by the military, new battalion officers were appointed. Paddy Joe McElligott replaced his brother, Robert, as Battalion O/C. Bill O'Sullivan became Vice O/C, and I became Battalion Adjutant.

About the end of April, the column was disbanded for a week. When it reassembled, a decision was taken to divide it into two, or one column for each of the 3rd and 6th battalion areas. Tom Shanahan became O/C of the 3rd or Lixnaw battalion column. Paddy Joe McElligott remained O/C of the 6th or Listowel battalion. Denis Quille then became O/C of the 6th battalion column on my suggestion, as he was a young married man with a few children. I was the senior officer, and I became Adjutant and operations officer as well as being Battalion Adjutant.

At the end of May, Denis Quille, Column O/C, decided to carry out an attack on an R.I.C. and Tan patrol in Ballylongford. I was operations officer and made all preparations for

the attack. Assisted by members of Bedford, Asdee and Ballylongford companies, we took up positions in Bridge Street and awaited the patrol (which usually numbered 15 men) to make their usual patrol from the barracks to what was known as the Doctor's Cross. The attacking party numbered 20 men; ten of these had rifles, the others had shotguns. We waited for a couple of hours but the patrol never turned out that night. Before we left, however, we sniped at the barracks for about half an hour, to which the garrison within replied. We were puzzled for a long time as to the reason for the patrol not coming out that night. I later learned from Fr. Harty, C.C., that, previous to the proposed attack, he had spoken to Sergeant Gilogly, R.I.C. of the barracks. It appears that Sergeant Gilogly, who always carried a couple of revolvers, had boasted to Fr. Harty that the I.R.A. would never get him. Fr. Harty told him that if the I.R.A. wanted to get him they would be prepared to lose 20 men to do so. This bit of advice from Fr. Harty had such an effect on the sergeant that he became afraid to venture out of the barracks even with the patrol to protect him.

The column, while located in Leitrim, Newtownsandes, in the month of June received a dispatch from G.H.Q., Dublin, through Brigade H.Q. to dismantle the telephone in Ballylongford and to warn local shopkeepers not to stock British goods. I sent word to Ballylongford to have the company mobilised and brought Jack Ahern, Dan O'Grady, Paddy Ahern, Tom Carmody, Mick McNamara, Patrick Cox and Jim Sugrue of the column with me and met the local company which numbered 35, about half a mile outside the village. The local men were armed with 15 shotguns. The column men had rifles. We had just arrived when I received a dispatch stating that 120

military with bikes had been put ashore off a destroyer between Tarbert and Ballylongford. We decided to carry out our job and raided the Post Office where Matt Scanlon dismantled the telephone. Having warned the shopkeepers not to stock British goods, we again sniped at the barracks before we left. Next day, the local Tans questioned the shopkeepers for a description of the men who called on them the night before.

As far as I can remember, it was about the middle of May 1921, when we received a dispatch from H.Q. in Dublin containing an order to have an ex-R.I.C. man named Kane arrested and executed immediately. Denis Quille made arrangements at once to have him arrested. It was known that Kane went for a walk along the banks of the River Feale practically every evening. He lived in a house in the Square at Listowel quite adjacent to a house occupied by the Auxiliaries. Those ordered to arrest Kane and bring him to where the column was located had been waiting for him for three or four evenings, but he had failed to make an appearance. On making inquiries they ascertained that he was sick. We reported the matter, but despite the fact that we had done so, another dispatch came asking why the Order hadn't been given practical effect.

A period of about two weeks elapsed and again the Order came. Just as the dispatch arrived, I was preparing to proceed to Ballylongford with seven men from the column to dismantle the telephone there and to warn the shopkeepers not to stock British goods. We had received information a few days previously that Kane was convalescent and would be resuming his walks by the Feale any evening. As a matter of fact, we were expecting his arrest the evening before and were awaiting his arrival with his escort at the place where we were located. I said to Denis Quille: "The matter is very

serious; if Kane is not here in the morning and I come safely from tonight's operation, I will take a man from the column and try and get him".

When we returned in the morning after carrying out the operation successfully, I was informed by Quille that Kane had been arrested and escorted to a house near Gale Bridge on the road leading from Moyvane - then known as Newtownsandes to Knockanure where he was under guard. I suggested to Denis Quille that we should send a priest - Father O'Shea - to the house where the prisoner was detained to hear his confession and to get him to make his will. Quille agreed and got up immediately to have these very necessary things done.

I informed Quille that I'd go to the house in the evening about 8 p.m. with Jack Ahern, Con Brosnan, and Danny O'Grady of the column. We had to have a good sleep because of the fact that we had travelled long distances the two previous nights, most of which was across country.

On our way to the house on that evening, we met the priest and, after a talk with us, he called me aside. He asked me for what reason was the prisoner being sentenced to death. I replied: "I don't know, Father, the Order has come from G.H.Q. and that is all we know of the matter". He then asked me if the man's life could be spared. I informed him that we had no option but to obey the order and, I added, "we would rather be surrounded by the enemy fighting for our lives than to have to give effect to the Order, but we had implicit confidence in our intelligence officers, that there was no mistake being made and that this was our consolation". He then said: "Very good, Brian, God bless ye" and he departed.

When we arrived at the house, Denis Quille came to me immediately and he asked me to go to the prisoner and get the

will and read it. He would have done so himself, but he was well known to the prisoner and, under the circumstances, it was right that a stranger should read it. I went to the room where the prisoner was detained; he was quite normal. I asked him if he had his will made and told him that if he had it completed I must read it. He then handed me his will which I read carefully. It contained nothing that would cause us any anxiety. He then said to me: "Are you sure it will be delivered to my family?" I replied: "Yes, I give you my word of honour that it will be delivered". He then said: "I want to make one request, take me as near as ye possibly can to the town of Listowel". I told him we would do everything possible to comply with his request.

At 12 midnight we started off with the prisoner, going through the village of Knockanure on our way to the main road between Kilmorna and Listowel. We had sent a scout ahead - Volunteer Dan Enright (afterwards executed in Drumboe Castle during the civil war). When we had gone some distance beyond Knockanure, Con Brosnan informed us that there was a short cut across the fields that would take us on to the main road, near a cottage. It was a glorious night early in June - like one stolen from the tropics. The larks were singing all night and the northern sky was aglow with light from the Aurora Borealis. Half an hour before dawn it got dark. The prisoner was in normal mood and he related some stories to the two men nearest him. We travelled two deep through the paths in order to avoid causing damage to the meadows through which we were passing. It was growing dark and we knew the dawn was near. Just a few minutes later, Con Brosnan halted us and he pointed to the cottage on the side of the main road to Listowel. Every member of the firing party became alert in a second. We were going on a road which military cycling patrols

travelled very often. As we always wore rubber soles and heels on our boots, we got on the road without making the least noise. We examined the road carefully for fresh cycle tracks, but there were none, which proved that no patrol had passed out from or into Listowel during the night.

It was getting bright as we proceeded in the direction of Listowel with an advance guard in front, also a guard at the rear. We had gone a reasonable distance and, as it was clear daylight, I whispered to Denis Quille that it was time to halt. He agreed and I halted the party and explained to the prisoner that we would not proceed further. I asked him if he would like to say a prayer and he said "yes". I gave him my Rosary beads and we knelt on the grass margin near the ditch with the prisoner and said a decade of the Rosary with him. We then stood up and the prisoner remained on his knees praying. After a few minutes, I touched him on the shoulder and he got up. I asked him if he would like to be blindfolded and he said "Yes, it would be better". I then asked the prisoner if he had anything to say before he was executed, and he said, "All I have to say is this. Ye are the finest young men I have ever met, and the only thing I am sorry for is that I am not dying for Ireland!"

There are some incidents that happened during the pre Truce war which are stamped indelibly on my mind, and one of them is what occurred on that morning. The sun had not risen and nothing disturbed the peace. The sound of the gunfire reverberated from the hills and valleys of Knockanure. With a draw that had been practised for fifteen minutes twice per day, all revolvers left the holsters simultaneously with a speed that should be seen to be believed. The prisoner swayed back against the ditch and slid gently to the ground. In a second, Denis Quille had the usual label fastened to his coat.

Firing party, secure arms; right turn; quick march.

We contacted our scout soon after and left the main road and travelled through fields until we were safe. No one had spoken so far. I said to Quille: "Denis, a brave man has died". "I thoroughly agree with you" he said. Then we relaxed. Those of us who smoked blessed the man who discovered tobacco.

During the Truce I was in charge of a training camp at Sallowlin and afterwards joined the National Army with the rank of captain.

Signed: Brian O'Grady
(Brian O'Grady)

Date: 15th March, 1956
15th March 1956.

Witness: John J. Daly
(John J. Daly)

