

DUPLICATE

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILITAIRÉ 1913-21
No. W.S. 1659

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1659.

Witness

Peter O'Connell,
Crosswater,
Carnaross,
Kells,
Co. Meath.
Identity.

Battn. Adjnt., 5th Battn., Meath Brigade.

Subject.

Stonefield Coy., 5th Battn., Meath Bgde.,
1917 - 21.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

N11.

File No 8. 2980.

Form B.S.M. 2

DUPLICATE

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1,659

STATEMENT BY PETER O'CONNELL,

Crosswater, Carnaross, Kells, Co. Meath.

I was born at Fartagh, Virginia, in the year 1900. I attended the national school in Carnaross for a number of years and later attended one in Mullagh. At the age of 14 years I was sent to the Christian Brothers Schools in Kells for a period of two years.

My father, who was a Gaelic speaker, was a member of the Fenians. We had several Gaelic speakers in the townland when I was a boy. I remember such speakers as Brian O'Higgins and Professor Agnes O'Farrelly with Matthew Lynch (known as "Trullagh") visiting my father to discuss the Gaelic tongue. There was always a national and Gaelic spirit in the district in which I was born.

While at school in Kells, I saw the formation of a company of the Irish Volunteers there, and other companies in Carnaross, Mullagh, Mahera and other areas. After the outbreak of the 1st World War, I saw great military activity in the area. I remember recruiting meetings being held and men going off to join the British army, and soldiers coming home on leave. The recruiting meetings were addressed by members of the Irish Parliamentary Party and officers of the British forces and their sympathisers. At one such meeting, held at Carnaross and which was to have been addressed by a Colonel O'Farrell of Moynalty and other speakers, there was no audience other than the R.I.C. and their own sympathisers. At the time, I heard of John Redmond's advice to the young men of Ireland to join the British army and the postponement of Home Rule until after the war.

In 1915, the split came in the I.N.V. in Carnaross, as it did all over Ireland. Those Volunteers in Carnaross who broke away continued to drill and formed a separate unit known as the Irish Volunteers. I had not yet become a member as I was still at school. In the latter end of the year I heard of a visit by Liam Mellows to Carnaross and of his inspection of the Volunteers there. Following the rebellion there was little Volunteer activity in Carnaross and much discussion as to its merits and demerits.

In the spring of 1917, I was approached by Seamus Cogan, who informed me that he was about to form a company of Irish Volunteers in Stonefield. Carnaross and Stonefield were each about three miles from my home at Fartagh. A few days later, about ten or twelve of us met at Seamus Cogan's barn in Stonefield and lined up for our first parade. Seamus showed us some drill manuals and a book on semaphore signalling. He put us through our first drill that evening. From then on we met once a week. In the meantime, we contacted a man in Tandra named Tobin who had a Lee Enfield rifle which had been left in his custody by a relative who had taken part in the rebellion. Tobin joined our company and we soon learned the mechanism of the rifle, how to load and unload, and had practice in bayonet charging. We managed to pick up a revolver or two at this time. During this period, Seamus Cogan visited Navan for meetings with Seán Boylan of Dunboyne and other officers in the Volunteer organisation at the time. Up to this Seamus was our chief officer or captain. To the best of my recollection, there were no other officers in the Stonefield Company then.

In the early spring of 1918, the threat of conscription brought in many new recruits to the Stonefield Company, many of whom, with few exceptions, remained loyal to the end. A branch of the Sinn Féin organisation had been

established in the area by this time. They organised protest meetings at all the church gates. At all those meetings they had the full support of the Volunteers. Among the speakers on the platforms whom I remember were: Patrick de Burca (a school teacher at Kells Christian Brothers Schools), Fr. O'Farrell at Carnaross, and a Fr. Gaffney at Virginia. During the period, several schools and colleges in the country were closed down and the students came home. Several of those students joined the Volunteer companies in the surrounding areas. The strength of Stonefield Company at the time was 25, and remained at that strength from then on.

At the East Cavan by-election in June or July of this year, with other members of the company I took an active part in the work of canvassing, organising Sinn Féin meetings, and all the usual work attached to an election. The Hibernians, Unionists and pro-British element were the main supporters of the Irish Nationalist Party and were our main opposition. However, Arthur Griffith, the Sinn Féin candidate, won the election by a majority of about 700 votes.

Routine drilling continued to the end of the year until the general election in December, 1918. Here again we had a busy time supporting and organising Sinn Féin meetings and carrying out police duty on polling day. Our candidates were Liam Mellows for Sinn Féin and Dr. Cusack for the Irish Nationalist Party. Liam Mellows won by a good majority. Except for regular weekly meetings for drill, there was little activity in the year 1919 and early part of 1920.

In April, 1920, the members of Stonefield Company mobilised at the graveyard, Oldcastle. We numbered seven and were in charge of Seamus Cogan. Our objective was to raid the income tax office in the town. At the graveyard

we were met by Tommy Harpur of the Oldcastle Company. He informed us that he had cut barbed wire which surrounded the office and had opened a door leading from the street into the back yard of the building. We placed two men on the Main St. convenient to the door leading to the building, where they had a good view of the R.I.C. barracks across the road. When all was ready, we knocked on the back door. The officer in charge, whose name was O'Brien, lived on the premises. He put his head out of a window and said "I will come down". When he did so, we explained our business. He put on the lights and showed us his office. He wished us luck and went back to bed. We collected all documents relating to Income Tax, took them a distance from the town and burned them.

A fortnight later, Cogan mobilised us at the graveyard again. We were met by Tommy (Ridney) Callaghan and Tommy Harpur. Callaghan told us that he had a good supply of petrol down at the enclosure leading to the old workhouse. This building had been used by the authorities as an internment camp for Germans during the war. We had received information that it was to be reoccupied by the British military and used as a blockhouse. Cogan instructed me to remain at the graveyard and to report enemy activity, if any. The rest proceeded to the workhouse, and in less than an hour the flames showed that the building was on fire. It was burned to the ground.

Following the murder of a Volunteer named Mark Clinton in May, 1920, by two men named Gordon and Carolan, eleven men, including those two, were arrested by Seán Boylan, Brigade O/C, assisted by local Volunteers. The prisoners were detained at Boltown House, Kilskyre, in our company area, for some time. They were later

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 1659/A
- (ii) How many documents have been abstracted: 1P
- (iii) The date of each such document: 26 August 1957

- (iv) The description of each document:
WS 1659 Peter O'Connell P 5.
name of individual

(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.

transferred to other company areas and eventually tried by an I.R.A. military court. Gordon was executed, and the other ten men were deported. While they were detained at Boltown House, I helped to guard them with other members of Stonefield Company. It was Gordon who actually shot Clinton. Carolan shot two horses with which Clinton was ploughing.

It was around this period that all companies in Co. Meath were formed into battalions. Stonefield, Carnaross, Oldcastle and Ballinlough Companies became the 5th Battalion, Meath Brigade. Seamus Cogan, Captain of Stonefield Company, became Battalion O/C. I don't remember the other officers. After the appointment of Seamus Cogan as Battalion O/C, Michael Wynne became captain of Stonefield Company.

By the month of July, the R. I. C. had evacuated Crossakiel, Carnaross and Stirrupstown barracks. With members of Stonefield Company, assisted by members of Ballinlough, I participated in the burning of Crossakiel barracks. The barracks at Carnaross had been burned down by the local company about the same time.

On the 23rd July, Seamus Cogan was shot dead near Oldcastle. With other Volunteers, he was conveying a prisoner to an "unknown destination" when he ran into a military patrol near the town. The prisoner's name was _____ and he had been arrested on suspicion of stealing cattle. Cogan had commandeered a motor car and was accompanied by Volunteers Jimmie O'Neill, Harry Sheridan, Tom Lynch and Owen Clarke. When called on to halt by the military, they refused to do so. Cogan drew a revolver and opened fire. The military replied, and in the ensuing encounter Cogan was shot dead, while two of his companions and the prisoner were wounded. After the inquest, Cogan was buried in a new Republican plot in the graveyard in _____

Ballinlough. Following Cogan's death, Seán Keogh, Captain of Ballinlough Company, became Battalion O/C; Peter O'Higgins, Battalion Adjutant, and Barney Harte, Q/M.

In the month of August, 1920, a Sinn Féin Court was established for the area in Carnaross. Larry Farnon became one of three parish justices. The local Volunteers from then on carried out all police duties of the district. By the month of September, companies had been established in Whitegate, Moylough and Ballinacree and were incorporated into the battalion. In the month of October, a general raid for arms was carried out in the battalion area. We secured about twenty shotguns and three rifles in our company area. The rifles were got in a raid on the home of a retired British army officer - Archdale of Maperath.

At the latter end of October, I was present at a meeting of all officers in the battalion held at Magee's Cross, Ballinlough. The meeting had been called by Seán Boylan, Brigade O/C, for the purpose of reorganising the area and to ascertain the quantity of arms and ammunition in the area. Representatives were present from all companies in the battalion. During the meeting a discussion took place on the number of men and time devoted to police duties in the area. Seán Boylan wanted action in the nature of an attack on enemy patrols or outposts. Shortly after this meeting, Seán Keogh, our Battalion O/C, was arrested and was replaced by Tom Manning.

Shortly after, there was a joint battalion meeting of the 4th and 5th Battalion officers which I did not attend. Seán Boylan had presided and had ordered each battalion to prepare ambushes in their respective areas. The 5th Battalion officers refused to co-operate on the grounds

that their arms were insufficient to meet enemy reprisals. They were suspended forthwith. Near Whitegate next day, I met Seán Boylan, accompanied by David Smith and Michael Wynne. He told me that he had appointed David Smith, Battalion O/C, with myself as Battalion Adjutant, Bryan Daly as Q/M, Paddy McDonnell, Battalion I/O and police officer, and Mat Tobin, Engineer.

A few nights later we all attended a Brigade Council meeting held in the old workhouse at Delvin. Those present included Seán Boylan, Seamus Finn, Paddy Mooney, Seamus Maguire, Eamon Cullen, Pat Oiles, Billy Dunne and Seamus O'Higgins. Officers from the 4th Battalion present included Pat Clinton. The whole purpose of the meeting was to organise and, if possible, carry out attacks on enemy forces all over the country before Christmas.

Following the Brigade Council meeting, we held a Battalion Council meeting at McDonnell's of Stonefield. The meeting was attended by Seán Boylan, Seamus Finn and Pat Clinton. We discussed the possibility of an attack on Oldcastle R.I.C. barracks. We went into the number of arms and ammunition available, the vantage points to be used and the possibility of preventing reinforcements reaching Oldcastle from a military post at Crossrum situated about a mile from the town. A fortnight later, another Battalion Council meeting was held at Rahard and was attended by Seán Boylan, Seamus Finn and Eamon Cullen. It was then decided to postpone the attack until after Christmas, and the night of the 8th January was fixed for the attack. Eamon Cullen in the meantime instructed five Volunteers in the manufacture of home-made land mines. By the 8th January those five men had two

mines ready for use and a number of cartridges filled with buckshot.

On the night of the 8th January, Whitegate and Stonefield Companies met at 7 o'clock at Tandra and took the mines with them by hand to Lisnagon. Here it was decided to commandeer a vehicle to take the mines to Oldcastle. Two men went to Crosswater, where they procured a horse and trap with a driver, after which we proceeded in a body to Bollies, Oldcastle, where the rest of the battalion were mobilising. Some of the men arrived on bicycles, others had walked the railway line. The Carnaross men passed us on the way in two spring carts. It was a distance of six miles for the men of Stonefield Company.

When all had mobilised, we numbered about 50 men. A few of the Oldcastle Volunteers had come out to meet us, bringing two priests of the parish with them. The priests advised us not to proceed with the attack and told us that the R. I. C. and military were aware of the proposed attack. Phil Tevlin of Carnaross Company had been asked to take charge, but he suggested that Pat Farrelly, Captain of Carnaross Company, should do so. The outcome was that both of them approached Mick Wynne and me to discuss the situation. After some consultation, Pat Farrelly and Phil Tevlin decided to withdraw. They blamed the Oldcastle and Ballinacree men for informing the clergy. We all dispersed and returned to our homes. Most, if not all, of our party had been armed with shotguns and buckshot cartridges.

On the 23rd February, while proceeding home across the fields at 12 midnight, I heard a number of shots being fired about half a mile distant across country in the

vicinity of Dervor. I proceeded towards the spot but saw nothing and went home. Next day I was informed of the fact that the Carnaross Company in charge of Matty Smith of Cloghanrush, Carnaross, had attacked a motor car patrol of five R.I.C. in charge of District Inspector Rowland. It appears that the patrol left Kells earlier in the evening and passed through the Carnaross Company area on their way to Virginia. When Matty Smith heard this, he and those Volunteers available decided to ambush them on their return. When the patrol reached Virginia, they raided a number of houses there, including a hall where there were a number of band instruments, which they seized and took away with them. Seven of the ambush party, including Matty Smith, had just taken up positions of a kind when the motor car patrol arrived at the spot on their way back to Kells. As the car passed through the ambush, two of the ambush party opened fire. The other five Volunteers had not got into proper ambush positions. The R.I.C. returned the fire immediately. Two other Volunteers on their way to join their comrades, hearing the rifle fire, jumped across a ditch and from there joined in the attack. All of the ambush party were armed with shotguns. All of the five R.I.C. were wounded and one of them fell out of the car. The band instruments also fell out. The wounded R.I.C. man was later picked up by a raiding party of Tans and R.I.C. from Kells. His R.I.C. cap is still held in the district as a souvenir.

Some days later, at a Battalion Council meeting held in a house near Virginia Road railway station, it was decided to attack an R.I.C. patrol which each evening patrolled a certain road for a distance of about a mile outside the town of Oldcastle. All preparations were made for the attack, which was to take place on a fixed night.

We had decided to carry out the attack from behind a stone wall on the road. We tried to get in touch with Tom Callan of Oldcastle Company but failed to contact him, so we postponed our attack for another night until we would contact him. Next day, Paddy McDonnell, Battalion I/O, informed us that the R.I.C. had actually taken up positions and lined the very walls from which we were to open the attack the night before. He told us that the R.I.C. were waiting for us and knew of our intentions. We decided not to proceed with the attack. Several other ambushes were laid at Whitegate, Rathbrack, Mahera and other places, but they never materialised because the R.I.C. always seemed to have fore knowledge of our plans.

Another Battalion Council meeting was held in Rahard in the month of March. It was attended by Seán Boylan and Seamus Finn. The discussion was on general organisation and the possibility of attacks on the enemy. At this period we had great difficulty in the Oldcastle area where we had only three active Volunteers; quite a number of the Volunteers in the area had been arrested and interned. Coming from this meeting we met Paddy McDonnell, who told Seán Boylan that each I.R.A. man in the area was known to the R.I.C. and that they were about to launch a round-up.

Next day, McDonnell's house was raided. He was shot dead in trying to escape. A number of maps showing the location of bridges in the area which we intended to blow up, were found by the R.I.C. on his body. I had given him those maps some days earlier. After the inquest he was buried with military honours in the Republican plot in Ballinlough graveyard beside Seamus Cogan. McDonnell was an ex-Maynooth student and was one of those sent home during the conscription crisis.

Around the end of March, David Smith, Battalion O/C, told me that a wooden box containing a consignment of arms was due to arrive at Virginia Road railway station and that the box was consigned to a man named Laurence Lynch, a shopkeeper at Whitegate. He asked me to assist Lynch in removing it. I arranged with Lynch to meet him at 8.30 a.m. at the station when the store there would open. I met him as arranged, and collected the box. It contained six service rifles. They were concealed on Lynch's farm that morning and later distributed among the companies in the battalion area. We kept one.

At this period, cartridges and explosives, which often had to be concealed in stone walls throughout the battalion area, were becoming ineffective through damp. This applied to all companies in the area. Shotguns were often neglected and were not kept in working order. This could not be attributed to any fault of the men, as guns and cartridges could not be stored in any man's home at the time. Stonefield Company entrusted them to an aged man named Pat Wynne, who stored them in quantities of corn kiln-dried mill seed which proved very satisfactory. Wynne had been a Fenian and was a most careful man.

At a Battalion Council meeting held at Clounagrowney, Carnaross, in the home of Patrick and Seán Farrelly, which was attended by most of the battalion officers, it was decided to launch an attack on enemy forces while we still had some serviceable ammunition and explosives left. We knew that there was a quantity of electric wire in the 4th Battalion area capable of use in the explosion of mines, so we borrowed it and two rifles. We already had two home-made cement mines, 40 shotguns, five rifles and some five revolvers, as well as a quantity of cartridges, most of them buckshot.

The place selected was Sylvan Park, behind a wall surrounding Sylvan Park House which stood about 600 yards in off the road. It was midway between Kells and Crossakiel. The ground behind the wall was six feet higher than the road. There was a wide entrance gate to the house, which we tied with barbed wire.

On the evening previous to the attack, David Smith and I instructed Ben Daly to fill a donkey cart with turf, place the mines in the centre and to take them to an arranged spot convenient to the ambush site. We also instructed a number of Volunteers, including my younger brother, Thomas, who had been receiving instructions from Eamon Cullen on the making and laying of mines, to proceed to Sylvan Park early that evening, to sink the mines in the road at the prescribed distance. They did so and worked throughout the night until the job was finished.

The main ambush party arrived in twos and threes during the night and occupied a disused house nearby, as arranged. By morning all had arrived. The last man to arrive was a John Daly (who was not a Volunteer), armed with a shotgun. He had seen the Volunteers arriving across his fields and decided to come along and give a hand. His presence for the attack acted as a kind of tonic to the men. Seamus Finn, Brigade Adjutant, arrived during the night with the Stonefield men. He had only heard of the proposed ambush as our men were leaving for the job. David Smith was already in charge, so Seamus Finn did not assume command.

At 7 a.m. (it was the 1st April, 1921) we took over from the men who had been working all night on the mines, and told them that they could go home. Our men were then detailed for their various positions. Thirty-five shotgun

men were placed in extended formation behind the wall and at a safe distance from each mine. Four riflemen were placed at the main entrance gate - two on either side - commanding a good view of the road. Three other riflemen were placed behind a ditch on the other side of the road. The ditch, which ran more or less parallel to the road, was about two hundred yards from it. Those three men were Seán Keogh, Pat Tobin and Harry Lee. The leads from the two mines extended to the exploders placed behind this ditch also. Matt Tevlin and Pat Conway were in charge of the ~~detonators~~ *exploders*.

We were now all ready when an old man who lived locally came out to have a look around. We took him to the yard of Sylvan Park House, leaving two Volunteers on guard over him. Later two other persons arrived and were taken to the yard also. A postman, with his horse and van, was next to arrive. He was also taken to the yard with his horse, van and mails. We let others pass through, who did not appear to have observed anything unusual. Some men passed through, driving cattle. Other men on their way to work were also taken to the yard. As the crowd in the yard increased, we had to increase the guard over them. The day passed on and there was no sign of the military lorry we expected. We had expected it to pass at 10 or 11 a.m. At 2 p.m., Seamus Finn, David Smith, Charlie Connaty, Mat Tobin and myself had a consultation. We decided it would be better to withdraw and wait for another day. Matt Tobin called on a few of the men to collect picks and shovels to lift the mines. They had just done so when our scouts convenient to Ballalley Cross signalled the arrival of the enemy. The men working at the mines ran for cover. The shotgun and riflemen in positions, seeing that we were about to

withdraw, were not sufficiently on the alert. Most of them lay into their positions. A Crossley tender containing about ten R.I.C. and Tans drove into the ambushade. Those of the ambush party on the alert opened fire. They included a couple of the riflemen. The R.I.C. and Tans dropped to the floor of the tender and returned the fire. The tender continued on its way going strong. One Tan got a bullet through the body. None of our men were wounded.

When they had gone, Matt Tevlin, with the help of other Volunteers, removed and coiled up the leads, collected the exploders, and then the entire party withdrew across country, leaving the mines on the side of the road to be collected later. The tender which we attacked had come out in search of the postman and mails. It appears that the postmistress at Crossakiel had notified the post office at Kells that he had not arrived, with the result that the R.I.C. were notified.

Following the attack, widespread military and police activity took place. About ten Volunteers were arrested. The homes of ten others were also raided, but these managed to evade arrest and had to go "on the run". The arrested men were first taken to Kells, where they were placed in cells. While in the cells, someone - an informer - probably one of the men we had arrested on the morning of the ambush, had a look through the spyholes of the cells to see if he could identify any of the prisoners. They were later transferred to Kilmainham Jail, Dublin, and eventually to an internment camp. The military and police concentrated more on the Whitegate and Stonefield Company areas in their raids.

In the month of April and May, Meath Brigade was completely reorganised. The six battalions comprising the brigade were divided into four brigades and took in a couple of battalions previously in the Cavan Brigade. The four brigades, with five others, became the 1st Eastern Division. Our battalion, which was the old 5th, became the 2nd Battalion, No. 3 Brigade. We were one of six battalions comprising this brigade.

The Divisional Staff appointed were: Seán Boylan, our former Brigade O/C, became Divisional O/C; Seamus Finn, Adjutant; Seamus O'Higgins, Q/M, Eamon Cullen, Engineer, and Pat Clinton, I/O.

The 3rd Brigade Staff were: Patrick Farrelly, O/C; Seán Farrelly, Vice O/C; T.P. McKenna, I/O; Dick McKenna, Engineer; and Peter O'Reilly, Police.

The 2nd Battalion Staff were: Charlie Conaty, O/C; Michael Wynne, Vice O/C. I remained Adjutant, Bryan Daly remained Q/M. Matt Smith became I/O, and Matt Tevlin remained Engineer. The companies comprising the battalion remained as they were.

At the latter end of April, while working in my yard one day a young Volunteer named Mick Bennett approached me running fast. He was bleeding from the face. He said, "Come on, run, they are coming". I said, "Who"? He said, "The Tans". I went with him across the fields, proceeding towards Fartagh Crossroads. On the way he told me what had happened. He said two R.I.C. had arrived from Bailieboro on bicycles to serve a Grand Jury summons on his father. While the father was speaking to the two R.I.C., Mick left the house and called on Peter Smith. They got two revolvers and took cover behind a hedge near an

unoccupied cottage. As the two R.I.C. were returning, Mick and Peter Smith opened fire on them and missed. The R.I.C. dismounted and pursued them across country for over half a mile, after which they gave up the chase. Mick's face was torn as he pushed through a hedge.

There was great military activity in the month of May. All prominent Volunteers' homes were being raided. It was evident that the enemy had several agents in the district at the time. We got two very important letters from a young man named Jack Tuite, a post office clerk at Kells, which he had intercepted. They were directed to the authorities and had been sent from the Virginia Road or Stonefield district. The letters contained the names of all Volunteers in the Stonefield and Whitegate areas. We were unable to do anything about it. Details of the arrest, trial and execution of a spy named Bradley, executed in the Carnaross area, may be had from Matt Tevlin.

Early in June, the Carnaross Company decided to carry out an ambush at Drumbaragh on the border of the company area. They placed a mine in the road and placed their men at the back of a high wall overlooking the road. When a lorry load of military came along, the mine was exploded and the ambush party opened fire. As the military in the lorry replied to the fire, a second load of military followed. The ambush party withdrew across Sweetman's gardens in the direction of Kieran and Carnaross. Jack Lynch, a postman and one of the attacking party, was wounded in the retreat. An hour later, Matt Tevlin, who was in charge of the attack, took off his coat while in a field nearby and pretended to be counting cattle. He returned to the position and got into conversation with the military, who were still at the scene.

One morning about the latter end of June or early in July, a large-scale raid by military and R.I.C., under General Tudor, took place. The evening previous, Eamon Cullen had got off the train at Virginia Road station and proceeded to walk to Conaty's of Ballyhist, passing over a field known as Plunkett's field on the way. It was obvious that someone had conveyed the information to the authorities, who sent out a large force to capture him. Luckily he did not stay in the area that night. Conaty and Wynne were, however, in the vicinity of their homes at 2 a.m. next morning when the raid took place. They managed to evade arrest by getting into a swamp, from which they watched the raiding party all day. The raiding party took up vantage points at Ballgree, Ballyhist and on high hills commanding the entire district and on low hills commanding valleys. Those points had been marked on maps of the district by the sappers who surveyed the district in 1907 and 1908.

During the Truce I attended a training camp at Ballymacoll House, Dunboyne, another one at Bailieboro, and week-end camps in the battalion area.

Signed: _____

DATE:

26th August 1957

Witness:

John J. Daly.
(Investigator).

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 1.659