

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRGE MILLEATA 1913-21

No. W.S.

1738

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,738.

Witness

Jeremiah Deasy,
Kilmacsimon,
Bandon,
Co. Cork.

Identity.

2nd Lieut., Innishannon Company,
Bandon Battn., Cork 111 Brigade, I.R.A.

Subject.

Innishannon Company, Bandon Battalion, Cork
111 Brigade, I.R.A., 1917 - 1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

File No S. 3,034.

Form B.S.M. 2

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1738

STATEMENT BY JEREMIAH DEASY,
Kilmacsimon, Bandon, Co. Cork.

I was born at Kilmacsimon Quay, Bandon, on September 7th 1897. I was educated at the local national school.

When the Irish Volunteers were organised in Innishannon area by my brother, Liam, I joined the company. It was then the end of the autumn of 1917. In the early stages we had about 50 members, but as the year advanced, the membership increased to about 70. The first officers of the company were: -

O/C	-	Liam Deasy
1st Lt.	-	Batt Russell
2nd Lt.	-	Tom Kiely
2nd Lt.	-	Dan Crowley.

The appointment of two 2nd Lieutenants was due to the fact that the company area was divided by the Bandon River. Tom Kiely was in charge of the men on the left bank, and Dan Crowley of those on the other side.

There were several other companies of the Volunteers in the district surrounding Bandon, and early in 1918 these companies were organised as Bandon Battalion, Cork Brigade. As far as I can recollect, the other companies were: Ballinadee, Barryroe, Timoleague, Clogagh, Quarry's Cross, Tinker's Cross, Newcestown, Crosspound, Bandon and Kilbrittain. The officers of Bandon Battalion were: -

O/C	-	Seán Hales
Vice O/C	-	Cannot recollect
Adjt.	-	Liam Deasy
Q/M	-	Pat Harte.

When my brother, Liam, was appointed Adjutant of the Bandon Battalion, I joined the staff of Innishannon Company as 2nd Lieutenant. The officers of the company at this stage were: -

O/C	-	Batt Russell
1st Lt.	-	Tom Kiely
2nd Lt.	-	Dan Crowley
2nd Lt.	-	Jerh. Deasy (witness).

In the early stages we drilled in the fields in the district, under our own officers. We learned most of the drill procedure from a study of British military training manuals and the Fianna Éireann Handbook. Parades were usually held twice weekly. By the beginning of 1918, the full company often assembled on Sunday evenings and went on route marches into neighbouring company areas. We had very little arms at this time. The few shotguns we held were the property of members.

In the Spring of 1918 we became rather popular with the general public, as the British were preparing to conscript young men of military age to fight for them in France. All nationally minded people in the area now looked to the Volunteers to defend them. The public were organised to fight the British should they endeavour to enforce conscription. Funds were collected and the people were called on to sign an anti-Conscription pledge. In addition to helping to organise the general public, all Volunteers were now engaged in procuring weapons of every description, making home-made bombs, buckshot, and reloading all available cartridges with these heavier slugs. All arms in the district were collected by our members, and we had about twenty-five shotguns. The vast majority of the people in the district were supporting us, but there were a number of British loyalist families who scorned our

activities. However, the British did not proceed with their plans and the threat of conscription passed.

In March, 1918, a by-election to the British Parliament was held in Waterford City. The candidates were Capt. Willie Redmond (Irish Parliamentary Party) and Dr. Vincent White (Sinn Féin). The Sinn Féin candidate was standing for the Irish Republic declared at Easter 1916 and was going forward on the policy of abstention from the British Parliament. Waterford City was a stronghold of the Irish Parliamentary Party, and a big percentage of its supporters there were British soldiers, many of whom had joined up at John Redmond's invitation to fight for the alleged freedom of small nations, and members of their families. This element was totally opposed to Sinn Féin and the Irish Volunteers. During the course of the election, they began to intimidate Sinn Féin supporters and workers, so it was decided to bring in some Volunteers from outside areas to assist the local men on protection duty on the polling day. A party of men from Bandon area, which included Dan Crowley and John Riordan from Innishannon Company, travelled to Waterford City on this occasion. They were away about three days. The Sinn Féin candidate was defeated.

At this time my father was a pilot on the Bandon River at Kilmacsimon Quay. As a result, I was in touch with the movements of boats on the river and had more or less free access to them while they were berthed at Kilmacsimon Quay when loading or discharging cargo. Early in April, a collier - I cannot recollect the name - arrived at the Quay to discharge a cargo of coal. She was armed with a 4" gun and carried a small supply of ammunition

for same. There was also a service rifle and a good supply of ammunition. I became aware of the latter when I went aboard one evening and was invited to fire a few shots from it by one of the gunners. I reported the presence of the arms to Mick Flynn - a member of the Ballinadee Company. I even counted the number of bolts holding the 4" gun to the deck of the boat. The Ballinadee men, acting on my information, raided the boat on the night before she was due to sail away. They captured the rifle and about 2,000 rounds of ammunition, but they were unable to remove the heavy gun. All intelligence work in connection with this job was carried out by me.

Normal training continued throughout 1918. Public parades, often in battalion strength, were now a feature of our activities. During the summer, manoeuvres in which three or four adjoining companies took part, were held at week-ends. These operations were usually carried out under a battalion officer. On these occasions we learned to move across country in extended order, making the best use of the available cover. Selected men were now being trained as scouts and despatch riders, and these manoeuvres were used to test their efficiency.

Towards the end of the year 1918 we were all working for Sinn Féin in anticipation of the general election which was to be held in December, 1918. There was, however, no contest in the area as the Sinn Féin candidate was returned unopposed. The result of this election gave a boost to Volunteer activities, as Sinn Féin were successful in most areas throughout the country. The successful candidates were now summoned to sit in Dáil Éireann - the Parliament of the Irish Republic - and they established a Republican Government in January, 1919.

Up to this stage, the Volunteers throughout Cork County had been organised as Cork Brigade. As the area was very extensive and there were about twenty battalions in it the officers in charge decided to divide the country into three areas to be known as Cork No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 Brigades. Our battalion (Bandon) now became the 1st Battalion in Cork No. 3 Brigade. The other battalions were Clonakilty, Dunmanway, Skibbereen, Bantry, Castletownbere. The officers of this brigade were: -

	O/C	-	Tom Hales
Vice	O/C	-	Seán Hayes (I think)
	Adjt.	-	Liam Deasy
	Q/M	-	Pat Harte.

The appointment of my brother, Liam, as Brigade Adjutant, and Pat Harte as Brigade Q/M, left vacancies on the staff of Bandon Battalion. The officers of the battalion now were: -

	O/C	-	Seán Hales
Vice	O/C	-	Charlie Hurley
	Adjt.	-	Jim O'Mahoney
	Q/M	-	Tadhg Sullivan.

Beyond normal training, there was nothing unusual in the area during the year 1919. We were all engaged during the middle of this year in organising and collecting the first loan floated by Dáil Éireann. However, the first training camp ever held in the brigade area was held at Glandore in August of this year. As far as I can recollect, there was no representative from Innishannon Company at this camp. The camp was carried on for about ten days.

An important change in the control of the Volunteers took place at this stage. The Volunteers had, up to now, been controlled by an executive elected at an annual Volunteer

convention. They now decided to tender their allegiance to the Government of the Irish Republic and to come under the control of the Dáil Department of Defence. All Volunteers now took an oath to support and defend the Irish Republic against all enemies, foreign and domestic. We became the army of the Irish Republic - I.R.A.

There was no activity beyond normal training and parades in the area during the remainder of 1919.

Early in May, 1920, all members of the company (Innishannon) were engaged in one capacity or another for some weeks in connection with the robbery of a large sum of money from two old men - John and Patrick Lordan - who were living in the area. The robbery had been reported to the R.I.C. but they had failed to solve it. The officers of the Innishannon Company were now approached and asked to find the robbers. It was reported by some members living in the village (Innishannon) that two young men - Richard Beasley and John O'Brien - from the district were spending money freely in the shops in the village, and it was decided to arrest them. Selected members of the company were mobilised for this job, as it was necessary to scout all roads to ensure that the party detailed to carry out the arrests were not surprised by enemy patrols. The men suspected were not at home when called for, and we had to search three other houses before we found them. The prisoners were now removed for detention to Crosspound Company area. They were interrogated by the officers from that company but did not disclose any information. It was then decided to arrest two younger brothers of Richard Beasley. While these prisoners were being removed to Crosspound to join the others, one of them disclosed that he had carried out the robbery. He also stated that the money had been

taken from him by his elder brother who was already detained. When confronted with the fresh information, Richard Beasley admitted that he had received the stolen money. He also disclosed where the unspent portion was hidden, and this sum was recovered. The prisoners were now tried by a Republican Court and were defended by my brother, Liam. They were found guilty but were released on the money being refunded to the Lordans by Beasley's father.

Several houses in the area were raided for arms during June and July, 1920. Nearly all the members of the company took part in these raids, in which a number of shotguns and two miniature rifles were captured.

About this time, a Feis was held in Ballinadee, and on the instructions of the Battalion O/C (Seán Hales) a strong force of I.R.A. drawn from the neighbouring companies (Innishannon, Ballinadee, Timoleague, Crosspound, Kilbrittain, Clogagh, Ballyroe) attended the gathering. It was anticipated that a military patrol would arrive in the village (Ballinadee) while the Feis was in progress, and it was proposed to rush the patrol and disarm them as they moved through the crowd in the village street. An armed covering party was placed in position behind the wall of the graveyard at the end of the village. The remainder of our party mingled in small groups with the crowd and awaited the arrival of the enemy. However, we were disappointed, as the patrol did not put in an appearance. All sections returned to their own areas when the Feis concluded.

The next operation with which I was concerned also proved abortive. The Battalion Staff made arrangements to carry out a surprise attack on Innishannon R.I.C. Barracks on a Sunday early in August, 1920. This was a battalion job

and the majority of the companies in the battalion were represented either as scouts, outposts or in the main attacking party. It was arranged to take up positions around the building late on Saturday night or early on Sunday morning, and to have a party in position to rush the barrack door when some of the R.I.C. would open it next morning to go to early Mass. I was a member of this party, which numbered six. Another member was Paddy Coakley, but I cannot recollect the names of the others. All sections were getting ready to move into position when a shot was accidentally discharged by a member of the section from Kilbrittain Company, which was at this time within about 100 yards of the enemy post. The operation was now called off as it was considered probable that the shot had alerted the garrison. All sections were now ordered to return to their home areas.

The Brigade O/C (Tom Hales) and Q/M (Pat Harte) were captured by the enemy at the end of July, 1920. They were taken into Bandon Military Barracks, where they were tortured by the members of the Essex Regiment. As a result of the torture, Pat Harte died later in a mental hospital. Tom Hales was sentenced to five years (I think) penal servitude. They were replaced on the Brigade Staff by Charlie Hurley and Dick Barrett respectively. Charlie Hurley, who had been Vice O/C Bandon Battalion, was replaced by John Lordan.

The new Brigade O/C (Charlie Hurley) was in Innishannon area about August 20th 1921 when he learned of a patrol of R.I.C. which travelled to Bandon from Innishannon each Saturday. He decided to attack this patrol, which usually consisted of four men cycling in two pairs about 100 yards apart. He arranged to mobilise nine men from Innishannon Company and to lie in ambush for the patrol at

Curranure about one mile from Innishannon on the main road to Bandon, next day. The men mobilised, as far as I can recollect, were: Con O'Sullivan, Dan Crowley, Richard Twomey, Dan Falvey, Con Kearney, Patk. Dempsey, Jerh. Kearney, Jerh. Deasy (witness). There was also another in addition to the Brigade O/C (Charlie Hurley) who was in charge. Two of the party - Charlie Hurley and Dan Falvey - had rifles. All the others were armed with shotguns. We took up positions at a sharp bend on the road where it ran under a railway bridge, about 8.30 a.m. on August 21st 1920. Nine men, including one rifleman (Dan Falvey), took up a position behind a fence on ground slightly overlooking the road at the Innishannon (eastern) side of the bend. I took up a position with Charlie Hurley at the Bandon side of the bend, where we had a view of the road for a distance of about 100 yards to the west towards Bandon. We were on the opposite side of the road to the main body and could not see them from our position. The whole party were extended over a distance of about 150 yards. It had been arranged that the leading pair in the patrol would be allowed to pass through our position at the Bandon side of the bridge and would not be attacked until the second pair were fired on by Charlie Hurley and myself. This was to be the signal for the men on the Innishannon side of the railway bridge to attack.

Approaching mid-day, the leading pair in the patrol were observed by Charlie and myself as they approached. We noticed that they were being followed by a girl on a bicycle, who was between them and the second pair who were about 150 yards behind the leaders. We allowed the leading pair to pass through and waited until the second lot were on their way around the bend under the railway bridge

before opening fire. Our target jumped from their bicycles and dashed - one for each side of the road - round the turn, where they came under fire from the main body. They were now lost to our view. The leading pair in the enemy patrol were by this time just outside the eastern (Innishannon) flank of the main position. They were forced on by the main body and a sharp interchange of fire ensued for about 10 to 15 minutes. As we were within a mile of Innishannon post, the O/C (Charlie Hurley) now decided to withdraw in case reinforcements would arrive from Bandon and take up positions on roads surrounding the area, so making our escape more difficult. We all now withdrew from our positions towards Ballymountain, taking with us the rifle which had been taken by Con O'Sullivan from the R.I.C. man in the second pair who dashed to the right-hand side of the road. He had been fired on by Con, had dashed to the fence for cover and had handed up his rifle. As we were withdrawing towards Ballymountain, we observed a lorry of military passing along the old Bandon road across our line of retreat. They were apparently looking for us, but we happened to be two fields from the road at the time and we immediately took cover. While operating in the area on the evening of this engagement, the military took my brother, Ted Deasy, prisoner.

Some days following the attack on the R.I.C. patrol, a strong party drawn from Kilbrittain, Crosspound, Ballinadee and Innishannon Companies again assembled at Curranure to lie in ambush for an enemy convoy. The Innishannon representatives included those who took part in the engagement on August 21st, as well as a number of men who were now engaged on scouting. The combined force numbered about 60. The Brigade O/C (Charlie Hurley) was again in charge. The main attacking party were under cover of the roadside fence south of the road

and east of the bend where the road passed underneath a railway bridge. The strength of this party was about forty. Flanking parties were in position to the east and west of the main position. Two small covering parties were in position - one on the river bank north of the road and the second on the railway bridge overlooking the road.

All positions were occupied about 8 a.m. There was no activity until about mid-day, when one of our scouts reported that a local British loyalist - Stennings - had been talking to some men working in a quarry nearby and that he had gone on towards Innishannon. The O/C (Charlie Hurley) now decided to withdraw from the position as he was afraid that Stennings had become aware of our presence in the area. All the men from Innishannon Company, with the exception of Dan Crowley, Richard Twomey, Con O'Sullivan, Patk. Dempsey and myself, who had been engaged, were now instructed to return home. We moved with the remainder of the party to Kilpatrick, where we again took up ambush positions. We remained here until darkness set in, but there was no appearance by the enemy so the O/C (Charlie Hurley) instructed all men to return to their home areas. I came back to Innishannon area with the other representatives of the company.

About mid-September, 1920, a training camp for the officers of the companies south of Bandon River in the Bandon Battalion was established at Clonbuig in Kilbrittain Company area. The Brigade Training Officer (Tom Barry) was in charge of the camp. The representatives from Innishannon Company were: - Dan Crowley (O/C), Tim Kiely (1st Lieut.), Con O'Sullivan and myself (2nd Lieut.).

At the camp, we were trained in the use and care of the rifle and revolver. In addition, we had lectures on the duties of officers and on various aspects of military affairs.

We were also put through a course of drill and physical training. The activities at the camp continued for about a week. We were then sent home and told to return in three days.

When we returned to Clonbuig, we marched to Fanlobbus in Dunmanway Battalion area, where we took up ambush positions on the Dunmanway-Ballineen road about three miles from the former town. We remained in position all day but we did not see any enemy forces. We returned to Newcestown in our own battalion (Bandon) area that night. This was October 10th 1920. On the return journey, Seán Hales (O/C Bandon Battn.) was in charge. We reached Newcestown about 8 p.m. and broke up into a number of small parties to get some food in houses in the area. The O/C (Seán Hales) and Jim O'Mahoney (Battn. Adjutant) then left us and went into the village (Newcestown). They had only entered a shop there when two lorries of military drove into the village and pulled up. Our officers (Seán Hales and Jim O'Mahoney) immediately made their way back to our billets. We were mobilised without delay and moved back towards Newcestown village. As we approached Newcestown Cross, we saw the lights of the lorries approaching and we took cover behind the roadside fence. We were extended over a distance of about 100 yards to the west of the Cross. As the leading lorry drove into the position, it was fired on. The lorry continued on for a short distance and collided with the fence at our side of the road. Our men on the other side of the fence fired on the occupants at point blank range. The soldiers who had not already been killed or wounded, threw

themselves from the lorry and took up any cover they could find, continuing to fire an odd shot.

The second lorry in the enemy convoy halted the opening shots and the occupants apparently left their transport. It had not reached the eastern flank of our position at the time. During a lull in the shooting, Jackie O'Neill and Dan Galvin drew my attention to the sound of movements in the fields on the Newcestown side of our position and we realised that the military from the second lorry were endeavouring to outflank us. I passed the word along the line and our party withdrew back from the road under cover of a cross fence. When we had withdrawn one field from the road, we halted and listened for the movements of the enemy in the adjoining fields. We eventually found out where they were and fired a few rounds in their direction. They replied to the fire, but after a sharp interchange of fire the enemy broke off the engagement. As there was now no hope of concluding the operation in the dark, we were all ordered to withdraw. The main body withdrew to Greenhill area. I moved with Con Sullivan, Paddy Crowley, Jack Fitzgerald and Mick O'Neill to FarranThomas graveyard, where we slept that night. We moved next morning to Greenhill, where we rejoined the remainder of the column. We remained in Greenhill area throughout Sunday (October 11th) and until early on Monday morning, when we marched to Crosspound, where the column was disbanded and we were ordered to return to our homes. We had no casualties at Newcestown. The British casualties were - one officer killed and several other ranks wounded.

A camp for the representatives of the companies north of Bandon River was now assembled in Crosspound Company area. The usual course of training was undertaken by the men in

attendance. Tom Barry (Brigade Training Officer) was again in charge. When training concluded at this camp, the trainees took up an ambush position at Killountan on the main Cork-Bandon road about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Innishannon. They were reinforced by Con O'Sullivan and Dan Crowley from Innishannon Company and by some men from Ballinadee unit. They remained in position all day but the expected enemy patrol did not travel. I was not present on this occasion.

About this period, preparations were being made for a speeding up of the activities against the enemy. The men trained at the camps at Clonbuig and Crosspound were now formed into the nucleus of a Flying Column, which would be placed in the field on a more or less permanent basis. As our battalion (Bandon) was divided by the Bandon River - there being no road crossing between Innishannon and the sea at Kinsale - it was most important that a number of crossing places should be arranged in this span. As I had lived on the river bank all my life and had a detailed knowledge of the river, I was instructed at this stage to select a number of crossing places at which boats and men to man them would always be available to ferry I.R.A. columns or officers across the river at short notice. All through the period up to the date of my arrest in January, 1921, I was responsible for the safe transport of I.R.A. forces across the river in this area. In order to ensure the safe operation of the system, it was necessary to provide for a number of different points of embarkation and landing so that routes could be changed at short notice in the event of unexpected enemy activity at any particular point. Amongst the routes travelled at various times were:

- (1) Colliers Quay - Shippool Castle - 1½ miles from
Innishannon Bridge.
- (2) Kilmacsimon Quay - Lahern - 3 miles from Innishannon
Bridge.
- (3) do. do. - Leighmoney - 3 " " "
- (4) Peafield - Hollyhill - 5 " " "

The men regularly engaged on river transport duty were as follows:

- (1) Dan Riordan and Wm. Hogan.
- (2) Tim Coughlan, Jim Deasy, John Deasy,
& (3) Jerh. Deasy (witness).
- (4) John Murray and I cannot recollect the names
of the others.

Where possible, journeys across the river were notified in advance, but men were always available at short notice to ferry officers, men or dispatch riders across the Bandon River at the aforementioned points. Recognised whistle signals were used by the man on the opposite side of the river at any point when a boat was not already available at any particular spot.

The main duty of the officers and men in the various companies during the months of October and November, 1920, was the collection of the Arms Fund Levy. This was in addition to their normal routine training and parades. The collection of this levy in Innishannon Company area was undertaken in two sections. In the early period, all supporters of the national movement were approached and the levy collected from them without difficulty. When this section had subscribed, we tackled the hostile element - a goodly number of British loyalists - and collected the amount of the levy assessed in each case by seizing stock to the value of the amount of the levy. The seized stock was sold at fairs in the area. The hostile element were dealt with during December, 1920.

Late in October, there was a strong representation from Innishannon Company at the funeral of Mick O'Brien, a member of Kilbrittain Company, to Murragh Graveyard. Next day, three members of the company, including the O/C (Dan Crowley) were arrested and charged with complicity in an ambush at Toureen on October 26th 1920. I don't think that we had any representative at this engagement, but I was responsible for having the men who took part ferried across the Bandon River when they were withdrawing after the fight. The boats to ferry the column were taken across the Bandon River from Kilmacsimon Quay to Pat Deasy and Tim Crowley on the opposite side. They then took the boats down the river to Ballydaly, where they ferried the column to Peafield.

About this time, I raided the home of General Caulfield in Innishannon and seized one .45 revolver. I was accompanied on this raid by

The arrest of the O/C (Dan Crowley) led to a change in the officers of the company, who now were: -

O/C - Con O'Sullivan
 1st Lt. - Tim Kiely
 2nd Lt. - Jerh. Deasy (witness).

About mid-November, 1920, I was in my home at Kilmacsimon Quay when I saw two men in British Army uniform approaching along the road. Suspecting that they were members of a raiding party, I moved into a back kitchen. One of the men entered my home and asked my mother for some bread. When I heard this, I left through the back door and made my way towards the Bandon road so that I could keep them under observation when they left. I now had the idea that they were acting as spies. When the two soldiers returned to the Bandon road, I followed them to the road of the seven crosses - about a half mile from my home. When I saw that they were moving towards Bandon, I made my way across country to a house where I knew that two I.R.A. men -

members of the Ballinadee Company - were working. When I reached there, one of them had gone home. I proceeded with the other - Con Flynn - to his cottage, where we met Bill Hales and another whose name I cannot recollect. We then moved towards the Kilmacsimon-Bandon road, where we waited for the two soldiers. When they came along we held them up and the first thing they asked us to get was an outfit of civilian clothes. We then took them to Finn's, Rathrought, where they were supplied with civilian clothes and a good meal. They were then removed to an outside farm belonging to Dan McCarthy at Ballyvolane, where they were held prisoners for some days while being questioned by battalion officers. It was eventually established that the two men were genuine. The men were Peter Monahan - serving in a Scottish Regiment - and Tom Clarke (I think). Peter Monahan later joined the Brigade Column and operated as Column Engineer until he was killed at Crossbarry on March 19th 1921.

On the morning of December 2nd 1920, a party of about thirty men drawn from Innishannon, Ballinadee and Crosspound Companies took up an ambush position at Clashanimud on the Cork-Bandon road through Brinny. The position selected was about three miles from Bandon. The Brigade O/C (Charlie Hurley) and Adjutant (Liam Deasy), as well as the Q/M (Dick Barrett), were present on this occasion. The party were armed with a mixture of rifles and shotguns. We also had some home-made bombs. The combined force was divided into two sections, which were placed in position on high ground behind the roadside about 250 yards apart on the northern side of the road. All sections were in position about 9 a.m. We remained there throughout the day until darkness was setting in, when the sections were called in to arrange for the withdrawal. Just as we were about to withdraw, the

scouts to the east signalled the approach of an enemy convoy, so we all settled back in our positions. The enemy convoy of two lorries of military drove at speed into the position. Fire was opened on them by all sections, but they got through and continued on their way, shooting indiscriminately. All sections now withdrew to their home areas. The enemy casualties were unknown. We had no casualties. Some of the Innishannon men who took part in this engagement were: Con O'Sullivan (O/C), Jack O'Brien, Jack Kearney, Jerh. Deasy (witness), Tom Kiely. I would like to mention that it was while I was in position at Clashanimud I first heard of the death of my brother, Pat, in action at Kilmichael on November 28th 1920.

During the month of December, I was engaged in dealing with the seizure of cattle from the loyalist element who refused to contribute to the Arms Fund Levy. All members of the company, as well as the neighbouring companies in Ballinadee and Crosspound, took part in these activities.

I was arrested by an enemy raiding party as I left Ballinadee Church after Mass on January 6th 1920. I was taken to Kinsale and later to the Military Detention Barracks, Cork, from where I was transferred to Spike Island Internment Camp about mid February. I was later transferred to the Internment Camp at Ballykinlar, Co. Down. I was released from Ballykinlar on December 8th 1921.

My rank at the Truce - 2nd Lieutenant, Innishannon Company, Bandon Battalion, Cork 111 Brigade. The strength of the company at the time was about 70.

Signed: Jeremiah DeasyDate: 6/7/58

Witness: _____
(Investigator).

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BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 1738