

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1,132

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,132.....

Witness

Daniel Ennis,
24 Morrison's Ave.,
Waterford.

Identity.

Captain 'A' Company
4th Battalion East Waterford Brigade.

Subject.

'A' Company, 4th Battalion East Waterford
Brigade 1916-1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No.S.2413.....

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N. S. 1,132

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ORIGINAL

W.S. 1,132
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STATEMENT OF DANIEL ENNIS,

24, Morrison's Avenue, Waterford.

I was born in Rosslare, County ~~Waterford~~^{Wexford}, in 1899. My parents belonged to the farming community. When I was a young lad I used to often hear them talk of the part my great-grandparents took in the insurrection of 1798 in County ~~Waterford~~^{Wexford}. My father was closely connected with the Sinn Féin Movement from its earliest days, and, on the setting up of Republican Courts in the district of Tagoat, County ~~Waterford~~, he was appointed a Judge of the Court.

Before the Rising of 1916, I helped with a few other lads to collect funds for arms for the Irish Volunteers in the Rosslare area. This money we passed on to Bob Brennan and Larry de Lacey who were, I believe, Volunteer officers.

In 1917, I worked on the staff of the Great Southern and Western Railway at Rosslare Pier and late in that year I helped to dump goods consigned to the British Army (including an eighteen pounder gun) into the tide at Rosslare. As a result of this, I was transferred to Waterford as an employee on the railway there.

During the Waterford election campaigns of March and December, 1918, I helped in election work for the Sinn Féin candidate, Doctor Vincent White. Although I was not, at the time, a member of any Volunteer Company in Waterford City I took part in many a fight against the Ballybricken mobs who were strong supporters of Captain William Redmond the Irish Party candidate in opposition to Doctor White.

Early in the year 1919 I joined up with "A" Company of the 4th Battalion, East Waterford Brigade, I.R.A. So far as I remember, William Walsh (the G.A.A. referee) was Commandant of the Battalion. Peadar Woods, Dick Whelan and "Baker" Morrissey were all officers. My Company Captain was Paddy Cleary. We had about thirty men in the Company but very little arms or ammunition.

I do remember we had a couple of small revolvers of .22 calibre and one or two .22 rifles. The Company used parade every Sunday morning in the Dunkit district, about one and a half miles north of the City and in the grounds of the Belmont Nursing Home, Ferrybank, Waterford. We had target practise on these occasions, using the .22 rifle, and we received instruction on the use of the revolver and on hand grenades from a man named Jim Heylin. He was formerly an instructor in the British Army and was now a member of the Volunteers.

In 1920, on instruction from the Brigade, raids for arms were carried out on certain houses in the city. I remember raiding the house of a man named Purcell (an R.I.C. man) in George's Street, Waterford. Four or five of us, armed with revolvers, took part in this raid which drew a blank. We were more successful at the premises of Messrs. Harpur Brothers, Waterford. This firm sold guns and sporting requisites. In Harpur's we got a few .22 rifles, some shotguns and a quantity of gelignite. We were 'tipped' off by some of the staff in Harpur's as to where this stuff was. Tom Hayes, an employee of McDonnell's creamery in Waterford, who was Quartermaster of the Battalion at that time, took over the guns and gelignite seized by us in Harpur's.

Sometime early in 1920 I was appointed Section Commander in "A" Company and about the middle of June of that year was appointed a Lieutenant.

It was, I think, in the month of October, 1920, when I was told by my Company Captain, Paddy Cleary, to report to him for special duty to the local Catholic Young Men's Society rooms. When I got there I was handed a revolver and ammunition. The revolver was a short webley. I put the gun in my pocket without examining it, believing it to be in perfect working order. I was then told, that, in company with Jerry Cronin, a member of "A" Company also, we were to shoot Detective Officer Organ who, with his lady friend, had then gone into St. John's Church which was about fifty yards from the C.Y.M.S. hall. The idea was that when Organ was on his way home from Church and in the crowd leaving the Church he was to be shot. It appears that Organ was particularly active in reporting I.R.A. activities and 'spotting' I.R.A. men. When Organ and his young lady came out of the Church they walked along John Street for some distance with quite a number of people. I got up to within a yard or less of him and pressed the revolver trigger. To my surprise, nothing happened: there was no explosion. I looked for Cronin who, I knew, had a Colt revolver. He was on the sidewalk nearby. I went over to him, told him that my gun had misfired and asked him for his weapon. He just turned into Water Street adjoining John Street and when he got a few paces down that street he started to run. Nothing further happened in connection with the shooting of Organ that night.

About a week or so afterwards, Jerry Cronin, Patrick Cleary, Sean Quilte and myself, all of "A" Company, went up at night and lay in ambush for Detective Organ in the vicinity of St. John's Hill, Waterford. His girl friend lived up in that district and we had often seen him go up that way to meet her. We were all armed with revolvers and, on this occasion, I made sure that the one I had was a serviceable one. I was in position inside the wall of the Infirmary, which is in John's Hill, but with a perfect view of the

roadway. I remained there until about 11 p.m. that night when I was told to get away home as the ambush was called off. For some reason or another Organ never turned up that night.

Early in the year 1921, I got instructions to meet a man named Carroll from Thurles, who was a much-wanted I.R.A. leader in the mid-Tipperary district. I was to meet a car which would be at Waterford bridge at 8 p.m. and was given a password which I have now forgotten. At the appointed time and place, I was at the bridge. A car pulled up containing four men. I walked slowly towards it and, as I did, I recognised one of the men who had left the car and was approaching me. His name was Bryan Cunningham, known locally as "Curly Bryan". This man was one of the most prominent supporters of Redmond in Waterford. He was a Ballybricken pig-buyer and a bitter opponent of ours. When I saw him coming towards me carrying the heavy stick he usually had with him, I hesitated a moment. However, Curly Bryan, who knew me, gave me his part of the password and, when I replied, he told me in strong language that if anything happened to Carroll while the latter was in my care he, Curly Bryan, would hold me responsible. My instructions were to bring Carroll, who was suffering from the effects of thirteen bullet wounds, to a temporary place of safety and then get him away on a boat to England. I brought him to a safe house and slept with him that night. The following evening I got him away on a boat going to Fishguard. He was accompanied by a girl from Thurles.

In February, 1921, on the instructions of Brigade O/C. Paul, a raid for bicycles took place on the premises of a cycle-dealer named Coroner, of Henrietta Street, Waterford. As Martial Law was proclaimed in Waterford on 28th January, 1921, it meant that the use of bicycles was prohibited except under permit from the British Military Authorities. The bikes were, I understood, for

use by I.R.A. Flying Columns. About twenty cycles were taken from Coroners, the staff being held up by about four men armed with revolvers. The bikes were then ridden away by Fianna boys and put in a safe place at Ballymacaw about ten miles east of Waterford city. Shortly afterwards the R.I.C. received an anonymous letter telling of the whereabouts of the bicycles. The hiding place was raided and some of the machines, which happened to be there at the time, were recaptured by the police. In their search the R.I.C. came across two fellows who were in possession of bikes from Coroner's. These men were arrested. It subsequently transpired that these same two men were responsible for the anonymous letter to the police. The letter signed later by one of the informants was passed out to us by Sergeant Greene of the R.I.C., Waterford, who frequently passed out very valuable information to the Waterford I.R.A.

In connection with Sergeant Greene, I held up this man one night when he was having a drink in Kelly's public-house of Bakehouse Lane, near Lady Lane police barracks where he was stationed. At the time I didn't know he was friendly disposed to us. As I entered the public-house I was surprised at seeing the Sergeant there. I had a revolver with me that evening and before he turned around I gave him "Hands up". He put up his hands and I took his revolver and belt of ammunition. A day or so afterwards the Sergeant said to Jack Ivory, an assistant in Kelly's public-house and Quartermaster of "A" Company, that he (Sergeant Greene) would like to meet the man who held him up. I met him by appointment a few nights later in a bottling store near Kelly's, where he handed over to me a 'bulldog' revolver, two hand-grenades and a pound (cocoa) tin of ammunition.

Sergeant Greene often primed us of coming raids. He gave us information about the times of police patrols and the good and bad fellows in Lady Lane police barracks where there was a party of Black & Tans as well as R.I.C. He died early in 1921 under rather mysterious circumstances. Rumour had it that he committed suicide by shooting himself. Others said he died of pneumonia and it was also alleged that he was shot by the Black & Tans in Lady Lane barracks. Knowing Sergeant Greene as I did, he hated the Black & Tans and would do anything to help the I.R.A. His home in Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny was an 'open house' for I.R.A. men 'on the run', and he told me personally that I need never want for a place to sleep as long as his place in Slieverue was there.

It is my opinion that the Sergeant did not commit suicide. He often told me that he had only two more years of service to do before going out on pension and from what I knew of him, it is my firm conviction that he did not take his own life as was rumoured at the time of his death in 1921.

As a result of information passed on to us from time to time by Sergeant Greene we carried out armed raids for mails on postmen in the Passage East, Dunmore East and Ballymacaw areas. So far as I can recollect no information of value was obtained as a result of these raids.

During the early months of 1921, I was constantly 'on the run' because my name was found on a list captured by the British military when Connie Dorgan, our Quartermaster, was arrested on 28th January of that year. My place of residence at the time - Cummins' of The Quay, Waterford, was raided one night by the military when I happened to be there. When I heard the military coming upstairs to my room, I threw two revolvers, which I had, out on to

a shed roof outside my bedroom window. My room door was broken in and I was searched and questioned by a British Officer and some soldiers. On finding some papers relating to the late Roger Casement, the officer commented, "I see you are an Irishman". He wanted me to sing "God save the King", but I refused to do so. Meanwhile, the soldiers went through all my belongings in the room and prodded the bed, presumably in search of arms, but they found nothing. After some time the military party were called downstairs and, when they had left, I got out through a skylight on to a neighbouring store and escaped. Later that night Cummins' house was again raided. I had left previously, but the military warned Mrs. Cummins that, if I wasn't there the next time they called, they would take her husband prisoner. A few evenings after this occurrence I happened to be in Cummins' again having a drink when the British military, led by Sergeant Ryan of the local R.I.C., raided the place. Some of the party passed through the shop to go through to the other apartments when I took a chance and walked out the door past a few soldiers and on to the Quay. I remember carrying prominently a copy of the English daily newspaper the "Daily Mail", which had a photo of the Prince of Wales in it. Possibly the British soldiers saw this and considered I was a 'true blue'. Anyhow, I strolled nonchalantly across the road where an old jarvey named Jim Flynn recognised me and told me to get on his car, which he drove off to Bishopscourt, about five miles outside Waterford. I would like to pay a tribute to this man Flynn (now deceased) for his coolness on that occasion. Although he was an old man at the time he had sometime previously suffered a very severe beating from the Black & Tans in Waterford on his refusing to drive them, when ordered by them to take them on his jaunting car to some place to which they wanted to go.

After the incident to which I have referred, I was constantly 'on the run' and living under the assumed name of "Dan Power".

On 11th March, 1921, I received instructions from Brigade CO/C., Paddy Paul, to have the bridge spanning the River Suir raised to hinder the passage of British troops to and from the Kilkenny side of the river. The opening and lowering of this bridge, to allow ships to proceed to wharf located west of it, is operated from an electric power house situated on the bridge at the south (Waterford City) side and also by hand-operated gear (in the event of the electric appliance failing) on the north, or Ferrybank side, of the bridge. I got in touch with Joe Grace, the engineer in charge of the power house, and he, together with a man named Ryan who was an I.R.A. man, agreed to do the job on the power house. A party of men from "F" Company, Ferrybank, were detailed to dismantle the hand-operated gear on their side of the bridge. Meanwhile, a few men from "A" Company were instructed to board a boat in the river, hold up the crew and give three blasts on the boat's siren to indicate that the boat was proceeding up river and required the bridge to be lifted. This, of course, was mere bluff as the boat was not going up river at all.

I was at the city side (south) with Ryan and Grace at the appointed time at night but there was no sign of the Ferrybank men on their side. However, Grace got busy in the power house, lifted up the bridge and helped us in dismantling the gear. As the bridge was being raised, about eighty or a hundred soldiers, who had arrived by train, appeared on the Ferrybank side where the railway station is situated. The soldiers stood looking at us whilst the dismantling was going on, not realising what was happening. When we had the gear taken down we were rather at a loss as to what to do with it, as we had instructions not to damage it in any way.

However, the position now was that we had a large number of military on one side of us and a party of ten R.I.C. on the city side of us which we would have to pass carrying the machinery with us; so we decided, rather reluctantly, when we got to Quay side and about a hundred yards from the R.I.C. party, to throw the machinery as far into the river Suir as we could. This we did and went on our way into the City without the R.I.C. suspecting a thing. Owing to the hand-operated gear being left intact on the Ferrybank side of the bridge, it (the bridge) was lowered about two hours afterwards by the British, and the troops crossed into the City. I should have stated that the purpose of the dismantling operation was to hinder the movements of British troops whilst ambushes were being carried out in various parts of Waterford County that night.

About the end of March, 1921, instructions were received from G.H.Q. in Dublin to raid the County Club, Waterford, and hold up a Local Government Board Inspector who was coming to the City to hold an inquiry into the affairs of the Waterford Corporation. The orders were to take all the papers relating to the inquiry from this official.

The County Club was at that time situated in a building off The Mall, Waterford, and to the rear of the Adelphi and Imperial Hotels. The present Garda Headquarters occupies the building I refer to. The thoroughfare was, and is still, a busy one, and to make the operation still more risky, Martial Law was in force. The British Military patrols passed close by at intervals of a quarter of an hour or so and a Judge of the Court, who was in Waterford on Court business, had an armed guard guarding him in the County Club where he was staying.

About 8 p.m. on the night appointed, three men from each of the four City Companies of I.R.A. under the command of Vice-Commandant Tommy Marshall of the Waterford City Battalion, approached the Club. We had been previously supplied with the internal lay-out of the premises by a friendly member of the staff. All the men on the job (myself included) were armed with revolvers.

My particular task, with two other men whose names I cannot now recall, was to dismantle the telephone, cut the wires, visit certain rooms in the building (having first secured the keys) and lock up the staff and others who might be on the premises in that particular part of the house. Others of our men dealt with the Local Government Board Inspector from whom the papers, as instructed, were taken. The raid, in fact, lasted only about ten minutes or so and was a success as our objective was achieved and every man got safely away without meeting any enemy opposition. Even a party of soldiers stationed in the back-yard of the Club were quite unaware of what had occurred until we were safely out of distance. A very short time after our departure the County Club and the immediate area around it was cordoned off by British troops, but none of our men was caught in the net. On the occasion of the raid I speak of, District Inspector Maunsell of the R.I.C., who was on the County Club premises, was held up and his revolver taken.

Early in March, 1921, I was appointed Captain of "A" Company on the arrest of Captain Patrick Cleary.

In or about the month of April, 1921, I mobilised my Company of about thirty men and raided the railway goods yard at Sallypark, Waterford, to destroy stores there, which were consigned to British military at Fermoy. About twelve of my men were armed with

revolvers. It was about 8 p.m. when the raid took place. After having rounded up the staff and locking them in a room, we proceeded to the goods yard and broke open with sledges twenty-five barrels of oil for military use. A wagon-load of bacon also, consigned to Fermoy military barracks, was hitched on to an engine which was there with steam up. I personally drove the engine to a place about five miles west of Waterford near the bank of the River Suir into which we dumped the bacon. The alarm was given shortly after I drove the engine away and there was intense military activity in the area during the night. We did not return to the City until later the following day, when the military search for us was called off. It should be stated that the railway goods yard which we raided was less than two hundred yards from Sallypauk R.I.C. barracks which was then occupied by a strong force of R.I.C. and Black & Tans.

On 6th April, 1921, an attempt was made to rescue Republican prisoners from Ballybricken gaol in Waterford City. I am not too clear now as to who was to be rescued. I think the men were Paddy Power of the West Waterford Brigade, I.R.A., who was under sentence of death, Rev. Father Delahunty, C.C. of Kilkenny and one or two other Kilkenny men whose names I cannot now remember. My recollection of the attempt is that a rubber ball was to be hopped by the prisoners at exercise (inside the gaol) out over the gaol wall at a certain time one morning, and the attempted rescue, by means of a rope ladder to be thrown by us on to the top of the wall at the point where the ball came over, was to be made. I remember it was about 11 a.m. on the day appointed when William Keane, Brigade Vice Commandant, Ned O'Brien a local Battalion Officer, two Kilkenny I.R.A. men unknown to me now and a young chap named Moran a member of the local Fianna, were outside the gaol wall.

Young Moran was to watch for the ball coming over from inside the gaol and mark in chalk on the outer wall the spot on the wall over which the ball came, this being the agreed point of rescue. I had the rope ladder which was to be thrown over to enable the prisoners to escape but, although we waited for quite a while after the time appointed, i.e. 11 a.m., I cannot recollect that the ball did come out as expected. I do, however, remember a party of British soldiers with fixed bayonets leaving the gaol and moving in our direction, whereupon, we had no option but to beat a hasty retreat. I learned afterwards that the prisoners whom we had hoped to rescue were removed from Ballybricken gaol that same evening to Kilkenny gaol.

In mid-April of 1921, I was in charge of a party of five men from my own - "A" - Company of the Waterford City battalion when we carried out a raid at twelve o'clock, noon, on the General Post Office, The Quay, Waterford. This raid was for the purpose of obtaining funds for Brigade purposes and was carried out on the instructions of Paddy Paul the East Waterford Brigade O/C. The following men took part with me, all were armed with revolvers :- Jim Howlett, Robert Power, William Nugent and Jack Ivory. The raid was a success but we had great difficulty in getting away as the alarm was raised just as the raid finished and the military were quickly on the scene and surrounded the G.P.O. buildings. However, we all succeeded in making our escape. The money taken was handed over to the Brigade Quartermaster.

Shortly afterwards a man from my Company named Tom Hayes and myself raided the Post Office at Ferrybank, Waterford, as part of general raids on Post Offices in the area. On this occasion I remember quite well that we got the small amount of seventeen shillings in the Post Office. It transpired that a postman had

left the office shortly before our arrival at 6 p.m. with the major portion of the day's takings. We handed over the money to Tom Brennan of "D" Company in the Sinn Féin Hall in Colbeck Street, Waterford, that same night.

Early in the month of May, 1921, a party of about twelve men of my Company with myself in charge raided the railway milesmen's stores at Sallypark, Waterford. These stores were, approximately, one hundred and fifty yards distant from the local R.I.C barracks. The raid took place about 9 p.m. From the stores we took a quantity of tools such as pickaxes, which were to be used in trenching roads in the area to hamper the movements of British military. The implements were first taken to a field some mile and a half away and subsequently removed by a dray to a spot on the main Waterford-Cork road about six miles west of Waterford City where extensive trenching and bridge demolition was carried out by members of the 4th Waterford City battalion later in that month.

At about 10 p.m. on the night of 29th May, 1921, I took part with some of my Company of approximately ten men in road obstruction operations in the Mount Congreve district of County Waterford which is six miles due west of the City of Waterford and on the main Waterford-Cork road. This was part of general operations of a similar nature which were carried out all over the East Waterford Brigade area that same night. I was armed with a revolver on the occasion.

The Officer Commanding in the Mount Congreve district was Commandant James Hetherington of the 4th Waterford City battalion.

Holes were bored in the road to receive charges of gelignite which were exploded, trees were felled across the road and barricades of stones erected. The object of all this was, of course, to hamper the movements of enemy troops in the area.

Scouts were posted about three-quarters of a mile from the scene of these operations to give warning of approaching military.

At midnight an alarm of approaching cars was raised and we withdrew into a nearby field until the 'all clear' was given. Shortly afterwards, I went to inspect the scouts from my Company which I had placed in their positions earlier in the night, and found them thirty yards or so from the positions allotted to them. I also saw John O'Rourke of "D" Company on a pony jumping a stone barrier on the road. I told O'Rourke to desist from riding the pony and return to his post. I then went back to my own party which was engaged in demolishing a bridge. The work of demolition had to be abandoned as we failed to remove the keystones.

A further alarm of approaching enemy forces was received about 1 a.m. and we were ordered to disperse. I, with some men of my own Company, ("A" Company) went across country towards Knockboy about 8 miles east of the City ^{and arrived in Waterford} about 7 a.m. on the morning of 30th May, 1921.

I heard in the city the news that John O'Rourke, the scout previously mentioned by me, was mortally wounded by revolver fire stated to have come from British officers in mufti who surprised O'Rourke at his post. The wounded man received medical attention from the late Doctor Phil Purcell of Waterford who was always available when medical help was needed by any I.R.A. man. In spite of the medical attention he received, poor O'Rourke died of his wounds on 30th May, 1921.

I had under observation for a long time three or four British officers who used to play tennis at De Bromhead's house, Ardkeen, which is about a mile east from Waterford on the road to Dunmore East; and early in June, 1921, I made arrangements to disarm them and had

even arranged with the cook in De Bromhead's to dope their tea. However, we were not allowed to go ahead with the matter for fear of reprisals by the British.

On 6th June, 1921, I organised an ambush of eight R.I.C. men in Broad Street, Waterford, the ambush to take place about 8 p.m. when the patrol of the R.I.C. men used usually pass down by the Cathedral, Broad Street, from their Barracks at Lady Lane, Waterford. I had assembled about seven men all armed with revolvers in J. K. Walsh's public-house nearby. The names of some of the men were Jim Conway, Phil Sheehy, Willie Nugent, Jack Ivory and Stephen Ambrose. Just as the patrol of R.I.C. men were due to put in an appearance the operation was called off by Vice-Brigadier William Keane who informed us (as far as I can recollect) that there was a meeting of I.R.A., G.H.Q. officers being held in Waterford that night and that our proposed ambush might result in the capture of these officers, as the British would be certain to carry out intensive searches following the attack on the R.I.C. patrol. I am not quite certain now, but I think that Vice-Brigadier Keane was subsequently reprimanded for his action on that occasion by Brigadier Paddy Paul who was very anxious that there should be more activity by the I.R.A. in the City at that time.

Sometime in late June, 1921, I was detailed with Thomas Hayes and Stephen Ambrose to shoot Sergeant O'Grady of the R.I.C. This man, O'Grady, had been transferred from Waterford on promotion and it was stated that he had done some dirty work in his new district. When he returned to Waterford again he was to be shot. Hayes, Ambrose and myself were armed with revolvers.

Sergeant O'Grady lived in William Street, Waterford, which is near the local park. Ambrose and I waited in the park one night

in view of Hayes who acted as scout to give us the signal when Sergeant O'Grady came in sight. It was usual for Mrs. O'Grady to go to meet her husband coming from the barracks each night. We waited on three consecutive nights but the Sergeant never came home from the barracks. As a matter of fact, he afterwards remained in the barracks until the Truce in July, 1921.

We had a strong suspicion that somebody had 'tipped off' O'Grady that we had been waiting to shoot him. Making further inquiries we found that a member of our Company named Jim Conway, who was working in Messrs, Hearne & Co., drapers and outfitters, The Quay, Waterford, was friendly with Sergeant O'Grady's two daughters who worked in Hearne's also and there was a strong suspicion that Conway had given the warning to these girls. He was courtmartialled and, as a result, he had to leave the City immediately. I might add that Conway had been keeping the two revolvers to be used on the job concealed in a lavatory at Hearne's shop.

Early in the month of July, 1921, plans were laid to ambush a special train with military aboard proceeding from Rosslare via Waterford to Cork. It was arranged to remove the sleepers and rails at a bend in the railroad near Mount Congreve, six miles west of Waterford. At the last moment the job was called off as the Battalion officers feared that the driver and fireman on the train would be killed when the train left the rails. Both these men were known to be sympathisers with the I.R.A.

In or about the same period - early July, 1921 - gun carriages for the British military came in on the Clyde Shipping Company's ship to Waterford and were left on the jetty awaiting collection by the military. The evening of the arrival of the gun carriages,

myself and about six or seven I.R.A. men, armed with revolvers, went to the jetty, dismantled about a half dozen of the gun carriages and threw them into the River Suir. We had the job done before the soldiers came on the scene.

At 8.30 a.m. on 11th July, 1921, I organised and carried out a raid for mails in the G.P.O., The Quay, Waterford. There were about ten men in the raiding party all armed with revolvers. Some of these present on the occasion were Jack Ivory, Willie Nugent, Willie Murphy, Peter Jackman, Dan McCarthy and Tommy O'Sullivan.

I placed two men at the Clock Tower on the Quay about fifty yards north of the G.P.O., two more at Arundel Square behind the G.P.O., two in High Street at the west side of the G.P.O. and one man about fifty yards on the Quay on the east side of the G.P.O.

The military used to call in a lorry each morning at 8.30 a.m. to the Post Office for the mails. Two soldiers used to go into the Post Office and carry out the mail bags whilst the others remained outside the building.

To ensure that we should be out of view of the military remaining outside, while we were holding up the two soldiers inside the Post Office, I arranged to have two drays pulled up directly opposite the Post Office at the time appointed.

At 8.30 a.m. the soldiers came along in the lorry and seeing the drays opposite the door of the Post Office pulled up beyond them, thereby being out of view of the subsequent happenings.

The two soldiers entered the building as usual and proceeded to collect the mails. As they did so, Tommy O'Sullivan and myself gave them "hands up" and marched them out the back way into a horse stall at the rear. We disarmed the two "Tommys", tied them up and took

and took the mail bags. As I left the premises I walked straight into Sergeant Harte of the local R.I.C. who knew me. I went to draw my revolver but the Sergeant saluted me "Good morning" and passed on his way without a suspicion as to what had occurred. I then went down to the Quay, got a bicycle and was cycling through the City when I saw military in a lorry approaching. I left my bike in a doorway, got into a yard at the back of a house and made my escape.

From the mail bags captured I took a number of letters addressed to military personnel. These, together with the side-arms taken from the Tommies, I handed over to our Commandant, James Hetherington, that same evening.

In September, 1921, I went to a training camp in Kilmovee near Kilmacthomas, County Waterford, together with other officers of the Waterford City Battalion. Here we received instruction in the use of the Thompson machine gun, grenades, and rifle and revolver practise. Paddy Paul, O/C. of the East Waterford Brigade was in charge of the camp.

Following the camp I returned to my home in Rosslare, County Wexford, where I was living when the Treaty was signed on 6th December, 1921.

(Signed) Daniel Ennis

Date: 18/3/1955

(Daniel Ennis)

18/3/55

Witness:

T. O'Gorman
(T. O'Gorman)

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