

ROINN

Po-Roinn

p.c.1

NÁ CUIRTEAR ÉANTUAIRISC AR AN SCLÚDÁC SO.

Tá annro, le r

An Uimhir

An Snó

mar/34/Refuse

6846

An Uimhir as Roinn
Eile.

18/22

Fleming Thomas

River St

Glara

Offaly

7

Do cuirtear éun

Dáta

Do cuirtear éun

Dáta

Do cuirtear éun

Dáta

Murray

5/1/36

B.P.

14/4/36

H. & R.

24 APR 1936

R. & R.

4/1/37

P.A.

R. & R.

12/1/38

Military Archives

6

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4/12/36



Military Service
Pensions Collection

Military Archives

Ref. No. 6846 Applicant's Name Fleming, Thomas Address River St. Clara, Offaly Referee R.3
 UNIT (1) "A" Coy, Battr. V, Offaly Bde., (2) "A" Coy, 1st Bn., Offaly II Bde., (3) 1st Bn., Offaly II Bde.

(a) PERIOD	(b) Service claimed	(c) Active Service allowed	(d) Equivalent for pension purposes.	REMARKS
(1) 23/4/16 - 30/4/16	Nil	/	/	(7)
(2) (a) 1/4/16 - 22/4/16 (b) 30/4/16 - 31/3/17	Nil	/	/	Finished $\frac{24}{12}$ 35. (8)
(3) 1/4/17 - 31/3/18	$\frac{5}{11}$ to $\frac{31}{18}$	$\frac{1}{12}$	$\frac{1}{24}$ yrs.	(9)
(4) 1/4/18 - 31/3/19	Full Period	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{12}$ yrs.	Black Ranks & Strength. (10)
(5) 1/4/19 - 31/3/20	Full Period	$\frac{1}{12}$	$\frac{1}{12}$ yrs.	(11)
(6) 1/4/20 - 31/3/21	Full Period	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$ yrs.	(12)
(7) 1/4/21 - 11/7/21	Full Period	Full.	1 yrs.	(13)
(8) 12/7/21 - 30/6/22	Full Period	Full	1 yrs.	(14)
(9) 1/7/22 - 31/3/23	Part Period	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{3}$ yrs.	(15)
(10) 1/4/23 - 30/9/23	Nil	/	/	(16)

(a) First critical date (b) Second critical date
 Rank claimed on - Battr. V/C Rank allowed - Battr. V/C
L. S. D. Jm. B. S. D. Jm. Total of Column (d) 3 $\frac{5}{24}$ years
 SIGNED :- Seamus Robinson John McCoy S. F. Kelly John Jordan

b. eor

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6846

4 February 1937

An Búnaí,
Coimisiún Talchán na hÉireann.

I am directed by the Referer to refer to Mr. Evans's
minute of 31st Decr. 1936, and enclosure, regarding
pre-Trust I.R.A. service claimed by Thomas Fleming

Kilcoursey, Clara, Offaly
and I am to state that the replies to your queries as
numbered are as follow:

(1) Yes.

(2) Pension £32. 1. 8. per annum

(3) Yes.

The enclosure is returned herewith, as requested.

Emb
Military Service
Pensions Collection

Ein-shreagra ar an litir seo ba chóir
stiúradh chun

An Rúnaí

fé'n uimhir seo:—

(Any reply to this communication should
be addressed to

The Secretary

(and the following number quoted:—)

276.



SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN

COIMISIÚN TALMHAN NA h-EIREANN
(Irish Land Commission),

SRÁID UACHTARACH MHUIRBHTHEAN
(Upper Merrion Street),

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
(Dublin).

31 DEC 1936

Confidential

The Secretary,
Military Service Pensions Board,
Griffith Barracks,
Dublin.

I am desired by the Land Commission to
enclose a form containing particulars of Pre-Truce
I.R.A. Service claimed by... *Thomas J. Fleming*
Hilcoursey, Glara, Offaly.
who is an applicant for land and to ask you to be
good enough to state;

(1) whether the information in the form
is in accordance with your records;

(2) whether the applicant has been awarded
a pension and if so the amount of such
pension;

(3) whether your Board is satisfied that he
gave first class meritorious I.R.A. Service
during the Pre-Truce period.

The Land Commission will be much obliged
for an early reply and the return of the form.

web

Ry Egan

Military Service
Pensions Collection

Military Service Pensions Act, 1934.

Ref. No. *34.S.P./7544*Ref. No. *M.S.P./34/Referee - 6846*

To:

THE REFEREE.

To:

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE.

I am directed by the Minister for Defence to transmit for report in accordance with Section 8 and the Regulations made under the Act the accompanying application of

Fleming, Thomas
River St., Clara, Offaly
 for a Service Certificate.

I submit hereunder my report in this case.

24 APR 1936

Recorded 24/36

(SIGNED) J. K. O'CONNOR

The report should take the form of replies to the questions set out herewith.

J. J. Morgan

Date.....

21 JUN 1935

Date.....

Referee.

1. Is the Applicant a person to whom the Act applies? *Yes*2. If so, total actual service in the different service periods, as established *Nil*

(2) *Nil* (3) $\frac{1}{12}$ of Entire Period (4) $\frac{1}{6}$ of Entire Period
 (5) $\frac{1}{12}$ of Entire Period (6) $\frac{1}{3}$ of Entire Period (7) Entire Period
 (8) Entire Period (9) $\frac{1}{6}$ of Entire Period (10) *Nil*

3. Total service for pension purposes as defined by Second Schedule of the Act.....

3 $\frac{5}{24}$ years

4. Grade or rank, quoting relevant paragraph of First Schedule under which allowed:—

(a) On first critical date *Grade D. Para. 1(4)(a)*(b) On second critical date *Grade D. Para. 1(4)(a)*(c) Was applicant a member of the Irish Volunteer Executive at any time prior to the 11th July, 1921. *No*

(d) Does applicant's case fall under either of the following sub-paragraphs, and, if so, which, viz., sub-paragraph (j) of paragraph 3 of Rule I. of First Schedule

or under sub-paragraph (m) of paragraph 4 of Rule I. of First Schedule, as a Medical Officer. *No*

L. O'Connell

5. Does the applicant state in his application whether he is at present in receipt of any remuneration, pension or allowance payable out of public moneys whether provided by the Oireachtas or out of the Central Fund or by means of the poor rate or any other rate imposed by a local authority ?.....

no

6. Does the applicant state in his application whether he applied for or is in receipt of unemployment assistance under the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1933 ? If so, quote the number of his qualification certificate if given by him.....

no

7. THE WEEK COMMENCING ON THE 23RD DAY OF APRIL, 1916.

- (1) Duration of active service during the period as established to your satisfaction

nil

- (2) Equivalent of active service for pension purposes as defined in the Second Schedule of the Act.....

- (3) State—

(a) The particular military body of the Forces.....

(b) Unit or Units and the position held by applicant.....

8. THE PERIOD COMPRISING :—

- (a) THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 1916, AND ENDING ON THE 22ND DAY OF APRIL, 1916, and

- (b) THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE 30TH DAY OF APRIL, 1916, AND ENDING ON THE 31ST DAY OF MARCH, 1917.

- (1) Duration of active service during the period as established to your satisfaction

nil

- (2) Equivalent of active service for pension purposes as defined in the Second Schedule of the Act.....

(3) State—

(a) The particular military body of the Forces.....

(b) Unit or Units and the position held by applicant.....

9. THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 1917, AND ENDING ON THE 31ST DAY OF MARCH, 1918.

(1) Duration of active service during the period as established to your satisfaction

$\frac{1}{12}$ of Entire Period

(2) Equivalent of active service for pension purposes as defined in the Second Schedule of the Act.....

$\frac{1}{24}$ of 1 year

(3) State—

(a) The particular military body of the Forces..... *Irish Volunteers*

(b) Unit or Units and the position held by applicant.....

Clara Coy. Offaly Bde.

10. THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 1918, AND ENDING ON THE 31ST DAY OF MARCH, 1919.

(1) Duration of active service during the period as established to your satisfaction

$\frac{1}{6}$ of Entire Period

(2) Equivalent of active service for pension purposes as defined in the Second Schedule of the Act.....

$\frac{1}{12}$ of 1 year

(3) State—

(a) The particular military body of the Forces..... *Irish Volunteers*

(b) Unit or Units and the position held by applicant.....

*"A" Coy. Battalion V, Offaly Bde,
and Impairment.*

11. THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 1919, AND ENDING ON THE 31ST DAY OF MARCH, 1920.

(1) Duration of active service, during the period as established to your satisfaction

12 of Entire Period

(2) Equivalent of active service for pension purposes as defined in the Second Schedule of the Act.....

12 of 1 year

(3) State—

(a) The particular military body of the Forces.....

(b) Unit or Units and the position held by applicant.....

A Coy, Battn. V, Offaly Bde.

12. THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 1920, AND ENDING ON THE 31ST DAY OF MARCH, 1921.

(1) Duration of active service, during the period as established to your satisfaction

3 of Entire Period

(2) Equivalent of active service for pension purposes as defined in the Second Schedule of the Act.....

2/3 of 1 year

(3) State—

(a) The particular military body of the Forces.....

(b) Unit or Units and the position held by applicant.....

A Coy, Battn. I, Offaly II Bde.

13. THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 1921, AND ENDING ON THE 11TH DAY OF JULY, 1921.

(1) Duration of active service during the period as established to your satisfaction

Entire Period

(2) Equivalent of active service for pension purposes as defined in the Second Schedule of the Act.....

1 year

(3) State—

(a) The particular military body of the Forces..... *Oflay na h-Ulann*

(b) Unit or Units and the position held by applicant..... *Battn. ofc*

..... *Battn. I, Offaly II Bde*

14. THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE 12TH DAY OF JULY, 1921, AND ENDING ON THE 30TH DAY OF JUNE, 1922.

(1) Duration of active service during the period as established to your satisfaction

..... *Entire Period*

(2) Equivalent of active service for pension purposes as defined in the Second Schedule of the Act.....

..... *1 year*

(3) State—

(a) The particular military body of the Forces..... *Oflay na h-Ulann*

(b) Unit or Units and the position held by applicant.....

..... *Battn. I, Offaly II Bde*

15. THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE 1ST DAY OF JULY, 1922, AND ENDING ON THE 31ST DAY OF MARCH, 1923.

(1) Duration of active service during the period as established to your satisfaction

..... *$\frac{6}{12}$ of Entire Period*

(2) Equivalent of active service for pension purposes as defined in the Second Schedule of the Act.....

..... *$\frac{1}{3}$ of 1 year*

3) State—

(a) The particular military body of the Forces..... *Oflay na h-Ulann*

(b) Unit or Units and the position held by applicant..... *Battn. ofc*

..... *Battn. I, Offaly II Bde*

16. THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 1923, AND ENDING ON THE 30TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1923.

(1) Duration of active service during the period as established to your satisfaction

..... *1st*

(2) Equivalent of active service for pension purposes as defined in the Second Schedule of the Act.....

(3) State—

(a) The particular military body of the Forces.....

(b) Unit or Units and the position held by applicant.....

.....
.....

**Military Service
Pensions Collection**

Military Archives

Referee R.15.

Organisation Records supplied by Sean Robbins, o/c Offaly II Bde


show that applicant was

(a) o/c 1st Bde. Offaly II Bde 11.7.21

Strength 298

(b) o/c 1st Bde. Offaly II Bde. 1.7.22

Strength 281.

Signed:  16
3
36.

Military Service
Pensions Collection

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that Thomas Fleming, River Street, Clara, Offaly. successively held the ranks of 1st. Lieut. and 1st. Lieut. Company Capt. and Battn. Comdt. in Offaly No. 2. Bde. I.R.A. and that he participated in the following military operations :-

- (a) Raid for and seizure of arms at Richie's, Ballinagore, Kilbeggan. December 1919.
- (b) That as direct result of his activities with the I.R.A. he was arrested for the shooting of a British Ex-Soldier in Clara, May, 1919.
- (c) He was one of a section awaiting to disarm R.I.C. patrol at the Barney Bridge, Clara. July 1919.
- (d) On section who occupied Goodbody's Flour Mills in the attack on Clara R.I.C. Barracks. June 1920.
- (e) Hold up of train at Clara Station and seizure of 72 bags of bread and 2 bales of bacon for enemy supplies, also mails, November 1920
- (f) Participated in the hold up of train at Ballycumber to attack Military Guard. Removal of Four Soldiers and seizure of equipment together with mails and 72 bags of bread for the enemy, Feb. 1920
- (g) Burning of Ballycumber R.I.C. Barracks April 1920.
- (h) Went in Charge of Bde. A.S.U. March or April 1921.
- (i) He was in charge of A.S.U. at the dismantling of Clara Post Office, May 1921.
- (j) Hold up of trains and seizure of the following military supplies on divers dates: 8 bls. of stout, destruction of gun carriage, seizure of British offers and R.I.C. equipment, at Clara Station, and 6 bls. stout at the Island, Ballycumber.
- (k) Associated in hold up of train at Clara and burning of 60 tons of hay and two wagons of straw. Feb. 1921.
- (l) As a result of information supplied by me he was out on the Clara Moate road awaiting to attack Free State Troops, Jun. 30th.
- (m) Destruction of Ballycumber road bridge July 1922.
- (n) In charge of A.S.U. who went to attack Free State Armoured car at Ballycumber, July 1922.
- (o) Destruction of communications and blocking of roads.

Signed.....

Address.....

Rank.....

9/12/35

Pensions Collection

Military Archives

I desire to state that I joined the I.R.A. at the age of 17 years and devoted all my time in organizing and developing same for the ensuing conflict. As a result of my activities I had to go on the run thereby suffering the loss of my employment and opportunities of promotion in the Milling industry. My earnings at the time were £2.10.0 per week, with prospects of a substantial increase.

In June 1922 I was offered £50 together with a commission in the Free State Army. They also offered to pay a Battalion Staff of four to assist me at Battalion H. Qrs.. Both offers I declined on principle. I was in a very bad way financially at the time these offers were made as I had a wife and family to support, and my debts were considerable owing to the fact that I was two years on the run.

I would also draw your attention to the fact that during the "Truce" period I received no pay although I was in charge of the Clara Barracks, and I was also responsible for all Training Camps in the Battalion area.

At the present time I have to support a family of eight.

Signed.....*Thos. J. Harney*.....

Kevin O'R

Clara

Offaly

9/12/35

Military Service Pensions Collection

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

I hereby certify that Thomas Fleming, River, St. Clara, Offaly successfully held the ranks of 1st and 2nd. Lieutenant, Company Captain, and Battalion Commandant in Offaly no 2 Brigade and that he participated in the following military operations.

- A. Mobilized party to effect the rescue of Joseph McDonagh and Thomas Malone from R.I.C at Williams Clara April 1918.
- B. Was arrested in May 1918, for the shooting of a British Ex-Soldier as a direct result of his activities with the I.R.A.
- C. Was one of a party lying in wait to disarm an R.I.C. Patrol, at Barney Bridge Clara- July 1919.
- D. Raid on Post Office Hut G.S.W.R. Clara for Revolver and Pole- Climbing Equipment- January 1918 and February 1919.
- E. Numerous raids for and seizure of arms on divers dates from 1918 to 1921.
- F. Raid for and seizure of arms at Ritchies Ballinagore, Kilbeggan Dec. 1919.
- G. Raids on Mails for enemy communications on divers dates from 1920 to 1921.
- H. On Section which occupied Goodbodys Mills in the attack on Clara R.I.C Barracks in June 1920.
- I. Was on Section lying in wait to disarm R.I.C. Patrol in Clara Apl. 1920.
- J. Dismantling motor cars for mining purposes.
- K. Was one of a party at the seizure of enemy supplies-- 72 bags of Bread, 2 bales of bacon also Mails at Clara Station November 1920.
- L. Destruction of Ballycumber unoccupied Barracks April 1920 and Clara Courthouse June 1920 while party of Military were on the street.
- M. All roads in Battalion area thoroughly blocked and all bridges blown up from December 1920 to July 1921.
- N. In charge of hold up of train and destruction of military supplies-- 8 barrells of stout- at Clara Station February 1921.
- O. Holding up of Train at Ballycumber to attack Military Guard- removed 4 soldiers, seized their equipment together with 72 bags of bread and Mails, February 1921.
- P. Associated with hold up of train on Clara and Athlone Branch G.S.W.R. British Officer removed, equipment seized, and Military Police Pay Roll. On same date participated in hold up of train on M.G.W.R. Military Officer disarmed, amunition and equipment seized, March 1921. Attempted derailment of troop train at Ballykilmurray February and March 1921.
- Q. Associated with attack on Military convoy at Ballinough Clara about June 1921 and Ballycumber in June 1921.
- R. In charge of hold up and destruction of gun-carriage May 1921.
 - " holding up train, seizure of Officers Equipment May 1921.
 - " Hold up of train and seizure of R.I.C. Equipment Feb. 1921.
 - " Holding up of Train at Ballinough Clara. Mails searched for enemy communications January 1921.
- S. In charge of A.S.U. who dismantled Clara Post Office when town was garrisoned by R.I.C. May 1921.
- T. In charge of Brigade A.S.U. who were surrounded in Kinnitty by a large force of Military and R.I.C.. Took Unit through their lines without any captures, March and April, 1921.
- U. Associated with the seizure and destruction of Military supplies -- 60 tons of hay, 40 tons of straw at Clara Station February 1921.
- V. In charge of Road Blocking and destruction of all bridges in Bati. area June and July 1922.
- W. Arrest of 4 Free State soldiers and seizure of their car July 1921.
- X. In charge of A.S.U. when lorry which Free State soldiers had captured was retaken in Horseleap April 1922.
- Y. Destruction of all communications and seizure of mails June and July 1922.

Signed.....*Thomas Bracken*.....

Rank.....*Ex-Adj. 1st Bttn*.....

Address.....*Ballycumber Offaly*.....

Date.....*Dec 6 - 1935*.....

Military Archives

Re Tomas Fleming

This is to certify that Thomas Fleming, Clara, was actively associated with the Volunteers and I.R.A. units, and was available for service during critical periods.

I can further testify that he was in command of several major engagements. He lost considerable time, and also lost his employment. During his association with the I.R.A. he was of exemplary character.

Signed ~~Patrick~~ *Patrick*.....

Rank *Brigade Police Officer*
Address

Date *12/11/35*

Military Service
Pensions Collection

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I hereby certify that Thomas Fleming River Street, Clara Offaly, successfully held the Ranks of 1st and 2nd Lieutenant, Company Captain, and Battalion Commandant in Offaly No 2 Brigade and that he participated in the following Military Operations.

- A. Mobilized Party to effect rescue of Joseph McDonagh and Thomas Malone from R. I. C. at D. E. Williams Clara - April, 1918 - .
- B. Was arrested in May 1918, for the shooting of a British Ex-Soldier as a direct result of his activities with the I. R. A.
- C. Was one of a Party lying in wait to disarm an R. I. C., Patrol at Barney Bridge, Clara, - July, 1919 -.
- D. Raid on Post Office Hut at G. S. W. R. Clara, for Revolver and Pole - Climbing Equipment - January, 1918 and February, 1919 - .
- E. Numerous Raids for and Seizure of Arms on divers dates from 1918 to 1921.
- F. Raid for and seizure of Arms at Ritchies Ballingore, Kilbeggah, Dec. 1919.
- G. Raids on Mails for enemy communications on divers from 1920 to 1921.
- H. Occupied Goodbody's Mills in the attack on Clara, R. I. C. Barracks in June 1920.
- I. Was on Section lying in wait to disarm R. I. C. Patrol in Clara, April, 1920.
- J. Order from G. H. Q. - Dismantling Motor Cars for Mining purposes,
- K. Surprised by R. I. C. in Clara, who opened fire wounding Capt. William Dignam which later proved fatal - October 1920.
at the Capture and seizure
- L. Was one of a Party of which I had charge of Enemy Supplies - 72, Bags of Bread, 2 Bales of Bacon, also Mails at Clara Station, November 1920.
- M. Destruction of Ballycumber unoccupied R. I. C. Barracks - April, 1920 and Clara Courthouse, June 1920 - while Party of Military were on the Street.
- N. All roads in Battalion area thoroughly blocked and all Bridges blown up from December, 1920 to July, 1921.
- O. In charge of Party at destruction of Military Supplies - Clara Station - 8 Barrels Stout February, 1921.
- P. ~~Reasonable~~ (one of the Party) ~~was~~ Holding up Train at Ballycumber to attack Military Guard - removed 4, Soldiers seized their equipment together with 72, Bags of bread and Mails, February, 1921.
- Q. Associated with Hold-up of Train on Clara and Athlone Branch, G. S. W. R., - British Officer removed, Equipment seized, and Military Police Paid. On same date participated in Hold-up of train on M. G. W. R., - Military Officer disarmed, ammunition and equipment seized, March 1921. Attempted Derailment of Troop Train at ~~Barrow~~ *Ballycumber* February, March 1921.

PLEASE TURN OVER

CONTINUED

Associated in attack on Military Convoy at Ballinough, Clara,

DATE 18/11/35

Military Archives

Certificate of Rank.

I certify that Thomas Fleming of River St. Clara, Offaly held the rank of Battalion Commandant on 11th July 1921 and on 1st July 1922. His appointment was O/C 1st Batta Offaly No 2 Bde. (CLARA BN).

Applicant has an active pre-war record, and took a very active part in all operations carried out in his area including attack on R.I.C Barracks Clara.

During the period for which I was O/C Offaly No 2 Bde applicants whole time was given to military service. During the Free period Const Fleming attended Divisional and Brigade Training Camps, and later ran Camps for the 1st Batta. He was O/C Clara Barracks after evacuation of British Forces.

Thomas F. Burke Capt.

(O/C Offaly No 2 Bde.

3rd Southern Div I.R.A.

April 1921 — July 1922)

Customs Bks
Athlone

16/11/35

SWORN STATEMENT BY THOMAS FLEMING (NO. 6846) MADE

BEFORE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE 10.12.'35

3rd Period:

Q. Your claim starts with the 3rd Period?

A. Yes.

Q. You were battalion commandant on both dates?

A. Yes.

Q. You attended parades, route marches and took part in a raid on Post Office hut for wire cutting equipment and a revolver. Was there a revolver in the place?

A. Yes.

Q. What kind of place was it?

A. A small hut up at the railway station.

Q. What equipment did they keep there?

A. All the equipment was kept there for the Post Office.

Q. You say there was a revolver there?

A. Yes.

Q. Who had it?

A. The fellow that was in charge of the place.

Q. It was his own property?

A. It must have been it was not belonging to the Post Office.

Q. What tools did you get?

A. Pliers and things for climbing poles and things for cutting down brambles of trees, we took these away too that is about all that was in it.

Q. You collected arms - the usual raids for arms I suppose?

A. More or less, people were giving them it was just a matter of collecting them from some people.

Q. Attended Brigade Inspection in Tullamore. What had you to do with it?

A. I just attended there.

Q. With the brigade men?

A. Yes.

Q. What munitions did you make?

A. We made a crude sort of bomb out of piping, we also made powder. It was not I made the powder but another chap

Q. Had you any rank at this time?

A. Second lieutenant when the company was started.

4th Period:

Q. Usual volunteer routine in this period I suppose?

Q. You had the usual volunteer activities in this period?
 A. Yes. There was a second raid on the post office in that period.

Q. Was it on the post office itself?
 A. No on the hut we got more stuff there.

Q. There was no opposition?
 A. No there was no opposition.

Q. You attended lectures on engineering. Was that Rory O'Connor?
 A. Yes.

Q. You were arrested in May 1918?
 A. Yes on the 11th May, I always remember that day.

Q. You were in prison for a short time?
 A. Yes.

Q. About how long?
 A. About 6 weeks.

Q. Why were you arrested?
 A. The population of the town was fairly hostile. There was an ex-soldier attacked two of us owing to the fact that we were attached to the army. He attacked us with a knife.

Q. An ex-soldier?
 A. Yes an ex-British soldier and in order to protect myself I had to open fire he would not let me pass.

Q. You wounded him?
 A. Yes.

Q. Did you only get six weeks?
 A. I was only on remand and I was tried in Belfast. I was six weeks in prison.

Q. They did not sentence you at all?
 A. I was found guilty under extreme provocation.

Q. This fellow was just an ex-serviceman it was not a military encounter?
 A. No there was a crowd of hostile people organised we could not go up or down the street but we had to have some kind of weapon even going to work we had to bring something.

Q. How was it they were so hostile?
 A. The town was hostile.

Q. What town?
 A. Clara they had the employers influenced and they were all up against us.

5th Period:

Q. What raids for mails had you in this period?
 A. There was a mail car used to go from Tullamore we held it up several times.

Q. Did you take the mails and censor them?
 A. We used to take them over, censor and return them.

3.

Q. Are you sure you had raids for mails in this period?

A. I am sure there were raids for mails in this period there was an old horse van.

Q. Seizure of enemy communications what was that?

A. Anything we got belonging to the military we took.

Q. Raid for arms - was that a raid on a private house?

A. That was on Ritchies house.

Q. Waiting to disarm police patrol on Ballycumber. They did not turn up?

A. No, there was a crowd of us told off to go and hold them up and we were waiting there.

Q. You were lying in ambush?

A. Yes.

Q. You wanted to get arms?

A. Yes.

Q. They did not turn up?

A. They went home another road.

Q. Making munitions was it still the same as the other time?

A. Yes it would be the same the mechanic instructed us.

Q. You had no munition factory?

A. No we were collecting pipes and cutting them.

Q. Did you find any use for the bombs?

A. We could not depend on them.

6th Period:

Q. You took part in attack on Clara Barracks?

A. Yes.

Q. You could not take it?

A. No.

Q. How long did that attack last?

A. About an hour and a half.

Q. How were you armed?

A. Grenades and revolvers.

Q. You were using grenades yourself?

A. Yes.

Q. What rank had you at that time?

A. I was first lieutenant.

Q. You would be in charge of a group of men: How many men?

A. There was a terrible crowd in fact too many.

Q. How many would be in the actual attack?

A. In the section I was in there might be 15 or 20.

Q. Taking all sections together?

A. I do not how many there would be 20 more in Williams.

3.

- Q. There would be 30 or 40?
 A. There would be that, I could get that certified if necessary.
- Q. You lay in ambush for R.I.C., patrol in Clara, April 1920?
 A. Yes.
- Q. Order from G.H.Q., dismantling motor cars for mining purposes
 What do you mean by mining?
 A. We took off the magnetos and batteries for blowing up mines.
- Q. Surprised by R.I.C., in Clara who opened fire wounding Capt.
 Wm.Dignam which later proved fatal - that was in October?
 A. Yes.
- Q. You held up a train at Ballycumber to attack military guard
 removed 4 soldiers and seized their equipment etc?
 A. Yes.
- Q. That must have been a very hot area?
 A. It was yes.
- Q. Hold-up of train on Clara and Athlone Branch, G.S.Rly.
 British of ficer removed, equipment seized and military police
 pay. Did you take the money?
 A. Yes £7.10. was forwarded to headquarters.
- Q. You were full time on military work in 1920?
 A. Yes.
- Q. What date in 1920?
 A. November.
- Q. You were full time from November?
 A. Yes. I had to go on the run.
- Q. Were you company captain that time?
 A. Yes.
- Q. When were you appointed?
 A. October 1920 after Captain Dignam was shot.
- Q. Before that you would go out on any job you were asked to?
 A. Yes.
- Q. You must have been fairly active before October 1920?
 A. I was often days I went out for a day, I left my work.
- Q. What work were you doing?
 A. I was in Goodbody's mills they never minded me.
- Q. You did not leave your work until October 1920?
 A. They broke up my house and I had to clear out.
- 7th PERIOD:
 Q. In charge of hold up and destruction of gun carriage?
 A. The gun carriage came from Curragh to Athlone.
- Q. Was it by road?
 A. No by the railway we held up the goods train took off the gun
 carriage and smashed it.
- Q. Hold up of train at Clara. How was it you were allowed to do
 all this work. Did they not sent down anybody to prevent you?
 A. They did they sent a whole regiment of lancers and they combed
 out the area.

5.

Q. When did they come?

A. I could not be exact about the date.

Q. A few months before the Truce?

A. About three or four months before the Truce.

Q. Did they take up a post in your area?

A. They came in twice cavalry and aeroplanes..

Q. They were only flying visits?

A. Yes the R.I.C., took up a post.

Q. Where did they take up a post?

A. Clara.

Q. Was that near your area?

A. In my area.

Q. Where did they occupy?

A. They put out a family and occupied a big house.

Q. What force did they put into that?

A. About 16 R.I.C., men.

Q. Was it all R.I.C.?

A. It was a force of Tans and R.I.C., about 7 or 8 Tans.

Q. Had you any A.S.U., in your area?

A. I had I was in charge.

Q. When was it formed?

A. It was formed the latter part of March.

Q. How many were in it?

A. 23.

Q. You were in charge?

A. There was a chap sent down from Dublin first named William Hogan he was recalled and I was put in charge.

Q. What month?

A. Last week in March or early in April I cannot be definite.

Q. Had you that going up to the Truce?

A. No we disbanded it in April.

Q. It was only about a month in existence?

A. 50% of my area was boggy and headquarters came to the conclusion that it could not be operated.

Q. You were disbanded by Headquarters?

A. The Brigade O.C.

Q. Who was he?

A. John Mahon

Q. What was the idea that the area was not suitable?

A. It was all bog and flat we could only come together at night and disband in the day time, if we ~~could~~ had to keep it up as it should have been but we could not do so.

Q. Had the A.S.U., three scraps when they were together?

A. No.

6.

These parades were mobilised every night, the time we went to Banagher the active service unit had been disbanded and we were mobilised to attack the R.I.C., when we got there we found the whole place full of military, we did not actually go into the town, I do not know what happened but I know the whole place was full of military.

- Q. You state here you were one of A.S.U., mobilised to attack military at Roscore. That was a different time Feb. 1921?
A. Yes.

8th Period:

- Q. You attended Divisional Training Camp in Camross Leix July 1921. Was it after the Truce or before it?
A. We arrived there on the 11th July we marched from Clara.
- Q. During the Truce were you full time on military work?
A. Yes.
- Q. You did not go home?
A. No.
- Q. What rank had you at the Truce?
A. Battalion commandant.
- Q. When were you appointed battalion commandant?
A. About January 1921 I am sure that is right there was another chap arrested Jim Grennon.
- Q. During the Truce you were still battalion commandant?
A. Yes.
- Q. You were full time between training camps and looking after your area?
A. Yes.

9th Period:

- Q. You did not go out with a field force?
A. I was for a while.
- Q. How long?
A. About a week.
- Q. After 1st July?
A. Yes.
- Q. What force?
A. There were about 40 in the force I was in.
- Q. Who was in charge?
A. Joe Reddin he was brigade adjutant.
- Q. You were with Joe Reddin's force for a week is that right?
A. Yes we were out in a small unit in Clara and he sent out for me to go up to his assistance.
- Q. What week was that?
A. In July I cannot tell the date.

7.

Q. After that where did you go?

A. There were about 80 of us. They burned the jail in Tullamore and another column came out from Offaly No.1. There were about 80 of us in the town and we decided it was too big and we broke up and went back to our own area.

Q. You went back to your own area?

A. Yes.

Q. Was that still in July?

A. Yes.

Q. Took over all railway lines running through your battalion area?

A. Yes.

Q. You were engaged in looking after manufacture of mines?

A. Yes we made them in Goodbody's factory, we made them in the mechanic's shop they supplied the piping and we cut them.

Q. Were you full time out in the open until your arrest in Sept.1922

A. No I was not.

Q. What were you doing?

A. I had to come home I had a wife and children, to look after. I had to come home and look for a job, in August.

Q. You say that was in August?

A. Yes it was after the 15th August.

Q. You went home in August and you were arrested in September?

A. Yes.

Q. You were not really doing any fighting at the time of your arrest?

A. No.

Q. Had you practically thrown in your guns?

A. Yes.

Q. In other words you thought the game was up?

A. No I had to go home it was economic pressure.

Q. Somebody took your place and carried on?

A. Yes.

Q. You are really only claiming for July?

A. Yes.

Q. You were home in August?

A. Yes.

Q. About a month and a half?

A. Yes that is all I am claiming for.

Q. How long did they keep you?

A. About a day or so.

Q. You were battalion commandant on both dates?

A. Yes.

Q. How many men in your battalion?

A. About 308 or 309.

8.

Q. Did you send in list?

A. Yes as a matter of fact there is one man not on the list through lack of organisation the first list sent in was not complete. There are two men altogether not on the lists that would leave battalion 310 on first critical date and 279 on the second.

SWORN STATEMENT MADE BEFORE ADVISORY COMMITTEE BY THOMAS FLEMING ON THE

10TH DECEMBER, 1935 - NO. 6846.

- Q. When I was before the Board this morning I said the Unit was disbanded; that was not exactly right: it was temporarily disbanded.
- Q. Are you talking about the Brigade A.S.U.?
- A. The Brigade A.S.U.
- Q. That started in October '20?
- A. No, this started in March.
- Q. Did that succeed the Oct. '20 column?
- A. It was after that. Up to that there was no permanent -
- Q. The one that started in Oct. was not permanent?
- A. They were mobilised for the time. We got an order to take out a permanent one in March '21 and I said to-day it was disbanded.
- Q. You said disbanded after a month or six weeks?
- A. It was only a temporary business.
- Q. Who was in charge of the second one?
- A. I was. There were 23 men in it.
- Q. You did not appear to have much activity with that column before the Truce?
- A. No. We were going to Ferbane when they decided to disband. They came in the middle of the night and disbanded it.
- Q. What month?
- A. April.
- Q. Did you call it again?
- A. We called it back together again for Bannagher.
- Q. That did not come off?
- A. The whole place was full of military.
- Q. Your intelligence system was bad?
- A. It was good in one place and bad in another. On the whole the intelligence was bad. It was good in my Battn. area.
- Q. You mention going to Banagher?
- A. There were about 40 fellows in that thing. The Brigade O.C. was in charge.
- Q. In Banagher?
- A. Yes, Seam Mahon.
- Q. Were they called out for any other job after Banagher?
- A. We were brought to Portumna. Then Commdt. Burke said it would be madness to go to Portumna.
- Q. What month was that?
- A. April.
- Q. And the thing practically did not function after that?
- A. About the latter end of April. It was in small units.
- Q. It was finished as a column?
- A. As a column, yes.

leatán miontuairisce.

m.s.c.

73

18. JUN 1935

TAGAIRT.....

claim of Martin Fleming, Rwis St.
blara, Italy for m.s.c. It
applⁿ has been rec^d. & sent to
Referee. The Minister instructs
that Sec. to Referee be asked
to have claim dealt with early

M.

18/6

1934
OIFIG AN RÉITEÓRA
FAIGHTE
21 JUN 1935
DÚN ÚI GRIOBHTHA

7 JUN 1935
Keeb.



DEPT. OF DEFENCE
RECEIVED
- 7 JUN 1935
PENSIONS BRANCH
M.S.P./34/1.

Military Service Pensions Act, 1934.

APPLICATION TO THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE FOR A SERVICE CERTIFICATE.

This form must be filled in by every person who seeks a Service Certificate, and must be signed by him, and signature witnessed, on or before the 31st day of December, 1935. In the event of an applicant being unable to write he should affix his mark, such act being witnessed.

NAME (to be written in block capitals). FLEMING THOMAS
SURNAME. CHRISTIAN NAMES.

PRESENT ADDRESS (to be written in block capitals). RIVER ST. CLARA O'FEALY

NOTE.—Before answering the questions below, the applicant is requested to note that :

- (a) This form is divided into three parts. Part I. is to be completed where the applicant had, in addition to the required pre-Truce Service, Service in the Forces in the period commencing the 1st July, 1922. Part II. is to be completed where the applicant's qualifying service in the Forces was pre-Truce only. Only one of those two parts is to be completed by any one applicant. Part III. is of general application and should be completed by all applicants.
- (b) Before completing particulars as to rank the applicant should read carefully the First Schedule to the Act and also the definitions of the expressions "first critical date" and "second critical date" which are appended to this form for the information of applicants. He should then complete his replies to the questions in the terms of Rules 1 and 2 of the First Schedule which are applicable to his case, e.g. :—

was "a Divisional Adjutant" or

was "a Battalion Quartermaster whose Battalion was (at the critical date) not less than one hundred in strength," or

was "an officer of Fianna Eireann commanding one hundred members or more."

If applicant's case falls within either Rule 3 or Rule 4 of the First Schedule full particulars of the claim as required by those Rules should be given, if necessary, in a separate statement.

- (c) All statements made in this application will be carefully investigated, and satisfactory evidence must be forthcoming on request to substantiate each and every statement made.
- (d) "If any person with a view to obtaining either for himself or any other person a grant or payment of a pension under this Act, makes, signs, or uses any declaration, application or other written statement knowing the same to be false, such person shall be guilty of an offence under this section and shall be liable on summary conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding £25 (twenty-five pounds) or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or at the discretion of the Court to both such fine and imprisonment." (Sec. 19 (1) of the Military Service Pensions Act, 1934).

- (e) "If any person so convicted as aforesaid is in receipt of a pension obtained by reason of such false declaration, application, or other written statement he shall forfeit such pension as from the date of such conviction." (Sec. 19 (2) of the Military Service Pensions Act, 1934).

If the applicant is unable to read, the above note should be read to him by the witness.

SERVICE IN THE FORCES, THAT IS IN THE FOLLOWING MILITARY BODIES, OGLAIGH NA h-EIREANN (IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY) OR IN THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS OR IN THE IRISH CITIZEN ARMY OR IN FIANNA EIREANN OR IN THE HIBERNIAN RIFLES OR IN CUMANN NA mBAN.

For each of the periods set out in Parts I. and II. in which you claim to have rendered active service, state the name of the unit or units, name and address of the O/C., the names and addresses of three reputable references who can verify your service.

The following circumstances shall not be deemed to constitute a breach in the continuity of service :—

- (a) Absence from duty following arrest, imprisonment, internment, or deportation under the Defence of the Realm Act, 1914, the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act, 1920, or any regulations made thereunder ;
- (b) Absence from duty following arrest, imprisonment, or penal servitude in respect of sedition, treason or treason felony prior to 11th July, 1921 ;
- (c) Absence from duty by reason of duties necessitating such absence undertaken at the instance of or on behalf of the Cabinet of the First Dail Eireann or of the Second Dail Eireann ;
- (d) Absence from duty while under arrest, as a result of activities as a member of the Forces.

If you claim to have been absent from duty under these conditions, give particulars of the circumstances with respect to each such period of absence, and state its duration.

PART I.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANTS WHO HAD PRE AND POST TRUCE SERVICE IN THE FORCES * AS FOLLOWS :—

- (a) who served in the Forces at any time during the week commencing on the 23rd day of April, 1916,
- or
- (b) who served in the Forces continuously during either of the following periods, the period commencing on the 1st day of April, 1920, and ending on the 31st day of March, 1921,
- or
- (c) the period commencing on the 1st day of April, 1921, and ending on the 11th day of July, 1921,

and in addition

who served in the Forces at any time during the period commencing on the 1st day of July, 1922, and ending on the 30th day of September, 1923.

* The following Military Bodies, and those only, are included in the term "the Forces," viz. :—

Oglaigh na h-Eireann (Irish Republican Army) or
the Irish Volunteers, or
the Irish Citizen Army, or
Fianna Eireann, or
the Hibernian Rifles, or
Cumann na mBan.

(1). ACTIVE SERVICE AT ANY TIME DURING THE WEEK COMMENCING ON THE 23RD DAY OF APRIL, 1916.

(a) Did you render active service in the week commencing 23rd April, 1916. If so, from what date in that week ?.....

(b) Unit or Units.....

(c) Duration (giving dates) of service.....

(d) District or Districts in which active service was rendered.....

(e) Officer Commanding in each instance.....

(f) In what way do you claim that your service was active service.....

(g) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during the week.....

(h) Absence from duty and cause.....

(i) References who can testify as to your statements above :—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

(2). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD COMPRISING—

(a) period from 1st April, 1916, to 22nd April, 1916, and

(b) period from 30th April, 1916, to 31st March, 1917.

(a) Unit or Units.....

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service.....

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered.....

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance.....

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service ?.....

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during the period.....

(g) Absence from duty and cause.....

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above :—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

(3). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL, 1917, TO 31ST MARCH, 1918.

(a) Unit or Units *CA. Company 5th Batten Offaly Bgds*

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service *Continuous from May 22 June 1917*

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered *Clara Tullamore and district*

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance *Patrick Morris (Capt) Sean Rablins*

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service ? *Acting Under orders from superior officers as a member of the I.R.A*

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during the period *Organizing the I.R.A. attending Parades route marches etc. took part in raid on Post Office but for wire cutting equipment and revolver. Collecting arms. attended Bgds inspection in Tullamore. Collecting funds. attacking munitions. Police Work*

(g) Absence from duty and cause *NONE*

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above :—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

Sean Rablins Johns Place Binn Offaly
Martin Fleming Grogan Ballycumber
Thos Bracken Bahrnagrasna Ballycumber

(4). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL, 1918, TO 31ST MARCH, 1919.

(a) Unit or Units *CA. Company 5th Batten Offaly Bgds*

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service *Continuous through out Period*

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered *Clara Moate Ballycumber*

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance *William Dignam (Dead)*

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service ? *Under orders and arms*

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during the period. *Second raid on Post Office But and all equipment seized. Company drill and target practice. Carrying out Police Duty attending midnight Test parades called by Ernest O'Malley and route marching. Attended lectures on Engineering by Prof. O'Connor. Arrested in May 1918 in connection with shooting affair in Prison six weeks. Racking for Arms.*

(g) Absence from duty and cause..... *NONE*

Six weeks in Prison in connection with shooting affair

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above:—

NAME.	ADDRESS.
<i>Martin Fleming</i>	<i>Grogan Ballycumber Offaly</i>
<i>Sean Robbins</i>	<i>Johns Place Binn 21</i>
<i>Thos Bracken</i>	<i>Bahernagruana Ballycumber 11</i>

(5). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL, 1919, TO 31ST MARCH, 1920.

(a) Unit or Units. *A. Company 5th Batta Offaly Bgde*

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service..... *Continuous throughout period*

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered..... *Clare*

Ballycumber Ballinagore Kilbeggan

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance..... *William Duggan C. Kellomies*

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service?..... *Acting under orders and under arms*

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during the period. *Attending to training of Company. Organized and took part in the raids for mails. Seizure of enemy communications. Took part in raid for arms in Ballinagore waiting to disarm Police patrol on Ballycumber Clara Road. Collecting funds for arms getting ammunition manufactured. Enforcing of Boycott on Police. Instructing company in the use of arms etc. House to house raid for arms*

(g) Absence from duty and cause..... *NONE*

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above:—

NAME.	ADDRESS.
<i>Sean McGunners</i>	<i>Hennitty Offaly</i>
<i>Thos Bracken</i>	<i>Bahernagruana Ballycumber Offaly</i>
<i>Sean Robbins</i>	<i>Johns Place Binn 11</i>

(6). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL, 1920, TO 31ST MARCH, 1921.

(a) Unit or Units. *A. Company 1st Batta Offaly No. 2 Bgde*
acted as Batta Commandant in whole period

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service..... *Continuous*

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered... *Clara... Banagher*
Ballycumber... Raham... Pullagh... Kinnitty... Kilcormack...

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance... *Sean Mahon Bde. C/C*

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service? ... *Under...*

..... *orders... and... under arms...*

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during

the period... *Took part in attack on R.I.C. Barracks taking up position in adjoining building. Took part in destruction of all R.I.C. Bks and Courthouses in my area. Marched to Banagher to attack R.I.C. Barracks twice. Arranged plans and took part in the destruction of all enemy supplies passing through my area including the following 14 Barrels of Stout, 144 Bags of bread 3 Cales of Bacon 60 Tons of Hay, one Gun, Carriage. Held up train in Ballycumber for the purpose of attacking military guard took off four soldiers and seized their equipment also mails and enemy supplies on train. Arranged soup for all over area and placed men in same which resulted in enemy forces being attacked in Ballycumber and Clara took part in the holding up of two trains taking off officers equipment and bag for troops in Clonsilla also the seizure of Officer Gun who were travelling on same. Seized all mails passing through area by road and rail which necessitated the holding up of all trains passing through as a result of order received from G.H.Q. I went on B.C.D.E. D.S.U. with William Hogan sent down to train same took charge of A.S.U. when he was recalled. Got surrounded by enemy forces in Kinnitty numbering about two hundred took fight through their lines without any of them being arrested Had all roads in my area blocked and all bridges blown up took charge of a lot of these operations (not est)*

(g) Absence from duty and cause... *NONE*

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above:—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

Chas. Fleming... Grogan Ballycumber Offaly

Sean Robbins... Johns Place Bira...

Thos. Bracken... Bohernagrasa Ballycumber...

(7). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL, 1921, TO 11TH JULY, 1921

(a) Unit or Units... *1st Bn. Offaly No. 2 Bde*

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service... *Continuous throughout Period*

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered... *Clara... Ballycumber*
Raham... Pullagh... Banagher... Kilcormack (Camross Leix)

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance... *Thos. Burke Bde. C/C*

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service? ...

..... *Under orders... and... arms as a member of the I.R.A.*

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during

the period... *Had all Post office in my area dismantled took D.S.U. into Clara which was garrisoned by B and Tans and dismantled Post Office. Mobilized 1st Bn. Offaly to attack R.I.C. Barracks in Expremont when Commandant Burke came down from G.H.Q. taking off for enemy communications. Holding up two trains and seizure of officers equipment. Informing of Belfast boycott. Arresting and deporting. Criminals had all telephone wires in area cut. Standby Bde and Bn. Counc. meetings. Had to march 15 miles to enemy Bde Counc. meeting. Attempted dismantling of 7000 train appointed men on railway posts taking charge of some posts myself. Marched from Clara to Camross Leix with Cornett Burke and other officers to attend Divisional Training Camp under Comdt McCormack and Sean Collison arrived on the 11th July 1921*

(g) Absence from duty and cause... *NONE*

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above:—

NAME.	ADDRESS.
Capt. Thomas Burke A.A.O.	Quatone Bks. Athlone
Sean Robbins	Johns Place Birr Offaly
Martin Fleming	Grogan Ballycumber

(8). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 12TH JULY, 1921, TO 30TH JUNE, 1922.

(a) Unit or Units. 1st Batten Offaly No 2 Bde

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service. Continuous

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered. (Connors Linn)

Carletonstown (Yohalarra Newtown Nenagh) Ballycumber Rahan Clara Pullagh

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance. Thos Burke Bde OK

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service? Acting

under orders as a member of the I.R.A.

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during

the period spent a fortnight in special training in Connors under Comdt McCormack. McCurtain and Capt. Callaghan went with Comdt Burke to train company Captains from Bgd area in Camp at Carletonstown went for a special course of training under Comdt McCormack to Yohalarra and Newtown Nenagh Co Tipperary took charge of two training camps in Ballycumber and Clara attended all Ireland Convention in Connors as representative from Bgd

(g) Absence from duty and cause. N.O.N.E.

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above:—

NAME.	ADDRESS.
Capt Thos Burke A.A.O.	Quatone Bks. Athlone Co Westmeath
Martin Fleming	Grogan Ballycumber Offaly
Sean Robbins	Johns Place Birr

(9). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 1ST JULY, 1922, TO 31ST MARCH, 1923.

(a) Unit or Units. 1st Batten Offaly No 2 Bde

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service. Continuous for portion of period

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered. Clara

Ballycumber Rahan Pullagh Hilcarnac Horseshoe

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance. Thos Burke and Sean Robbins

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service? Acting

under orders as a member of the I.R.A.

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during

the period *Had all roads in area blocked taking charge of road for the purpose of attacking U.S. troops. captured four U.S. soldiers and captured this car. took control of all railway stations in area seized all mails passing through. Destruction of all Belfast goods recaptured ferry which U.S. troops had taken from my area (prepared munitions for Bude area) received instructions from Bude Adgt Joseph Madden to report at Hibernia to take charge of Bude U.S. Co. was in charge until I was ordered to report back to my own area to reorganize Company. made provision for U.S. Co. to obtain food supplies in Bude area throughout area.*

(g) Absence from duty and cause.

NONE

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above:—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

Capt. Thos Burke A.S.O. Customs Bks. Othlone
 Sean Roblin John's Place Binn Offaly
 Master Fleming Hogan Ballinacorney I.I.

(10). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL, 1923, TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1923.

(a) Unit or Units.....

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service.....

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered.....

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance.....

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service?.....

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during the period.....

(g) Absence from duty and cause.....

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above:—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

Military Service
 Pensions Collection

PART II.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANTS WHOSE QUALIFYING SERVICE IN THE FORCES* WAS PRE-TRUCE ONLY, *i.e.* :—

(a) who served in the Forces at any time during the week commencing on the 23rd day of April, 1916,

or

(b) who served in the Forces continuously during the period commencing on the 1st day of April, 1921, and ending on the 11th day of July, 1921.

.....

(1). ACTIVE SERVICE AT ANY TIME DURING WEEK COMMENCING ON 23RD APRIL, 1916.

(a) Did you render active service in the week commencing 23rd April, 1916? If so,
 from what date in that week.....

(b) Unit or Units.....

(c) Duration (giving dates) of service.....

.....

(d) District or Districts in which active service was rendered.....

.....

(e) Officer Commanding in each instance.....

(f) In what way do you claim that your service was active service?.....

.....

(g) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during
 the week.....

.....

.....

(h) Absence from duty and cause.....

.....

.....

* The following Military Bodies, and those only, are included in the term "the Forces,"
viz. :—

Oglaigh na h-Eireann (Irish Republican Army), or
 the Irish Volunteers, or
 the Irish Citizen Army, or
 Fianna Eireann, or
 the Hibernian Rifles, or
 Cumann na mBan.

(i) References who can testify as to your statements above :—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

(2). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD COMPRISING :—

(a) period from 1st April, 1916, to 22nd April, 1916 ;

(b) period from 30th April, 1916, to 31st March, 1917.

(a) Unit or Units.....

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service.....

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered.....

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance.....

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service ?.....

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during the period.....

(g) Absence from duty and cause.....

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above :—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

(3). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL, 1917, TO 31ST MARCH, 1918.

(a) Unit or Units.....

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service.....

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered.....

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance.....

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service ?.....

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during the period.....

(g) Absence from duty and cause.....

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above :—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

(4). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL, 1918, TO 31ST MARCH, 1919.

(a) Unit or Units.....

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service.....

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered.....

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance.....

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service ?.....

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during the period.....

(g) Absence from duty and cause.....

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above:—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

(5). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL, 1919, TO 31ST MARCH, 1920.

(a) Unit or Units.....

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service.....

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered.....

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance.....

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service?.....

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during the period.....

(g) Absence from duty and cause.....

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above:—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

(6). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL, 1920, TO 31ST MARCH, 1921.

(a) Unit or Units.....

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service.....

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered.....

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance.....

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service ?.....

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during the period.....

(g) Absence from duty and cause.....

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above :—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

(7). CONTINUOUS ACTIVE SERVICE DURING PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL, 1921, TO 11TH JULY, 1921.

(a) Unit or Units.....

(b) Duration (giving dates) of service.....

(c) District or Districts in which active service was rendered.....

(d) Officer Commanding in each instance.....

(e) In what way do you claim that your service was active service ?.....

(f) Particulars of any military operations or engagements or services rendered during the period.....

(g) Absence from duty and cause.....

(h) References who can testify as to your statements above :—

NAME.

ADDRESS.

PART III.
GENERAL.

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL APPLICANTS.

- (1). State in terms of the First Schedule to the Act the rank and nature of appointment held on the first and second critical dates, respectively :—

(a) On first critical date.

..... *Commandant 1st Bn Offaly No 2 Bgd*

(b) On second critical date.

..... *Commandant 1st Bn Offaly No 2 Bgd*

References who can testify as to your statements :—

NAME.	ADDRESS.
..... <i>Capt. Thos Burke I.A.O.</i> <i>Customs Bks Athlone</i>
..... <i>Sean Robbins</i> <i>Johns Place Birr Offaly</i>
..... <i>Charles Fleming</i> <i>Grogan Ballycumber II</i>
..... <i>Thos Bracken</i> <i>Bohernagrusna Ballycumber II</i>

- (2). Did you serve in the National Army as well as in the Forces on the 1st July, 1922, or on any subsequent date. If so, did you apply for a certificate of military service under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1924, and, if so, with what result. If you did not so apply, give your reasons for not doing so.

..... *No*

- (3). If you did not serve in both the National Army and the Forces on the 1st July, 1922, or on any subsequent date—state whether you applied for a Certificate of Military Service under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1924, and, if so, with what result.

..... *No*

(4). Did you apply for a wound or disability pension under any of the following Acts ? :—

Army Pensions Act, 1923.

Army Pensions Act, 1927.

Army Pensions Act, 1932.

If so, with what result.

No.

(5). Have you applied for, or are you in receipt of Unemployment Assistance under the Unemployment Assistance Act, 1933 ? If so, quote the number of your qualification

certificate

No.

(6). Were you a member of the Irish Volunteer Executive at any time prior to the 11th July, 1921 ? If so, give the dates between which you served.....

No.

(7). Are you now, or were you at any time during the period for which you claim service, in receipt of any remuneration, or allowance payable out of public moneys, whether provided by the Oireachtas or out of the Central Fund, or by means of the poor rate or any other rate imposed by a local authority, state details.....

No.

(8). Are you in receipt of any pension in respect of service :—

(a) As a member of the Civil Service.

(b) As a member of the Garda Síochána.

(c) As a member of any other Police Force.

(d) As a member of the Prisons Service.

(e) As a National School Teacher.

(f) As a Secondary School Teacher.

(g) As an Officer of any Local Authority.

(h) In any other employment.

If so, give details.....

No

NOTE.—You will subsequently have to furnish any further particulars and to submit any evidence which the Minister for Defence, or the Referee appointed under the Military Service Pensions Act, or any person or persons duly authorised by them may require in connection with this application for a Service certificate. In this connection attention is directed to the fact that Section 8 (4) of the Act prescribes that the onus of proof shall rest on the applicant.

Careful consideration will be given to any documentary evidence which you may wish to submit herewith. You may also at your discretion write hereunder a statement of any additional information which you consider may be of assistance in determining your application.

As there is not space enough in form I had to leave out a lot of other operations. Together with the general routine of running a Battalion which entailed the attending of meetings almost nightly and was a full time job. I also acted as district centre for the I.R.B. in South Offaly which entailed the duty of attending every Circle in the area. I can submit details of same if required regarding the number of men in each Company Circle Etc

Signature (or Mark) of Applicant.....

Thos Fleming River St Clara

*Witness to signature or (where applicant is unable to write) to mark of applicant.

John Duffin Garda

Address of Witness.....

Bwire Guard Station

Beang, Co Offaly

Qualification.....

Bwire Guard

Date.....

* Witness must be one of the following :—

- A Commissioned Officer serving in the Defence Forces.
- A Permanent Civil Servant (active or retired) whose salary is or was not less than £200 and on a scale rising to not less than £300.
- A District Justice.
- A Peace Commissioner.
- A Barrister-at-Law, a Solicitor, or a Commissioner for Oaths.
- A Minister of Religion (denomination to be stated).
- A Registered Physician or Surgeon.
- Managers, Secretaries, Chief Cashiers and Accountants of Banks, and Officials in charge of Branch Banks.
- A Member of the Garda Síochána.
- A Postmaster or Postmistress in actual charge of a Post Office.
- Head Teachers of Secondary or National Schools.
- A Secretary of a Registered Friendly Society.
- A Notary Public.
- A Consul-General.
- A Consul.
- A Vice-Consul.

APPENDIX.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

RULES FOR DETERMINING NOTIONAL GRADES OF RANK IN THE FORCES HELD BY PERSONS SERVING IN THE FORCES.

1.—(1) Any person who at any date was either Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, Adjutant General, a Divisional Officer Commanding, or Quartermaster General shall be deemed to have held at that date Rank A.

(2) Any person who at any date was either—

- (a) a General Headquarters Officer acting as Director of any one of the following services, namely Organisation, Intelligence, Engineering and Munitions, or
- (b) a Brigade Officer Commanding whose brigade was at that date not less than one thousand in strength,

shall be deemed to have held at that date Rank B.

(3) Any person who at any date was either—

- (a) a Brigade Officer Commanding whose brigade at that date was less than one thousand in strength, or
- (b) a Divisional Vice Officer Commanding, or
- (c) a Divisional Adjutant, or
- (d) a Divisional Quartermaster, or
- (e) a Battalion Commandant whose battalion was at that date not less than three hundred in strength, or
- (f) a Brigade Vice Officer Commanding whose brigade was at that date not less than one thousand in strength, or
- (g) a Brigade Adjutant whose brigade was at that date not less than one thousand in strength, or
- (h) a Brigade Quartermaster whose brigade was at that date not less than one thousand in strength, or
- (i) a Column Commander whose column was at that date not less than thirty in strength, or
- (j) a General Headquarters Officer who at that date was acting as Director of Medical Services, or
- (k) a General Headquarters Officer who at that date was acting as Director of any Service, other than that of Medical Services, or one of the Services mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) of the immediately preceding paragraph,

shall be deemed to have held at that date Rank C.

(4) A person who at any date—

- (a) was a Battalion Commandant whose battalion at that date was less than three hundred in strength, or
- (b) was a Company Captain whose company at that date was not less than sixty in strength, or
- (c) was, at that date, a Captain on the General Headquarters Staff or on a Divisional Staff, or
- (d) was, in the case of a company which at that date was not less than one hundred and twenty in strength, where the company had at that date one Lieutenant only, such Lieutenant or, where the company had at that date two Lieutenants only, one or other of such Lieutenants, or, where the company had at that date three or more Lieutenants, one or other of the two Lieutenants who were at that date respectively second and third in command, or
- (e) was, in the case of a company which at that date was less than one hundred and twenty in strength but not less than one hundred in strength, where such company had at that date one Lieutenant only, such Lieutenant or where such company had at that date two or more Lieutenants, the Lieutenant who was at that date second in command, or
- (f) was a Brigade Officer, other than a Brigade Officer who is deemed by virtue of paragraph (2) or (3) of this Rule to have held at that date either Rank B or Rank C, or
- (g) was a Battalion Vice Officer Commanding whose battalion at that date was not less than one hundred in strength, or
- (h) was a Battalion Adjutant whose battalion was at that date not less than one hundred in strength, or
- (i) was a Battalion Quartermaster whose battalion was at that date not less than one hundred in strength, or

- (j) was a General Headquarters Officer other than a General Headquarters Officer who was at that date acting as a Director of any Service, or
- (k) was a Divisional Officer other than a Divisional Officer Commanding, a Divisional Vice Officer Commanding, a Divisional Adjutant or a Divisional Quartermaster, or
- (l) was a Column Commander whose column at that date was less than thirty in strength, or
- (m) was a Medical Officer other than a General Headquarters Officer who at that date was acting as Director of Medical Services,

shall be deemed to have held at that date Rank D.

(5) Any person who complies with the following conditions, namely :—

- (a) was at any date an officer, and
- (b) is not deemed by virtue of any of the preceding paragraphs of this Rule to have held at that date any grade of rank,

shall be deemed for the purposes of this Act to have held at that date Rank E.

(6) Any person who at any date held the rank of non-commissioned officer or private shall be deemed to have held at that date Rank E.

(7) None of the foregoing provisions of this Rule shall apply to any person who at any date was a member of Fianna Eireann or of Cumann na mBan and was not at any date a member of Oglagh na hEireann (Irish Republican Army) or of the Irish Volunteers, and in lieu thereof the following provisions shall have effect in relation to any such person, that is to say :—

(a) any person who at any date :—

- (i) was a member of the headquarters staff or executive of Fianna Eireann or Cumann na mBan, or
- (ii) was an officer of Fianna Eireann or Cumann na mBan commanding one hundred members or more of either of those bodies, or
- (iii) was an officer of Fianna Eireann or Cumann na mBan senior to an officer of either of those bodies commanding one hundred members or more of either of those bodies,

shall be deemed to have held at that date Rank D, and

- (b) any person who at any date was a member of Fianna Eireann or Cumann na mBan and who is not deemed by virtue of the foregoing sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph to have held Rank D, shall be deemed to have held at that date Rank E.

2. Where an officer whose grade of rank at any date is, under Rule I of this Schedule, to be determined both by his actual rank in the Forces and the strength of the unit to which he belonged at that date, and such officer is, at that date, absent from duty by reason of imprisonment on account of his activities as a member of the Forces, the following provisions shall, for the purposes of the said Rule I, have effect in relation to such officer, that is to say :—

- (a) such officer shall be deemed to have held at that date the actual rank in the Forces which he held at the date of his arrest, and
- (b) such unit shall be deemed to be at that date at the same strength as it was at the time of his arrest.

3. Where the case of any person does not fall within the provisions of Rule I of this Schedule, the Referee may determine the particular grade of rank which such person is to be deemed to have held on any date, and in so determining the Referee shall have regard to the following matters, that is to say :—

- (a) the appointment held by such person,
- (b) the services performed by such person,
- (c) the principles of grading set forth in the said Rule I.

4. Where any person, whose case at a particular date falls within the provisions of Rule I of this Schedule, was, at that date, engaged in service of a special character, the Referee may, in making his report under this Act in relation to the grade of rank held by such person on such date, report that the grade of rank held by him on such date is a grade of rank higher than the grade which, but for this Rule, would be the grade of rank held by him on that date.

DEFINITION OF THE FIRST AND SECOND CRITICAL DATES.

1. In the case of a person who served in the Forces during the period commencing on the 1st day of July, 1922, and ending on the 30th day of September, 1923,

The expression "the first critical date" means the 11th day of July, 1921; and the expression "the second critical date" means:—

- (a) in the case of a person who served in the Forces on the 1st day of July, 1922, the 1st day of July, 1922 and
- (b) in the case of a person who did not serve in the Forces on the 1st day of July, 1922, but who served in the Forces at any time during the period commencing on the 2nd day of July, 1922, and ending on the 30th day of September, 1923, the date during that period on which such person first served in the Forces.

2. In the case of a person who did not serve in the Forces during the period commencing on the 1st day of July, 1922, and ending on the 30th day of September, 1923, but who has either:—

- (a) served in the Forces at any time during the week commencing on the 23rd day of April, 1916,
or
- (b) served in the Forces continuously during the period commencing on the 1st day of April, 1921, and ending on the 11th day of July, 1921,

the expression "the first critical date" shall be construed as meaning the date during the said week, or if he did not serve during the said week, during the said period, on which he first served in the Forces in such week or such period (as the case may be), and

the expression "the second critical date" shall be construed as meaning the earliest date in the period between the first critical date in respect of such person, and the 12th day of July, 1921, on which such person held his highest rank in such last-mentioned period in the Forces.