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**MILITARY SERVICE PENSIONS  
COLLECTION**

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**MA/MSPC/A/77 (1)**

**5<sup>th</sup> BATTALION  
DUBLIN BRIGADE**

**MILITARY ARCHIVES**

**IRELAND**

# Military Archives

2<sup>nd</sup> August 1939

A Chara,

I am directed by the Referee to refer to the record of activities of Nos. 2, 3 and 4 Companies, 5th Battalion, Dublin Brigade, recently submitted by you, and to state that the following observations arise from a perusal of these records :

No. 2 Company: (a) Armed street patrols in battalion area, February 1921 to Truce - The list of names given apparently includes all the men who took part in the patrols during the above period; a description should be given of the engagement at North Frederick Street on 18th March 1921, furnishing the names of the men from the Battalion who participated. The parts taken by the men on the list should be described.

(b) Second and third attacks on troop train at Killester - 5th and 25th June 1921, respectively - A description of each of the attacks should be given and particulars of the parts taken by the men on the lists should also be supplied.

No. 3 Company: (c) Disarming British Officer in North King Street, December 1920. Ambush at Holles St. 1921; Raid on steamer at Ringsend, February 1921; Raid on Castle Agent at Cuffe St. 1921 - A full description of these operations should be supplied and the parts taken by the men on the lists indicated.

No. 4 Company: (d) Kilmashogue, September 1920 - If this operation was important a proper description is essential. The parts taken by the men on the list should be indicated.

(e) Pilot engine taken to remove signal material etc. from Kingsbridge - May 1921. Troop train, Drumcondra, May 1921; Troop train, Killester, June 1921 - Full particulars of these operations should be supplied and the parts taken by the men on the lists described.

(f) Custom House operation - This operation is shown by the three companies but no indication is given as to the parts taken by the men on the lists; on all Company lists where this operation is mentioned the parts taken by the men should be *stated*.

I am, accordingly, to request that you will be good enough to arrange for the submission of the required particulars at your earliest convenience.

Mise, le meas,

Mr. Liam O'Doherty,  
American Chambers,  
14/15, Lr. O'Connell St.,  
DUBLIN.

RÚNAÍDHE

A77(1) / 1

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DUBLIN.

*Griffith*  
*19/7/39*

18th July, 1939.

The Secretary,  
Military Service Pensions Board,  
Griffith Barracks,  
D U B L I N.

PS.M.  
OFTNG AN B... 1934  
A.S.  
D... 1939

A Chara,

In accordance with your request I enclose list of operations carried out by Numbers 2, 3 and 4 Companies of the V. Battalion, together with the names of the men engaged on such operations.

I have not yet compiled particulars of No. 1 Coy., but when available I will forward the information to you.

Is mise, le meas,

*Wm O'Doherty*

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

A77(1)/2

NO. 2, COMPANY 5th. BATTALION (ENGINEERS).

LIST OF OPERATIONS, AND MEN TAKING PART IN SAME.

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Volunteer Convention Nov. 1919.

Armed Guard at Front entrance:- E. Whelan, J. Byrne, P. Purfield.  
Delegates to Convention:- T. Keegan, (Captain G. Houlihan being away).

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1919. Armed Guard for other Companies at Parnell Square. April to Nov.  
P. Purfield (in charge) F. Kelly, C. Farrelly, J. Saunders, J. Murphy.

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Suppression of "Irish Independent" 21st Dec. 1919.

G. Houlihan (in charge) T. Keegan, J. Cripps, J. Murphy, L. Whelan.  
M. Slater paraded but was not sent on job, J. Toomey excused.

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Armed raid on Aldborough House, 11th Sept. 1920.

Motor Lorry, Motor Cycles, and Tools seized. T. Keegan (in charge)  
L. O'Doherty, J. Plunkett, E. Whelan, J. Murphy, M. Kelly, M. Ford.  
J. Kenny, J. Kelly, S. J. O'Reilly, J. Byrne, P. O'Brien, L. Whelan.

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Experiment with 18lb. Shell at Glen-Dhue 12th Sept. 1920

T. Keegan (in charge), J. Cripps, J. Murphy, P. Purfield, E. Whelan, H. Tierney.  
P. O'Brien, L. O'Doherty, J. Byrne, L. Whelan, R. J. Sherlock, J. Fleming.

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Attempted release of Kevin Barry 31st Oct. 1920.

Armed Parade of Full Company.

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\* Armed Street Patrols in Battalion Area. Feb. 1921 to Truce.

T. Keegan, M. Kelly, P. Purfield, J. Murphy, J. Kelly, M. Whelan, H. Coughlan.  
J. Doyle, E. Whelan, R. J. Sherlock, J. Sherlock, J. Kenny, L. O'Regan M. Ford,  
R. O'Donoghue, J. Grace, M. Byrne, G. Walker S. O'Connor, P. O'Brien  
H. Tierney, J. Saunders, M. Slater, B. McLaughlin, L. Power, J. Duffy,  
P. Holohan, S. Bent, M. Rodgers, F. Kelly, W. Slater.  
(in contact with enemy 18-3-12. (ambush in North Frederick Street, No. 1 Co.)

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1st Attack on Troop-train at Killester, 20th March, 1921.

Explosives prepared and supplied by No. 2 Company and handed over to  
J. Plunkett, S. J. O'Reilly, J. Murphy, M. Kelly.

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Removal of Arms and Equipment from Company Dump (Keegan's Yard), and  
Q. Master's House, after Raid and arrest of Captain T. Keegan & J. Murphy  
25th, 26th March, 1921.

P. Purfield (In charge) M. Kelly, J. Byrne, T. O'Donoghue, E. Whelan, L. Whelan  
T. McGuinness, J. McCrann, J. Saunders, J. Duffy, J. Kelly, J. Doyle, H. Kenny.

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Destruction of Custom House 25th May, 1921.

H. Coughlan, P. O'Brien, M. Doody, H. Tierney, L. Power, J. Grace, A. Tuke.  
J. Nolan, T. McGuinness, P. Rossiter, J. Kenny, M. Brennan, J. Saunders, D. Rooney,  
P. Burke, L. Whelan, S. Bent, J. Murphy.

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\* 2nd Attack on Troop-Train at Killester 5th June, 1921.

S. J. O'Reilly (in charge) L. Whelan, R. J. Sherlock, T. McGuinness, J. McCrann,  
M. Brennan, J. Saunders, R. McLoughlin, J. Sherlock, J. Kenny.

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\* 3rd Attack on Troop-Train at Killester 25th June, 1921.

H. Coughlan, E. Kelly, R. J. Sherlock, L. Whelan, T. McGuinness, P. Rositer,  
J. McCrann, J. Kelly, J. Doyle, J. Saunders, L. O'Doherty.

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\* additional particulars asked for.

NO.2, COMPANY,5th BATTALION.

SEIZURE OF POST OFFICE EQUIPMENT FOR BALDOYLE RACE-COURSE.

S. J. O'Reilly, E. Whelan, P. Purfield, J. Murphy, J. Kelly, J. Duffy,  
L. Whelan, J. Saunders, M. Lynch, R. J. Sherlock.

RAIDS ON G.S.RLY., NORTH WALL. (3-occasions).May-July,1921.

2, Enemy Motor Tenders and large quantity of Beer consigned to enemy  
destroyed.  
J. Coughlan, T. McGuinness, J. McCrann, M. Doody, J. Monaghan, P. Rossiter,  
R. Macken.

FOOD SUPPLIES FOR AUXILIARIES DESTROYED AT SUMMERHILL, MAY, 1921.

R. J. Sherlock, J. Saunders, M. Brennan, M. Rodgers, L. O'Brien.

SEIZURE OF MOTOR-CAR AND TOOLS AT DUBLIN DOCKYARD, MAY 1921.

H. Coughlan, J. Murphy, T. McGuinness, J. Byrne, P. O'Brien, T. Garrett,  
J. McCann.

SURVEYING ROAD, AND ASSISTING IN LAYING OF LAND-MINES AT LOWER LUCAN  
ROAD, 31st. MAY, 1921.

P. Purfield, (J. Daly in charge of No. 4, Company).

DESTRUCTION OF DOLLYMOUNT COAST-GUARD'S STATION. 25th. JUNE, 1921.

P. Purfield (in charge). L. Whelan, H. Coughlan, M. Lynch, T. McGuinness,  
P. Rossiter, R. McLoughlin, J. McCrann, J. McGowan, A. O'Grady,  
M. Rodgers, J. Malcolmson, J. Saunders, J. Monaghan.

RAID ON G.N.RLY., SEIZURE OF WIRELESS APPARATUS CONSIGNED TO BELFAST.

June 1921. H. Coughlan, J. McCrann, M. Doody, T. McGuinness.

RAID ON WALLACE'S YARD, EMPRESS PLACE, SEIZURE OF ARMS 9th JULY, 1921.

R. J. Sherlock, F. Kelly, L. Whelan, M. Brennan, J. Saunders.

"FLYING IDLERS" INTELLIGENCE WORK, BELFAST BOYCOTT WORK ETC.

J. Byrne, J. Saunders, H. Tierney, P. O'Brien, S. Bent, L. Power,  
M. Brennan, J. Kenny. (Acting under orders from Battalion Adjutant,  
L. O'Doherty)

ATTEMPT TO AMBUSH R.I.C. PATROL AT PORTMARNOCK.

SATURDAY BEFORE TRUCE.

L. Whelan, J. Saunders, G. O'Reilly, E. Whelan, A. Tuke, M. Brennan,  
J. Kelly, R. McLoughlin, G. Walker, L. Power, C. McCarthy, R. J. Sherlock.  
(this operation was called-off at last moment)

RAID ON MESSRS. EDISWAN, BRUNSWICK STREET, ELECTRICAL  
EQUIPMENT SEIZED. 18th March, 1921.

J. Murphy, T. Garrett, J. Duffy.

NO.2, COMPANY, 5th. BATTALION.

RAID FOR TOOLS AT EX-SERVICE MEN'S HOUSING SCHEME, KILLESTER,  
FEB, 1920.

R.J. Sherlock and others.

SEIZURE OF MOTOR-CARS AT MESSRS. EVAN'S, MARY'S ABBEY.

J. Byrne, J. Murphy, J. Garrett.

ARMED PARADE TO SMITHFIELD, 30th APRIL, 1922.

E. Kelly (in charge), P. Purfield, L. Whelan, M. Forde, L. Noble,  
J. Saunders, C. McCarthy, H. Sexton, L. Fogarty, J. Kelly, J. Doyle,  
E. Farrell, J. Grace, G. O'Reilly.

DESTRUCTION OF WHISKEY AT CUSTOM HOUSE BONDED STORES, 7th April, 1922.

C. McCarthy, J. Saunders, L. Whelan, E. Farrell, P. Rossiter, T. Wall.

SEIZURE OF TOOLS AT PARNELL STREET, MAY, 1922.

P. O'Brien, L. Power and others.

ATTEMPTED ATTACK ON TROOP-TRAIN AT JONES' ROAD  
JUNE, 1921.

E. Whelan in charge of men provided by No.1 Company and A.S.U.

Armed raid on house of suspect at Clonliffe Avenue.

S.J. O'Reilly, E. Whelan, L. Whelan, J. Murphy.

Company Dump at rere of Gardiner's Place, was used for storing Goods siezed by Belfast Boycott Committee.

Company provided men for Munitions, Intelligence, Signals, Labour Bureau, Blefast Boycott, etc. etc.

Attempted Ambush by R.I.C. and enemy Military, when members of Company were proceeding from Camp at Edmondstown to Pine Forrest. Detour made, and Bridge built over river in Guinness Estate. Present of this occasion, T. McMahon (in charge), J. Cripps, P. Purfield, T. Keegan, R.J. Sherlock, D. O'Connor, A. Hyland (No.4 Coy), J. Murphy, J. Byrne, F. Kelly, E. Kelly, and others.

SURVEYING OF BRIDGES, CRANES, CABLES ETC. at NORTH WALL, 1920.

G. Houlihan (in charge) E. Whelan, J. Byrne, P. Purfield, J. Murphy, J. O'Brien and others.

OPERATIONS OF NO. 3 COMPANY.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>NAMES OF MEN ENGAGED-REMARKS.</u>
Whit 1918	Forced march to Coronation Plantation with tools and explosives, Cyclists with explosives arrested.	J. Ryan, D. Hannon, H. Kenny, J. Timmons, P. Brady, J. Croker, P. Mullins, Kit Mullins (arrested).
April 1918	General training in explosives) and Demolitions.	Coy. at this time attached to 3rd Bat.
Jan. 1919	Raids for Shotguns on Lauder, Dentist, Harold's Cross.	T. Atkins, T. Byrne, J. H. Doyle
1919	Maynooth Twon Hall blown up	J. Ryan, S. J. O'Reilly.
April do	(by order of Rory O'Connor) Raid for Arms, Leeson Street	A. Doyle, J. O'Brien.
Dec. 21	Raid on "Independent" Office	J. Ryan, P. Larkin, T. Bryan, D. McArt, M. McEvoy, H. Kenny, T. Byrne, T. McEvoy.
1920	Raid on D. & S. E. Ry. for rails.	J. Ryan, P. Mullins, D. Coates etc.
Aug. 12th	Dismantling fake mines in Stepside Bks.  Firing of Stepside Barracks.	J. Ryan & J. Plunkett  M. McEvoy, J. Ryan, H. Kenny, J. O'Hara, S. J. O'Reilly, T. Bryan, M. Kellegher, D. O'Driscoll, T. McEvoy, J. J. O'Nes, T. Duffy, A. Doyle, J. Daly, J. Kiernan, T. Barry, J. Greene, P. Kavanagh, J. Christie, P. McLoughlin, J. Tully, L. Broe, L. Brennan, P. Drennan, P. McEvoy, T. Treacy, B. Short, M. Duggan, P. Mullins, D. Coates, J. H. Doyle, Sean Burke, J. Grimes, G. Hampton, D. Hannon, P. Byrne, G. Brogan.
19. Sept.	Ambush by Auxies at Killmashogue	Gen. Batt. Parade - Arrested - T. O'Keefe, A. Doyle, S. Ledwidge, L. McLoughlin, J. Grimes, P. McEvoy, H. Larkin, W. McGrath, E. Kirwin, J. Ryan.
do	Removal of Coy's dump to 'Plunketts' Fitzwilliam Street.	T. Byrne, J. O'Brien, J. Kelly, T. Treacy.
Dec.	* Disarming British Officer in North King St. Start of armed Patrols - one Section each night, 3 nights per week	D. O'Driscoll. i/c Coy. Captain, 1st, and 2nd Lieutenant.
1920	Raid for Arms on Fletcher & Phillipsons Raid on Dalkey Castle. Removal of P. McGrath's dump from Aungier Street Raid on University Church for Mauser rifle Raid in Clonliffe Rd. for arms Removal of dump from T. Bryan's Henrietta St. to J. Ryans. Raid on Stephens, Aston Quay.  Attempt to Ambush Gen. Tudor at Dublin Castle	A. Doyle, T. Treacy. H. Kenny, P. Larkin, T. McEvoy. ..... T. McLoughlin, J. Dunne. H. Kenny, J. Tully, J. Grimes, J. Tully, T. Bryan. J. Grimes, T. Byrne. J. Tully, J. Dunne, D. Hannon, P. Larkin. L. Roche, T. McGuire, P. Drennan, H. Kenny, P. Larkin, G. Hampton, L. Brennan etc.

\* additional particulars asked for.

## OPERATIONS OF NO.3 COY. CONTD.

DATE.	OPERATION	NAMES OF MEN ENGAGED-REMARKS.
1921	* Ambush at Holles Street	A. Byrne, P. Larkin, L. May, J. Tully, T. Byrne, T. McEvoy, B. Short.
Feb.	* Raid on Steamer at Ringsend.	G. Hampton, P. Larkin, J. Ahern, J. Bowes.
May	Burning of Custom House.	J. O'Hara, J. Tully, T. Byrne, J. Jones, J. Dunne.
	Laying of Mines at Palmerston (Sean McKeown's rescue)	J. O'Hara, P. Mullins, P. Drennan, Sean Condron, L. Moy, L. Roche.
June	Destruction of tyres etc. (Boycott) at Sth William St.	J. O'Hara, J. Gahan, J. Tully, E. Byrne J. Jones, T. Duffy (incharge).
1921	* Raid on Castle Agent, Cuffe St.	J. Kiernan, T. Tomkins, B. O'Driscoll J. Grimes
July 10th.	Raid for Arms, Barrow St.	J. Kiernan, J. Greene, D. O'Driscoll, E. Flynn.
Truce.	Raid on Mulholland's Rope Factory.	T. Barry.
1921	Raid on Pauls, Aungier St. for Tools	J. O'Hara, J. Jones, T. Byrne.
	* Raid on Robinsdns, Sth King St. (Batteries)	J. O'Hara, J. Jones, T. Byrne.
	Raid on B.T.H., Trinity St. for Cables & Batteries	J. O'Hara, J. Tully, J. Jones, T. Byrne.
	Raid on Morgan Mooney's for Tools	P. Larkin, J. Tully, J. Hanlon, S. O'Connor, J. Bowe, J. O'Brien & J. Byrne.
	Raid on Gas Works for Tools	T. Duffy, T. Treacy, S. O'Connor, P. McEvoy, B. Higgins, P. O'Reilly & J. Bowe.
	do, Paul & Vincents.	J. Tully, J. Bowe, S. O'Connor, J. Ahearn
	do Tramsheds, Earl Place	S. O'Connor, J. Ahearn, E. Byrne.
1922	Raid on Merchant's Warehouse for Military Equipment.	J. Ryan, C. Doyle, J. O'Brien, A. Doyle F. Lawlor, M. Kellegher, H. Corri, M. Confrey, T. Barry..
	Destruction of 500000 gals. Dunville's Whiskey at Custom House	J. Ryan, J. O'Hara, H. Kenny & full Company.
April	Raid on Broadstone Rly. for Oxo- acetylene plant.	J. Ryan, J. O'Hara, T. McGuire, T. McEvoy, J. Kiernan, P. Kavanagh, J. M. Buckley, J. Flanagan, M. Kellegher, D. O'Driscoll, E. Flynn, J. Lynch, J. Murray, A. Doyle, T. Irwin etc.
do	Fortifying Four Courts, mining entrances etc. Also at Masonic Hall and Kildare St. Club.	Full Company.
	Raid on Watts' for Oxo-acetylene Plant.	J. Ryan.
	Do. Parkes', Booths' for tools for B.Q.M.4 Cts.	J. Ryan.
	Do Archer's Kevin St. for Cement, sand etc.	J. Ryan.
28/6/22.	Civil War-York St. Club, All Co. in Moran's Hotel. Pawn Office & Reilly's Pub and Hammam Hotel.	J. Ryan, T. Treacy, S. O'Connor, T. Barry, M. Buckley, F. Lawlor, E. Flynn, J. Hyland No.4, J. Cullen T. Byrne, C. Doyle, M. Duffy, C. O'Driscoll. (L. O'Doherty, D. O'Donoghue, M. Ford & J. Ryan arrested on leaving the Hammam.
July.	Burning of Signal Cabin and Creosote Plant at Liffey Junction	T. McEvoy, T. McGuire, T. Treacy, J. Greene, T. Byrne, T. Irwin & Others.

\* additional particulars required.

OPERATIONS OF NO.3 CO. CONTINUED.

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>OPERATION.</u>	<u>NAMES OF MEN ENGAGED-REMARKS</u>
August	Attempt on Bridges.	J. O'Hara, i/c, T. McEvoy, 1st Lt. T. McGuire 2nd.
September	Derailing of trains at Killester.	T. Treacy.
Do,	Attempt on Rialto Bge.	T. McGuire, T. Treacy & about 4 Others.
October,	Blowing up of Oriel Hse. Inchicore-premature explosion of mine	T. McGuire, J. Greene, P. Irwin etc. T. McGuire, P. Egan and two others killed.

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NO. 4, COY. 5th BATT.

JUNIOR OFFICERS  
N.C.O's AND  
MEN.

DATE.	ENGAGEMENT	SENIOR OFFICER	JUNIOR OFFICERS N.C.O's AND MEN.
12th MAY, 1920	R.I.C. Brk. Crumlin	P. Dunne	M. Kerr, J. Larkin, R. Eustace, F. Molloy.
" "	" " Rockbrook	P. Byrne	
" "	R.I.C. " Tallaght	S. McGlynn	A. Hyland, J. Molloy, M. Kerr, J. Browne, P. King, W. Dowling, C. Gunning, A. Hunt, G. Dowling, R. Eustace, J. Dillon, P. O'Sullivan P. Byrne, J. Phillips, P. McGrath, J. Gough, W. Downes, L. Hudson, T. Darey, J. McDermot, A. Aherne, J. Hynes.
Sept. 1920	* Kilmasogue	J. Ryan.	(T. Mulvaney, J. Murray, W. Downes, H. Larkin, A. Hyland, P. Dunne, J. Gargan (- Smyth, J. Murray, D. Byrne, J. Hickey, P. O'Sullivan, R. Eustace, J. Buckley, W. Walshe, J. Kinsella, J. Dowdall, D. Mulholland, P. Meade, C. Balwin, G. Dowling, R. Spadacinnia, L. McGrath, A. Behan, M. Kerr, J. Molloy, J. Dillon A. Woods, J. McDermot, L. Wilson, P. McGrath.
April, 1921	Telegraph Office Inchicore	W. Larkin	C. Gunning, J. Hynes, J. Gough.
" 1921	Telegraph Office Ballyboden, & Raid in District for Tools	P. Saunders)	J. Browne, J. Brennan J. Dowling, T. Donnelly, D. MacNeill.
" 1921	Tree Felling, Grange Road.	P. Saunders	J. Brennan, T. Donnelly, W. Lyons, D. MacNeill, T. Fox.
" 1921	Raid for Arms, Bluebell Dobells House & Waytes	P. Hickey	G. Goff, C. Gunning, J. Dowdall, J. Hynes.
May 1921	* Pilot Engine taken to remove Sig. Material etc. from Kingsbridge.	D. Holland	J. Gough, C. Gunning, P. Moore.
" "	Collecting Levy from Hostile Civil Servants Rathmines district.	J. Larkin.	J. Gough, D. Devane.
" 1921	Raid for Tools Kingsbridge & Inchicore	J. Larkin	P. Moore, D. Devane, J. Goff, C. Gunning, J. Hynes, J. Goff.
" 1921	Raid on D.B. & T.S.T. Co. for Tools	P. Saunders.	P. Byrne, J. Browne, T. Donnelly, W. Lyons, S. Fennelly, T. Fox, D. MacNeill.

NO. 4 Coy. 5th Batt.

DATE	ENGAGEMENT.	SENIOR OFFICER.	JUNIOR OFFICERS N.C.O.'s & Men.
May, 1921	Mine Laying, Lucan	J. Daly	J. Browne, S. Irwin, P. McGrath, P. Saunders.
" 1921	24 hours post duty on same	J. Daly	J. Brennan, D. MacNeill, P. Saunders.
" 1921	Removing same 7 days later.	D. Holland	C. Gunning, J. Gough, W. Holland, P. Saunders.
" 1921	* Troop Train Drumcondra	J. Daly	J. Browne, J. Gough, A. Hyland, L. Hudson. J. Larkin.
" 1921	Custom House	S. Irwin	-Doyle, P. Moore, J. Nolan, L. O'Neill, A. Woods.
May 1921	Raid on D.B.&T.S.T. Co. for Mails	D. Holland	P. Byrne, T. Doyle, J. Gough, D. MacNeill, P. Saunders. W. Holland.
June 1921	Mails Raid D.B.&T. over S.T.Co (10 days later)	J. Daly	J. Byrne, W. Lyons, T. Fox, D. MacNeill, P. Saunders.
" 1921	* Troop Train, Killester	J. Daly	J. Browne, S. Irwin, L. Hudson, T. Lee, D. MacNeill.
Aug. 1921	Training Camp	L. O'Doherty	
March 1922	Dunvilles Whiskey Raids	L. O'Doherty	Batt. job. Coy. O/C M. Kerr.
May, 1922	Raids on Parkes, Coombe per orders from Barrack Q/M Four Courts	J. Ryan	J. Browne, M. Kerr D. McNeill, D. Saunders.
June 28th to ) July 22nd. )	Moran's Hotel Garrisoned by Coy.	L. O'Doherty	Coy. O/C M. Kerr.
July 1922	Derailing D.T.&B. S.T.Co.	M. Kerr	T. Doyle, J. Browne, T. Donnelly, A. Hyland, T. Fox, J. Dowling, N. Kinsella, C. Keane, D. MacNeill, J. Walshe, P. Heade.
" 1922	Sallins Bridge (1st attempt)	J. Browne	-Lynch, Murray, J. Larkin, N. Kinsella, Hynes, P. Saunders, A. Hunt, P. Heade.

# Military Archives

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NO. 4, COY. 5th BATT.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ENGAGEMENT.</u>	<u>SENIOR OFFICER</u>	<u>JUNIOR OFFICERS N.C.O.'s &amp; MEN.</u>
July 1922	Sallins Bridge (2nd attempt)	J. Daly,	J. Browne, J. Larkin - Dunne, P. Saunders, A. Hunt, P. Heade.
" 1922	Ship Street Petrol Tanks	J. Browne	N. Kinsella, -Casey P. Ryan, A. Hunt.
Aug. 1922	Bridges. Pine Forest.	J. Browne	T. Fox, T. Donnelly, A. Hunt, S. Molloy, S. Hyland, A. Hyland P. Heade, J. Walsh, E. Kinsella, J. Masterson, J. Dillon, C. Keane H. McCormick, P. Ryan, J. Kenny.

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Activities 5<sup>th</sup> Batta Dublin Brigade

armed street patrols in Batta area. Feby 1921 to June.

List of names given which apparently includes men who took part in armed patrols during above period  
 Give description of engagement at North Frederick St on 18.3.21 with names of men from Batta who took part in it & setting out part took by men participating.

2<sup>nd</sup> Attack on troops train at Killester.

No description given of attack on troops train at Killester. 5<sup>th</sup> June 1921. Part took by men on list not described.

3<sup>rd</sup> Attack on troops train at Killester. 25.6.21.

No description of operation given. part played by men on list not stated.

Dec. 1920. Disarming British force in North King St.

Give an account of what happened.

1921. Ambush. at Hall's St Dublin.

a full description of the operation required.

Feby. Raid on Stearns at Rings End.

a more particulars of nature of operation required.

July. 10.?

Raid on Castle agent Bugee St Dublin.

more particulars required

Sept 1920. Kilmashogue.

If this operation was important a <sup>more</sup> description is essential.

May 1921. Pilot Engine taken etc

particulars of operation required.

Troops train Drumcondra.

Full particulars of operation required. & part <sup>taken</sup> played by men on list described.

Troops train at Killester. ditto.

on all bonus lists where the Custom House operation is mentioned. the part taken by men on the lists should be stated.

A.77

# Military Archives

2<sup>nd</sup> August 1939

A Chara,

I am directed by the Referee to refer to the record of activities of Nos. 2, 3 and 4 Companies, 5th Battalion, Dublin Brigade, recently submitted by you, and to state that the following observations arise from a perusal of these records :

No. 2 Company: (a) Armed street patrols in battalion area, February 1921 to Truce - The list of names given apparently includes all the men who took part in the patrols during the above period; a description should be given of the engagement at North Frederick Street on 18th March 1921, furnishing the names of the men from the Battalion who participated. The parts taken by the men on the list should be described.

(b) Second and third attacks on troop train at Killester - 5th and 25th June 1921, respectively - A description of each of the attacks should be given and particulars of the parts taken by the men on the lists should also be supplied.

No. 3 Company: (c) Disarming British Officer in North King Street, December 1920. Ambush at Holles St. 1921; Raid on steamer at Ringsend, February 1921; Raid on Castle Agent at Cuffe St. 1921 - A full description of these operations should be supplied and the parts taken by the men on the lists indicated.

No. 4 Company: (d) Kilmashogue, September 1920 - If this operation was important a proper description is essential. The parts taken by the men on the list should be indicated.  
(e) Pilot engine taken to remove signal material etc. from Kingsbridge - May 1921. Troop train? Drumecondra, May 1921; Troop train, Killester, June 1921 - Full particulars of these operations should be supplied and the parts taken by the men on the lists described.

(f) Custom House operation - This operation is shown by the three companies but no indication is given as to the parts taken by the men on the lists; on all Company lists where this operation is mentioned the parts taken by the men should be stated.

I am, accordingly, to request that you will be good enough to arrange for the submission of the required particulars at your earliest convenience.

Mise, le meas,

*E. J. Burke*

RÚNAIDHE

Mr. Liam O'Doherty,  
American Chambers,  
14/15, Lr. O'Connell St.,  
DUBLIN.

A77(1)/13

O'DOHERTY & CO.

(W. O'DOHERTY)

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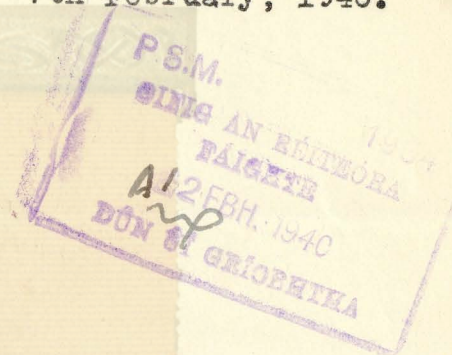
14-15 LOWER O'CONNELL STREET,

DUBLIN.

7th February, 1940.

The Secretary,  
Military Service Pensions Board,  
Griffith Barracks,  
South Circular Road,  
D U B L I N.

Your Ref. A 77.



Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 2nd August last asking for further information regarding activities of the V. Battalion, Dublin Brigade, I regret to have to inform you that I see no prospect of furnishing any more details of their activities.

The years when these operations occurred are too far away, and it would mean seeking details from each Section Commander. It is not possible now to get in touch with some of the lower ranks, as they have emigrated etc. many years ago.

Yours faithfully,

*W. O'Doherty*

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

AM(1)/14

Military Archives

Secretary,

Office of Referee.

The attached  
appears to be for  
you

A. O. Chasrajan  
Yi Rumarde  
M. S. R. M. d.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection  
10/2/40

~~Memo~~  
Seen by Rumarde who  
instructed that action  
be deferred pro tem.

J. P. H. 12/1/40



STATEMENTS OF LIAM O'DOHERTY, JAMES RYAN AND JOHN O'CONNOR  
BEFORE REFEREE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON 22nd JULY, 1940.

- Ref. Q Will you give me your names please?  
 A James Ryan, Liam O'Doherty and John O'Connor.
- M Q I got a letter from Mr. O'Doherty, the substance of which is that he wanted to draw my attention and the attention of the Board to the large number of rejection cases that had been issued and asking for an interview. I gladly availed of the opportunity to hear your views on the matter. This Committee has been working for some time; I have been here for nearly two years and rejection is no pleasant matter to any of us. I am sure you can appreciate and understand that we are tied and bound by statutes, and, if you can assist us ~~by~~ showing that we can interpret the statute in a different way to what we have been doing, we shall be only too glad. I would like to hear from you exactly what it is that you wish we should do and could do. I have looked up a list, - I think it is as correct as it is possible to get it - I have asked the Secretary to get me a list of the position of your Battn. and he tells me that the number of applications is 167, from the 5th Battn., Dublin, and the number of awards in that Battn. is 59 up to the present, and the number of rejection cases, (not final but initial rejection) is 73, which have been confirmed by me and sent out to the applicants. There are 30 more not finally dealt with, of that 167. You have 59 awards (granted pensions) out of the 167 and I have sent out rejections, to which, of course, the applicants can appeal and if he wishes to forward additional evidence, or if he has not been examined orally and desires to be examined, he can do so - to give every applicant a full opportunity of stating his case. That is the position. What is it that you wish to speak to us about?
- L.O'D. A We wish to thank you first for receiving this deputation. To begin with the figures given surprise me, the number of applicants, 167.
- Ref. Q It was only on Fri. that I asked the Secretary and he is not quite satisfied that the numbers are correct.
- L.O'D. A I would be inclined to think it would be well over 200 but I am not questioning the figures; it is only in relation to the number turned down, and the number getting pensions. What we feel about it is that this Board does not fully understand the position of the 5th Battn. as a unit of the I.R.A., and we want first to emphasise the point that the 5th Battn. had no counterpart in this country. It was a separate and distinct Battn. created by Hqrs. under the Director of Engineering, the late Rory O'Connor, with the sanction of the Dáil Cabinet. It was on a separate foundation having separate functions from any other unit of the I.R.A. As it was a separate unit, it had to have separate functions and the functions required special training. That special training took a tremendous amount of time. It was training in the use of explosives for demolition purposes, it meant going through the city and tracing cables, finding out what they were and all that sort of thing, and as I say this resulted in the men being on a completely separate basis from any other unit, having special training in the separate qualifications. As this training proceeded, there were two departments opened; these were the chemical department and the munitions department. The staffs of these departments were ~~main~~ men recruited from the engineering Battn., that is the 5th Battn. The reason was fairly obvious, that these men had separate qualifications as the result of their separate training in the 5th Battn. That brings us to the first point. The men of those units, the chemicals unit and the munitions unit, I understand were given pensions because of their special work, the men in the chemicals and munitions departments.



-2-

Ref. Q You say they have got pensions?

A Yes, because of their special conditions of employment and I want to emphasise that those men came from the 5th Battn. The second point is that, when it came to doing special work in England, the men who were asked to do that work, because of its special nature, were not the Infantry but the men of the 5th Battn. I mean the survey and demolition of docks and fires and that. At one period in the history of the 5th Battn., I decided without authority from anybody to use the 5th Battn. for Infantry work. It was only a very short time until the actual ambush occurred in North Frederick St. and in that ambush one man was killed and several wounded. I did that completely on my own. There was one man killed and several wounded, and there was a tremendous row immediately that happened. Rory O'Connor wanted to know who authorised the going of those men on Infantry work; and generally Hqrs. and the Dáil Cabinet wanted to know why this happened. It was my sole responsibility and I was told that never again should that happen. I was simply putting men on Infantry work which the Infantry men should carry out, while these men with their special qualifications and special training were not to be utilised for that work, and it was pointed out at that time that the idea of the 5th Battn. was that the war would probably develop into a war of demolition and that there would be wholesale demolition, that was engineering work purely and simply, and the men were to be called up from time to time to be utilised in the various jobs which were purely engineering, as auxiliary to the Infantry Unit, when jobs were being carried out. Now, our main objection to the decisions of the Pensions Board is the attitude of the Board towards the 5th Battn. We felt and feel that they do not realise the separate and distinct status of the 5th Battn. Take for example the Customs House job for one thing. All our men connected with the Custom House job received pensions because they were in the Custom House job. Their actual part in that job was the same as their part in any other job that would be carried out in connection with the Infantry, that was the dislocation of cables and that. We went to do this work; 1 o'clock or five minutes past one was the time the Infantry entered the Custom House; we destroyed the cables and isolated the Custom House. The men got pensions. Why? Because the Auxiliaries came along at 1.20 and fired on the crowd at the Custom House and it developed into a battle; but I could not conceive that the Engineers could be under fire on that occasion unless they were hanging about after they had finished their job. The standards as applied to the Infantry were applied to the engineers and that is the main grievance that we have to make;— that the same standards were applied to the engineers as applied to the Infantry men, although the Dáil Cabinet had established through Rory O'Connor the functions of the 5th Battn.; and that when a break occurred the Dáil Cabinet enforced their viewpoint, and now another standard is set up by this Board.

AMcD

P.T.O.

Continuing.



- 1 -

Mr. O'Doherty : I do not want any member of the Board to think that I am making any set whatsoever on any Board or former Board of this Board but you had, say, two people representing two Departments - Finance and Defence - and that my experience of another Board has been that a Finance man comes along and if he is there for any purpose he is there for cutting down expenditure. Say there is a number in the Engineers, this follows and accounts for the standard set up - a number for cutting out say 30.

Judge : I would like to support you, Mr. O'Doherty, but it is my duty as Referee who has sat here on this Board from the beginning dealing with important decisions, to say clearly and honestly that the men representing the Departments have been as fair as it is possible for men to be and I was more than glad because I am afraid we who have no connection with the work of civil servants - I am afraid there is a disposition on our part to gain experience of them when they come in to represent a particular Department. They come in here and listen to the working and the discussions we have. I am satisfied that their first duty is to see that justice is done, that the Act is fairly interpreted. They are not here to cut down expenses or prevent pensions being given. If there is a suspicion that they were, I am satisfied that they were not and their action here gives the lie to it. They do their duty and see that the Act is properly interpreted and see if the claimant comes in within the Statute. They are satisfied to give the fullest consideration to the applicant; so I think you can be assured on that.

Mr. O'Doherty : I am not saying that so-and-so carried out that - why we referred it to you, Sir, is that you were the final person - I look upon your position - I may be wrong - as a Judge that both sides come along and make their claims as strongly as possible. Then you decide.

Judge : That is my function.

Mr. O'Doherty : From that point of view I could not see any other function. I must say, from my own experience, when a man is inclined if there were a number of men on one job say 20 or 30 - he will be thinking "we will have to cut this down, there are too many - we will have to work down to an average of, say, 5."

Judge : I definitely state - You see my Committee. They do the general work. I get each case afterwards. If there is a difficulty I am there to deal with the smallest point. If, to my mind, it comes within the Act I send it back to the Committee. There is no question of 20 or 30. We get every applicant who is within the interpretation of the Statute. I do not think we are too strict.

Mr. O'Doherty : In any case I think that is all I have to say of the main complaint. I want to repeat that we have been judged on the same standard as would apply to the Infantry, while at the beginning when this Pension Board first came into existence we got a sort of promise that the special status of the 5th Battalion would be taken into consideration when pensions were being allotted. Now we come to the final end which, we have been told at the start, that coming down to 79 or 75, was complete. We know those intimately and they carried out their functions at all times in accordance with what they were placed there for.

Judge : Could you tell me the figures? The figures I have may not be complete as I only got them this morning. In fact my Secretary tells me they are not complete - there was so little time. The total number is 167. There are 73 rejections. These are cases heard by the Committee and me and rejected by me and sent out to the applicants. I have been asked whether any of those are finally rejected. He tells me "No" that all these are entitled to appeal so that there is no case of your 5th Battalion finally rejected.

Mr. O'Doherty : That is what we want to avoid. They got their white form but if they could not bring further evidence they could not appeal.

Judge : I understand there are 73 rejections.

Mr. O'Doherty : I do not know whether there were rejections but the 73 was a list which was sent out recently and the Board is several years in existence.

Judge : If they were sent out and they did not appeal they are out of my hands. I cannot deal with them. I am assuming there are none. Kindly find out if there are any. These 73 - they must appeal. If they are open let them appeal and by all means send in any additional evidence and if they have not been heard let them come here and they will be heard because my Committee and I will take all that you have stated into careful consideration, but we want the evidence of each particular applicant. We must act individually not generally. That is the first point. You think there are more than 167. Would all these men be doing the particular work, training work?

Mr. O'Doherty : All would be in the 5th Battalion.

Judge : Did they spend all their time? What time?

Mr. O'Doherty : How do you mean? At night - they were there in one Battalion.

Judge : How long did that Battalion exist?

Mr. O'Doherty : 1919 to the end of the Civil War.

(Continuing.)

EF

# Military Service Pensions Collection



1.

- A. As a Battn. it was with certain exceptions attached to the Infantry before that.
- Q. Can you tell me Mr. O'Doherty, through the country, Belfast, Cork, Derry, or any of the other principal cities was there any other battn?
- A. No.
- Q. How was the work that your Battn. did done in these other places?
- A. Mr. Ryan, will be able to tell me you, of which he was one, and Mr. O'Connor, was sent down to train these men, sections, throughout the country. Any work that was done there was done by a set of men put aside. I do not know whether there was any special training or not in that work. For example they were brought up from time to time - you know the circumstances and position that time it was very difficult to bring them up from the country - to Dublin and given instruction.
- Q. Would that be correct that your Battn. acted as instructors, not alone in Dublin, but in other districts throughout the country?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You say there was no Battn. in Cork or Waterford, if we apply a rule here, and if other districts come before us and make a case similar to what you have made now, a like rule must apply?
- A. There was no Battn. of Engineers in any other place in Ireland except in Dublin?
- Q. There is a difference in organisation, in Dublin, it was possible to have a separate battn. of the Engineers. In the country it was not possible to have engineers in a separate unit, you had to have engineers trained with each area. A Coy. in the country would extend over a 5 mile radius. If you had in the Bdye. an engineer Battn. it might extend for a 20-30 mile radius; you could not apply the same method of organising as in a big City. It is only the difference in the centres?
- A. We do not like that line of argument; we do not want to penalise anybody. If that was pushed to a logical conclusion by making a stronger case for the 5th Battn. we are damaging every man throughout the country.
- Q. No. All I want to know is whatever rule we adopt must be universally applied. Say we had a battn. in Cork, with 50 men, the same rule would apply to them as to you?
- Q. If you take the ordinary engineer training as qualifying service for a particular applicant, you would have to apply it to the Engineers in the country as well as to the Dublin Engineers?
- A. You would if they were whole time engineers.
- Q. They were as much whole time engineers in the country?
- A. What I mean by that was a military engineer, if that was his function and nothing else, which it was in the case of the 5th Battn. If a man was doing Infantry work on Monday, and called out as engineer on Tuesday...
- Q. As far as our division at home was concerned, we had properly trained engineers in our Coy. We had a Battn. Engineer, we had a section leader working in the country, they got a lot of intensive training all along. I merely introduce this Mr. Doherty says unless any of the engineers in Dublin that were heard would have to come under fire to qualify ..... and men from other parts of the country .... that is my summing up of it?
- A. What I think is the standards we apply to engineers, we are concerned only with the 5th Battn. the standard applied to them was exactly applied to infantry.
- Q. We have no standards for either infantry or engineers. You



2.

- Q. said a man would have to be firing or come under fire to get a pension?
- A. I am taking the general standard, I am taking what we on the Brigade Council have been discussing from time to time, that is our own Brigade Council, what they have all been told more or less, unless a man was under fire he is not going to qualify. The principal point might be theoretically correct. We are dealing with men coming into us day after day.
- Q. You are only grousing with us over the 59 men who have got pensions?
- A. We are not coming here for to get a pension for a man who has already a pension.
- Q. Mr. O'Doherty, I think, it is well to understand in the beginning, as anyone can understand, you have to interpret the Statutes the work of active service, continuous active service, it is very simple in the case of a soldier to interpret if you find a man has been out and has been shooting, that is simple?
- A. Yes.
- Q. It required no brains to interpret that as active service. The Committee went on them and decided a number of cases, simple cases, but there are dozens of cases yet where that question does not arise that will come before the Committee and where we will have to consider active service in an entirely new light?
- A. I am glad to hear that because I am dealing with defects in human nature. What we were afraid of is this, some day the Board will simply disappear, we will be told it is too late.
- Q. So it will. If you take the 59 awards you are blaming us for not giving a pension to any man except those actually under fire. I think, if you examine these 59 awards, I do not think the whole 59 would not be doing infantry work that they were given pensions for, I think you will admit that there are some men actually included who were not in ambushes in that 59?
- A. I could not say.
- Q. Are you grousing because the mere fact of a man being a member of the battn. would be sufficient to qualify him in his service or is it to have each case individually?
- A. Each individual has got to make his case for the jobs he was doing. The standard applied to engineers ought not to apply to infantry. For instance if we take a man in the infantry his sole work is to go out and throw bombs. If an Engineer is out one Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday on Thursday, there is no use sending him out to put down mines to put in detonators or cut cables, he would be useless for that time, during the time he was receiving that training he would not be going out throwing bombs. If the same standard was applied he was deprived by the Dail and the Director of Engineers.
- Q. When the Battn. was recruited from what source did you get your men, were they trained men or men for training?
- A. In the sense that they were electricians and so forth.
- Q. They had qualifications?
- A. Yes. Military engineering is somewhat different.
- Q. You had the foundations to work on?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you give them training when they went in, training in military matters?
- A. Yes, of course.
- Q. Would you regard all these men as trained engineers on 11.7.'21?
- A. Exactly that is so.
- Q. Are you definite on that?
- A. Yes. These men were all graded up in Griffith Barracks,



3.

- A. after 20 years for training and lectures under a military engineer, a regular Capt. the other night at a lecture in Griffith Bks. and he has emphasised that time and again,.....
- ... the General commanding officer, he is only being used as a last resort when all the other men are wiped out, that he required special training.
- Q. In regard to special training what period do you estimate or what period did it actually cover to equip him for military engineering work?
- A. About 12 months.
- Q. After that time would he be a trained engineer?
- A. As a matter of fact it was about Feb. or March of the Truce 1921, was the year of these ambushes I am talking about occurred and the result of it was that the men were not that purpose, required training and in the meantime did all the practical work they could do whenever required, the Director of Engineers at that time did not think that they had got sufficient training.
- Q. As between the date you took them in as tradesmen, raw tradesmen, we will say and the date they are completely trained

(Continuing .....

MC.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

22/7/1940

/Continuation:



Q. (Contd) - Would they have been available if required, for engineering work, or would they have practice for engineering work? Taking an Electrician in on the 1st May and having him completed on 1st May following, taking that for one, would he be an effective man?

A. Yes, supposing he went on the job he would be under the supervision of men of the Forces(?). To make sure that the man in charge -

Q. In actual practice would they practice, would a man be sent to do a job while under training?

A. Yes.

Q. You say the training never ceased? I understand, but a man once in, as organised, he had to get used to it, admit(?) of activity, I suppose for first 6 weeks or so it would not be much?

A. We took him on and with the afflux of time he became perfect.

Q. After what period would you say he would be an effective man to you in relation to military training?

A. The man who would be in charge would be effective after 12 months and you will have to allow for failures. Regular Army give sometimes 6 months for Engineers and 3 months for military men. It is merely hard to stick to it. The regular Army men are all day long at training and these men only at night - There is one other thing too as far as the question of men doing ordinary engineering(?) work. In the formation of this particular unit they were picked between the men for this Unit and in doing so they were apparently just men who were in - and had their hearts and souls in the matter.... Were they not selected for the formation of this particular unit, it is highly probable these men would have been on every engineering(?) job which occurred on the Unit and probably they would have held commissions later which would clearly enhance their claims.

You asked the question whether men would be useful to go out on a particular job. In the Army it is the normal duty having such things as helpers, men who have just an elementary knowledge probably of the particular work, and even if a man is only in training for a short time he is at least suitable for any particular job so that even in short periods of training he is helping. And in connection with men who are out for any length of time, every night they would have some particular job on hands. It wasn't merely attending lectures twice weekly, but during the interim if there was a particular job of work to do, it would fall on those men. For instance by tracing of cables that were lead to England and to various parts of the country, and descriptions of various equipments(?) and traces of their runs(?) so that they could be collared immediately in the event of hostilities. Inspection of any particular bridge, take for instance, Tara Street Bridge, getting familiar with vulnerable points on the bridge and all other bridges. Various things all over the city. In fact the position was one from week end to week end.

Q. Would you not regard that as practical training?

A. Yes, in some training it was only practical training but with a view to a particular job.

Q. You would couple the two together? A. Yes.

Q. Now Mr. O'Doherty you have been very useful to us, at least to me, could you tell me how many of your Battalion were employed in the giving of instructions? I mean as specially trained men? teachers?

A. Do you mean the number?

A. There would be at least I would say 30. It would be down to the section commanded and the balance would be really instructors -- There would be in that balance men who were telegraphist or electricians, etc., if a private or other volunteer had any special knowledge he would be picked out to give lectures on that special knowledge.

Q. During the time from the beginning to the end of the civil war you state that these men that you had were giving lectures twice a week and were out at work at times, was that regular? /Cond.



- A. It was not. They may not do it every week, some weeks they would have lectures, other weeks, - work, observations.
- Q. The next thing the Committee would have to find out, instruction work simply without any following active work, on lectures, training for the Army - in addition to doing army work would these men have anything else outside the training?
- A. They went to whatever job from time to time, unless anything else, an engineering job were coming off. He had got at first to raid for tools if they had no tools, as we had no place to keep tools, in the Army, he had to get up a raid for tools and had to know what tools to get and all that. Meantime he wasn't going to go back to Dublin with a pick, as one would say, on his shoulder. It meant every time they had to raid for these things -
- Q. Could you tell me if there were 200 of your men in this particular Battn? I suppose you have a list of the men in the Battn?
- A. About 250 I think.
- Q. If we are to apply special training even, we must have an accurate list and a revised(?) list if we are to apply that special training to them?
- A. I have that. I make out you had about 250.
- Q. Would you say to this Committee and to me that every man who was a member of your battalion that because he was a member of that and continued so that he is entitled to a pension?

/Contd.....

MNiD.

# Military Service Pensions Collection

22nd July, 1940.

ROOM 7.

/Continuation.

- Q. .... simply because he was an Engineer does not say that he on that score alone ought get a pension?
- A. I distinguish between him and the man who say, who simply joined up and his form would show that, and say left after a month. You might possibly have claims from men who simply joined the 5th Batt. and received no training for example, and dropped out again.
- Q. Wipe them out?
- A. I have in mind now on that list of 73 that a good many men there who were not in the Custom House; who have been night after night receiving full training and have been always attending most enthusiastic members and would be the most valuable if the War had developed as a purely engineering war which Rory O'Connor visualised; that there is a possibility of those men being turned down because they had not been under fire or on a big job - that is in accordance with your standard; and these would be the men who would be most deserving.
- Q. You agree that a man who joined and only remained for a short time, that we need'nt consider him?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When was the Batt. established?
- A. 1919 I think.
- Q. Supposing a man attended only for a year and dropped out then. He had been receiving or giving training for a year out of 4 years: what would you say to him?
- A. I am saying a man who dropped out the years-
- Q. What would you regard as the most important years?
- Q. The years 1919, 1920 and 1921, and Civil War years. But if a man dropped out during the years of fighting I would look upon that man as a deserter.
- Q. And then I can follow that if a man who began with you and continued with you to the end as a member of your Batt; that whatever he did or if he did nothing active, that you would say he should get a pension?
- A. Yes, I say that.
- Q. I think that is clear?
- A. There is just another point Judge and that is again on the question of it being separately recruited. When it was separately recruited there was a definite number of men located to each Coy. Now take the Regular Army: the Unit is 250, whereas the unit for an Infantry Batt. is 874. The same to a certain extent is applied to the Engineers - that is the number of Engineers required was something smaller, or when the Unit began it was as a matter of fact intended to have 25 in a Coy., but several of our men like Lieuts. did not receive their rank because their Coys. were not the strength in accordance with the Infantry. Now you probably might utilise the Act - I don't know if it applies in these cases.
- Q. That is where I am blocked(??)?
- A. But they were turned down for rank because the Unit did'nt come up to the standard number.
- Q. We have to go by the Act?
- A. I have hoped to get out of that because once or twice I received communications from the Minister about various points, but it seems to be a vicious circle "I would do what I can but I am bound by the Referee" and then the Referee is bound by the Act. When you speak about Civil Servants you can't blame me if we get back to that vicious circle.
- Q. The Minister has nothing whatever to say to the administration of this Act. Nobody had the final responsibility but the unfortunate Referee and he is being taken to Court and being questioned and cross-examined - but that is his job and his is the final responsibility.
- Q. Now that Mr. O'Doherty is here I would like to point out what our opinion about the merits of an applicant from the 5th Batt- what you think we should qualify?

Referee: Mr. O'Doherty has given it.



He says that any man who joined at the beginning and remained to the end and got instructions, was continuous in his attendance at these times, that he is entitled to his pension. Q. But in justice to ourselves I think that the 5th Batt. feels that the Board is treating them harshly in comparison with fellows in Cork and Kerry and Tipperary. I don't think you would get a unit of.....

Q. We were not concerned with that; we were concerned that the standard that was applied to the Infantry ought not to be applied to the 5th Batt. because they are a different Unit.

Q. If we applied that standard to your unit we wouldn't qualify 20 of them on the fighting standard?

A. That is what I don't know. You say of the 59 a good number of those didn't do any fighting - that is a thing we don't know.

Q. I can find that out. Mr. Doherty; What about a man whose attendance at lectures and training and that sort of thing - if he was irregular; compare him with the man who was regular?

A. He generally fell away altogether.

Q. But supposing he stopped on?

A. What happened was that at the time if a man wasn't attending he was no good to us and he was fired out.

Q. But you probably had some whose attendances were better than others? A. Yes.

Q. Would you put those on the one like? You would probably have disagreement if you did?

A. What happened was that some fellows didn't turn up and they were fired out. There wouldn't be many of the men who remained during that time who were absent for any time worth talking about. A man might be absent one night, he would send an excuse and if he didn't he would be asked why, and if he persisted in doing the same thing another night and so on he would be no use to us and out he would go.

Q. Taking that practice the man who wasn't attending regularly and being fair - do you think that you had in fact 167 men who would attend regularly from beginning to the end.

That is a fair number, assuming that you had 200 at the beginning?

A. What I have in mind is the Black and Tan period. We had 600 during the Truce and it dropped down to about 400 during the Civil War. I am taking the worst period from our point of view. I think those records you have would probably be furnished by the Director or Organisation at that time and to my recollection it would probably would come to about 140 or round that, week after week, but there would be as you know a (?) that men who would attend on Tues. nights wouldn't attend on Thurs. nights, but there would be about 10, allowing for these exchanges.

MD.

/OVERLEAF.....

# Military Service Pensions Collection

ROOM 7. - Continuation.



- Mr. O'Doherty A. I think you have got these figures; they would be furnished by Headquarters.
- Referee Q. I was referring to the number given to me by applicants - seems to be a big number of men who would attend regularly?
- Mr. O'Doherty A. From time to time their forms would show that. We were getting men from the Fianna and other units and they would be coming on some months and we were losing men, for example in the munitions and chemicals. You went down to Cork for example - to Buttevant.
- Q. Who will be the verifying officers for these men when they are being heard?
- A. I have been up for the present.
- Q. When individual cases come the verifying officers will be able to assist us - whether the service was continuous and so forth?
- A. Yes.
- Mr. Robinson. Q. Would you distinguish between a man who was doing effective work; you have a case of a man who went to England and to Cork for instance - men who were giving their time. We have followed that point. *And* You seem to be anxious that every man who was receiving instructions and did nothing effective was to be on the same category.
- Referee. Q. You agree there must be distinctions?
- Mr. O'Doherty. A. I have sent in men who have been turned down who were there every night to my own personal knowledge - doing everything that was asked of them but unfortunately for themselves were not in the engagements. These have been turned down - the 73 men. The same standard should not be applied to the 5th Battalion as to others.
- Mr. McCoy. Q. We have a Brigade in Kerry turned down - they said they would not be allowed?
- Mr. O'Doherty. A. They said if they had been allowed to do the infantry work they would have been out every night in the week and would have qualified immediately - for example that man was not called and the other went.
- Referee. Q. This Kerry Brigade made the same case?
- Mr. O'Doherty. A. The fact that a lot of these men were in other units prior to being out into the Engineering - if they had been left alone there; if there was stuff for them there; they had stuff for the others.
- Referee. Q. Your case is simply that your body was specially set up by the Dail to do particular work?
- A. Yes.
- Mr. Moran. Q. Apart from the men who were in the Custom House that the merits of each man should be considered?
- A. Yes, rightly or wrongly.
- Mr. Moran. Q. You want apart from the Custom House burning that the merits of each case should be critically examined.
- Referee. Q. I am satisfied that since I came here the merits of each man's case were investigated fully; there is no doubt about that. The next point is the interpretation which will be applied; you say that in your particular case a different standard should be applied in your case?
- Mr. O'Doherty. A. Yes.
- Referee Q. When we heard each individual and when we and when we have his own evidence and it verified by a responsible officer we will then be able to apply these standards?
- A. Yes.



- Mr. Moran. Q. Mr. O'Doherty is going a little too far when he suggests everyone in the unit?
- Mr. O'D. A. I do not think so.
- Mr. Moran. Q. What I think you have been developing was that any pension awarded should not be confined to the Custom House?
- Mr. O'D. A. I used that as an instance; there were others like Kilmashogue.
- Referee. Q. With your claim, when you examine more closely, that has been done. That 59 men were not of the Custom House. You have put it clearly what you want us to do and we are most anxious that everyone should understand our difficulties and I hope you will go away with one difficulty cleared up that the civil servants are as human as anyone else. I think it should be assumed by the public that the work here is honest?
- Mr. O'D. A. I know when a man of 17 years' service got a terrible wrong but if he had five years' service it was not so hard to get him through.
- Referee. Q. That is out of it so far as we are concerned - our intentions are perfectly alright and we want to be just and the same applies to the two men from the Civil Service?
- Mr. O'D. A. I am sure of that but you are too long in public life not to know human nature.
- Referee. Q. I am not blaming you but I want to assure you that it is wrong?
- Mr. O'D. A. Yes.

Military Service  
Pensions Collection

A77(1)/24

# Military Archives

A. 77.

Rüquidie,

In this case records which do not give descriptions of engagements were received. We asked for details but Sde. Secy. states (Lr. 7/2/40) that no further information is available. The late Secy. (Mr. de Bureu) apparently insisted that the matter be deferred.

In view of the fact that some effort was made to furnish records, please say if records may be regarded as complete for session purposes, & if so, from what date.

JOB 87/4/41.

Mr. Dinn. Records may be regarded as complete. *Records may be regarded as complete. appno will be dealt with in detail.*