

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
FIELD SERVICE NO. 1619
No. W.S. 1,619

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1619.

Witness

Daniel Canty,
North Main St.,
Bandon,
Co. Cork.

Identity.

O/C Newcestown Coy., Bandon Battn.,
Cork 111 Bgde., I.R.A.
Member of Brigade Flying Column.

Subject.

Newcestown Coy., Bandon Battn.,
Cork 111 Bgde., I.R.A. and
Brigade Flying Column
1913 - 1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

File No S. 2936.

Form B S M. 2

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STATEMENT BY DANIEL CANTY,

North Main St., Bandon, Co. Cork.

I was born at Farnalough, Newcestown, Co. Cork, on November 1st 1895. My parents were farmers. I was educated at Newcestown National School until I went to work on my parents' farm.

A company of the Irish Volunteers was formed in Newcestown in August, 1913. I joined same and took an active part in the training until the split in September, 1914. I took part in a parade in Cork in September, 1914, when Wm. Redmond, M.P., addressed the meeting. During the course of his address, Mr. Redmond, M.P., made certain remarks which suggested that those present should join the British army to fight for small nations - to which we took exception - and most of our company (Newcestown) left the parade ground in protest. John Lordan was responsible for the withdrawal, and I agreed. We were both section commanders in the company. John Lordan was afterwards Vice O/C, Cork 111 Brigade.

In December, 1914, we formed a new company of the Irish Volunteers in co-operation with Terence MacSwiney who visited the area at the time. The strength of this unit was about a dozen. Some of the members whose names I can recollect were: - John Lordan, James Lordan, Jerh. Desmond, Timothy Hurley, John Lyons, John Donovan, James Donovan, Daniel Carty (witness). I was acting O/C of the unit. This company was attached to mid Cork (Macroon) area and was an independent unit of Cork Brigade, Irish Volunteers.

We held parades every Sunday in the early stages under Donal Óg O'Callaghan, who was afterwards Lord Mayor of Cork City. Our first public parade was on March 17th 1915,

when units of Cork City under Tomás MacCurtain, who was then Brigade O/C, paraded in Cork City. We continued our Sunday parades in the home area throughout the year 1915. The parades usually took the form of close order drill with occasional lectures.

The Newcestown Company next paraded in public in Cork on St. Patrick's Day, 1916, when Seán McDermott addressed the parade before dismissal at Sheares St. I cannot now recollect any portion of his speech.

There was no parade of the company between St. Patrick's Day and Easter Week, 1916. We got no instructions regarding the Rising. I often enquired the reason but could never find out.

On Easter Sunday, 1916, I heard that there was to be a parade in Macroom. With two others - Jeremiah Desmond and Matt Donovan - I went on towards Macroom and met some men from other units on their way back after the parade in Macroom had been dismissed. During Easter Week and for some time afterwards we remained out of the way to avoid arrest, but there were no arrests in our area.

In the summer of 1916 - in the month of July - Newcestown and Farnivane companies joined together. The reorganised unit was known as Farnivane. I remained with the company until September, 1917.

After the release of the prisoners who had been interned or imprisoned following Easter Week, at Christmas, 1916, there was a keen revival of interest in Volunteer activities. Companies were organised in several districts throughout the area during the summer of 1917, and before the end of the year a battalion organisation was set up in Bandon area. The companies in the Bandon Battalion were: - Bandon, Ballinadee,

Kilbriittain, Clogagh, Newcestown, Farnivane, Kilpatrick, Crosspound, and Innishannon. The first full parade of the battalion took place in Bandon in November, 1917, to a meeting at which Comdt. Eamon de Valera spoke. Tom Hales was O/C of this parade. After the parade a conference was held at which we were asked to form a company in Newcestown.

I was sworn into the I.R.B. by Tom Hales, who was Centre for the area, in the summer of 1917.

The new Newcestown Company was formed in December, 1917. The number enrolled at the first meeting was 72. John Allen was appointed O/C because we thought he was the only man capable of taking charge as he was a resigned R.I.C. man. He had served six years in the R.I.C. and resigned in August, 1916. I was appointed 1st Lieutenant, and John Lordan, 2nd Lieutenant. The Company Adjutant was Patrick O'Mahoney. The section commanders were: -

No. 1	Section	-	Thomas Lynch
No. 2	"	-	Jerh. O'Brien
No. 3	"	-	John Lyons
No. 4	"	-	John O'Donovan.

After Christmas, 1917, the company paraded about twice a week. Parades consisted mainly of close order foot drill. Early in 1918, when the threat of conscription appeared on the scene, the strength of the company grew to about 150. In February and March, 1918, we had the usual parades, but the company was meeting nearly every night. The members of the unit carried out the anti-conscription fund collection in the district and helped in getting everybody in Newcestown area, with the exception of two people, to sign the anti-conscription pledge. From April, 1918, until the threat of conscription passed, the company was almost 'standing to' at all times. At this period the company was visited regularly by the senior officers in the

area, including Seán Hales, Charlie Hurley, Denis Lordan, and Liam Deasy. When the conscription scare had passed, everything was quiet for the remainder of the year 1918. Normal parades and training continued. In December, 1918, we sent a party of men to Waterford City to help Sinn Féin in the general election there and to protect the Sinn Féin party's election workers and supporters. The men who went to Waterford City on this occasion were: Daniel Ca^Nty (witness), John Lordan, Jeremiah O'Brien, Jack Foley, Lar Finn, Denis O'Brien, Dan Corcoran, Tom Lynch, Dan Mahony, Jeremiah Desmond, and James Lordan.

There was a change in the organisation of the Volunteers in Cork county in January, 1919. Up to this time the county had been organised into one brigade which consisted of some twenty battalions. The O/C was Tomás MacCurtain. I cannot recollect the name of the other officers. It was now decided to divide the county into three brigades covering the following areas: - Cork City and Mid Cork (No. 1 Brigade), North Cork (No. 2 Brigade), West Cork (No. 3 Brigade). Our battalion (Bandon) now became a unit of Cork 111 Brigade. The other battalions in this brigade were: Clonakilty, Dunmanway, Skibbereen, Bantry, and Castletownbere. About twelve months later (spring 1920) Bantry Battalion was divided into two - Bantry and Schull. The first officers of the new brigade (Cork 111) were, I think: -

O/C - Tom Hales
 Vice O/C - Cannot recollect
 Adj. - Liam Deasy
 Q/M - Pat Harte.

From January, 1919, I was laid up for 13 weeks with the 'flu then known as the "Black'Flu" - and I remained indoors for a further month. The first parade of the Newcestown Company which I attended that year was in the middle of June. Normal weekly and Sunday parades were held and training was carried out as usual until October. In October an organiser from Dáil Éireann, whose name we were led to believe was Hugh Kennedy but whom I afterwards

knew as Jim Madden came into the area. I travelled with him through the company area, helping to organise and collect the first Dáil Éireann loan for about two months. During this period also we collected arms - mainly shotguns - throughout the district. We raided all loyalist houses in the area, seizing any arms found in these houses. At first we used to go on these raids in a body - as many as a dozen and sometimes more taking part - but later we divided up and did the jobs with small sections of three or four. We found that the new procedure was more successful.

My first experience of raiding for arms with a section was when the section entered the house (Wilson's, Lisnagatn) to raid for the arms, I remaining^{ed} on guard outside. While at my post I heard footsteps, and going behind the pillar of the entrance gate I saw the owner of the house approach carrying a shotgun. I held him up, seized the gun and a small supply of cartridges which he had. I then took him into the house to the others, where he handed over a further stock of cartridges which he had stored there. This was about October, 1919.

On the following Sunday night we raided another loyalist house. I did not know the owner but was told that he was a great big man, standing six feet, three inches. We tried every door to get in as quietly as we could, but all doors were locked. In the end we got in by a trick - the door being opened by the owner, who thought we were friends of his coming to visit him. We immediately overpowered him, although we did not expect to be able to do so from what we had heard. We expected to get two shotguns in the house, but he refused to give us any information. On a search of the house we found a cartridge loading machine, cartridge cases, loose lead, but we failed to find any guns. In a raid on another house within a quarter mile we got a shotgun

and some cartridges which were, I believe, the property of the man whose house we had first raided.

Regular raiding for arms continued throughout the winter of 1919 until every available gun not already held by members of our unit was collected and safely dumped. One night in November we had five raiding parties operating simultaneously in the vicinity of the village of Enniskeneane. Captures of either guns or ammunition were made in all cases. There was an exchange of fire between our raiding party and the occupants of one house owned by a family named Woods. One member of the household was wounded.

As far as I can recollect, the arms seized in this series of raids consisted in all of 33 shotguns - one of which, taken by myself, was a converted rifle type. It had a bolt similar to that in a rifle. I held this gun in my own possession for some time and took it to all parades for the purpose of showing the men the workings of a service rifle, as it was the nearest we had to a service rifle at this period. On one occasion on my way to a parade I had to cross a public road. As I got on to the fence a member of the R.I.C., whose name I cannot remember, was just passing by. We looked hard at each other. He asked me if I was going for a shot and I said that I was. He then asked me if I had enough cartridges, and when I informed him that I had not he said that he might be able to manage a box for me if I would go into Bandon on the following Thursday. He told me to call to Good's Stores, where he would meet me. He was not in the shop when I called, and when I enquired whether an R.I.C. man from Mount Pleasant had been in I was told that he had not. However, just as I was leaving the shop I met him on the street. He informed me that I would have to go to the barracks for a permit. I was not too happy about this suggestion, but eventual

I decided to chance it. I asked for a permit for 100 cartridges, but only got one for 25. I purchased my cartridges on the permit and set out for home. They were all reloaded with buckshot before the following morning.

Early in 1920 a meeting of brigade and battalion officers was held at Hurley's, Laragh. Amongst those who were present were: - Tom Hales (Brigade O/C), Charlie Hurley (Vice O/C), Liam Deasy (Adjt.), Tadhg O'Sullivan (Battn. Q/M), Seán Hales (O/C Bandon Battn.), James O'Mahony (Adjt. Bandon Battalion), Dan Holland, Denis Lordan. Representatives from all companies in the Bandon Battalion were also in attendance. At this meeting it was decided to attack Mount Pleasant R.I.C. barracks in the near future.

In conjunction with the members of Tinkers Cross Company, our unit (Newcestown) was made responsible for the preliminary preparations. Our duties in this respect were: -

- (1) to watch and report on the movements of the garrison to and from the barracks.
- (2) to prepare a sketch of the building and to arrange to keep the barracks under constant observation, day and night.

These duties were allocated to various members of the two companies, and a comprehensive report covering the activities of the garrison over a period of nearly a month was compiled.

The attack on the barrack was fixed for the night of February 25th 1920. Mines and explosives which were prepared for the job were dumped in Newcestown Company area in advance, and we were responsible for transporting them to the vicinity of Mount Pleasant before the attack. The full strength of the company was mobilised for this job. The majority were fitted out with pickaxes, cross-cut saws, shovels and other such tools for the felling of trees and the blocking of roads at pre-arranged places.

The attack was timed for between 11 p.m. and midnight. I was within three fields of the barrack for most of the evening preceding the attack. I was engaged in watching the movements of the R.I.C. garrison. There was no movement outside the building during my period of observation up to 8 p.m., when I withdrew in accordance with instructions. I then withdrew about 2 miles across country, where I made contact with the members of my own company (Newcestown) on their way to the assembly point. At the same time we made contact with the men from Crosspound Company under Tommie Kelleher. We all moved to a position about 400 yards from the barracks, where we were to meet the brigade and battalion officers who were to be present at the attack. These officers were: -

Tom Hales (Brigade O/C)
Liam Deasy (Adjnt.)
Charlie Hurley (Bde. Vice O/C).

We waited in our position until 12 midnight, but the officers did not put in an appearance. I then searched all fields in the neighbourhood but found no trace of anybody. At about 1.45 p.m. next morning, the O/C Newcestown (John Allen) and O/C Crosspound (Tom Kelleher) decided that it was better to disband and return to their home areas. Following this decision I went with John Lordan to O'Brien's, Laragh, where we learned from a sister of Con O'Brien (1st Lieut. Tinker's Cross Company) that the brigade, battalion and company officers and men had gone towards Mountpleasant barracks since the previous night about 10 p.m. John Lordan and I retraced our steps towards the barracks. Some distance from our objective we came across five men felling a tree to block the road. Wm. Hurley (Tinker's Cross Company) was in charge and he informed us that the attack was to take place. We set out at the double for the barracks and were within 200 yards of it when the first shots rang out. Firing continued for about 20

minutes, after which the attackers withdrew as they had no hope of a successful operation in the absence of explosives. I never found out why the full attacking party did not meet at the pre-arranged assembly point.

There was considerable enemy activity following the attack on the barrack at Mountpleasant and all prominent I.R.A. men were busy avoiding arrest.

On the morning of March 2nd 1920 I visited Bandon, where I met Denis Calnan of Queensfort, Bandon. I had prior information that he had a service rifle. I had no way of getting it from him, so I bought it for £5. On the same occasion I collected some small arms (I can't recollect what they were). I brought the lot to the vicinity of my home that night, arriving home about 1 a.m. next morning. Before going in home, I dumped the arms. Having made a cup of tea for myself, I apparently fell asleep for the next thing I remember was a loud knocking on the door of my home. The house was surrounded by a force of R.I.C. and military and I was taken prisoner about 3 a.m. on March 3rd 1920.

The raiding party, which consisted of 3 R.I.C. men with some members of the Essex Regiment from Bandon, then took me to Allen's, Bengour West, where they arrested John Allen who was O/C Newcestown Company. The whole party then returned to Bandon barracks, where we arrived about 6 a.m. We were held here for about 2 hours before being removed with other prisoners - John Mahony (Kilbrittain) and Frank Hurley (Tinker's Cross) - under heavy escort to Cork Gaol.

We were detained in Cork until March 15th 1920, when we were removed under escort to Monkstown Pier, where we

were put aboard a boat about 6 p.m. We were handcuffed in pairs and had to climb the gangway on to the boat without having the handcuffs removed. The handcuffs were, however, removed by the orders of the military officer in charge when we were in the hold of the boat, although the R.I.C. man who travelled as a member of the escort did not want him to do so. When the R.I.C. man was ordered to remove the handcuffs, he protested that the boat would not be safe with us on board if the handcuffs were taken off.

We had a bad crossing, arriving at Milford Haven about 3 a.m. next morning. We were put ashore about 6 a.m. and were later put on a train for London, which arrived at Euston about 8 p.m. We reached Wormwood Scrubbs prison from Euston about 9 p.m. I should have mentioned that the number of prisoners on the train was eight, including John Allen, Frank Hurley, John Mahoney (West Cork), Denis Long (South Kerry), - Dwyer (Tipperary), Patrick O'Leary (Kilmurray) and myself. I cannot remember the names of the others ~~there~~.

Next morning (17th March, 1920) we met the prisoners who had preceded us to Wormwood Scrubbs and were informed that a hunger-strike had been organised to take place that day at noon. Our party got the option of remaining off because of the bad crossing; it was considered that we might not be fit to carry it out. However, having discussed the matter we decided to join in the strike. The strike took place as arranged and lasted for about $3\frac{1}{2}$ days, when the concessions sought by us were granted. Normal routine followed until the end of April, when it was decided to go on hunger-strike should our demand for unconditional release be refused. After the eight days on hunger-strike I was removed one night with a number of others to Kingsland Road Hospital. We were offered a tonic in the ambulance on the way to the

hospital, but I refused to take it until they were able to show us that we had been released unconditionally. This was the position at 7 a.m., when a newspaper man arrived with the 'Daily Sketch' on which was published a list of our names and a notification that we had been released unconditionally from Wormwood Scrubbs the previous night.

We remained in the hospital for twenty-two days, during which period the remainder of the prisoners in Wormwood Scrubbs were released in batches - some had been on hunger-strike for twenty-one days. It was now rumoured that the first group of prisoners to be released were to be re-arrested. This being the group in which I was included, it was decided that we should walk out of the hospital and it was arranged that we would go in small groups to the homes of our friends in London. We left as arranged, and as we had no money we had to remain in London for about three weeks. Each of us received money from home and we travelled back home about the second week in June, 1920.

When I returned to Newcestown area from London everything was quiet, but not for long, as, on the third day following my return my home was surrounded by a force of R.I.C. and military but I managed to escape. Within a week the following members of Newcestown unit took part in the destruction of Farnivane evacuated R.I.C. barracks on June 20th 1920:- Dan Walsh, Dan Galvin, Stephen Staunton, John Callaghan, Ned Sweeney, Wm. Murphy, Tom Lynch, Jerome O'Brien, and Dan Ca^Nty (witness). When withdrawing following the destruction of the barrack, we nearly ran into a British military cycle patrol. We collected as many members of the Newcestown Company as were available and, armed mainly with shotguns, we took up a position on the Farranthomas road by which we expected the patrol to return to Bandon, but they travelled by another road about half a

mile cross-country from our position.

Some fifty men from the Bandon Battalion were mobilised in the village of Ballinadee on June 19th 1920, where it had been arranged to hold a feis on that day. It was usual to have a British military cycle patrol at feiseanna. It was proposed to encounter the patrol and disarm it if possible. The party was in charge of Liam Deasy, Tom Hales and Charlie Hurley.

During July, 1920, positions were occupied on two occasions in Newcestown area to ambush parties of British military, but the attempts were ineffective as the enemy failed to put in an appearance, having travelled by other roads.

Early in August, 1920, the brigade and battalion officers spent a lot of time in Newcestown Company area. Meetings were held three nights each week and on 14th August the full company was mobilised. Each man was instructed to bring three days rations and any equipment he had when coming on parade. The company met about 10 p.m. The parade was attended by Charlie Hurley, Seán Hales (Battn. O/C) and Denis Lordan. After a conference between the officers, three men - Dan Galvin, Dan Walsh and Jerh. Desmond - were asked to remain behind and the remainder of the company was dismissed.

The three men who remained behind after the parade moved away with the brigade and battalion officers. During the night they made contact with representatives from other units, and on the following morning they took up positions at Brinny on the Bandon-Innishannon road. Sometime in the afternoon of the 15th this party was surprised by a party of British military from Bandon. The positions of our men had already been given away by a local spy. However, our men, with the exception of Timothy Fitzgerald, 1st Lieut. Tinker's Cross Company, who was killed, managed to escape. The

enemy removed the body of Tim Fitzgerald to Bandon military barracks, where it was claimed next day by his relatives. He was buried within four hundred yards of the Bandon enemy post with full military honours. A firing party under Jim O'Mahoney (Battn. Adjnt.) and consisting of James Doyle, Dan Walsh and Dan Ca^Nty (witness) fired three volleys over the grave.

About this time there were day and night seizures of cattle for the arms fund. The seized cattle were sold at fairs in the area.

Early in September, 1920, our local intelligence officers reported that a small party of R.I.C. and Black and Tans were travelling between Bandon and Macroom. We decided to try and ambush this party. They travelled on two different routes for about two weeks. We held a party in readiness during this period and appointed scouts to keep both roads under observation. The convoy passed through both roads at different times during the fortnight, but we never happened to be in the right place. Quite recently it came to my notice that the failure to make contact with the convoy was due to the fact that the wife of a serving R.I.C. man lived in the locality in which we were operating and was relaying information regarding our movements.

On or about October 9th 1920 I was informed that a party of I.R.A. from Kilbrittain area was due to arrive in my company area (Newcestown) during the night. I was instructed to arrange billets and, if possible, to have all the men billeted in one house. I was to erect a temporary tent and to have at least five or six men available for sentry duty as well as a series of scouts between the area and "Baxters Bridge". We remained on duty at this outpost until the Kilbrittain party arrived about 5 a.m. next morning. Seán Hales (Battn. O/C)

was in charge. This party remained in Newcestown area until the following Sunday night - about four days. Another party under Tom Barry (Brigade O/C Training) arrived from Fanlobb^{US}~~ers~~ - in Dunmanway Battalion area - in the meantime and they, too, remained until Sunday night. These men had been undergoing training at the first training camp at Clonbuig.

The Brigade O/C (Charlie Hurley) was in Newcestown Company area and it had, as far as I know, been arranged to hold the second Brigade Training Camp in the district - the first had already been held in Kilbrittain. The camp was to assemble on the following Tuesday and I had been instructed by the Battn. Q/M (Tadhg O'Sullivan) to provide a supply of butter, cheese, tea, sugar and bread. This I did, bringing my supply of stores to Corcoran's, Bengour, Newcestown.

All men were instructed to remain in their billets and were in charge of Seán Hales (O/C Bandon Battalion). The Brigade O/C (Charlie Hurley), Tom Barry (O/C Training and O/C Column) and Liam Deasy (Bde. Adjnt.) left the area on the Saturday to inspect some ambush positions in the area. They returned next morning about 2. a.m. However, about 7 o'clock on Saturday the Battn. O/C (Seán Hales) and Battn. Adjnt. (Jim O'Mahoney) proceeded into Newcestown village, for what purpose I do not know. While in the licensed premises of Richard O'Sullivan there the house was surrounded by British military. Both our officers (Seán Hales and Jim O'Mahoney) managed to escape and got back to their H.Q. They mobilised the members of the column who were on the spot and moved back towards the village. On their way two enemy lorries were seen approaching. The column took up positions on both sides of the road and opened fire on the lorries. The enemy force returned the fire and after an exchange of fire lasting about ten minutes the British withdrew. They had lost an officer - Lieut. Richardson - in an attempt to get at the rear of the attacking

party. The other enemy casualties are unknown. I.R.A. casualties were nil.

Before Seán Hales (Battn. O/C) left H.Q. with the available members of the column to attack the British convoy, he gave me instructions as Company O/C (Newcestown) to go to the other billets and bring back any men I could find. I went to Lordan's, where I found the Battn. Q/M (Tadhg O'Sullivan), Con O'Donoghue (Ballinadee) and two others whose names I cannot recollect. We proceeded by another route towards Newcestown. We were within one field of the road when we heard Seán Hales and his section moving at the double along the road. The enemy lorries approached. Seán Hales and his men took cover and the attack commenced. In company with Tadhg O'Sullivan, Con O'Donoghue and the others in my party, I dashed along as fast as I could. We were within 50 yards of the spot where the ambush was taking place when we were halted in a loud voice by Seán Hales. He asked "Who goes there?". I replied, "The Captain of 'L' Coy., 1st Battn" (Newcestown). I said we would go back to the fence to help the others, but he said that we were to go back to the village (Newcestown). He (Seán Hales) then led the way and, with Con O'Donoghue, I followed. When we were close to the village Seán Hales ordered me out on to the road to see if the village was clear. Firing was still going on at the ambush site. When I reached the village the O/C (Seán Hales) asked me to get around to the ambush position on the opposite side of the road. I set out in the direction of the latter position and got as near as I could to same. When within about ten yards of the fence which our men were using as cover I called on some of the men I knew to be there by their christian names. Amongst the men in this position known to me were: - John Lordan, John O'Neill, Bob Fitzgerald, Dan Walsh, and Dan Galvin. When I got no response I knew they had retired. At this stage the enemy forces returned to

their lorries and from my position I heard moaning, so I knew that there were some dying or seriously wounded men in the party. When they got back to their lorries the engine was still running in at least one of them and the headlights were still on. When they were all aboard their transport they moved off in the direction of Castletown-Kenneigh.

I now returned to Seán Hales (Battn. O/C) and reported that both our own men and the British had retired. Scouts were now sent out in an endeavour to make contact with our own men, but they failed to do so. John Lordan had moved his men to billets in the area, which was well known to him, and remained there until the following morning.

All sections assembled at Greenhill - about two miles north of the ambush position - about 8 a.m. next morning. They remained in billets all day (Sunday) and towards dusk moved into the vicinity of Newcestown village, where they took up a number of positions as they were expecting reprisals as a result of the previous night's ambush. Liam Deasy (Bde. Adjnt.), Charlie Hurley (Bde. O/C), and Tom Barry (Column O/C) were now in charge. When there was no trace of an enemy reprisal force in the area by 1.30 a.m. the column was moved off to billets in Crosspound area.

The second training camp which had originally been planned for Newcestown area was now assembled at Ballymurphy on the Tuesday following Newcestown ambush. This camp was attended by three officers from each company in the 1st Battalion (Bandon). The representatives from Newcestown were: - Dan ^NCarthy (O/C) - witness, John Lordan (1st Lieut.), Wm. Desmond (2nd Lieut.). The officer ^{1/c} ~~in~~ training was Tom Barry. We were put through an

intensive course in extended and close order drill, the use and care of the rifle and small arms, use of cover. In addition, there were lectures at night on various subjects of a military nature. After about twelve days' training we were taken into a position on the Cork-Bandon road near Innishannon. We remained in position all day and at nightfall we withdrew to Crosspound, where we were dismissed and ordered to return to our home area. The training of the local companies was now stepped up on the lines carried out at the training camp.

The licensed premises of Richard O'Sullivan, Newcestown, was burned by the British as a reprisal about October 16th 1920. On the 20th I got instructions that the officers who had attended the training camp at Ballymurphy, with two other members of Newcestown unit, were to proceed to Crosspound area. The party were to assemble at a crossroads about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Newcestown village. It was daylight but somewhat hazy when we were to meet. While awaiting the arrival of the last member of the party we placed our rifles inside the roadside fence. Suddenly there was a rumble and out of the fog appeared two lorries of Auxies. Our party just broke up into pairs and strolled away in different directions. The Auxies passed without taking any notice of us. When they had gone we re-assembled, collected our rifles and moved away to Crosspound.

Next morning we moved into positions at Toureen - on the main Bandon-Cork road about 8 miles from Bandon - at about 6 a.m. All, to the number of about 25, were armed with rifles. The column was divided into four sections. One on the western flank - strength 5 or 6 - with a similar section on the eastern flank, was behind the roadside fence. The main attacking party was in

position at the gate of a farmyard. The strength of this party was about ten riflemen. The Column O/C (Tom Barry) was in charge of this unit. The eastern flank was in charge of Liam Deasy and I cannot recollect who was in charge of the party on the western flank. The Brigade O/C (Charlie Hurley) was in position behind the roadside fence in the garden of the farmhouse about 60 yards east of Tom Barry's position. He was responsible for the explosion of a mine which had been laid in the road. I was the man on the left flank of Liam Deasy's section.

The convoy which we were expecting was to number two or three lorries. The leading lorry was to be allowed to pass the main party under Tom Barry and to be dealt with by the mine. The next lorry was to be attacked by Tom Barry's section. The leading lorry drove into the position from the west about 8 a.m. It was allowed to pass on to the mine, but this failed to explode, with the result that this lorry had passed through our position some 80 yards further to the east before we realised that the mine failed to explode. The second lorry was fired on by Tom Barry's section and crashed. After an exchange of fire between this party and our men, the enemy forces surrendered on the death of their officer - Lieut. Dixon. The leading lorry continued on towards Cork, having been fired on by the party on the eastern flank. It was believed that a number of the occupants of this lorry were wounded. The column now collected the arms and equipment, including 8 or 9 rifles and a supply of ammunition from the second lorry. We then moved across country towards Ballinadee, crossing the Bandon river at Kilmacsimon Quay about noon. We remained in billets in Ballinadee area that night.

On the following night we approached the town of Bandon about 9 p.m. with the object of having a crack at the enemy curfew patrol which was normally parading the town during curfew hours. We took up positions in different parts of Bandon about 9.30 p.m. and remained until about 12 midnight. As there was no curfew patrol or enemy forces to be seen, we returned to Kilbrittain Company area. We remained in billets that night and next day we were dismissed at Clonbuig in Kilbrittain area about 5 p.m. on October 19th and returned to our home areas. The officers in charge at Toureen were: Tom Barry (Col. O/C), Charlie Hurley (Bde. O/C), Dick Barrett (Bde. Q/M), Liam Deasy (Ede. Adjt.), and Seán Hales (O/C Bandon Battalion).

During the remainder of October and up to mid-November, 1920, we were engaged in normal training as well as blocking roads and seizing cattle from farmers who refused to pay the arms fund levy.

About mid November, 1920, the first Brigade Column went into training. There were three men from each company. The men from Newcestown were: - Denis O'Brien, Denis Callaghan, Dan Corcoran. Hearing that something big was coming off, John Jordan and I reported to Column H.Q. We remained with the column until 11 p.m. on November 27th, 1920, when we were both ordered to report to the Brigade O/C (Charlie Hurley) at Castletown-kenneigh. He informed us that one of us would have to go back to our own company area (Newcestown). He told us that he had information that two lorries of R.I.C. and Black and Tans were leaving Roscarberry district, passing through Bandon, and were taking the Crossbarry road to Cork on the following Tuesday (30th November, 1920). We were to mobilise as many armed men as

possible from Newcestown and Quarries Cross Companies and to proceed on the night of November 29th (Monday) into Crosspound Company area - remaining there to await further orders. We both argued between ourselves as to who should return home. We were still moving along with the column. At this stage I had a rifle and ammunition, while John Lordan had none. During a lull in the argument John snapped the rifle from me. He then laughed at me and said, "You'll have to return home now". We were now within about two miles of Kilmichael ambush position in the early hours of November 28th 1920.

At this stage I returned to the home area, mobilised the men of Newcestown and Quarries Cross Companies and moved into Crosspound Company area. On arriving there we were met by Liam Deasy (Bde. Adjt.) at Kelleher's, Crowhill. He informed us that we were to take up positions at Clashanimud on the old Cork-Bandon road at daybreak next day. As arranged, we moved into position behind the roadside fence and in Quinn's farmyard in the early morning. We were extended over a distance of about 100 yards. We remained in the position until about 4 p.m., when we withdrew to our billets of the previous night. We occupied the same position next morning, but again there was no enemy convoy, so we again withdrew about 4 p.m. We remained in our billets throughout the next day, and about 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 3rd, we again took up ambush positions at the same place. About 5 p.m. we heard the rumble of lorries in the distance, and in a short time six lorries of Black and Tans, R.I.C. and members of the Essex Regiment passed through. We immediately opened fire but did not succeed in halting the convoy, which after travelling about half a mile beyond our position halted. The occupants of the lorries jumped out and opened fire for about 5 minutes. They then proceeded to Bandon.

We heard later that there was at least one killed and a number wounded. We had no casualties. When the enemy drove off we returned to our billets in Crowhill, where we were dismissed and instructed to return to our own areas. Liam Deasy (Bde. Adjnt.) was in charge of this operation and the strength of our party was about 26. Twelve were armed with rifles and the remainder with shotguns. The members of Newcestown Company who took part were: - Dan Ca~~r~~^Nty (witness), Dan Galvin, Dan Walsh, Jack Callaghan, John Corcoran, Stephen Staunton, Jerome Desmond, Jerh. O'Brien, and Jerome Mahoney. The men from Quarries Cross unit were: - Dan O'Callaghan, Tim O'Mahoney, Jerh. Corcoran, Bill Murphy and David Keane. The remainder of the attacking party were drawn from other companies whose names I can't remember now.

While the above action was in progress a girl aged about 15 years was dropped off one of the enemy lorries. She was wounded by our fire. We learned from her that she was one of a number of witnesses who had travelled on the previous Tuesday from Roscarberry to Dublin in two R.I.C. cars. She also informed us that they had travelled through Clonakilty, Harbour View and Kinsale to Cork, thus avoiding the road on which we had been lying in ambush for them since Tuesday morning. The wounded girl was cared for by the woman in a nearby house - the wife of an ex-British officer.

There was no further activity beyond trenching roads and demolishing bridges in the Newcestown area up to the end of the year 1920. The work of cutting enemy lines of communication in the area kept the members of the company occupied nearly every night at this period.

On January 1st 1921 I took a chance and went to Mass in Newcestown. Dan Walsh and Jerome Mahoney - two members of the Battalion Staff - were there also. After Mass we were discussing the organisation of further activities when I noticed four lorries of military approaching. I immediately raised the alarm and we moved away from the area before the military arrived. The lorries halted at Newcestown Cross and the military arrested a number of civilians.

On the following morning (January 2nd 1921) the house in which seven of us were staying was almost surrounded before we realised that the enemy were in the area. Five of us escaped, but two - Tom Lynch and Dan Walsh, both from Newcestown Company - were arrested.

The Brigade Column was mobilised at Quarries Cross about January 20th 1921. While in billets next day a raiding party of British military appeared in the area. Two men - Patrick O'Mahoney and Ml. Lordan - who tried to get word to the Column Commander (Tom Barry) that the enemy were in the district, were overtaken and arrested. The presence of the troops had, however, been observed by this time and the column took up positions about two fields (approximately 300 yards) from the road. The Column Commander was of the opinion that the enemy force was trying to surround us, as they were moving on foot across country in our direction. Anyhow, when the enemy party were about 200 yards from our position their lorries overtook them. We then heard four blasts of a whistle - the military party moved to their transport and returned to their base in Bandon.

Next day the column took up positions at Mawbeg on the Bandon-Ballineen road about 6 miles from Bandon.

We were in position behind the roadside fence north of the road and were extended over a distance of about 400 yards. We remained in position from early morning until about 5.30 p.m., but the expected enemy convoy did not put in an appearance. The column now returned to billets in Tinker's Cross Company area.

Three officers of the Brigade Staff - Liam Deasy, Tom Barry, I cannot recollect the name of the third - moved out on horseback from Column H.Q. that night. They captured a spy named Dwyer and brought him back to H.Q. He was tried and executed on the following morning - his body bearing a label "Spies Beware" was left on the roadside in the hope that the British forces would come out from Bandon to investigate. The column in the meantime took up ambush positions in the vicinity at Carhue on the Bandon-Newcestown road. We remained in position until about 4 p.m. and then withdrew to billets without making contact with the enemy.

When one section of the column under Denis Jordan was approaching their selected billet, the owner was just returning from the town of Bandon. He (the owner) evidently thought that our men were British and accused them of being too slow. He asked where we were all day while "those ruffians were in ambush positions at Carhue Hill". "They are gone now", he said, "and ye can be looking for them". He then gave us the hiding places of some of the local I.R.A. men and told us that we should be out at night as well as the day. He promised that he would give us any information he had on the following Tuesday at the canteen in the Devonshire Arms Hotel, Bandon, which was the H.Q. of the Black and Tans in Bandon at this time. He was immediately arrested and executed about 10.30 p.m. that night. The column now crossed the Bandon river at

Baxter's Bridge and went into billets at Cashel in Clogagh Company area.

On the following night - January 23rd I think - the column took up positions in different parts of the town of Bandon about 9.30 p.m. They remained in these positions until about 2 a.m., when they opened fire on the enemy military posts. This fire was returned and intermittent shooting by the enemy continued for about half an hour. One of our men - Dan O'Reilly, Kilbrittain Company - was killed. Enemy casualties were unknown. The column now retired to billets in the surrounding area.

We arrived next night in Newcestown area and remained there for about two days. Two sections of the column - under John Lordan and Tom Kelleher respectively - were now ordered to proceed into Bandon to attack any enemy forces to be seen on the streets. The section under Tom Kelleher took up positions on Kilbrogan Hill about 10 p.m., and John Lordan's section occupied positions on the Square overlooking the military barracks at the same time. Both sections remained in position until about 4 a.m., when, as no enemy forces had put in an appearance, they withdrew to billets. The men in John Lordan's section were: - Dan Car^{ty} (witness), Dan Galvin, John Callaghan, Patk. Callaghan and Stephen Staunton. All were members of Newcestown Company.

Both section commanders (John Lordan and Tom Kelleher) decided that they would return with their men to their own company areas. The remainder of the column, under the Column O/C (Tom Barry), moved to Crosspound area and crossed the following night from Shippool to Kilmacsimon Quay.

At this stage there was an intensive road-cutting campaign put into operation. All roads throughout the area were blocked by trenching, felling of trees and demolition of any bridges not already destroyed. This was a wholetime job for the members of the local companies.

The whole column arrived in Newcestown area about this time. The night before it was disbanded, two sections proceeded into Bandon. One party, under Tom Barry (Column O/C) took up positions at the junction of Cork road and Watergate St. Tom Barry crossed the bridge towards the post office, and in his absence Pete Kearney was in charge of the section. At this stage a party of Black and Tans was observed coming down North Main St. and Pete Kearney's section opened fire, killing at least two of the enemy and wounding some others. On hearing the shooting, Tom Barry returned towards his section to find that he was between two fires. Some of the section recognised him and ceased fire. He (Tom Barry) then followed one Black and Tan in John Marshall's house in North Main St. and shot him there. As far as I know, the men with Tom Barry that night were: - Pete Kearney, Jack Corkery, Peter Monahan, Mick Crowley and Seán Lehane. I was not in the engagement.

The second section of the Column under John Lordan operated on the Square overlooking the military barracks. This section captured two soldiers of the Essex Regiment and a naval wireless operator. The two soldiers were shot and the wireless operator, who was released, was given a note for Major Percival, Commander of the Essex, informing him that the shootings were reprisals for the conduct of his men who had already shot several unarmed I.R.A. prisoners. Both sections now withdrew from Bandon and

returned to Column H.Q. in Newcestown, where they arrived about 11.30 p.m. The local company had already been mobilised and were awaiting the return of the column. The column was now disbanded by the O/C (Tom Barry) and we (Newcestown officers) were made responsible for the safe dumping of all arms, which consisted of about 74 rifles. Before disbanding, the men of the column were warned that they would be mobilised again in a fortnight's time.

On February 14th 1921 we got instructions to transfer eight rifles to Crosspound Company area. Seven men under John Callaghan (Newcestown) delivered the rifles to the Brigade O/C (Charlie Hurley) at Kelleher's, Crowhill. The men returned to their own area unarmed next day.

Instructions were received by me as O/C Newcestown Company about March 11th 1921 to have all arms which had been dumped in the company area, together with all available explosives, sent to Castletown-Kenneigh area. The company assembled at the dumps. Each man known to be able to handle a rifle got one with a supply of ammunition, and that meant that we had 74 men fully armed. The remainder of the company were sent ahead as scouts or flankers. The company 'fell in' and marched about six miles to Castletown-Kenneigh, where the column had been mobilised. Having handed over the arms and equipment to the column, the men of Newcestown Company were now ordered to return to their own area. I got instructions to return to the column next night with as many trained men as possible. The following men from Newcestown Company reported back to Column O/C within twenty-four hours: John Lordan, James Lordan, Dan Galvin, Stephen Staunton, Jerh. Desmond, Wm. Desmond, John Callaghan, Denny Callaghan, Dan Corcoran, Jack Callaghan, Jack Foley, Denny O'Brien, Jerh. O'Brien, Jerome O'Mahoney, Dan Ca^Nty (witness).

The column moved next morning to Balteenbrack, where we remained that night and next day. We moved that night through Castletown-Kenneigh and Newcestown to Quarries Cross area. We then moved on March 15th to Crosspound area, from where, about 3 a.m. on March 17th 1921, we proceeded to Shippool where we took up ambush positions about 6.30 a.m. behind a wall bordering the roadway. We remained in this position throughout the day until about 5 p.m., when we were withdrawn to billets in Skough Company area, Cork 1 Brigade. We remained in billets until about 9 p.m. on March 18th 1921, when we were again mobilised and moved to Crossbarry area, where we were ordered into billets about 1 a.m. on March 19th. Each section was warned that we were to remain in billets and that we were to post double sentries as there was danger of a surprise attack during the night. The scouts of the local company reported the rumble of moving lorries, as did our sentries. As the rumble grew louder, all sections were ordered out of bed about 3 a.m. and were instructed to 'stand to' and await orders.

The positions to be occupied by the seven sections of the column under their section commanders - Seán Hales (No. 1), John Lordan (No. 2), Pete Kearney (No. 3), Mick Crowley (No. 4), Denis Lordan (No. 5), Tom Kelleher (No. 6), and Christy O'Connell (No. 7) - had already been allotted by the column O/C (Tom Barry). I was a member of John Lordan's section which were to take up a position in Beasley's farmyard. The strength of our section was about twelve. We were all armed with rifles. All the other sections were about the same strength. All positions were north of the old Cork-Bandon road just west of the village of Crossbarry.

About 6 a.m. all sections were ordered to double to their allotted positions. The Column Commander addressed each section in turn, telling them what was expected of them. They were to remain quietly in their positions and await orders. Sections one to four were extended from west to east behind the roadside fence or in the Beasley and Harold farmyards. Section five was occupying a flanking position to the east. A similar position was occupied by No. 7 section to the west, while No. 6 section occupied a covering position to our rear to the north. Beyond the rumble of the lorries, which was steadily growing clearer, all was quiet until about 8 a.m., when the leading lorries drove into our ambush position from the west. The first lorry halted just in past No. 1 section position. Fire was opened on it by Nos 1 and 2 sections. I was with No. 2 section in Beasley's, and just before the ambush opened I had to force the owner back into his own house at the point of the bayonet. When I returned to the road I found John Lordan and three of his section lying down behind sandbags on the roadway. There were then no soldiers on the road as they had retreated from the lorries. The outburst of firing had lasted about 3 minutes. With John Lordan I then crossed the fence into the field on the opposite side of the road, where we searched for a trace of some of the enemy force but found none. We then returned to the roadway and went to the first lorry in which we found a lot of great-coats. There was one fur-lined coat which, on examination, was found to belong to Major Percival - famous or infamous for his Essex Flying Column and their activities. We searched the pockets and got a pleasant surprise when we found a silver flask, which contained about a half-pint of whiskey. The contents were consumed, as they were badly wanted.

At this stage I saw three members of the column - Tom McCarthy, Tim Allen, and another whose name I cannot recollect - moving along the road. One of this party mounted one of the lorries and removed a Lewis gun and several drums of ammunition. The lorries inside the ambush position were now set on fire, and the next thing I heard was the order, "Sections 1, 2 and 3 retire".

We then moved to the north through a laneway at the western end of the position. This road took us to the top of the hill behind Beasley's and Harold's farmhouses. Here we got on to a road leading to Crosspound. We were now halted and ordered to take cover as all of No. 3 section were not with us at the time. When the other men from No. 3 section arrived they were bringing two wounded men (Dan Corcoran and Jim Crowley) with them. We learned later that two members of that section (Peter Monahan and Jerh. O'Leary), as well as one other, Con Daly, had been killed. We then withdrew further along the road to Crosspound, bringing the wounded men with us. We were now halted a second time. All riflemen were ordered to line the fence as the "Essex" were advancing in our direction from the east. Liam Deasy gave the order "Three rounds rapid". The enemy force now withdrew and we continued on our way to Crosspound.

I was now instructed to go to Drew's, Crowhill, to obtain horse transport for the removal of the wounded. The Drews - Frank and Tadhg- being I.R.A. ~~m~~^en, quickly found transport. The column now moved on to Drew's and halted there for a short time. The wounded men were dressed by Dr. Con Lucey, assisted by Eugene Oallanan (Nudge) who was a medical student at the time. We now moved to Kilbonane. On our way the rearguard, which consisted of Bob Hales and Jimmy Doyle, reported to the

Column O/C (Tom Barry) that they saw about 700 yards away what appeared to be a party of "Auxies". The Column O/C, having examined the group through his field glasses, assured the rearguard that they were right. The guard opened fire on the enemy at 700 yards and it was learned afterwards that one of the Auxies had been killed. This was the last engagement of the column on March 19th 1921.

The section to which I was attached at Crossbarry was No. 2. There were thirteen men in the section. Our section commander was John Lordan and we were in position at Beasley's house and farmyard. Some of the members of the unit, as far as I can remember, were: - Dan Ca^Nty (witness), Jerh. O'Brien, Jack Foley - all from Newcestown Company, Denis Mehigan (Bandon), John Donoghue (Ballinadee), Donal Óg O'Sullivan (Castletownbere), and Jerome McCarthy (Barryroe).

The column remained in the Kilbonane district until after nightfall. The Column O/C (Tom Barry) checked each section and found two men missing - Peter Monahan and Jerh. O'Leary. Both had been killed in the scrap at Crossbarry. We now moved through Belmont, Bealnablath, Horn Hill and finally went into billets at Gurranereigh, where we remained until about 7 p.m. on March 21st. We were again mobilised and moved across Murragh Bridge to the Ahichill area during the night of March 21st 1921. Next night we marched to Clogagh area, where on the morning of March 23rd about 2.30 a.m. we assembled at Clogagh Church for the burial of the Brigade O/C (Charlie Hurley) who had been killed in the Ballyhandle area on the morning of Crossbarry (March 19th 1921). He had been endeavouring to break through a strong force of military which had surrounded his billet when he was killed. He was buried in Clogagh graveyard with full military honours about 4 a.m. on the morning of March 23rd 1921.

The column now proceeded to Lyre Company area in Clonakilty Battalion, remaining in billets there until next night. They then proceeded to the Carrivouler district and from there to Granure. As there was a report of enemy movement in the Dunmanway district, we moved to the Kappagh district, south west of Dunmanway. When we left this area we moved through Drominadagh district to a spot about two miles north of Connogh, where we arrived on March 29th 1921. We remained here until the night of the 30th, when the column was mobilised for action. It was divided into a number of sections, with about six or seven in each. Some sections were allocated to holding road blocks and to cut lines of communication in the area surrounding Roscarberry, where it was proposed to attack the R.I.C. barracks. The main attacking party was divided into three sections as follows: -

- (a) a mine laying section to lay a mine at the barrack door.
- (b) a revolver section to rush the breach.
- (c) a rifle and bayonet section to follow up the section at (b).

The whole column moved to within about 2 miles of Roscarberry, where they arrived about midnight. The roadblocking parties were detailed to their positions on the roads leading to the town. The sections at (a), (b), and (c) above were ordered to remove their boots and then moved off to the positions allotted to them in the town. In addition to the foregoing sections, a number of men from the column were placed in position along the roads in different parts to hold a safe line of retreat. The mine laying section and the short arms section moved off in their stockinged feet into positions as near as possible to the barracks. The bayonet section followed about 20 yards to the rear.

The mine laying section succeeded in placing the mine at the door of the barrack. The twenty yards or so of fuse attached to the mine was ignited. The mine exploded but it did not give the expected results, so the bayonet section advanced into positions opposite the enemy post and opened fire on the building in order to protect the small arms party and the mine laying section as they advanced to the breach in the barrack wall. Finding that there was no hope of getting into the building, it was decided to set it on fire. Supplies of petrol and paraffin were collected and poured through the breach in the barrack doorway. "Fire bombs" - sticks with cloth and wool dipped in petrol and paraffin - were lighted by the Column O/C (Tom Barry) and Mick Crowley and were thrown into the breach. The barracks was now on fire. We continued to feed the fire with petrol and paraffin while the covering parties continued to attack. The garrison were called on to surrender on several occasions but failed to reply. Eventually they agreed to surrender and a cease fire was ordered. However, after about two minutes two bombs were thrown from the barrack, so the attack on the barrack was recommenced. The fighting continued until about 4 a.m., by which time garrison were forced to evacuate the building. They did not, however, surrender their arms as they left them in the burning building. All sections were now withdrawn and we moved away to billets in Rossmore area.

While in Rossmore that day the column had to 'stand to' as some military lorries were passing from Dunmanway to Roscarbery. Next night (March 31st) we marched to Newcestown area by Murragh Bridge. We remained here for two days before proceeding to Quarries Cross area where half the column were disbanded. I was one of those disbanded

as I had a bit of glass in the sole of my foot and I had to limp around without a boot for about a month. During this period the members of all units were busily engaged on cutting trenches and blocking roads.

Early in May, 1921, enemy military parties were raiding continuously in Newcestown area and burning houses as reprisals. On May 13th twenty members of the company were mobilised on instructions. All were armed and were to await further orders. Tom Barry (Column O/C) arrived about 11 p.m. and stated that he did not need so many men. He then asked for three volunteers and from those who responded he selected Jerh. Desmond, Dan Corcoran, and Denis O'Callaghan. The parade was then dismissed and all men were ordered to dump their arms. They were also warned to make every effort to avoid arrest as he expected intensification of enemy raids. During this month all I.R.A. men were mainly engaged in avoiding arrest, raiding for bicycles, motor cycles, and burning a few loyalists' houses as counter reprisals for the homes of I.R.A. men or their supporters which were burned by the British.

Early in June, 1921, Sealy King, Bandon - one of the loyalists whose houses had been burned as a reprisal - was taken as a hostage against the lives of I.R.A. men under sentence of death in Cork. He was brought into our company area, where he was kept under guard day and night until he was recaptured by the military. The enemy raiding force surprised and surrounded the guard, who were placed under arrest. The men arrested on this occasion were: -"Sonny" Holland, Paddy Lordan, Laravoulta, Wm. Regan, Corlenagh. The signing of the Truce on July 11th 1921 saved these men from being tried or sentenced.

An attempt was made on July 4th 1921 to ambush a military encampment at Farnalough in Newcestown area, but it proved abortive.

A number of men from Newcestown Company were mobilised on July 9th 1921 and crossed the Bandon river at Baxter's Bridge to reinforce a party at Castlemore in Clogagh Company area. It was proposed to ambush a party of British troops who were known to arrive at Clonakilty Junction (Gaggin) railway station from the west every Monday morning for some time previously. This being the morning of the Truce, we took up positions about 8.30 a.m., remaining until about ten minutes to twelve o'clock. We then withdrew as the military party did not travel that morning. As the Truce was on at twelve o'clock noon, we decided to have some refreshments in some nearby houses. We remained in the area until about 2 p.m., when we decided to return to our home areas. Just as we were about to move away, a party of British troops moved along the railway line from the west. Their strength was one officer and about twenty men. They were marching with arms reversed. We moved away and they just laughed, so that finished the fighting to the Truce on July 11th 1921.

My rank at the Truce - Member of Brigade Column, Cork 111 Brigade. I had been O/C Newcestown Company, Bandon Battalion, until 10/3/1921, when I was called up for regular service with the Brigade Column. I was replaced as Company O/C by Wm. Desmond.

The strength of Newcestown Company at the Truce was about 140.

Signed: Daniel Canty

Date: 22nd May 1954

Witness: P. L. Donnell

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