
**MILITARY SERVICE PENSIONS
COLLECTION**

MA/MSPC/A/36

**WEST CONNEMARA
BRIGADE**

**MILITARY ARCHIVES
IRELAND**

Major Operations carried out by Brigade 1921.

There were only 3 Major Operations carried out by the Brigade during 1921. viz:- Clifden 16.3.21. Screebe, 5.4.21. Mounterowen 25.4.21.

CLIFDEN. 16.3.21 After failing to contact a Patrol of 8 R.I.C. men who were on patrol in Clifden on the night of the 15th. March. 1921. the Column retired to an unoccupied house about a mile from Clifden. We again approached the town on the night of the 16th. and getting in touch with our Scouts on the outskirts of the town, we learned that a Patrol of four were on the Main St. - 2 R.I.C. & 2 Tans.

After discussion it was decided that 6 men should carry out the attack with small arms, the remainder of the Column being so disposed that they could bring fire to bear on the R.I.C. Barracks to prevent reinforcements coming out, and to cover the retreat of the attacking party.

The Plan of attack was :- The Party to walk through Market St. into Main St. 3 abreast; the leading 3 men 15 paces ahead of their comrades; when the leading 3 got past the Patrol, they were to turn about and get the Patrol between two fires.

This was successfully carried out, the Patrol being met on the Main St. about 100 yards from the Barracks. Only 2 men of the Patrol were met with as the other 2 had - we afterwards learned - gone into a Hotel a few minutes before our arrival.

The 2 Police were shot dead. 2 Webley revolvers & ammunition and 1, Lee Enfield rifle and 50 rds. of ammunition were captured. The attackers suffered no casualties.

Intensive fire was opened from the Barracks, as soon as the firing started on the street, this was immediately replied to by the Column, thus preventing any reinforcements coming out, and ensuring the safe return of the attacking party.

The following is the list of men taking part in this operation:-

ATTACKING PARTY.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| P.J. McDonnell. | Newcastle. Galway. |
| Gerald Bartley. | Clifden Co. Galway. |
| John Feehan. | Leenane. " |
| Rd. Joyce. | Clifden. " (Dealt with under 1924 Act). |
| Michael Joyce. | Glanagimla, Leenane, Co. Galway. |
| Peter Wallace. | Letterass. " " |

Covering Party.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| James King. | Donadea, Kilcock, Co. Kildare. |
| Michael Conroy. | U.S.A. |
| John C. King. | Leenane. now in U.S.A. |
| John King. | Roundstone. " " |
| Denis Keane. | Roundstone. Co. Galway. |
| Stephen Mannion. | " " |
| John Conneely. | " now in U.S.A. |
| Patrick Wallace. | Letterass Leenane. Co. Galway. |
| Padraic O'Maille. | Dublin. |
| Christie Breen. | " " |
| Thomas Madden. | Ballinaboy. Clifden. Co. Galway. |
| Laurence O'Toole. | Tullycross, Renvyle. " |
| Paul Bartley. | Bunowen Clifden. " |
| Thomas Coyne. | Glanagimla. Leenane. now in England. |
| John King. | Rossroe. Leenane Co. Galway. |

Clifden. Contd.

John Dundass. Roundstone. (Died in U.S.A.)
Wm. Conneely. Clifden. Dealt with under 1924 Act.
Martin Joyce. Clifden Co. Galway.

Scouts who gave information of Patrol, and joined in with party covering Barracks:-

John Gavin. East Northport. Long Island. N.Y. U.S.A.
Wm. Conneely. 1810. Lincoln Ave. E.E. Pittsburgh. P.A. H.S.A.
John Burke. 438. Lexington Ave. Brooklyn. N.Y. U.S.A.
James Whelan. Gortarunnagh. Clifden. Co. Galway.
Joseph Corbett. Derreen. " "

SCREEBE. 5.4.21.

On April 4th. 1921. the A.S.U. visited Screebe in the R Rosmuck area, to intercept a Patrol of R.I.C., which it was learned visited that area occasionally.

On the morning of the 5th. a local Scout reported that a Patrol of 5 Police had passed through from Maam to Camus. The Column was immediately mobilised and arrangements made to deal with them on their return.

The position was not by any means ideal for an ambush, but had to be availed of, as the patrol was sighted about 2 miles distant, cycling towards us in extended formation. One man leading, the second about 60 yards behind, and the other three about 100 yards in the rear.

The Column was placed in position, covering about 250 yards of the road, with instructions that fire was not to be opened except on a pre-arranged signal when the enemy were well within the ambush position.

Contrary to instructions, fire was opened by a member of the Column on the leading R.I.C. Sergt. while the three R.I.C. bringing up the rear were still outside the ambush position.

In the ensuing fight, 2 R.I.C. were wounded, - 1 in the ambush and one of the rearguard. Two revolvers & ammunition, & one rifle & ammunition, & 5. cycles were captured. The Column suffered no casualties.

Following is the list of men engaged in this operation:-

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| P.J. McDonnell. | Newcastle. | Galway. |
| Gerald Bartley. | Clifden. | Co. Galway. |
| John Feehan. | Leenane. | " |
| James King. | Donadea. | Kilcock. Co. Kildare. |
| Richard Joyce. | Clifden. | Co. Galway. |
| Peter Wallace. | Letterass. | Leenane. Co. Galway. |
| Patrick. Wallace. | " | " |
| John C. King. | Leenane. | (now in U.S.A.) |
| John King. | Roundstone. | (" ") |
| John. Conneely. | " | (" ") |
| Denis Keane, | Roundstone. | Co. Galway. |
| Stephen Mannion. | " | " |
| Michael Conroy. | " | (now in U.S.A.) |
| Thomas Madden. | Ballinaboy. | Clifden. Co. Galway. |
| Paul Bartley. | Bunowen. | Clifden. " |
| Thomas Coyne. | Glanagimla. | Leenane. (now in England) |
| Christie Breen. | Dublin. | |
| Padraic O'Maille. | " | |
| John Dundass. | Roundstone. | (deceased) |

SCREEBE. Contd.



3
OIBIS AN EILÉORA
TAIGETE
18 FBH. 1947

23295 ✓ John Faherty. Glanagimla. Leenane. Co. Galway.
19724 ✓ John Coyne, Anty. Glenanane. " "
13470 ✓ Charles O'Malley. Kilmilkin. Maam. "
14570 ✓ George Staunton. Fr.Griffin Road. Galway.
9078 ✓ J. O'Donnell. Rosmuck. (deceased)
4669 ✓ Patrick Geoghegan. Screebe. Rosmuck. Co. Galway.
✓ Colm O'Gaora. Rosmuck. "
✓ Patrick Nee. Gortmore. " "
✓ Joseph Conneely. Inver. " "

All the above were in the ambush position and took part in the engagement.

MOUNTEROWEN. 23.4.21.

After the Screebe Ambush information was received that a strong party of military and police were to raid the Maam Valley from Maam to Leenane. On the night of the 6.4.21. the Column took up position at Padraic O'Maille's house, Mounterowen, and decided to wait for and engage the raiding party.

At 3 a.m. on the 24.4.21. the Guard Commander reported that what looked like a party of men were observed approaching from the direction of Maam. The Column were immediately assembled, given instructions, and ordered to pre-arranged positions on the slopes around the house. By the time they were in position it was light enough to recognise the approaching men as R.I.C. There were 20 R.I.C. led by a District Inspector.

When the R.I.C. turned off the main road 300 yards away, to approach the house, fire was opened on them. They immediately took cover and replied, and a pitched battle ensued which lasted till approx. 4.30.p.m. when 13 lorries of reinforcements accompanied by an armoured car, under the personal command of Chief Commissioner Cruise, arrived.

The Column retreated in good order keeping up occasional fire and got safely away without suffering any casualties.

The R.I.C. had 3 casualties; one dead & two wounded.

Following is list of men actively engaged in this operation:-

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| P.J.McDonnell. | Newcastle. | Galway. |
| Gerald Bartley. | Clifden. | Co. Galway. |
| John Feehan. | Leenane. | " |
| James King. | Donadea, Kilcock, | Co. Kildare. |
| Richard Joyce. | Clifden. | Co. Galway. |
| Peter Wallace. | Letterass. | Leenane. Co, Galway. |
| Patrick Wallace. | " | " |
| John C.King. | Leenane. | (now in U.S.A.) |
| John King. | Roundstone. | (") |
| John Conneely. | " | (") |
| Denis Keane. | " | Co. Galway. |
| Stephen Mannion. | " | " |
| Michael Conroy. | " | (now in U.S.A.) |
| Thomas Madden. | Ballinaboy. | Clifden. Co. Galway. |
| Paul Bartley. | Bunowen. | " |
| Thomas Coyne. | Glanagimla. | Leenane. (now in England) |
| Christie Breen. | Dublin. | " |
| Padraic O'Maille. | " | " |
| Eamon O'Maille. | " | " |

MOUNTEROWEN. Contd.

John Dundass. Roundstone. (deceased).
William King. Tuam. Co. Galway.
Colm O'Gaora. Rosmuck. "
William Conneely. Clifden. " (dealt with under 1924 Act)

All the above took an active part in this engagement. After the fight was some hours in progress some men were detached, two of them to convey a sick man to a place of safety, and two of them to block the road between Leenane and Mounterowen.

Signed.

Spencer Donnell Capt.
Bde, O/C. W/Conn.

Gerald Bartley
O/C. No. 4. Btn.


Military Service
Pensions Collection

NOTE.—Open
by tearing
the label.
Re-use by
affixing
fresh label.

Military Archives
ÉIRE.

ÉIRE

NATIONAL ECONOMY FASTEN Envelope by gumming this Label across flap.
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Secretary
Office of Refr. 
Coláiste Baisnéir
Glasnevin
Dublin

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Military Service
Pensions Collection

West Connors
Brigade Activities.

An tUaidhe,

Submitted as to
whether activities hownath
furnished by Chairmen &
Vice Chairmen of Bde.
Co. may be accepted.

J. Concoran
26/2/42.

Gall & Co., Ltd., Dublin.

Thumai / At this stage I
think that it would be
expedient and serve
no useful purpose to
refer this matter for
further information or
signature

James
2.3.42

I OK [signature] 3/13
II Ch Connemara

Military Barracks,
Castlebar,
Co., Mayo.

6th February 1942.

Secretary,
Office Of Referee,
Colaiste Caeinlin,
Glasnevin,
Dublin.

PSM
CIVIC AN BRIGADRA
TAIGHTE
18 FEB 1942

ackd. [signature]

A, Chara,

I attach herewith short history of major engagements for
West Connemara Brigade.

The lists of men shown took active part in the engagements
under which their names appear.

It is not possible under present conditions to hold a meeting
of the Brigade Committee, hence these lists are signed by myself
and Gerald Bartley who are Chairman and vice-chairman of the
Brigade Committee.

Is Mise Le Meas.

P. McDonnell Captain.
(P. McDonnell.)

Military Service
Pensions Collection

A.36.

Military Archives

29 Sept., 1941.

A Chara,

I am directed by the Referee to refer to my letter dated 16th April, 1941, (copy enclosed) and to inquire if your Committee is now in a position to furnish the information requested therein.

I am to add that further consideration of this application has been deferred pending receipt of your reply.

ms

Mise, le meas,

me

RUNAIDHE.

Mr. P.J. Coyne,
5, Galway Road,
Cliftden,
Co. Galway.

Military Service
Pensions Collection

GQ/FS.

Military Archives

A. 36.

16 April, 1941.

A Chara,

I am directed by the Referee to refer to the activity records of the West Connemara Brigade, and to enclose in this connection copy of a Memorandum given to representatives of the Brigade at a conference in this Office on the 15th June 1939. Inter alia, this Memorandum indicates the reasons why records are required. Furthermore, the Referee gave an undertaking at this conference that the applications from the Brigades who furnished completed records would receive prior consideration, and final sessions would be arranged at which all outstanding applications from these Brigades would be finally dealt with.

I am, accordingly, to request the compilation, as far as possible, of records on the lines indicated on page 2 of the Memorandum, and their early submission to this Office, certified by at least three members of the Brigade Committee.

gra
Mise, le meas.

me.
RÚNAIDHE.

Mr. P. J. Coyne,
5, Galway Road,
Clifteden,
Co. Galway.

GQ/FS.

Military Service
Pensions Collection

Ms. B. 1. 1. 38
22/1/38

P.S.M.
OILTIG AN R.
FAIGHTLE
22EAM. 1938
DUN CI GHOSETHA

S. Galway Rd.
Clifden.
Co. Galway.
20. 1. 38

Achara,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 14th inst, together with copy of RO/342.

The Brigade Committee will meet early next week, when I hope the matter will be completed

Yours a man

R. Byrne
Hon Sec

To the Secretary
Pensions Board
Griffith Barracks
Dublin

W. Greer 27/4/37 W. Greer 27/4/37



5. Galway Rd.

Clifden.

Co Galway.

26th April 37.

Re R O/342.

A Chara

I beg to acknowledge
the receipt of the above dated 23rd April.

And I beg to say that this Committee
will have ~~same~~ attended as early
as possible.

Yours, &c meas

P J Byrne.

Don. Sec

West Connaught Bldg

To The Secretary
Office of the Referee.
Griffith Barracks,
South Circular Rd.
Dublin.

Uimhir Thagartha
(Reference No.)

R.O/342

OIFIG AN RÉITEÓRA,
(Office of the Referee),
BEAIRICÍ UÍ GRÍOBHTHA
(Griffith Barracks).
CUAR-BHÓTHAR THEAS,
(South Circular Road),
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.
(DUBLIN).

23 April 1937

PINSIÚINÍ SEIRBHÍSE MILEATA, 1934.
(Military Service Pensions Act, 1934).

A Chara,

I am directed by the Referee to refer to the applications which have been received from former members of West Connemara Bd I.R.A., and I am to request your Committee to be good enough to submit, at the earliest possible date, a certified statement showing - by Battalions - full particulars of the major operations carried out by each Battalion in the Brigade during each of the two qualifying periods: 1st April 1920 to 31st March 1921, and 1st April 1921 to 11th July 1921, and indicating :-

- (a) the name and nature of the operations;
- (b) the approximate dates on which they were carried out, and
- (c) the names and present addresses of the persons engaged in them.

If any delay is experienced in compiling the data requested at (c) I am to state that the particulars required at (a) and (b) should be submitted without delay when available, and the names and addresses of the persons engaged in the operations at the earliest possible subsequent date.

Mise, le meas,

Ed
RÚNAÍ

Mr. P. J. Byrne

Reminder is sent 10/30.