

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1440

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1440

Witness

Daniel Byrne,
Grangeford,
Tullow,
Co. Carlow.

Identity.

Section Commander, Tullow Company, I.R.A.

Subject.

Activities of Tullow Company, Irish Volunteers,
Co. Carlow. 1918-1923.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

File No S.2781.

Form B S M. 2

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No. W.S. 1,440

STATEMENT BY DANIEL BYRNE,

Grangeford, Tullow, County Carlow.

I joined the Volunteers in April, 1918. It was the Tullow Company to which I was attached, and the Captain was then Michael Keating. I started off by being made a Section Commander. We had parades about twice a week. We had very little arms in those days, so the first duty we were assigned was to make some searches of farmhouses for shotguns.

I was in charge of a party that carried out a few of those raids. We were fairly successful and succeeded in getting a few shotguns.

On Easter Saturday night, 1920, six members of our company carried out a raid on the Income Tax office in Carlow. The Volunteers were William Mara, Michael Quinn, Har Twamley, Michael Walsh, Paddy Murphy and myself. We entered the office and filled up the documents in corn sacks and carried them away to a motor car. We then brought them out the country and burned the lot.

In the month of June, 1920, we were ordered to proceed to Castledermot. There were three Volunteers from our company - William Mara, Michael Quinn and myself. The intention was to hold up the R.I.C. in the barrack there during an inspection parade by the D.I. There were contingents from all the surrounding battalions and everything was in readiness for the attack, but the C.O. of the brigade, who was to have led the attack, failed to turn up, so the whole thing was called off.

One evening early in September, 1920, the local intelligence reported that the D.I. from Carlow had gone over to Tullow with only the driver of the car - a police constable - with him, and would probably return to Carlow by the same route. An ambush was immediately prepared at Grangeford, but after waiting for some two hours we got word that he had returned by another route.

About that time it was reported that R.I.C. used to patrol Tullow in groups of four, armed with revolvers. It was decided to hold them up with the object of getting the arms from them, so on the night of September 8th 1920 four of us were told off to hold them up. The other Volunteers were Michael Quinn, Michael Walsh, Michael Neill and myself. We were supported by Battalion Commandant Michael Keating, Captain William O'Dea, Volunteer James Nolan, and some others whose names I now forget. The four of us walked up to the R.I.C. men and challenged them to put up their hands, but they immediately attempted to draw their guns and they opened fire. We replied, and in the engagement that followed, two R.I.C. men were killed and the other two succeeded in making their escape to the barrack, which was only 100 yards away. The usual police and military activity followed and there were numerous raids and searches. Two business premises in the town (Tullow) were burned down as a reprisal by Black and Tans. There were several arrests, including most of the men who took part in the action referred to. I was taken from a house one night by military and R.I.C., threatened and placed against a wall. Two R.I.C. men shoved the muzzles of their revolvers into my mouth in an effort to extract

information from me. They let me go that night, and were looking for me again two nights afterwards. I succeeded in evading them up to the truce. During the truce we had our local training camp at Duckett's Grove. After the truce I joined the Republican side, and on the outbreak of hostilities I was with the Brigade Column. We lined up with a Tipperary Column at Castledermot and were in a number of small engagements at Carlow, Tullow, Nenagh, and other places. The Carlow Brigade Column was under the command of the late Thomas O'Connell. I was "on the run" during the whole period of the Civil War, but through sheer luck escaped arrest, although I had several hairbreadth escapes.

Signed:.....*Daniel Byrne*.....

Date: 14 - 6 - 56

Witness: *Seán Brennan Lieut. Col.*
(Investigator).

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