

DUPLICATE

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 1656

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COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1656.

Witness

Daniel Healy,
2, Upper Panorama Terrace,
Sunday's Well,
Cork.

Identity.

O/C, Active Service Unit (Cork City).

Subject.

'C' Coy., 1st Battn., Cork No. 1 Bgde., I.R.A.,
1917 - 1922.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

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DUPLICATE

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRA MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1,656

STATEMENT BY DANIEL HEALY,

2 Upper Panorama Terrace, Sunday's Well,
CORK.

I am a native of Cork City where I joined the Irish Volunteers in the year 1915. At that time there was only one Battalion in the City. My particular Company was known as "D" Company. It comprised, approximately, sixty members, divided into four sections. The Company covered (roughly) the area on the north bank of the river Lee, extending westwards from St. Patrick's Bridge and including Blackpool, Fair Hill, Blarney Street and the large rural area adjoining.

For about a month or six weeks prior to Easter Week, 1916, we used sleep in the Volunteer Hall, Sheares Street, Cork, where we were on rotational armed guard duty at intervals during that period.

On Easter Sunday, 1916, the Cork City Battalion paraded at Sheares Street and marched to Capwell railway station in the City and thence by train to Crookstown in West Cork. About fifteen men from our section of "D" Company were present of whom I was one. Before leaving the Volunteer Hall each man was armed with a rifle and ammunition. We also carried, on instructions, two days' rations.

On arrival at Crookstown, we detrained and marched, via Beal na Blath, to Macroom. En route, we met a party of Volunteers from the 3rd Battalion (South-West Cork). These men were armed with shotguns and pikes. From Crookstown we were followed for some miles by a few R.I.C. men on bicycles. An order was given to all Volunteers to "line the ditches". Seeing this, the R.I.C. apparently realised that discretion was the better part of valour, because they hurriedly disappeared.

We arrived in Macroom at about 4 p.m. on that Easter Sunday, where, after some time, we were lined up in the main street and told that we were to return again to Cork. We did so, by train from Macroom. We then marched in a body to the Volunteer hall, Sheares Street, where we were dismissed.

Later in Easter Week, 1916, I attended, with other Volunteers, at Sheares Street Hall where, by a majority of those present, it was agreed to hand over our arms for safe keeping to the Lord Mayor of Cork at that time - Butterfield - by arrangement between Captain Mickle, representing the British Military Authorities in Cork, and the Lord Mayor. Quite a number of the Volunteers present refused to hand up their arms: in fact, of the fifteen men of our section of "D" Company, only one did give up his gun. The remainder of us kept our weapons which, I might add, were later used in the 1920-1921 period.

So far as I can remember, it was early in the year 1917 when I became a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. The Oath was administered to me by Donnchadha MacNeillus, a Donegal man, then a Cork Volunteer. This was the same MacNeillus who created a sensation on 11th November, 1918, when he escaped from Cork gaol while awaiting trial on the charge of shooting a policeman who, with other R.I.C., had come to his (MacNeillus') house to arrest him.

Raid on Grammar School, Cork.

In September, 1917, a very successful raid for arms was carried out at night on the Grammar School, Sydney Place, off Patrick's Hill, Cork. In this school there was an officers' training corps for young Protestants. Rifles for training purposes were stored there. About twenty of our lads took part in the raid

which resulted in the capture of about thirty rifles. I did not take part in the actual raid; in fact, I was on scout duty (unarmed) in the vicinity of the White Cross road to give warning of the presence of police or military. There was no interference by any enemy forces on that occasion. The guns were safely removed to a temporary hiding place. About a week later, I assisted in their removal by pony and trap to the Clogheen and Lehena districts outside the city. To the best of my knowledge all those Volunteers who took part in the Grammar School raid were members of the I.R.B. in Cork City.

In the early months of the year 1918, the Cork City Battalion was divided into three Battalions. Later (I cannot say when, exactly) the 3rd Battalion was disbanded and merged with the 1st and 2nd. Our section of the old "D" Company then became known as "C" Company, 1st Battalion, with Fred Murray as Company Captain and Christy McSweeney and Dan Foley as Lieutenants. Not long afterwards, ^{J.M.} ~~Sad~~ Murray was appointed Commandant of the 1st Battalion, Christy McSweeney was elected Company Captain and Hick Bowles and myself were appointed 1st and 2nd Lieutenants, respectively. We had from fifty to sixty men in "C" Company. We still had our rifles from Easter Week 1916 and, also, a few revolvers. We drilled, at times, in the open country and in the Sinn Féin hall, Blarney Street, where we paraded once a week, as a rule.

During the year 1918, Company organisation and general training comprised the greater part of our activities. This year saw the failure of the attempt by the British Government to enforce conscription. This attempt had the effect of increasing the numerical strength of the Cork Volunteers very considerably.

When it failed, many of the recruits who joined our ranks became lukewarm in their allegiance and eventually dropped out altogether. Their places, however, were filled by boys who were then reaching their manhood.

December 1918 saw the General Election which resulted in an overwhelming defeat for the Irish Parliamentary Party under the leadership of John Redmond. Sinn Féin candidates in Cork, as in the majority of constituencies in the country, were successful over their Redmonite opponents. The Cork City Volunteers were actively engaged canvassing, stewarding meetings and helping generally the cause of the two Sinn Féin candidates, Liam de Roiste and J.J. Walsh. Clashes between Volunteers and the ex-British soldier element were of frequent occurrence during the election campaign. On one such occasion, a British ex-soldier was wounded in the arm by a revolver shot fired by a member of "C" Company.

We had at this time been making canister bombs under the directions of Dom O'Sullivan who had a knowledge of chemistry. These crude bombs were made in the homes of some members of our Company. Slugs for shotguns were also made and a quantity of pikes were manufactured in the forge owned by "Pa" McGrath (the latter was Lord Mayor of Cork in 1956).

The early months of the year 1919 saw an increase in Company activities. An auctioneer's stores in Copley Street, Cork, where a number of military bicycles were being held for auction, was raided and the bicycles taken away. Income Tax offices were burned down and raids for arms on private houses of known loyalists were carried out.

Abortive attempt to attack Killeagh Camp.

In July, 1919, an unsuccessful effort was made to attack and capture the military garrison at Killeagh Aerodrome, County Cork. The attempt was made in conjunction with Volunteers of the 4th (East Cork) battalion, in whose area Killeagh was.

On the night in question "Pa" Murray, Mick Bowles, Tommy Dennehy, Ned Callaghan, William Lynch, Christy McSweeney, all from "C" Company, and myself, left on bikes for Killeagh aerodrome. We were armed with revolvers; in fact I carried Terry McSwiney's revolver in addition to my own. He was in charge of the operation and was to follow us later to Killeagh by motor car. About a half a dozen Volunteers from each of the Companies of the 1st Battalion also went to Killeagh that night.

We took up attacking positions in the vicinity of the aerodrome and waited the arrival of Terry McSwiney. We waited until the early hours of the morning but Terry failed to turn up and, as a result the job was called off and we returned to the city. It transpired, afterwards, that the driver of the motor car in which McSwiney was being brought was misdirected on inquiring the road to the aerodrome and, as a result, failed to make contact with us.

About the beginning of February, 1920, we received word that police were raiding the home of our 1st Lieutenant, Michael Bowles, at Clogheen. It was early in the morning when word reached us. A party was hurriedly got together and proceeded singly on foot ^{to} ~~to~~ about 14 miles west of the City. "Pa" Murray, "C" Company Captain, was in charge of our group which consisted of -

Christy McSweeney, Tommy Dennehy, Mick Lynch, Stephen McSweeney, Jerry Dennehy, Millie Deasy and myself. We were all armed with revolvers. When we arrived on the scene the raid was over and the police were making their way towards Blarney. We tried to intercept them but they had got too much of a start. However, we saw them and opened fire with revolvers, but we were too far distant to be effective.

In the beginning of 1919, Christy McSweeney resigned the captaincy of "C" Company and "Pa" Murray was elected in his place. I resigned as 2nd Lieutenant and Michael McSweeney replaced me. As a result of the raid on his house Michael Bowles found he could no longer act as 1st Lieutenant and Jerry Dennehy was promoted to that position.

Early in 1920, practically the whole of "C" Company was engaged watching the comings and goings of the R.I.C. and Black and Tans at the various barracks in our district. Particular attention was paid to civilians seen to be entering or leaving barracks. Reports on these activities were forwarded to the Battalion Intelligence Officer.

Shooting of R.I.C. Sergeant Garvey and Constable Harrington.

We received instructions early in May, 1920, that Sergeant Garvey of the R.I.C., stationed at Lower Road Police Barracks, Cork, was to be shot at sight. I have a suspicion that Garvey was to be shot for his part in the murder of Tomás McCurtain, Lord Mayor of Cork, in the early hours of the 20th March, 1920.

On the night of 12th May, 1920, nine men from "A" Company, under the command of "Pa" Murray, went to the vicinity of the barracks at

Lower Road armed with revolvers. It was known that, at a certain hour ^{each} that night, three R.I.C. men left barracks and Garvey was one of the three. The police then boarded a tram for the City at a tram stop on the opposite side of the road to the barracks. Our plans were that some of our men would take the tram to Tivoli, returning on the same tram with the intention of meeting the R.I.C. men as the latter boarded the tram at the Lower Road. Two more of our men, pretending to be lovers, stood at a blank wall opposite the barracks. These latter would join in the attack when the firing commenced. The remainder of us were here and there near the tram stop. Everything turned out according to plan. Garvey, accompanied by Constables Harrington and Doyle, left the barracks at the usual time and stood on the opposite side of the road waiting for a tram to the City. The tram duly came along and, as the policemen made to board it, revolver fire was opened on them by our party. Garvey and Harrington fell dead. Doyle was severely wounded.

The following members of "C" Company took part in the affair :- "Pa" Murray, Jerry Dennehy, Martin Donovan, Leo Aherne, Garret Murphy, Dom Sullivan, Mick Bowles, Willie Deasy, Billy Lynch and myself. A Volunteer named Jerry Mahoney acted as guide for us on the occasion, as we were not too well acquainted with the particular district.

On the night following the shooting of Garvey, it was anticipated by the Brigade that the enemy would make an attempt to shoot Terry McSwiney (who had succeeded Tomás McCurtain as Lord Mayor of Cork) by way of a reprisal. A fully armed guard of seventeen men from "C" Company was placed inside McSwiney's house

in Sunday's Well, Cork, to repel any attack. "Pa" Murray was in charge of the party. We were armed with rifles, revolvers and bombs. The expected attack did not, however, take place. The arms for the guard were brought from Clogheen to the city by horse and butt (cart) driven by Pea Bowles, sister of Mick Bowles.

Sometime in the month of April, 1920, Tommy Dennehy, Stephen McSweeney, Jim Aherne and myself, were in the vicinity of Millons Cross. We were armed with revolvers. Millons Cross is about two hundred yards from the main military barracks in Cork then known as Victoria Barracks (now Collins barracks). A soldier going to the barracks came from the city on a motor bicycle. As he came near me I put up my hand, whereupon he accelerated. As he passed I grabbed one of the handlebars of the bike, twisted it and knocked him off. Two other Volunteers named Liam and Jerry O'Callaghan proceeded to take away the bicycle. Just then, another soldier came on the scene again riding a motor-bicycle. Seeing his comrade in trouble he pulled up. I pointed my revolver at him and told him to clear off. He did so, making for the barracks at top speed. Very shortly afterwards a lorry of armed military left Victoria barracks apparently to capture us. We had, however, made our escape. Our object was to capture a motor bike for use by the Brigade.

Attack on Blarney R.I.C. Barracks.

On the evening of 1st June, 1920, the R.I.C. Barracks at Blarney, County Cork, was attacked by Volunteers of the 1st and 6th Battalions. Blarney is about six miles west of Cork City. A large protective party of men from the 1st and 6th Battalions

was employed blocking roads and cutting telephone communications leading to Blarney. About a hundred men of "C" Company took part in this operation. Three of our men, viz. "Pa" Murray, Martin Donovan and Leo Aherne took part in the actual attack. Motor cars were commandeered from the Universal Motor Company, Cornmarket Street, Cork, by Christy McSweeney and J.J. O'Connell of our Company.

As a result of the attack, the barracks was evacuated by the R.I.C. on the following day. The building was then burned by the local I.R.A. Company to prevent its re-occupation by enemy forces. I was not engaged in the actual operation in question, hence I cannot give details.

Attack on King Street R.I.C. barracks.

On the evening of the 1st July, 1920, the R.I.C. Barracks at King Street (now McCurtain Street), Cork, was attacked by revolvers and an exploded mine by men from the 1st Battalion. Five men from "C" Company took part in the attack. Immediately prior to this occurrence I and another "C" Company man, either Tommy Dennehy or Stephen McSweeney, were on scout duty in the neighbourhood. The attack could be termed a success, inasmuch as the police evacuated the building very shortly afterwards. As I did not take part in the actual attack I cannot give further details.

Shooting of Divisional Commissioner Smyth,
R.I.C.

On 17th July, 1920, I was told by "Pa" Murray to report to the Sinn Féin Hall, North Main Street, and to bring a revolver.

The purpose was to shoot Colonel Smyth, Divisional Commissioner of the R.I.C. Smyth had previously served in the British Army and had lost an arm in the first world war. He was appointed to the R.I.C. early in June, 1920, and, in the course of a tour of certain R.I.C. barracks in County Kerry, had incited the police to shoot at sight persons suspected of having Sinn Féin sympathies. At Listowel on 17th June, 1920, he ordered the R.I.C. to hand over their barracks to the military and to transfer (with the exception of three who were to remain to act as guides for the soldiers) to different stations in the district. He then addressed the police instructing them, inter-alia, "to shoot and shoot with effect" any civilians who might not immediately obey a "hands up" order. As a result of Smyth's inflammatory remarks five R.I.C. constables resigned in Listowel. Elsewhere in Kerry, Smyth repeated his incitements to murder and when he came to reside for a while in the County Club on the South Mall, Cork, early in July, 1920, the Brigade decided that an attempt should be made to shoot him.

The County Club, the resort of landed families and high military officers, had a loyal staff, consequently our Intelligence department had difficulty in making contact with any member of the staff until, at last, a young waiter in the Club agreed to co-operate. Thereafter the names of British officers, military and police who stayed at, or visited, the Club were known to our Intelligence Service.

Colonel Smyth was staying there during the first fortnight of July, 1920. This information was conveyed to the Brigade, and it was decided to shoot him on ~~Sunday~~ ^{Tuesday} morning, the ~~16th~~ ^{13th} July.

However, he packed his bags that day and announced his intention of going away for the week, so that the arrangements for shooting him fell through. He returned unexpectedly the following Saturday evening and, on receipt of this information, the following members of ^{the} our 1st Battalion were hastily mobilised for the Sinn Féin hall in North Main Street, Cork, on the night of 17th July, 1920 :- Daniel ("Sando") Donovan, Jack Culhane, Cornelius O'Sullivan, Seán O'Donoghue, J. J. O'Connell and myself. All were armed with revolvers. In addition, there were present Leo Aherne, "Pa" Murray and Martin Donovan. The latter two were detailed for armed scout duty outside the County Club, while Leo Aherne was to be on duty in the hall of the Club.

About 10 p.m. on the night in question, the six of us went into the County Club and down a passage to the lounge which we entered with drawn revolvers. Smyth was seated with another man - County Inspector Craig of the R.I.C. - in a corner of the lounge in which there were about twelve other people. We immediately opened fire, killing Smyth and wounding Craig. Smyth tried to draw his revolver when he saw us entering the lounge but without avail. We then left the premises and got safely away.

On the following night, an armed guard was mounted in the house of Doctor John Fitzgerald in Flarney Road, Cork, where Terry McSwiney was staying. It was feared that the British would attempt to shoot Terry as a reprisal for Smyth. The guard comprised sixteen men of "C" Company with "Pa" Murray in charge. Nothing, however, transpired. The expected reprisal did not materialise.

Kidnapping of Constable Ryan, R.I.C.

Late in the month of November, 1920, we received information from our Intelligence Service that a senior military Intelligence

officer would attend Mass on a certain Sunday in St. Patrick's Church, Glanwire, Cork, accompanied by an Intelligence Officer from Cork Barracks. We were instructed to kidnap this officer and hand him over to the Brigade.

In company with Jack Culhane, Brigade Intelligence Officer, Cornelius O'Sullivan, J.J. O'Connell and Peter Lynch, I waited outside the Church. We were armed with revolvers. After Mass we saw Constable Carroll and his companion leaving with the crowd of people. We held up both of them with revolvers and then released Carroll, taking away by motor the other man who, we thought, was the Military Intelligence Officer. It subsequently transpired that the man we had taken away was a Constable Ryan and not the person we sought. Ryan was later released unharmed.

In the latter part of 1920 an attempt was made by Jerome Mullane, Humphrey Barry, Stephen McSweeney, Joe Forrestal and myself to arrest a spy in Blarney Street, Cork. We heard he was in a public-house in that street and when we entered he saw us and made his escape out the back of the premises. We fired a few revolver shots at him but failed to hit him.

Since September, 1920, we had established a kind of Company armed camp in the Clogheen district. Here men 'on the run' slept at night in haysheds, returning to work during the day. About this time, the Auxiliaries had arrived in Cork. We were, on different occasions, fully armed, with a machine gun, to attack them but they did not come our way.

In the beginning of 1921, we were unlucky to lose a machine-gun and ammunition as the result of an enemy raid on Mick Bowles' house and land at Clogheen. Maria Bowles, a sister of Mick's,

tried to save the machine gun, but was taken prisoner while doing so. The gun was intended for use with a Flying Column then being organised. In the same raid was captured correspondence and copies of Orders issued to British Military: these had been obtained by us from a man named Conroy who was confidential secretary to the O/C., 17th Infantry Brigade in Cork. As a result of this capture Conroy was discharged from his position and we lost one of our most valuable Intelligence Officers.

I.P.A. prisoners murdered at Ballycannon.

On the 21st March, 1921, six men from "C" Company, while asleep in farm outoffices at Ballycannon, County Cork, were surprised by a raiding party of R.I.C. and Black & Tans and brutally shot and killed. I attach ^{copies} copy of affidavits made by the dwellers of the house on whose farm they were shot and in whose shed they were sleeping when captured. The doctor, who subsequently examined the bodies, furnished an affidavit a copy of which, also, is attached.

In connection with this tragic occurrence, it must be recorded that, some short time previously, another member of "C" Company, named Patrick Connors, who had been in Ballycannon with the other boys (who were subsequently killed) was, himself, arrested by the Black and Tans while carrying arms and conveyed to the Bridewell in Cork. Later we learned that while he was in custody he informed on his comrades in Ballycannon with the tragic result I have mentioned. Connors eventually got away to England and later to New York. One year later he was shot in New York and died of wounds in circumstances which I will describe.

Formation of Cork City Active Service Unit.

Early in April, 1921, an Active Service Unit was formed in Cork. At first it comprised twelve men from the 1st Battalion area with myself in charge. After a period of three or four weeks, the arrangement was altered and the Unit consisted of six men from the 1st Battalion and six from the 2nd Battalion. Seán Twomey was O/C. and later "Pa" Murray. The men were on wholetime duty in the city, their object being to attack any enemy forces at every opportunity. As an instance, I will refer to a bomb attack on a lorry of military by Michael Barry and myself and a raid on the premises of Messrs. Haughton, Cork, where timber bridges (to cover road trenches) were being made for use by the enemy. In this case we compelled the workers to break up what bridges they had made.

Shooting of McMahon - a Spy.

It was, so far as I can remember, in June, 1921, when we received instructions from the Brigade to arrest and execute a civilian spy by the name of McMahon. We picked him up as he was going to work and took him out to the country in a two-wheeled cab. He was shot by members of the Active Service Unit.

General attack on Barracks.

On 24th June, 1921, the Brigade ordered a general and simultaneous attack on all barracks in Cork City and suburbs. These attacks, all timed for 7 o'clock in the evening, were of the 'hit and run' variety. We had neither the weapons nor ammunition for a sustained attack.

On the evening in question Liam Callaghan, Stephen McSweeney and myself commandeered a motor from Messrs. Johnson and Perrots'

garage and, with P. Lynch driving, proceeded at the appointed time towards the North Abbey Barracks. Our party (except the driver) was armed with revolvers and bombs.

As we passed slowly by the barracks we noticed two Black and Tans in a seat by the riverside outside the barracks. I threw out my bomb and we 'opened up' with revolvers. A short distance further on we saw another 'Tan' on whom we fired. We then drove on. In the course of the firing I suffered a slight wound on the hand and knee from the fire of one of my comrades. We proceeded by car out on to the Kerry Pike road where we left the motor. We then went on foot to Blarney where I had the wounds dressed.

Just prior to the Truce of July, 1921, I was one day in the café, owned by the wife of Seán Hegarty, Brigade O/C. at the corner of Oliver Plunkett Street and Marlboro' Street, Cork, when I was informed by a Battalion Officer that Patrick Connors, the spy, to whom I have previously referred in connection with the murder of our lads at Ballycannon, was in London and that he was to collect a letter at Hammersmith Post Office on a certain date. This knowledge came to light as a result of information in a letter to his brother. Liam O'Callaghan and I were to go to London and shoot Connors when he arrived at Hammersmith Post Office.

Liam O'Callaghan and I set out for Blarney that evening and on the following day left by train for Dublin. As instructed, we contacted Michael Kirwan in Parnell Street, Dublin, and, through him, we got in touch with Michael Collins who gave us a note for Sam Maguire in London. We arrived in London on

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~~12th~~ July, 1921, where we met Sam Maguire who, in turn, passed us on to Seán Flood. For about ten days we waited in the vicinity of Hammersmith but failed to see Connors. We then decided we had missed him and we returned to Cork.

Shooting of Patrick Connors in New York.

The facts which I am about to relate occurred about thirty-five years ago, consequently, as I kept no diary, the names of a number of persons I met and the dates will have to be omitted, or, in the latter case, will be approximate dates only. I will relate events as I remember them and in doing so may not do sufficient justice to those other men who were with me.

In late August, 1921, I was in Ambrose's publichouse at Wood Street, Cork, with Martin Donovan and Billy Lynch of "C" Company. There was another present whose name I cannot recall. At that time, I did not take alcoholic drinks. On leaving the premises, Martin Donovan called me to one side and told me he had a 'job' for me without mentioning what it was. Knowing Martin, as I did, I just said "Okay".

About three weeks or so later, "C" Company had a training camp at Killard, near Ballycarmon, County Cork. I was there, and one day "Pa" Murray informed me that I had been chosen by the Brigade to go to America to shoot the informer, Patrick Connors, then known to be in New York. "Pa" also said that there were certain objections to my going, as it was feared that military operations would again commence and that I would be wanted here at home. I was O/C. of the Active Service Unit at the time.

Some short time afterwards I was told by Martin Donovan

that the question of going to New York to shoot Connors was 'put up' to him and he was asked to take any other man he liked. His answer was "I have asked for Danny Healy, and any other man you give me will be your choice."

Some time subsequent to this Martin Donovan and I were interviewed by members of the Brigade who told us about our job and gave us general instructions, such as the names we were to adopt when travelling, the contacting of Michael Collins and such-like. I might add here, that the information as to Connors' whereabouts was contained in a letter received by Teddy Courtney (now Manager of Coras Iompair Éireann) from a lady friend of his in New York. We met Teddy Courtney in Cork.

Martin Donovan and I went to Dublin and, after a considerable time, succeeded in contacting Mick Collins. It was decided that Martin and I should travel with Collins and his party, who were then going to London in connection with the Truce negotiations. From my conversations with Collins I gathered that our business in New York had the sanction of G.H.Q.

When we arrived in London I applied for a passport to America representing myself as "Thomas O'Dwyer of 14 High Street, Newry, County Down", and saying I was going to America on a holiday. I had no trouble getting my passport. Later on Eamonn Broy accompanied me to the American Embassy where my visa was fixed up. Martin Donovan had not the same luck as I had, as his application for a passport was not granted, even though he tried in several passport offices in different parts of England.

While we were in London we were joined by "Pa" Murray who was added to our party of two. He also failed to 'get through' the

passport offices. Eventually, through a London I.R.A. man named Shanahan, "Pa" did succeed. I believe that Shanahan bribed some British official to secure the necessary passport. As for Martin Donovan, he boarded a liner in Liverpool and crossed to New York as a stowaway. When I was on board the "S.S. Aquitania" on which I sailed from Southampton, I saw Shanahan on the quayside and with him the late Joe Sullivan who was, subsequently, hanged for the shooting of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson. The funds for our New York venture were supplied by General Headquarters.

The date was about 4th February, 1922, when I reached America. I immediately got in touch with Gilbert Ward, a prominent official of the Irish Self-Determination League - I am not sure if this is the correct title - in New York. I gave him a note of introduction from Michael Collins and told him (Ward) of my mission. Soon afterwards I contacted Miss Conway, the lady who had been corresponding with Teddy Courtney in Cork and who had referred to Connors being in New York. She gave me all the information she had relating to Connors and told me that he worked in Altman's store, a big warehouse with, I believe, British connections.

I was in New York about a fortnight or three weeks before Martin Donovan arrived. In the meantime, I was doing a bit of scouting on my own account in an attempt to locate Connors, but my efforts proved fruitless.

Soon after Martin's arrival "Pa" Kurray came along and the three of us set out to watch Altman's. One evening about 6 o'clock when Altman's workers were going home, "Pa" spotted Connors leaving the store with the others. We followed him for a short distance but lost touch with him. Whether or not he

recognised any of us, on that occasion, I cannot say, but, it was significant that we never again saw him at Altman's, although we kept a constant watch on the place. Later it was reported in the American press that he had left his job.

At this point in my narrative I would refer to a conversation I had with Mick Collins in Dublin before we set out on the job. I remember Collins saying that he had "some very good men in New York". By this I took him to mean that we would be afforded every assistance when we got there. In fact, the contrary was the case; indeed we could not get a man to drive a car for us. There were, however, two exceptions, one a man from Derry named Mullins and one other who gave us the greatest possible help; his name was Jimmy Pagee. He was, I think, a native of Dundalk or Drogheda, and was Secretary of the Ship Engineers' Union in New York. His home was always open to us at any time of the day or night. He provided us with revolvers and ammunition and, generally speaking, was of invaluable assistance during our stay in America.

Martin Donovan and I secured 'digs' in Lexington Avenue, New York. I cannot say where 'Pa' Murray stayed but we met each day by appointment.

I wish to stress here that all the time we were looking for information as to the whereabouts of Connors, but I quite forget the details; suffice to say I remember getting what turned out to be a brainwave when I suggested going to Connors' old 'digs' at night, where, with a bit of luck, we might be fortunate enough to get his new address. (We had been given his old address before leaving Ireland). We were lucky as we got the new address.

A few nights later, when keeping watch on the new address, I 'ran into' Frank Connors a brother of Paddy's (our man). We then knew we were on the right trail. We kept a constant watch on the block of flats where Paddy Connors lived with his brother and saw him leave the house on succeeding nights. We noticed that every night we saw him leave the house he went in a different direction. On one occasion we trailed him, Martin and 'Pa' going one way but I, anticipating his move, went in another direction and came almost face to face with him on the footpath. I was unarmed on this occasion, as were 'Pa' and Martin. However, I kept track of Connors and saw him go in the direction of a cinema.

A week or so later - it was Holy Thursday night, 1922, and almost a year exactly since the Ballycannon murders - we were watching Connors' place. We were armed with revolvers supplied by Jimmy Magee. Martin Donovan and I were standing together diagonally across from Connors' house in 83rd Street, 'Pa' Murray and Mullins were further up near 84th Street. We saw Connors come out and walk along 83rd Street in the direction of Central Park West. When I saw him take this turn I told Martin to tell 'Pa' and Mullins to go down 84th Street so that they would probably reach Central Park West before Connors did. I would follow him from behind. As I anticipated, Connors turned down in the direction of 84th Street, but he reached the corner before 'Pa', Martin and Mullins, and, looking in their direction, he saw and recognised them. Immediately he crossed the road to the blank wall which runs along Central Park at that point, all the time ruffing furiously at a cigarette and keeping 'Pa', Martin and Mullins under observation. He was not aware that I was following him from behind. He continued on the same sidewalk until he was

National Archives Act, 1986, Regulations, 1988

ABSTRACTION OF PART(S) PURSUANT TO REGULATION 8

**Form to be completed and inserted in the original record
in place of each part abstracted**

(i) Reference number of the separate cover under
which the abstracted part has been filed: WS 1656/A

(ii) How many documents have been abstracted: 1p

(iii) The date of each such document: 25 July 1957

(iv) The description of each document:
WS 1656 Action Williams Daniel Molony P21
general details

(Where appropriate, a composite description may be entered in respect of two or more related documents).

(v) Reason(s) why the part has been abstracted for retention:

(c) Would or might cause distress or danger to living persons on the ground that they contain information about individuals, or would or might be likely to lead to an action for damages for defamation.

(These will be the reasons given on the certificate under Section 8(4).)

J. Moloney
Name: (J. Moloney.)

Grade: Col.

Department/Office/Court:

Date: 7 March 2003.

just opposite 85th Street.

As can well be imagined a big number of people had gathered, but, at a respectable distance from us. I felt that I had no chance of escape until Martin Donovan said to me, "Run for it, Danny, run". I walked casually to the nearby corner of 84th Street and then I began to run. As I ran, the crowd commenced to follow me, but Martin - being Martin Donovan - pulled out his gun (which, as I have said, was useless) and inquired of the foremost of my pursuers just exactly where they were going. They immediately turned back. I kept running until I was about three quarters of the way down 84th Street, where I slowed to a walk.

I then turned into Columbus Avenue, passed the block of flats where Connors had lived and on to the next block. From there I zig-zagged my way until I came to the subway station at 79th Street, Broadway. I was followed by a man as far as the subway, but was lucky to be able to board a train which was just about to leave the platform as I arrived and so escaped my pursuer.

I carried on until I reached 42nd Street which is crowded at night time. I alighted there and made my way to Jimmy Magee's house. I was there for some time before 'Pa' Murray arrived and after quite a considerable time (which caused us no little anxiety) Martin turned up. He told us that no one had interfered with him after he had held up my pursuers at 84th Street. Martin was always recognised as being cool and courageous: surely he proved it to the full that night in New York, almost thirty-six years ago.

Needless to remark, the newspapers, next day, 'carried' reports of the shooting, some of which were rather highly-coloured. They reported that Connors was very seriously wounded but was not dead on admission to hospital. (He died later from his wounds). Various descriptions of the attackers were given with particular emphasis on the man who wore a "grey Fedora hat". This reference was to my hat which was a grey velour. While in Magee's it was deemed advisable that I should change this. His sister-in-law went and purchased another hat for me in a nearby shop.

The following day Martin and I left our 'digs' and met 'Pa' by appointment. We spent the day in the house of Martin's sister, a Mrs. McCarthy, in Jersey City. From that time onwards

Martin and I lived there with the exception of two week-end trips, one to Boston to see 'Pa' Murray's uncle, Tommy Murray, and one to Philadelphia where we met Joe McGarrity.

In late April, 1922, we decided to return home and the three of us obtained passports to travel to England on the liner 'Mauretania' on which we had booked our passages.

Prior to our intended departure, we had a meeting in Jimmy Magee's house in New York. Present at the meeting were Jimmy Magee, 'Pa', Martin, myself, Liam Pedlar (I think) and Gilbert Ward. It was stressed by Magee, Pedlar and Ward that I should not travel on the 'Mauretania' as it was understood that the American authorities knew my proper name. I protested, because I was travelling under another name (O'Dwyer) not known (so far as I was aware) to the Americans. However, it was finally decided that I should not travel as arranged and I, reluctantly, agreed. 'Pa' Murray decided to go ahead on the 'Mauretania', but Martin Donovan's decision was that, as he and I had started out on this job together, we would see it out to the finish together.

The next move was made by Jimmy Magee, who arranged for us to stowaway on the 'S.S. St. Louis' bound for Hamburg. We boarded her at New York and travelled as firemen although we hadn't signed on as firemen. It was not too difficult to escape detection as these big liners carried a large number of firemen who worked in three shifts. For this reason the engineer in charge of one shift would not know the men working with another engineer on a different shift.

On one occasion, while at sea, a ship inspection took place. We were discovered in bunks which were intended for hospital cases only, and, when questioned, we concocted a story to the effect that we had been given those bunks by the engineer because no other sleeping accommodation was available. Our explanation was accepted, but we were immediately ordered to leave our hospital quarters. On another occasion when the ship was being searched for whisky, alleged to have been stolen from the passengers. Martin (and I to a lesser degree) helped the searchers in their task of finding the missing whisky.

When the liner berthed in Hamburg, four firemen got passes to go ashore. One of them returned again with two of these passes for Martin and myself. We kept these during the time we were in Hamburg; in fact, I have mine yet.

We spent about ten days in Hamburg (it was now May, 1922) during which time we made inquiries as to the possibility of getting a passage on a ship bound for England. In the course of our inquiries we visited, amongst others, the British representative in Hamburg. He promised to help us all he could and asked us to call back again, but, having regard to the ^{native} matter of our interview with him, we decided, on second thoughts, not to call back any more. We were suspicious of his apparent desire to help us.

Before the 'St. Louis' left on her return voyage, some of the firemen, who were with us coming across, contacted two Irish seamen in port at the time. These two men (whose names I regret to say I have forgotten) told us they would try to get us aboard the 'Parbadian', a cargo ship bound for London, on the following Wednesday. We had arranged to go aboard on Tuesday night;

this was subsequently changed to Wednesday forenoon.

I remember being warned that our quarters on the boat would be very uncomfortable. We presented ourselves at the agreed time but were told by one of our two friends that a shore captain was on the ship and that it was impossible to get aboard via the gangway. He added that we should hang around out of sight of the ship until they would think of something. Soon afterwards one of the Irishmen came ashore and told us of the new arrangements. A rope would be thrown from the ship by one of the Irish sailors to the dock where the other sailor would tie up the rope to a pile. We were to 'slide' down this rope and jump on to a barge, one of three which were strung around the offside of the ship. From the barge we were to climb aboard the 'Barbadian' by a rope ladder hanging from the side of the ship.

Everything worked out as planned. Martin and I got aboard safely and stole along to the prow of the ship where we got down through a small hatch or manhole into a compartment where the bosun's stores were kept. While we were there, a very young Welsh sailor helped the two Irishmen in providing us with food. We remained in our hide-out until about 2 o'clock on Friday morning when we were called out and led to the coal bunkers. It was explained to us that a Customs Officer would be coming aboard when the ship docked in London, hence the change in our 'quarters'.

We spent the remainder of the journey hidden in the coal bunkers until we docked at the Port of London. Having cleaned ourselves we evaded the watchman and got safely on to the docks. On the following evening we left Paddington Station on our homeward journey and arrived safely in Cork on the last Sunday in May 1922.

I desire to record my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who helped us, particularly Jimmy Magee, Gilbert Ward, Liam Pedlar, two firemen (one Charlie Vines and another whose name I cannot now recall but who was later arrested in New York for assaulting Dick Mulcahy), the two Irish Sailors and the Welsh boy whom we called Taffy.

SIGNED: A. Skaly
DATE 25th July 1957.

WITNESS: A. Sorman

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1656

APPENDIX.

I Jeremiah O'Flaherty of Kerry Pike, Carrigrohane, in the County of Cork, National School Teacher, aged twenty-one years and upwards, make oath and say as follows:-

1. I live in the School Teacher's house at Kerry Pike at the eastern side of the school and the windows of my house overlook the farm of Cornelius O'Keeffe which is situate on the north-east side thereof.
2. I remember the morning of Wednesday the 23rd March, 1921. About 4.30 a.m. on that morning I was awakened by a volley of shots. I jumped out of bed and went over to the window. It was then quite dark. I looked out and then called to my brother Morgan O'Flaherty who was sleeping in another bed next to mine. I said "There's shots somewhere", and he replied "You're dreaming about it", and I said I did not think so. My reason for saying that was because I saw lights in Cornelius O'Keeffe's house and around his yard. I asked my brother what time it was and he looked at his watch and said "It is 4.30 a.m." I then said "What the Hell is up?" He said "They are probably Volunteers and may be preparing for an ambush." He got out of bed and looked out for a moment, but I continued at the window. I could hear a lot of talk over in the field and men moving about with lights. I heard a man screaming, and then I heard another voice saying "Run for it". It was then somewhat lighter and I could see a man run away from the crowd at the corner of the shed outside Cornelius O'Keeffe's house. He ran for about 20 yards and then a volley of shots were fired. I then saw men moving from the crowd carrying lights and observed them

looking at a man's body in the field. I said to my brother "Come out of bed quick because if they are Volunteers they must be shooting spies; they have just shot a man now". My brother then came to the window and looked out for five or six minutes with me. Ten minutes after the first shot another volley was fired, but I did not see anybody running away. My brother went back to bed again and told me I had better get away from the window, as I might get one of the bullets passing. I remained at the window, however. Another volley rang out after about ten minutes and I saw another man shot by portion of the same body of men that I saw originally. I then left the window as I was getting nervous. A few minutes afterwards another volley went off. It was then nearly light, and I could see they were Policemen by their uniforms and caps. I called my sisters and told them if the police came to open the door quickly and let them search the place. By that time I had gone back to the window and saw the Police bring bodies down in blankets up the lane and left them outside our door in the lane which leads up to Cornelius O'Keeffe's place and within about 40 yards of the public road. It was then 5.30 a.m. Motor lorries came about 6.30 a.m. and the bodies were removed to them.

The foregoing statement and facts are of my own knowledge.

Sworn before me this fourteenth
day of April, 1921, at
Iacaduv, Cork
in the County of Cork,
Jeremiah O'Flaherty. A Commissioner of the Supreme
Court of Judicature in Ireland,
and I know the Deponent.
John J. Morgan,
Solr. Comm.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1,656

I Jeremiah Deasy of Clogheen, Blarney Road, Cork, aged 18 years and upwards make oath and say as follows:-

1. I reside at Clogheen, Blarney Road, Cork, and am a Clerk by occupation.
2. I am a brother of the late William Deasy, Junior, and knew and was well acquainted with Jerome Mullane, of Blarney Street, Cork, Thomas Dennehy, Blarney Street, Cork, Daniel Murphy, Orrery Hill, Cork, Michael O'Sullivan, of Blarney Street, Cork, and Daniel Crowley, Blarney Street, Cork.
3. I attended at the Victoria Barracks, Cork, on the evening of Thursday, 24th March, 1921, and was taken down to the mortuary shed in the said barracks where I identified the bodies of the said William Deasy, Junior, (my brother), Jerome Mullane, Thomas Dennehy, Daniel Murphy, Michael O'Sullivan, and Daniel Crowley.
4. From the appearance of the bodies I could see that all the deceased, viz. William Deasy, Junior (my brother), Jerome Mullane, Thomas Dennehy, Daniel Murphy, Michael O'Sullivan and Daniel Crowley, had died from bullet wounds inflicted by shooting.
5. I was present when the bodies of the deceased were conveyed and removed from the said Barracks, and I accompanied them to the Cathedral, Cork, where they were examined by the Doctors.
6. The foregoing Affidavit is made from facts of my own knowledge.

Jeremiah Deasy.

SWORN before me this Twenty-seventh day of April, 1921, at South Mall in the City of Cork,
A Commissioner for Affidavits for the Supreme Court of Judicature in Ireland, and I know the Deponent.

John J. Morgan,
Solr. Comm.

I Morgan O'Flaherty residing at Kerry Pike, Carrigrohane, in the County of Cork, Fitter, aged 21 years and upwards, make oath and say as follows :-

1. I reside with my brother, Jeremiah O'Flaherty, who is a School Teacher, at Kerry Pike, Carrigrohane.

2. I remember the morning of the 23rd March 1921. About 4.30 a.m. of that morning I was awakened by my brother who told me that somebody was firing over in O'Keeffe's farm. I said he was dreaming about it. He replied that he was not; that he had heard shots. I then got up and came to the window with him. We were standing at the window about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, and I was just going to go to bed again when a volley of shots rang out in the field near O'Keeffe's farm. I thought it was some of the Volunteers practising. It was a fairly bright night and I could see about 30 or 40 men in O'Keeffe's field. After another quarter of an hour I heard a voice saying "Run for it" or words to that effect and someone screamed. I then heard another volley fired in the same place. I went back to bed for safety and two or three volleys were fired between that time and 5.30 a.m. when my brother called me again and told me to come out of bed and have a look at the people coming down the field as they looked very much like police. I then saw three policemen coming down the field and afterwards saw four more policemen carrying something in a white blanket. Another lot of policemen then came along with something wrapped in a blanket, which I saw when they were putting them into Motor Lorries were dead bodies. About six Motor lorries came at 6.30 a.m. and the bodies were put into one of these. As the lorries were coming the Police on the road who had been at O'Keeffe's farm started cheering.

The foregoing statement and facts are of my own knowledge.

Morgan O'Flaherty Sworn before me this fourteenth day of April, 1921,
at South Mall _____ in the City of Cork,
a Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Judicature
in Ireland, and I know the Deponent.
.....

John J. Morgan,
Solr. Comm.

I GEORGE FRANCIS HEGARTY of 9A. Morrisons Island in the City of Cork, Medical Doctor, aged 21 years and upwards make oath and say as follows :-

1. In conjunction with Doctor A.P. Moore I attended at the North Cathedral Mortuary Chapel, Cork, on the 26th March 1921 for the purpose of making a post mortem examination on the bodies of Daniel Murphy, Daniel Crowley, Michael O'Sullivan, Thomas Dennehy, William Deasy, and Jeremiah Fullano.
2. On examination of the body of a young man, which I was informed was that of Daniel Murphy, I found wounds in the back and chest. These wounds were bullet wounds, and were the cause of death. A bullet was extracted from one of the wounds.
3. On examination of the body of a young man, which, I was informed, was that of Daniel Crowley, I found four entrance wounds, and four exit wounds in the trunk of the body, one of them being in the neck. These wounds were also caused by bullets, and were the cause of death.
4. On examination of the body of a young man which I was informed was that of Michael O'Sullivan, I found a wound on his left thigh which was an exit wound, another in the back, and another wound in the front of his abdomen where I found a bullet, which, I think, came from the lower portion of his back. There were three entrance wounds on the back and some exit wounds on the front. He had an entrance wound in the centre of his forehead, and the skin around it was black as if the shot were fired at close range. At the back of his head I removed a bullet. All these wounds were bullet wounds, and were the cause of death.
5. On examination of the body of a young man, which I was informed was that of Thomas Dennehy I found bullet wounds all over his back, chest and legs.

6. On examination of the body of a young man which I was informed was that of William Deasy I found entrance wounds in the back of his head, and these wounds practically blew away the whole front of his face, a gaping wound in his leg, and five entrance with exit wounds in his back.

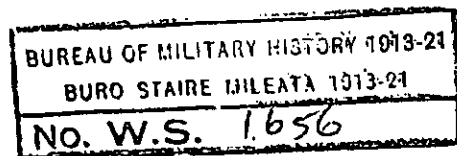
7. On examination of the body of a young man which I was informed was that of Jeremiah Mullane I found this body was riddled with bullets - more so than any of the others. There were twelve or thirteen separate entrance wounds, and eleven exit wounds. I found two bullets on the body. There were two gaping wounds in his chest and gaping wounds in front of his abdomen with intestines protruding. A large wound on his thigh, and another wound on his left leg which blew away part of his foot. His left arm was also smashed. All these wounds were due to bullets, and were the cause of death.

8. The bullets found by us in the course of the post mortem examination were either revolver bullets, or sharp-pointed nickle-coated rifle bullets.

I make the foregoing affidavit from facts within my own knowledge.

George F. Hegarty.
SWORN this Eighteenth day of May 1921 at South Mall in the City of Cork, before me a Commissioner for oaths for the Supreme Court of Judicature in Ireland, and I know the Deponent.

John J. Morgan,
Solr. Comm.



I NELLIE MURPHY of Ballycannon, Kerry Pike, in the County of Cork, Domestic Servant, aged 21 years and upwards make oath and say as follows:-

1. I am employed as domestic servant in the house of Mr. Cornelius O'Keefe of Ballycannon, Kerry Pike, in the County of Cork.
2. I remember the morning of the 23rd March, 1921. About 4 a.m. on that morning I heard knocking at the farm-house door which woke me up. I heard police shouting and breaking in the door. They came into my bedroom and asked me if I had any men in the room. They then looked under the bed and searched the room. They went out then and I heard them outside the bedroom door searching the remainder of the house. After about a quarter of an hour I heard men running in the yard. I looked out and saw one of the boys standing below the stable yard gate. His back was turned towards me. He had no coat or waistcoat on. The police were standing near him and had a flash lamp at his face. A few minutes later a man roared, and after a little time I heard someone call out "O Sacred Heart". I then heard two shots fired. After another few minutes I heard three or four shots fired and then I heard a terrible report as of a loud volley being fired. Afterwards the police passed backwards and forwards shouting and singing. I also saw something white like a blanket brought out on the field, and I saw something black near it. I then saw Mr. O'Keefe being taken down the road by some police. I saw the police bringing up some sheets and throwing them over the wall. Afterwards I saw them throwing some bundles over the wall and dragging them down the field. I then dressed and came downstairs. The Police called me a terrible name. They also said they would burn us out of our beds. We came downstairs afterwards and heard noise in the parlour. We missed 8 silver articles, Teapots, silver jugs and cup, and a £1 note. I heard an officer come in whilst the police were

downstairs and asked them did they want to get a bad name
to the R.I.C. They said they just got a bomb here.
He said he searched the house himself before and found nothing.

3. I make the foregoing affidavit from facts within my own
knowledge.

Fellie Mulcahy.

SWORN before me this 26 day of
April 1921, at South Mall
in the City of Cork, a
Commissioner for Affidavits for
the High Court of Justice in
Ireland and I know the
Deponent.

John J. Morgan.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURÓ STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 1656

I Denis Sullivan of Kerry Pike, Carrigrohane, in the County of Cork, Asylum Attendant, aged 21 years and upwards, make oath and say as follows :-

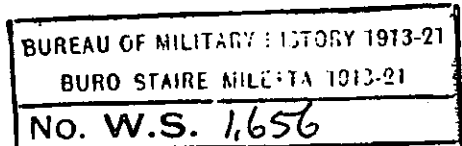
1. I reside at Kerry Pike aforesaid in the County of Cork, and am an Attendant at the Cork District Lunatic Asylum.
2. I remember the morning of the 23rd March, 1921. About 4.30 a.m. on that morning I heard a volley of shots fired in the direction of Cornelius O'Keeffe's farm which is at the back of my house. I did not get out of bed. I then heard two more volleys at intervals of about ten minutes fired in the same direction.
3. As I was going to my work, about 6.30 a.m. I saw about eight Police Motor Lorries on the road. They passed me and were going in the direction of Kerry Pike.
4. The foregoing statement and facts are of my own knowledge.

Denis Sullivan.

Sworn before me this fourteenth day of April, 1921, at Lacaduv, Cork in the County of Cork, a Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Judicature in Ireland, and I know the Deponent.

John J. Morgan.

Solr. Comm.



I CORNELIUS O'KEEFFE of Ballycarmon, Kerry Pike, in the County of Cork, Farmer, aged 21 years and upwards, make oath and say as follows:-

1. I reside at Ballycarmon, Kerry Pike, in the County of Cork, where I have a farm of 105 acres. This farm is situated on the northern side of the high road leading from Cork to Blarney, and is approached by a laneway leading from said road. The farm house consists of a kitchen, parlour and four bedrooms. There are also extensive out-offices, barns, and sheds for cattle, also stables.
2. I remember the night of Tuesday the 22nd March, 1921. About 11.30 p.m. on that night there was a knock at my door after we had all gone to bed. I asked "Who is there?" and a voice replied "There are a couple of us going to sleep down in the stables; give us a call at 7 in the morning". I said "Alright" and went to sleep. About 4 a.m. next morning (Wednesday the 23rd March, 1921) there was a terrible thundering knock at my door. I leaped out of bed and looked out through the window. I saw the police outside. Before I could say anything they roared at me to open the door. I tried to light a lamp on the table but failed to do so. One of the police then roared up at me to open the door if I didn't want to get a bullet. Just as I rushed downstairs to open the door it was burst open by the police and they said to me "Why the bloody hell didn't you open the door"? I explained that the delay was due to the lamp not lighting. They then asked me if I had any man in the house. I said there was no man there only myself. They asked me if there were any man in the out-house. I said "I can't tell but the doors are unlocked." They ordered me back to bed and searched the beds and the other rooms in the house. They then went outside and I heard them search the out-houses. I was looking out the

window and suddenly saw all the police rush up to where the lads were sleeping. I went into bed then and in about ten minutes time the police came in and took me out into the yard. They then charged me with harbouring Rebels which I denied. They then took me about 100 yards away from the out-house and gave me in charge to a Sergeant and Constable of the Royal Irish Constabulary. One of the Black and Tans came up to where I was standing with the other policemen and told them that they could find no arms in the house. The Police then asked me to tell them where the arms were, and I said I did not know. As they were speaking to me I heard one of the boys roaring as if he was being tortured. I then saw one of the boys being pushed across the field. It was still somewhat dark and he was too far away to distinguish who it was. The Black and Tan then returned and said "He is showing where the arms are". They then carried the same boy over to the ditch and brought him back to the stables again. A few minutes after I heard a shot. Then at intervals there were two or three shots and then a volley of shots. I asked the policeman what the shooting was about, and he replied they they were only blank cartridges. I said "My God, the people in the house will go mad". And he said "What did the people do the other day when they fired into the train at Headford Junction?" A report then came up from the other body of police that some of the lads had escaped and to watch out for them. The police with me then prepared to shoot in case anyone would attempt to escape. There were then some terrible volleys fired where the boys were. I then knelt down and said my prayers as I thought my turn would be next. The police near me were shouting to the others not to shoot in our direction for fear they would be shot themselves. I was sent up for then and taken down to where the

boys were. There two lines of Black and Tans in front of the stables so that I could not see who was there. As I was being taken down the field where the shooting was I saw two of the boys stretched out on the grass. I was then taken over the road and down to Kennedy's public-house at the Cross. There were five police with me - three old R.I.C. and two Black and Tans. After some conversation, in which they accused me of keeping arms on my premises which I denied, I was brought back to Flaherty's gate and I then saw five bodies being removed from my farm. They were all covered up in blankets. These bodies were placed in a lorry. They then brought out the sixth of the boys who was then alive and as they were throwing him into the lorry he said "Oh, my leg". There was a bandage around his forehead. They put me into the third lorry. They drove me in by Nealy's Bridge and the Lee Road as far as Gale's quarry. When they got there the first lorry in which the bodies were went on and I did not see it again. I was taken up to the Military Barracks where I was kept in the Detention Barracks until the 17th April, 1921, and then released without any charge being brought against me.

3. I make the foregoing statement from facts within my own knowledge.

Cornelius O'Keeffe.

Sworn before me this 25th day of April, 1921, at South Mall in the City of Cork, a Commissioner for Affidavits for the Supreme Court of Judicature in Ireland, and I know the Deponent.

John J. Morgan,

Solr. Comm.

