

ORIGINAL

20 APR 1958

1913-58

Re. history of I.R.A. and Sin Fein movements in
Monroe, Attorney Colsway 1917 to 1922.

A company of the I.R.A. was formed in Monroe
in March 1917. William Dolly, Kyehill,
Thomas Kelly, Ballyshea, and Patrick King
Monroe were appointed Capt. 1st Lieut. and
2nd Lieut. respectively. All meetings except
those for drill and military exercises were
held in the Barn in King's Yard which
was situated beside the school house about
300 yards from Village. The Coy. had a
membership of fourteen members.

Drilling took place twice a week in a
valley called Dake which is about two miles
distance from Monroe.

Members of the Coy. performed ordinary
volunteer duty at Election meetings during the
1918 campaign. Capt. Dolly, Lieuts. Kelly and
King and Volunteers Michael Kelly, Roundjula
and John Kelly, Ballyshea, blocked roads
at Knockbrack, Monroe, by felling trees
across roads, on the occasion of attack on
Moyville R.I.C. Barracks, in March 1920 also
for attack on Lough George R.I.C. Barracks in
May 1920. We also blocked roads at Bellevue
for attack on Headford R.I.C. Barracks in
May 1921.

During the month of June 1920, 2nd
Lieut. King and Volunteer Kelly, Monaghan
took part in ambush at Killaloe about two
miles from Monroe, on the Athlone and

Mountbellow Road. They were the only two members from Monro's Coy. to take part in the ambush. The other members present were John J. Bullenane, Patrick Bullenane, and Thomas Kennedy, Curran Coy. Michael and Patrick, Burns (Brothers) and Patrick Healy, Newcastle, Monro's. Darby Forde, Robert Jolly, Peter Dolly, now deceased, Michael Jordan, Kilsclough, Monro's, Skeahana Coy. Walter Costello and Walter Coppinger, Shamnagh Skeahana, Coy. Patrick Ruane, of Murlough, Coy. The latter and Darby Forde were in charge of ambush.

Particulars of Ambush: - The ambush was prepared for a party of R.I.C. who were expected to accompany a Bycote's Farmer named Hutchin of Ballybane, Shamnagh Skeahana. The position selected was from inside a Demesne wall which was about eight feet high. Holes were punched in the wall for about a distance of 50 yards. A small plantation ran along inside wall for about a half mile. Width of plantation was about 150 yards. It was all open country after that and very dangerous for retreat. There was no wall on the other side of the road. The land there is about eight feet lower than level of Road. One would have to jump down to the level below inside of Road. At about 2 pm on the Sunday in question four R.I.C. men accompanied Hutchin (two in front of horse trap and two in rear) ran into the scene. Five wa

Spence and the R.I.C. men were called on to surrender. The driver of the trap turned the horse and raced back home at a galloping speed standing up in the trap and whipping the horse as fast as he could. One of the R.I.C. Constable Ingham, threw his rifle on the road. The other Constable Spencer fell and was wounded while jumping from road down into the field on the other side of road. The other two Constables who were in front - seemed very anxious to surrender and held their Rifles over their heads at the same time taking a few side flips towards the opposite side, then suddenly jumped right down to the field below where they had safe cover. Fire from both sides continued for some time. The R.I.C. having eventually retreated under safe cover.

One Rifle and four Bicycles were recovered by the I.R.A. (Attacking party)

The attack was carried out at great risk as Lorses containing military supplies passed any moment. A large number of military were stationed in Athenry only seven miles away. The request of Capt. Doherty, 1st Lt. Kelly and 2nd Lt. King of Monine's Coy. was ordered immediately after but all escaped or evaded arrest until after the truce. After truce an Officers' Camp for training was established at Killeen Castle, Galway. 2nd Lt. King, was promoted there to the Rank of Capt. Monine's Coy I.R.A. He took

Monroe R & C Barracks from the British and was appointed O/C of same. At the commencement of hostilities in the Civil War he resigned with the officers of the Trianon Brigade

A Sin Fein Club was formed in Monroe in April 1917. by Capt. Dolly, Lieut. Kelly and King and John Concar, Belleville, Monroe. The latter was appointed first secretary and 2nd Lieut. King was appointed secretary after a couple of months and remained Sec. all through. The same man were in charge of both organizations in Monroe. All meetings were held in King's Barn, in the old Barn. The barn was situated beside the National School and is about 300 yards from village. This Barn was christened "Liberty Hall" locally by some of the boys.

a very successful collector for the Gaelic League Bonds was carried out in the Monroe area. 2nd Lieut. Paddy King, a clear personation agent for Dr. Cussack the Sin Fein candidate for North Galway in the January 1918 elections at St. Paddy's Station held in Monroe National School. Capt. William Dolly and 2nd Lieut. King were elected to the Trianon District Council for the Monroe Area on the Sin Fein ticket being two of the first to be elected.

Reginald (Capt.) Paddy King
Monroe Coy. old I.R.A.

Now living at
Church St. Glen
Columbk

20/1/58.

STATEMENT BY MR. PADDY KING,
Church Street, Glin, Co. Limerick.

(Formerly Captain, Monivea Company,
I.R.A.)

Re history of I.R.A. and Sinn Féin movements
in Monivea, Athenry, Co. Galway - 1917 to 1922.

Itals
A company of the I.R.A. was formed in Monivea in
March, 1917. William Dolley, Ryehill, Thomas Kelly,
Ballyskea, and Patrick King, Monivea, were appointed
Captain, 1st Lieutenant and 2nd Lieutenant,
respectively. All meetings except those for drill and
military exercises were held in the barn in King's yard,
which was situated beside the school house, about three
hundred yards from the village. The company had a
membership of fourteen members.

Drilling took place twice a week in a valley called
Pake, which is about two miles' distant from Monivea.

Members of the Company performed ordinary Volunteer
duty at election meetings during the 1918 campaign.
Captain Dolley, Lieutenants Kelly and King, and
Volunteers Michael Reilly, Roundfield, and John Kelly,
Ballyskea, blocked roads at Knockbrack, Monivea, by
felling trees across road on the occasion of the attack
on Moyville R.I.C. barracks in March 1920 - also for
attack on Loughgeorge R.I.C. barracks in May 1920. We
also blocked roads at Belville for attack on Headford
R.I.C. barracks in May, 1921.

During the month of June, 1920, 2nd Lieutenant King and Volunteer Keilly, Roundfield, took part in an ambush at Killatoher, about two miles from Monivea, on the Athenry - Mountbellew road. They were the only two members from Monivea Company to take part in the ambush. The other members present were John J. Cullinane, Patrick Cullinane, and Thomas Kennedy, Cussane Company; Michael and Patrick Burns (brothers) and Patrick Healy, Newcastle, Monivea, Darby Forde, Robert Lally, Peter Dolly, now deceased, Michael Jordan, Killaclouer, Monivea, Skeahana Company, Walter Costello and Walter Coppinger, Skeahana Company, Patrick Ruane of Menlough Company. The latter and Darby Forde were in charge of ambush.

Particulars of ambush: The ambush was prepared for a party of R.I.C. who were expected to accompany a boycotted farmer, named Houtchinson, of Ballybane, Skeahana. The position selected was from inside a demesne wall which was about eight feet high. Holes were punched in the wall for about a distance of eighty yards. A small plantation ran along the inside wall for about a half mile. Width of plantation was about 150 yards. It was all open country after that - and very dangerous for retreat. There was no wall on the other side of the road. The land there is about eight feet lower than level of road. One would have to jump down to the field below, inside of road. At about 2 p.m. on the Sunday in question, four R.I.C. men accompanying Houtchinson (two in front of horse trap and two in rear) ran into the scene. Fire was opened, and the R.I.C. men were called on to surrender. The driver of the trap turned the horse, and raced back home at a galloping speed,

standing up in the trap and whipping the horse, as fast as he could. One of the R.I.C. men, Constable McGloin, threw his rifle on the road. The other constable opened fire, and was wounded while jumping from road down into the field on the other side of road.

The other two constables, who were in front, seemed very anxious to surrender and held their rifles over their heads, at the same time, taking a few side steps towards the opposite side; then suddenly they jumped right down to the field below where they had safe cover. Fire from both sides continued for some time. The R.I.C. eventually retreated under safe cover.

One rifle and four bicycles were recovered by the I.R.A. (attacking party).

The attack was carried out at great risk, as lorries containing military might pass at any moment. A large number of military were stationed in Athenry, only seven miles away. The arrest of Captain Dolly, 1st Lieutenant Kelly and 2nd Lieutenant King of Monivea Company was ordered immediately after, but all escaped or evaded arrest until after the Truce.

After the Truce, an officers' camp for training was established at Killeen Castle, Galway. 2nd Lieutenant King was promoted there to the rank of Captain, Monivea Company, I.R.A. He took Monivea R.I.C. barracks from the British, and was appointed O/C of same. At the commencement of hostilities in the Civil War, he resigned with the officers of the Tuam Brigade.

A Sinn Féin Club was formed in Monivea in April, 1917, by Captain Dolly, Lieutenants Kelly and King,

and John Concar, Belville, Monivea. The latter was appointed first secretary, but 2nd Lieut. King was appointed secretary after a couple of months, and remained secretary all through. The same men were in charge of both organisations in Monivea. All meetings were held in King's yard, in the oats barn. The barn was situated beside the National School, and is about three hundred yards from the village. This barn was christened "Liberty Hall" locally by some of the boys.

A very successful collection for the Dáil Eireann bonds was carried out, in the Monivea area. 2nd Lieut. Paddy King acted as personation agent for Dr. Cusack, the Sinn Féin candidate for the North Galway constituency in the famous 1918 election, at the polling station held in Monivea National School. Captain William Dolly and 2nd Lieut. King were elected to the Tuam District Council for the Monivea area on the Sinn Féin ticket, being two of the first to be elected.

SIGNED: (CAPT.) PADDY KING,
Monivea Coy., Old I.R.A.

20th January, 1958.

Now living at -
Church St., Glin,
Co. Limerick.

