

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURD STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21  
No. W.S. 133

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.  
STATEMENT BY WITNESS  
DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 133

Witness

Rev. Father E.J. Mullen

Identity

C.C., Cloghan, Co. Donegal.

Subject

An incident at the funeral of a  
Black and Tan

*data*

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

File No. .... S.1001.

Form B.S.M. 2.

# ORIGINAL

CLOGHAN  
CO. DONEGAL  
26th June 1948



The Secretary  
Military Historical Bureau  
Westland Row  
Dublin.

A Chara,

In reference to the recent appeal of the Minister for Defence asking members of the public to send any relevant information of possible interest to your Bureau perhaps a record of the following perhaps unique episode may be considered worthy of consideration by your Bureau. I give the story without comment. A cursory glance at certain directories of the time will establish the identity of some of the people mentioned and corroboration might possibly be sought from one or two of those still living, e.g., the then Catholic Chaplain (or rather the Acting Chaplain, the then Curate in Murlog, Lifford, Diocese of Derry) of the County Donegal County Infirmary, Lifford.

One afternoon during the Black-and-Tan period, a lorry of Black-and-Tans ~~were~~ ambushed a short distance from Glenties, Co. Donegal, on the Ardara Road. One Black-and-Tan (named Devine from Manchester, I think) was wounded and was later conveyed to the Donegal County Infirmary, Lifford, where in the course of a day or so he died. He was buried in a local cemetery. On the day following his funeral, I was in the Infirmary attending an ordinary meeting of the Committee of Management of which I then happened to be a member. After the meeting, the then Matron of the Infirmary, a Miss Hesslin (who was a relative of several priests of the Raphoe Diocese) told me in casual conversation the following story of the funeral of that Black-and-Tan:

The funeral to a local cemetery was attended by the following people only:- The Mother of the deceased (an Englishwoman), a lady companion, the Matron, four policemen and the Chaplain. When the grave was closed in, the Mother of the deceased man addressed the little group at the graveside as follows:-

"I want the Irish people to know that I did not send my son on this mission to Ireland and that I forgive the people who shot him. I have another son, and if he came on the same mission to Ireland, I should also forgive the people who would shoot him. I have the greatest sympathy with the Irish people and I wish them every success."

(According to my information at the time, while this woman's husband may have been Irish or of Irish descent she herself was English.)

Yours faithfully,

(Rev.) E. J. Mullen  
(C.C.)

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