
**MILITARY SERVICE PENSIONS
COLLECTION**

MA/MSPC/A/71

FERMANAGH BRIGADE

**MILITARY ARCHIVES
IRELAND**

Military Archives

ACTIVITIES IN COUNTY FERMANAGH - 1920-21.

6th Period.

Lisbellaw Bks. burned - No fight.

Tempo Bks. raided and captured - 1 hour's fight. Attackers were also under fire from Orange Lodge. Arms and ammunition captured.

Enniskillen - planned ambush - called off after one hour.

June 1920 - Lisbellaw Ct. House burned. B/Specials turned out and there was some shooting.

Oct. '20 - Belleek Bks. captured by ruse - no shooting, but later raiders were attacked by a clergyman (armed) and B/Specials for half hour. One Vol. wounded.

7th Period.

Stand to every night for two weeks awaiting ambush.

3. 7. '21 - Lisbellaw ambush on police patrol - a wire-cutting party were discovered and there was an exchange of shots. Not an ambush at all.

Dycamore Ho.,
Fairhill Rd.,
Galway
26.7.42.

Tempo, Bellfield & Income Tax Stints

Germanagh Brigade Area

To: Capt. J. J. J.

I enclose records of the above stunts which are as complete as possible under conditions. Should you require any further information I will do my best to supply you with same.

I regret I couldn't get the enclosed to you sooner but I am only returning from exercises in the South & had no time to go into the matter whilst the lasted.

Dear with Dearness

Thomas Cox

Chm. Sect. Germanagh Men's Old I.R.A.
Association.

ROMA CORANCA
PAISTE
- 7 AUG 1942

CLÁRLANN NA DRAMMAIR
ANSEADAIR

P.S.M.

OLDIR AR PAISTE

10 AUG 1942

Military Service
Pensions Collection

FERMANAGH BRIGADE

REPORT FOR PURPOSES OF MILITARY SERVICE PENSIONS ACTS.

DISTINCTION OF INCOME TAX OFFICE ENNISKILLEN AND OF RECORDS HELD BY THE COLLECTORS OF TAXES. 14th MAY 1920.

In common presumably with all other units the Fermanagh Brigade received orders to destroy the above at the time of the general attack on these offices about April 1920. Comdt. Sheehan laid plans to have the job done at that time; but owing to the action or inaction of one volunteer officer (since deceased) nothing was done. Comdt. Sheehan himself was at an official conference in Dublin on the night the stunt was to take place - it was a fixed date for the whole of Ireland. There were about seven Collector's offices to be dealt with in addition to the central Income Tax Office in Townhall St., Enniskillen. The seven collectors were spread over a wide area embracing South Donegal, South Tyrone, North East Cavan, West Monaghan as well as Fermanagh. When the operation was carried out on 14th May 1920 the central office was under constant police guard and the Collectors' homes were to some extent at least on the watch because of the raids throughout the country a month earlier. On the previous occasion the failure was alleged to be due to difficulty in getting the petrol into the office. For the second attempt two tins of petrol was brought in and concealed in the central offices a week before the burning took place. Comdt. Sheehan and another Income Tax Official, Volunteer Robert Burns now attached to Dept. of Supplies Dublin actually brought in the petrol and kept it concealed in the attic.

About six volunteers of the Enniskillen Coy. acted as out-posts whilst Volunteers John Maguire, Anthony Maxwell, John Meehan and John Mason all of Enniskillen Coy. were picked to carry out the raid and do the burning. Comdt. Sheehan was on overtime duty alone in the office on the evening of the stunt. He arranged the chairs, tables and large books in readiness for sprinkling with the petrol. At about 9.15 p.m. when the police guard was being changed or otherwise not on the spot he admitted Volunteers Mason and Meehan to the premises, gave them the petrol tins and instructions. He then left the premises. Later Volunteers Maxwell and Duffy gained admittance to the premises. The actual burning was started about 12 p.m. The job was not a complete success as only the upper floor and contents was burned. The lower floor failed to catch fire. *as there was a chemists shop on the ground floor a complete burning at that late hour might have caused great destruction and loss of innocent life in the hotel and private houses adjoining as well as to the chemists family who resided on the premises.* Of the seven Collectors the records were destroyed in six cases. In one case - Collector W. West of Ballinamallon - Comdt. Sheehan called off the raid - as the result of representations made earlier by the Collector himself. The names of the Volunteers who carried out the raids on the Collectors' offices are not known. The four Volunteers concerned only very narrowly succeeded in getting out of the offices and there were no arrests subsequently. For a few months after the operation the Enniskillen Tax Office was given accommodation in the main Military Barracks. During this period the Military Authorities refused to allow Messrs. Sheehan and Burns to enter the barracks and they were, therefore, out of work for this period. In August 1920 when accommodation was found outside the barracks they were allowed to resume official duty. A sketch of the town shewing the office has already been handed in.

Certified as a true and correct statement to the best of our knowledge and belief.

<i>Sean Sheehan</i>	} Verifying Officers
<i>Thomas Austin Blackwell</i>	
<i>Thomas Best</i>	
<i>Sycamore & Co. Fairhill Rd. Coleraine</i>	

Fermanagh Brigade Committee

21 July 1942.

FERMANAGH BRIGADE

REPORT FOR PURPOSES OF MILITARY SERVICE PENSIONS ACT

CAPTURE OF BELLEEK POLICE BARRACKS - 5th SEPT., 1920.

The sketch plan already lodged with the Board together with the notes thereon gives a fairly complete account of this operation as far as the Fermanagh command is concerned.

Comdts. Carney & Sheehan laid the plans. As there were no friendly policemen in the Garrison the barracks had to be taken by storm or ruse. It was decided to adopt the latter plan. Three volunteers from Enniskillen Coy. - John Maguire, Patrick Cox and Joseph Smyth, since deceased - accompanied by Comdt. Carney proceeded to Belleek by boat and road - as noted on the sketch plan. Joseph Smyth who was an ex-British Soldier with a pronounced cockney accent was selected for disguise in a British Army Uniform (Inniskilling Fusilier). The Ballyshannon hospital ambulance was to be taken on a bogus call on Sunday morning at an hour when most of the garrison would be at Mass in Belleek. Smyth in uniform was to sit in the front of the Ambulance with the driver (McShea - Bundoran) - with Messrs. Carney, Maguire and Cox concealed in the back. Smyth would alight from the Ambulance at the barracks carrying a large Civil Service envelope (supplied by Comdt. Sheehan from Enniskillen Taxes Dept where he was employed). He would knock and endeavour to gain admission.

There was a delay of half an hour or more in the timing of the stunt but otherwise everything worked out as planned. When the Orderly opened the barrack door he reached for the service envelope presented by Smyth and was proceeding to open it when Comdt. Carney dived through the open door. In a few seconds the Garrison of 5 or 6 police were disarmed and taken out on the street.

To guard against the contingency of delay in securing the ambulance and getting the raiding party to the Barrack door a guard in charge of Volunteer T. Daly of Belleek was placed on the Catholic Church in Belleek with instructions to close all doors on the police and congregation if necessary. At the same time arrangements were made for a specially long sermon - through the help of the curate who was always very sympathetic and helpful to the cause. Because of the delay in starting the operation and in spite of the long sermon Volunteer Daly had to close the Church doors and keep the whole congregation and the police in the Church after the Mass had finished. For this action he was subsequently arrested and imprisoned.

After the capture of the barracks had been effected about 40 volunteers from Belleek and (?) Bundoran area appeared and proceeded to remove the arms and burn the barracks. The four Enniskillen Volunteers left immediately and made their way back to Enniskillen. Just as in the Tempo stunt only a small portion of the caputed arms were secured for the Fermanagh Area. The man who took out the ambulance to meet Comdt. Carney and Driver McShea was dismissed from his job - his name is not known.

At this time, 5th Sept. 1920 the Belleek Area was under the Fermanagh command. It was later attached to the 2nd Battalion 4th Brigade 1st Northern Division. Mention might be made of the fact that the work of burning the barracks after its capture was done by the Belleek Volunteers under Comdt. Sean Carty, Vice Comdt. P. McCauley, John J. Stephens and P. Flanagan - Battalion Officers. Stephens who had an excellent pre-truce record was subsequently arrested with the Republican forces in South Dublin and shot by the C.I.D. The proximity of the Military at Finner Camp rendered the burning operation a very dangerous one.

It may be relevant to add that for many years afterwards the late Comdt. Carney preserved a special personal letter of commendation received from the late Genl. Collins for the manner in which this operation was planned and executed.

Certified correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

FERMANAGH BRIGADE

Seán McShea

1 Kneave Ave., Sligo

Thomas Cox

Lycamore Hb. Fairhill Rd. Dalway

Verifying

Officers

Fermanagh Brigade Committee 21 July 1942.

There was a delay of half an hour or more in the timing of the attempt but otherwise everything worked out as planned. When the orderly opened the back door he reached for the service envelope presented by Smyth and was proceeding to open it when Comdt. Carney gave through the open door. In a few seconds the Garrison of 5 or 6 police were alarmed and taken out on the street. To guard against the possibility of delay in securing the ambulance and getting the riding party to the back door a guard in charge of Volunteer T. Daly of Belleek was placed on the Catholic Church in Belleek with instructions to close all doors on the police and congregation if necessary. At the same time arrangements were made for a specially long sermon - through the help of the curate who was always very sympathetic and helpful to the cause. Because of the delay in starting the operation and in spite of the long sermon Volunteer Daly had to close the Church doors and keep the whole congregation and the police in the Church after the Mass had finished. For this action he was subsequently arrested and imprisoned. After the capture of the barracks had been effected about 40 volunteers from Belleek and (?) Bundoran area appeared and proceeded to remove the arms and burn the barracks. The four Enniskillen Volunteers left immediately and made their way back to Enniskillen. Just as in the tempo about only a small portion of the captured arms were secured for the Fermanagh Area. The men who took out the ambulance to meet Comdt. Carney and Driver McShea was dismissed from his job - his name is not known.

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FERMANAGH BRIGADE.

Report for purposes of Military Service Pensions Acts
Capture of Tempo Police Barracks - 25 Oct. 1920.

Early in 1920 the possibility of capturing the Tempo R.I.C. Barracks was considered. It was thought that strangers to the area would be helpful and the Bundoran volunteers under Tom McShea were consulted but the plans did not materialise. In July 1920, the matter was again considered. Volunteers from several company areas met on different occasions and discussed the project with Comdts. Carney, Sheehan, Pat Cleary and others. These meetings took place in and around the Tempo area in the homes of local volunteers. At this time no friendly contact had been made with any of the R.I.C. and plans were formulated to capture an R.I.C. patrol and to secure admission to the barracks of volunteers dressed in the captured uniforms. These plans were practically completed when it was discovered there was a possibility of inside help. A constable O'Donnell (who appeared to be in Tempo on leave) proved friendly and through him the help of a Sergt. Rafferty was assured. Discussions between these two and the Tempo Battalion staff - Comdt. Breen, Vice Comdt. E. Gray, Adj. P. Mullarkey and Qmr. Phil Murphy and occasionally Dr. J. Carragher. It was finally arranged that the raid would take place whilst Sergt. Rafferty with a few constables were out on patrol. Constable O'Donnell would leave the gates leading into the back yard of the barracks unbolted and then take some of the garrison out for a drink. A storming party of five or six were then to enter and take the barrack. A second party would be in readiness to enter by the front door when the first party opened it. A scout would then bring along a waiting motor car, carrying petrol to burn the barracks and to take away the captured arms etc. to an outpost at the Green Gates (noted on sketch) on the Main Tempo - Clabby Road from whence they would be removed to safety. The arrangements also included the capture of Sergt. Rafferty's patrol and also Comt. O'Donnell and the police with him all of whom would be armed.

The stunt was fixed for the most opportune of the following dates - 11th, 13th or 18th of October 1920 and volunteers from the following companies were at their posts on each date:- Enniskillen, Tempo, Lisnaskea, Coa, Cavanacross, Trillick and Breagho. For various reasons the stunt did not materialise. On two occasions no motor car was available and on the other most of the garrison was absent and apart from the fact that few arms would be in the barracks there was great risk of exposing the part the friendly R.I.C. who were on duty were to play. Another attempt was made on 25th October 1920 and this was successful.

On this occasion volunteers from Enniskillen, Cavanacross and Lisnaskea mobilised at Doon Cross marked "C" on the sketch. A scout from Tempo Coy. was also present. Outposts from members of the Cavanacross company were placed at Shilmore Cross (marked D. on sketch) with orders to hold up all traffic and cut telegraph wires etc. This outpost included:-

Francis Breen, Mulnaskea, Enniskillen (or Water Street)
Patrick McKenna, Cavanacarragh, Lisbellaw - both of these took a very active part in the subsequent hold-up and they were helped by:

John Dolan, deceased.
Edward Dolan, Cavanacarragh, Lisbellaw,
John McKervey, Cavanacross, Garvery.
Patrick Cox, Mulnaskea, Garvery.
James Naan, Cavanacarragh, Lisbellaw.
Thomas Curran, Mulnaskea, Garvery.
Andrew McAroe, Ballylucas, Enniskillen,
and a few others not now identifiable with certainty.

The following volunteers proceeded to a meeting place in the village to await the all clear signal for the approach to the barracks:-

Comdt. James Smyth (now Collector of Taxes at Clones) and Comdt. James Reilly, Lisnaskea. These were in joint charge of the operation.

Joseph Smyth, Enniskillen (deceased).

Wm. Watson, 5, Plunkett Barracks, Curragh Camp.

John Leonard, Queen St., Enniskillen.

Jack Meehan, Enniskillen.

In Tempo these were joined by:-

Joseph Slavin, North Sydney, Australia.

Joseph Trainor, Tempo - shot during Civil War.

Arthur Breen, Tempo.

Patrick Mullarkey, Parochial Ho., Lisnaskea.

Philip Murphy, G.N. Rly. Navan

Edward Gray, 72 Calumar St., Mass., U.S.A. -

the three latter were the joining links between the different units engaged.

The remainder from the Enniskillen area included Francis Corrigan, Waterford, Michael Smyth, Lisnaskea, Thomas Cox, Galway, James Donnelly, Enniskillen, and three others not identified with any certainty. These seven volunteers proceeded by the river bank to the open yard on the side of the main street opposits to the barracks - see sketch.

Preliminary arrangements were then complete. The R.I.C. patrol had left the barracks and Constable O'Donnell had taken four or five of the garrison to O'Rourke's Publichouse. When the volunteers were all in position, the first of the attacking party moved from their waiting place (Connolly's Publichouse) towards the Barrack and entered through the back gate about 8 p.m. As they entered, a dog in the yard of the barracks began barking and this to a certain extent spoiled the element of surprise. The only occupants of the barracks were Sergt. Lucas and the orderly Const. O'Brien (a tan). Joseph Smyth was the first to enter the barrack followed by Joseph Slavin, Jack Meehan and later James Smyth, Thomas Cox, Michael Smyth, John Leonard, Philip Murphy, James Donnelly and William Watson. Sergeant Lucas was not in the day room as expected but emerged from another room on the ground floor when the raiding party entered and confronted the volunteers in the hallway. He rushed at the volunteers two of whom (Joseph Smyth and Slavin) dodged past him and got to the day-room where they disarmed the orderly - Const. O'Brien. Meanwhile, Sergeant Lucas continued to resist in the hall where some shooting took place and Sergeant Lucas and Joseph Slavin were wounded - the latter was shot through the palm of one hand. Meanwhile, the second part of the attacking party under Comdt. Jim Smyth arrived at the front door of the barracks which they found closed with shooting going on inside. Unsuccessful attempts were made by Comdt. Smyth and Thos. Cox to blow the lock off the door. The party then proceeded to the rear of the barracks and entered. A scout Fras. Corrigan was despatched for the waiting car to Doon Cross Roads. When he emerged on the main street through the barrack front door which had been opened he was fired on from several angles by the local minister (whose house was only a short distance from the barrack) and some Ulster Volunteers. However, he got through and sent the car in but owing to the heavy firing the car was unable to stop and proceeded through the town taking with it the petrol that was needed to burn the barracks.

The position in the Barracks was now critical. There was no ready means of getting the arms away and no petrol to burn the place and worse still every minute's delay was increasing the danger that the Ulster Volunteers would succeed in cutting off all means of retreat. Sergeant Lucas was not yet subdued although he was slightly wounded and was being held down in the barrack yard by one volunteer - the late Joseph Traynor, Tempo.

- 3 -

He had succeeded in wounding Traynor with a pocket knife and soon afterwards he broke away from his guard and ran out into the main street through the rear gate and open entry. As he reached the street he was fired on and mortally wounded. The Minister who had kept up a continuous fire at the barracks (and who may indeed have shot the Sergeant - Comdt. Sheehan was told later by a doctor that the sergeant was killed by a rifle bullet which entered the sergeant's groin from the front) dragged the wounded sergeant into his hallway. Meanwhile the volunteers in the barracks were collecting the arms and ammunition and placed them in position for removal by hand. The volunteers were withdrawn from their posts in and around the barracks. Four of them were ordered to cover the retreat and the others heavily laden with arms &c. proceeded to Doon Cross which they reached without a casualty - although they were under heavy fire for part of the journey. The arms &c. captured included:-

8 Lee Enfield Rifles. 3 Police Carbines - two without bolts which could not be found in the barrack).
 3 Revolvers (all that could be found).
 Two boxes of .303 ammunition and one box of revolver ammunition. One box of Verkey Lights. Some small hand grenades. Handcuffs. Belts and a miscellaneous assortment of ammunition. Police day books and other documents.

The arms and ammunition were placed in a white Hupmobile car driven by Patrick Tracey of Clones (which was not of course intended to be used - the other car had failed) and the stuff was driven off following the route Tempo - Trasna - Gardiners Cross by Aughaneagh Church to Nutfield Cross and on back to Carntrane behind Comdt. Reilly's residence where it was dumped on the mountain on the land of James Fee. In the car were Comdts. Reilly and Smyth, Joe. Slavín (wounded in the hand at the entry to the barracks) and Michael Smyth Drumbrocas. Joseph Slavín was left at Fee's house for the night. The stuff was removed inside 48 hours to a Monaghan Battalion dump at Crossnagowan, and ultimately taken over by the Monaghan area. The stuff was lent by Comdt. Carney to Comdt. Matt Fitzpatrick but in spite of repeated efforts no portion of it was ever got back to the Fermanagh Brigade. Slavín the only casualty on our side apart from Comdt. Breen was taken from Fee's house on the following night across Lough Erne and safely attended to by a doctor in the Maguiresbridge Company area. Fee's house and land was raided by tans a few days later, and a servant boy named Burns (who was not a volunteer) was shot in the thigh.

After the removal of the arms, scouts hastened to withdraw all outposts. A considerable volume of traffic had been held up at the Green Gates and Shilmore Cross outpost and this was released. The hold-up of the police patrol on the Tempo - Fivemilestown or Brookeboro Road (marked "A" on sketch) was almost as dangerous as the main operation. Those engaged here included:-

Henry Magee, Garda Siochana, Roscommon.
 Sergt. D.B. McCaffrey, A.M.C. Baldonnell (No. 20668)
 Bernard Monaghan, Tempo (recently deceased - leaving large family in poor circumstances).
 Joseph Clifford, Tempo.
 Francis McCaffrey, 567 East 158 Street Bronx, New York.
 Owen McCaffrey now Ontario, Canada.

The two McCaffreys were later arrested and sentenced to death for their part in the stunt but were later reprieved. This party assembled at the Green Gates (marked B. on sketch) on the Tempo - Clabby Road where they received orders from the late Comdt. Phil Breen and Vice Comdt. Ed. Gray. The party proceeded across the estate of Sir Chas. Langham to his gate-house on the Tempo-Brookeboro Rd. to await the patrol consisting of Sergt. Rafferty and a Constable Rodgers.

Their capture had to be effected quietly so that no alarm would be given before the main operation opened. Denis McCaffrey and two others dealt effectively with the Sergeant but the constable endeavoured to draw his gun and was only overpowered and disarmed after some shots had been fired. The party then withdrew to the woods and awaited the all clear signal. Meanwhile the party of police who had left the barracks with Constable O'Donnell were held up in O'Rourke's publichouse by volunteers from Golan and Trillick Areas (Tyrone). Precise details of this part of the operation are not known to us. Details have, we are told, been furnished by their Brigade Committee. We may add, however, that the hold up and disarming were effectively done. The revolvers captured were, however, kept by the Tyrone Volunteers.

Traffic and pedestrian "hold-ups" were dangerous as they had to be carried out in the centres of hostile areas - as noted on the sketch. The main "hold-ups" were at Shelmore Cross and Greet Gates. Cavanacross Volunteers (names already given) had at least 30 persons held up at Shelmore Cross when the raid concluded. ~~At the Green Cross when the raid concluded.~~ At the Green Gates (marked "B" on sketch) the Tempo Volunteers did the work. They included Patrick and Bernard McQuaide, Cooleran, Tempo, Francis McCusker, Drumackin, Tempo Patrick Murphy, Kilculla, Tempo, James Swift, Brougher, Tempo. Most of the Tempo Coy. were mobilised at this point as it had been planned to take the captured arms here.

The withdrawal from the scene was successfully carried out. No portion of the arms was recaptured - due to the good work of Comdts. Smyth and O'Reilly - as already detailed above. The Enniskillen area volunteers also reached home safely. The thoroughness with the wirecutting and isolating of Tempo had been done is shewn by the fact that news of the operation did not reach Enniskillen or any other enemy post for more than four hours after the Volunteers had left Tempo.

The operation was marred by the death of the Comdt. of the Tempo Battalion Area - Philip Breen. It had been decided that he should as far as possible be in such a position during the actual stunt that the local hostile element would see him engaged on his normal work. After seeing that the arrangements at the Green Gates outpost were complete he returned to his father's publichouse and worked there during the stunt. At closing time - some hours after the operation had concluded - he went outside to put up the window shutters and he was shot. Two bullets were fired at him from the other side of the main street. There is little doubt that one of the murderers was an Ulster Volunteer - a postman - named Potters. After one attempt was made by the Volunteers to shoot him he was placed under close police protection and died shortly afterwards as the result of an accident. The other gunman was never definitely identified - although an Ulster Volunteer named Beatty was suspected.

The sketch plan of the area and outposts referred to in the foregoing has already been handed in.

The foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Seán Cheek } Verifying
14 New Avenue
Blackrock } Officers
Thomas Cox
Sycamore Hb., Fairhill Rd. } Galway.

Fermanagh Brigade Committee 21 July 1942.

Military Archives

Dr. ~~Woolley~~

For activities
file place.

24/1/38

attached ²⁴/₁
24/1/38

Military Service
Pensions Collection

see Box. later

Brief History of the I.R.A. in Formanagh.

The Volunteer Movement during the time of the "Old Irish Party" was very strong. After the split only one Company remained actively in support of the late P.H. Pearse. That was a Company in the Enniskillen area that drew most of its members from the Western end of the town Mullilyogan and Ashwoods Districts, plus a number from the town itself. Mr. Fras. O'Duffy, Ministry of Education, Marlborough Street, Dublin, was in charge of this Company and was in direct touch with H.Q. in Dublin.

The rising in 1916 gave new life to this Company. With the spread of Sinn Fein came the strengthening of the Volunteer Movement and in 1917 we find Companies in Tempo, Arney and Cavanacross. Mr. O'Duffy was placed in charge of these. Other Companies began to appear in more or less disconnected manner.

During the Autumn of 1918, Mr. O'Duffy left Enniskillen. Mr. Hugh McManus presently residing at the Customs House, Dungarvan, Waterford, then took charge. He continued the work of organising throughout the County. He was assisted by a small number of active Volunteers in the different areas. About the Spring of 1918 there were Companies in Enniskillen, Tempo, Arney, Cavanacross, Irvinestown, Belcoo, Wattlebridge and Coa. It was about this time also that the late Frank Carney, T.D., became connected with the Movement, firstly in the capacity as a Drill Instructor. Mr. Carney soon had the Companies throughout the County under proper discipline, and doing a rifle and open formation drill. About June 1919 Mr. McManus asked H.Q. to relieve him of his position as he had not sufficient time at his disposal to cope with the increasing responsibility. Mr. Patrick Nulty succeeded him. Mr. Nulty, who is attached to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Dublin, left Enniskillen at the end of 1918 and was succeeded by the late Comdt. Frank Carney, T.D.

x
This date
may have
been
later,

x 16.

At this period occasional raids for arms were being made by the Volunteers. Police Barracks were being vacated (time early in 1920).

It was during the Winter of 1919/20 that there was a general defining of areas. The Wattlebridge, Roslea end of the county was transferred to Monaghan; Lisnaskea, Killyrover area was placed under Mr. Jas. Reilly. Tempo, Coa, Cavanacross area under the late Phil Breen; Irvinestown, Ederney area under Mr. S.B. McManus; Belleek, Monea, Derrygonnelly, Toora, Rosinuremore, Boho area under Mr. Sean Carty; Arney, Derrylin, Kinawley and Enniskillen area under Mr. James McManus.

Mr. Carney was Officer in Charge of the whole area. In Enniskillen he gathered around him a number of helpers. These boys who often held no rank were always in the confidence of Mr. Carney.

Early in 1920 plans were being laid to burn vacated Police Barracks and Income Tax Offices. Each Batt. area had its work set out for them. Before these plans matured Mr. Carney was arrested in company with Messrs. H. McManus, Greg. Cassidy and some others. Mr. John Maguire, C.E. Belcoo, then took over charge during the Comdt's. absence. Mr. Sean Sheehan, presently residing at 1, Grove Avenue, Blackrock, Dublin, became actively connected with the Movement before Mr. Carney's arrest and he helped with the others in completing the plans for the burnings throughout the County.

About Easter 1920, Letterbreen, Arney and Trillick Barracks were burned and Income Tax Records were destroyed at Lisbellaw and Ballinamallard. In May 1920 the Enniskillen Income Tax Office was burned.

After Mr. Carney's release plans were laid for further activities. Raids for arms were an every night occurrence. In the Tempo. Batt. area these raids were made exhaustive and in

** This man
seems to have
been released
before burning
as he took
part in the
burning of
Letterbreen*

Enniskillen every possible means were used to procure arms, such as buying them off the Military and stealing them from the same source.

Derrylin Courthouse and Barracks were burned in June 1920. Also in this month an unsuccessful attempt was made to burn Lisbellaw Courthouse and Barracks - while preparations were being made an outpost fired on an onlooker and in a minute the Village was in arms. The Volunteers under the late Comdt. Carney, Sean Sheehan and the late Phil Breen, had their work out out to carry out a successful retreat. This they did with only one casualty. Volunteer M. Goodwin was seriously wounded. Several of the inhabitants of the Village were wounded. This Village was 99% hostile.

Plans for the capture of several Barracks were at this time being formulated. Those for the capture of Belleek were the first to mature. The Belleek Volunteers, under the command of Comdt. Sean Carty, gave Mr. Carney every help. The actual capture was carried out by Enniskillen Volunteers on 5.9.1920, but the local Company co-operated before and after. This was one of the most spectacular stunts of the Anglo-Irish War and was very highly praised by the late General Collins.

Mr. Carney had organized, at this time, a Flying Column and a hiding place in the mountains outside Belcoo so as to give anyone 'Wanted' because of his activities, a definite place to go to.

On 23rd October 1920, Mr. S. Sheehan took charge of a very risky operation in Enniskillen - that of stopping a Whist Drive. This was done on account of the Hunger Strike of the late Ter. McSwiney and the death of one of his fellow strikers. This turned out to be dangerous as several of the Military were present and it transpired later that these were armed. The raiding party

had only two revolvers. Two Volunteers with these took charge of the Military present and the remainder brought the Whist Drive to a close. A round-up followed but no detentions were made.

On 25.10.1920 Tempo Barracks was captured. The Sergt. in charge was mortally wounded. The late Comdt. P. Breen was virtually in charge, but Comdt. Jas. Reilly, Lisnaska and late Jos. Smyth, Enniskillen, were in charge of the major operation. It was a fight from the outset; a fight to get in and a fight to get out. When the Volunteers got possession the U.V.F. opened fire from outside. The car appointed to take away the arms could not pull up at the Barracks door, so the Volunteers had to fight their way out carrying the captured arms, etc. The police on patrol were held up and disarmed and the whole village was isolated by the surrounding Companies. Comdt. Phil Breen was shot dead that night as a reprisal. Two attempts were made to capture Carngreen Barracks in the Southern end of the area but without success. In September 1920 a S.L. & N. Co. Rly. train was held up and raided for mails by the Mullaghdu Co. Also in September there was a general cleaning up of all arms. A stunt to ambush police near Belcoo and to have for its climax the capture of Belcoo Barracks was planned but did not come off as the District became too hot. Another ambush was planned for the Double-Corners, near Enniskillen. Several of the Volunteers were actually on the scene of the ambush when they were informed that the stunt was off.

Minor activities were continued in 1921. Early in 1921 Mr. P. Carney was promoted to O.C., 1st Nor. Div., and Mr. Sean Sheehan was placed in charge. At the same time Tempo Batt. was transferred to 2nd Northern, Lisnaska to 5th Northern, Belleek and Mulleek to 1st Northern.

Phil Murphy
which
Mullerkey
were in
charge of
the ental
operation
after they
had led
the attack
to the Barracks
they moved
around the
outposts, &
were in
constant
danger of
being
recognized
tho.

It must be remembered that during this period that there were strict orders that permission would have to be given for major stunts. Mails were raided at Killinure by Breagho and Cavanacross Co. In June 1921 Bridges were blown up at Fetterweir by Tempo Co; Cooltrain by Coa and Breagho Co, and Killinure by Cavanacross Co. The late Chas. Daly (executed in Donegal) spent a lot of his time in the Tempo. Batt. area and had to be guarded. On the 3.7.1921 the Cavanacross Co. under Mr. F. Corrigan, fired on a police patrol outside Lisbellaw.

Other activities in the area during the troubled times were raiding for B. Men's bicycles, cutting telephone and telegraph wires, blocking roads, enforcing decrees of Sinn Fein Courts and carrying out the Belfast Boycott.

The difficulties under which the I.R.A. operated in County Fermanagh were constantly very great and often indeed were insurmountable. Company areas were isolated from each other and from their Batt. H.Qs. Batt. areas were in the same position as regards their Brigades. It must also be remembered that the majority of those who were opposed to the I.R.A. were fully armed and constantly on the look out for any movement of the part of the I.R.A. This was clearly illustrated by the manner in which the Pro-British element turned out to attack the I.R.A. both in Tempo and Lisbellaw.

On the 11th July 1921, there were no special services in the Brigade or any of the Battalions. The Batt. Officers included O.C., Vice O.C., Adjutant and Q.M., and occasionally an Assistant Q.M. The Brigade was staffed in a similar manner.

With the coming of the Truce in July 1921, recruiting, training, etc. went on rapidly. In September 1921 training Camps were formed. The Fermanagh Brigade were served by a camp in Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim. The Tempo Batt. which was at this time in the 2nd Northern, had a Batt. Camp in Brochar Mountains outside Tempo. Later in September the county was re-organised.

Tempo Batt. was transferred from Oaugh Brigade, 2nd Northern, to the Fermanagh Brigade which had been placed under the command of the 1st Midland Division ^{about Sept 1921}. The Brigade now included, Eniskillen Batt. (1st) Belcoo Batt (2nd) Derrylin Batt. (3rd) and Tempo Batt (4th). These Battalions were fully staffed, the personnel of which appears on the list supplied to the Board of Referees. Each Batt. included the following Companies :

No. 1. Batt. Eniskillen:

- A. Boho
- B. Derrygonnelly
- C. Eniskillen
- D. Monen
- E. Rosinuremore.

No. 2. Batt. Belcoo:

- A. Belcoo
- B. Woobally.
- C. Glan Lower
- D. Glan Upper
- E. Killinagh
- F. Mullaghduin.

No. 3. Batt. Derrylin.

- A. Arney
- B. Kinawley
- C. Kingarow or Derrylin
- D. Mountain Road
- E. Killosher
- F. Wheathill.

4th Batt. Tempo.

- A. Breagho
- B. Cavanacross
- C. Coa
- D. Tempo
- E. Toneyglaskin
- F. Trillick
- G. Whitehill (outpost).

During the truce the Brigade continued to drill and arm. At the ratification of the Treaty the whole Brigade "stood to". Plans were laid to confine the military and police to their various Barracks should the Treaty be rejected.

After the ratification of the Treaty there was a large number who were inclined towards the extreme wing, but the Collins-De Valera pact smoothed these differences to a great extent.

Hostilities were resumed on the occasion of the cross border raid early in February 1922. This raid developed into a series of fights, one at Carson's of Killyreagh, one each at Cooper's and Elliotts of Enniskillen, and a final one at Belcoo. After this Fermanagh was a hotbed. Brigade and other Officers scarcely ever slept at home. The Barracks in the Cavan end of the Brigade were taken over by the Brigade. In April 1922 the Volunteers in Blacklion Barracks captured Belcoo R.U.C. Barracks.

After this came the Round up in May 1922. The majority of the Brigade and Battalion Staffs were arrested - only a few Officers escaped. Some of the vacated positions were filled but for practical purposes the I.R.A. was almost extinct.

Military Archives

M. O'Connell

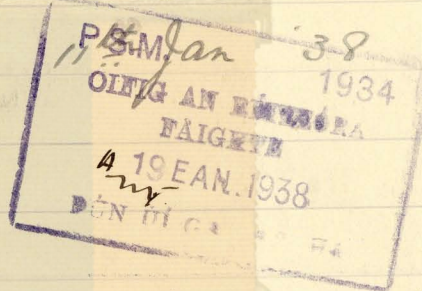
19/1/38

Drumtroughas

Lisnashel

To

The M.S.P. Board
Dublin.



As the Volunteer Officer appointed by the late Brigade of Frank Carney to take charge of party that carried out the raid on Tempo R.I.C. Barrack on the 25th October 1920 I can substantiate all Battalion Adjutant Mullarkey's statement which I have read.

It was Mullarkey who apparently was in charge of arrangements on that night. It was he who met us and give the information that everything was in order according to plan.

If called upon I am prepared to attend before the Board to give evidence

Yours Faithfully
Jas O'Keilly

Warr. St.

Lionas Kea

C. Fermanagh.

6th January. 1938.

The Secretary.

Military Pensions Board,

Griffith Barracks.

Dublin

A cōpa,

From a letter written by an Brigade
O.C. Sean Sheehan to an Batt. W. H. Philips
Murphy of Temp's Battalion I learn that
the Pensions Board desire much fuller inform-
ation on certain matters connected with Temp's
Battalion area before making any awards
to those members of that area who have been
before the Board.

Reading over a copy of a history
of the I.R.A. in Fermanagh compiled by T. Cox
Secretary Fermanagh Old I.R.A. association I
see some matter on which I make a few obser-
vations. A copy of this history has,
I understand been supplied to your Board.

The matter on which I wish to make these observations is the attack on Temp's R. & Barracks on the night of 25th October 1920. A fairly full account of this raid and the events leading up to it is contained in, or with, my statement of claim — heard before your Board early in September, 1936. As this is perhaps not full enough I shall attempt now to give as full and faithful account of the whole affair as possible.

In 1920 there was stationed in Temp's a Constable P. O'Donnell. During the late summer, or late early Autumn of that year he went off for a holiday and during the time he was away he met a former colleague of his named Bonway, a native of Coolmore Co. Sligo. Bonway had been stationed somewhere in the County Louth, and being in sympathy with the National movement had formed contact with local officers. As a result of that contact he was able to give very valuable aid in the capture of the Barracks in

where he was stationed. Whether Conway resigned or was dismissed as a result of this I don't know but at any rate he was out of the force and was an active officer of the D.R.A. at the time O'Donnell met him in 1920.

During their conversations Conway suggested to O'Donnell that the latter should lend his aid in helping D.R.A. to capture Lerpoo Barracks. O'Donnell, a splendid type of young fellow, at once agreed to do all he could and, consequently, shortly after he returned to Lerpoo, Conway and his three (from Bundoran I think) visited Lerpoo one night in order to meet O'Donnell and the local D.R.A. leaders to discuss plans for a successful attack on the Barracks. At this meeting commandant P. Baer (Lerpoo O.C.) were present, as well as Conway, O'Donnell & three other lads. We made certain arrangements, but these were subject to the approval of the Brigade O.C. Frank Lavery of Enniskillen

Brigadier Barney afterwards refused to allow Bonway to come into his Brigade area to do the job as Bonway claimed that the greater part of the booty should belong to him.

A couple of weeks later O'Donnell and I were discussing the matter again and I asked him if he would be prepared to do as much for us as he had been prepared to do for Bonway and he informed me that he would do as much for anybody on whom he could rely. At once the local battalion staff got to work. As a teacher in Muthulayi I was able to keep in contact with O'Donnell without arousing the suspicions of the local loyalists but after a few meetings it was evident that the task would be more formidable than at first sight appeared. There were in the Barracks eight policemen including two sergeants, and besides these were two Black and Tans.

Sergeant Rafferty, the Catholic Sergeant in the Barracks at the time, I knew to be a good Irishman. He and I had often a drink and a chat and while he was cautious I gathered enough to know that if he were younger and had not the responsibility of a young family (his wife was dead) he would soon throw off his uniform. But whether he would be prepared to go so far as to render assistance in the escape of a Barrack man which he was a Sergeant was a doubtful question. The only hope lay in the fact that the Barrack Sergeant Lucas and he did not get on well. Lucas was a big and a violent partisan which accounted for Rafferty's dislike of him.

Knowing Rafferty to be at heart in sympathy with us and fearing that harm should come to him if there were shooting in the Barracks. I suggested to O'Donnell that we should take Rafferty into our confidence. O'Donnell agreed and that night he took Rafferty in to Maguire's public house for

6.
drinks. ^{the both. Q. M.} Phil Murphy, and I dropped in
later - and started drinking with them.

Gradually we shifted the conversation round
to the state of the country at the time and
when we had what we thought a proper
atmosphere worked up I suddenly announced
that Murphy and I had been deputed to
make a proposition to them, namely that they
should lend their assistance in an attempt
to capture Limerick Barracks.

Rafferty was
certainly taken by surprise and O'Donnell
pretended to be equally shocked but after
a few minutes he suddenly said. "Donegal
named on Pat. O'Donnell that shot James
Barry." I am Pat. O'Donnell, too, and I
come from Donegal. and I will do my
bit for Ireland, too: I'm with you, boys."

After sitting silently for a moment.
Rafferty said. "I'm a Lyons man, and
I'll never let the hand of the O'Donnells run
away with the hand of the O'Neills! I'm with
you too."

After this we were able to get ahead quickly. Acting under instructions from Commandant Breen, Murphy and I got into touch with a local named McKenney. McKenney was a policeman stationed in Meath but happened to be home on leave at the time. Murphy and I met him, as a party accident, sounded him, decided that if he did us no good he would at least do us no harm. as he seemed quite scared of the "Shinnors" as he called him.

So we took a long shot and decided to make him play a part.

O'Donnell had been friendly with McKenney and advised to trust him to do us no harm.

So we interviewed McKenney informed him of what we wanted him and asked if he would do it. He agreed. I shall explain his part later.

Almost nightly I met one or two of our police confederates (Rafferty and O'Donnell), sometimes alone, sometimes in company with Murphy. It was Murphy

8

who did practically all the running round the various areas that had to be organised in connection with the job.

When at last the night came Rafferty went off on patrol to Brookborough, a village about 4 miles off, taking with him one of the Blacks and Tans, named O'Brien. These were held up, by arrangement, at a wood about 1/4 mile outside of Camps. But O'Brien put up a most determined resistance. McSharry came in, brought some drink up to the Barracks, put these in from before, and then invited 4 of them including O'Donnell down to O'Rourke's public house for another drink. They went. (Here they were held up about 8.15.)

Two other constables happened to be on sick leave at the time, so that at about 8 o'clock there were in the barracks only Sergeant Lucas and a Black and Tan, leaving I think. Before leaving the Barracks O'Donnell unlocked the side-gate opening in to the Barracks yard, and left the back door unlocked, thus

giving easy access to the Barracks.

About 8 o'clock Murphy and I met the actual raiding party; those who were to go in to the Barracks. Acting under the approval of Frank Barney, Brigade O.C. Phil'Brien Batt. O.C. was not taking part as he lived in the village. Instead those who entered were acting under Commandant James O'Reilly of Lisvinstown who had been appointed by Corry to do so. Joe Shivers our own Det. O.C. was his second in command.

About 8.15 we quietly moved in the direction of the Barrack gate. There Murphy and I slipped into the shadows behind the gate while the raiding party dashed round to the back door to enter. Immediately after they entered shots were fired the alarm raised. Leaving me at the gate Murphy dashed inside although he was to wait where he was until he was given a signal to fire the cars

that were to carry off the arms yet captured.

As I stood in the shadow of the gate. Sergeant Lucas stumbled out into the yard & made for the street. When he did not reach for when he fell again someone, I can't say who it was, jumped on him and pulled him up the yard.

By now the local loyalists were on the warpath & I dashed across the street into "the pound" on the opposite side & made my way to my dog's down the village.

Some while later ^{one of} the cars came along, stopped for a moment, picked up some of the booty & sped up the village, without venturing to take it all as the Protestant Minister was peering from a window close by. The Luvostka men, Commandant. Reilly, his adjutant. Jim. Smyth & Albert Smyth got off with a good deal of the stuff to their car some distance out the road & reached home safely. The others made their way

Military Archives

out as best they could.

As a result of the shooting
Sergeant Lucas received several wounds
to which he succumbed a day or two later.
Joe Shinn our own O.C. was wounded
in the hand and Philip Breen our O.C.
was shot by Loyalists a few minutes later
just in front of his own door in the village
street. Another man was shot in the
arm.

Men who played a most important
part in the capture of the Barrack were
Sergeant Rafferty, Constable O'Donnell, command.
and James Bilty, Jim Smyth, Mick Smyth
(Lisnastock), Phil Murphy (Lemo), J. Cox
Liam Smyth - J. Donnelly, J. Mullan (Enniskillen)
and J. Shinn (Lemo). Present address
of James Bilty is Donaboughers Lisnastock.

Signed. P. Mullaney,

(Lieut) Batt. adjutant

Lemo Battalion

Military Archives

P. 1.

Mr. Hoover says
there are attached to
files - applicant's

I enclose references from two old
I.B.A. men from Lemp who were recently
before the Board.

19/1/38

If there is any further
information about the Lemp Battalion area
please let me know & I shall try to let
you have it.

But when writing please
do not use an official envelope... and
kindly acknowledge receipt of this as I
shall be anxious for its safety.

Yell.

Military Service Pensions Collection