

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21.

No. W.S. 599

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 599

Witness

Edmund Crowe,
Killeen,
Oola,
Co. Limerick.

Identity.

Member of Glenbane Company (Co. Tipperary)
Irish Volunteers, 1914 - ;

Member of Lattin Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Tipperary
Brigade, 1918 - .

Subject.

Custody of the rifles captured from the R.I.C.
at Soloheadbeg, January 1919.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No.S.1869.....

Form B.S.M. 2

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ORIGINAL

LATTIN

STATEMENT OF EDMOND CROWE, Formerly of Glenbane, Co. Tipperary

Re the custody of the Selegheadbeg Rifles: -

I joined the I.V., in 1914, at that time we had a Company in Glenbane, my brother, Michael Crowe, being Coy. O/C. Then came the Split. In the Summer of 1918 a Company was formed at Lattin which was for a time attached to the Galtee Batln. East Limerick Bgde. being later transferred to the 4th Batln. 3rd Tipperary Brigade. which I joined. During the years 1918 & 1919 I had some of the Company's Arms under my control. One Saturday night about mid-night, a short time after Selegheadbeg, my brother Maurice who was then Adjutant of the South Tipperary Brigade, brought the two R.I.C Mens' rifles (shot at Selegheadbeg) to our place in Glenbane; he had also the two Policemens' belts. On each belt were two pouches, one containing a pair of handcuffs, and the other an ammunition pouch containing 15 rounds rifle ammunition. The pouch in which the ammunition was stuck in holes in a piece of strong leather, would hold 20 rounds. I do not remember if he told me then that he had removed any rounds from the rifles, but at that time the rifles were not loaded. My brother gave these rifles into my custody and told me the tale about them, and warned me that if they were found what to expect, so I kept them separate. Maurice and I then greased the rifles, wrapped them in two canvas bags, and for the time being buried them in a haggard below the house. We decided that I should put out a few loads of Manure (This being spring time), one on top of the rifles. This I did next morning. We burned the belts.

Magazines
changed

My brother who told me that he was going to a Brigade Meeting to Cashel on Sunday, did not go to bed but started off early next morning, having to pass Glenbane, R.I.C. Barracks. On Sunday night two lorries of R.I.C and Military waited all night at a turn of the road, about 200 yard from our house. They probably had seen my brother passing that mornning and awaited his return. I knew he was not then returning. Early next morning (Mon.) they searched our house from top to bottem, tearing down ceilings, etc., also the out-houses. They walked the haggard several times, passing within a few feet of where the rifles were buried, but after some hours went away without finding anything. The place was raided several times afterwards with the same result. After a day or two I removed the two rifles to another Farm adjoining ours, named "The Kyle". I inspected the rifles regularly, cleaned and greased them, in company with my sister, Mollie, who was in the C.NA BAN. In April Maurice, who was then in Cork Jail, sent me a special message to hand these rifles over to Patrick Merrick, then O/C. Lattin Coy. for transfer to Denis Lacey, Qr. Mse. 4th Batln. which I did.

Signed: *Edmond Crowe*
(Edmond Crowe)

15/9/1950

Witness *J. K. ... Col.*

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