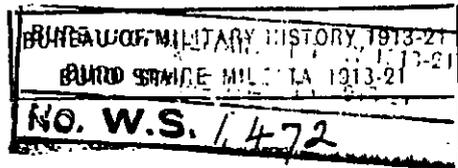


W.S. 1472  
**DUPLICATE**



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COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. **W.S.** ..... 1472.

Witness

Commandant **Matthew J. Kavanagh,**  
Bridge Street Garage,  
Arklow,  
Co. Wicklow.

Identity.

O/C, East Wicklow Brigade.  
(Oct. 1920 - Dec. 1920)

Subject.

Activities of Arklow Company,  
5th Battalion, Irish Volunteers,  
East Wicklow Brigade, 1917-1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

File No ..... S. 1758.

Form B.S.M. 2

DUPLICATE

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 1,472

STATEMENT BY COMMANDANT MATTHEW J. KAVANACH,

Bridge Street Garage, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

I joined the Irish Volunteers in Arklow about April or May, 1914. I was then about nineteen years of age. I was born in Arklow.

Our usual place for meetings was at the boys' national school, where we drilled with wooden guns. Later, when we received some of the guns from Kilcoole, we drilled with rifles. We had route marches occasionally. I think Garry English, the schoolteacher, was one of the officers, also Pat Redmond, and the drill instructor was Pa Byrne, who had been a sergoant in the British Army. These activities continued up to about September, 1914.

In September, 1914, we had a route march to Woodenbridge, where Volunteers from all over the County were assembled in a big field, near the railway station. John Redmond rode into the field on a white horse, and addressed the assembly. He was accompanied by Con McSweeney, national teacher, Aughrim, and later a Major in the British Army. Pointing out the fact that we were a fine body of men, Redmond said that he felt proud to be able to address us, and that he thought we would serve the cause of Ireland better by fighting on the fields of Flanders. As a result of his speech, practically all the men dropped their rifles in the field and walked away. I dropped my rifle there on the ground.

I had no further connection with the Redmond Volunteers. In October, 1917, we formed the first Company of the Irish Volunteers in Arklow. This Company was formed under the direction of C.M. Byrne. Martin Redmond (now in America) was appointed the first Company Captain; I was 1st. Lieutenant, and John Kavanagh 2nd Lieutenant. Our meeting place was at the home of Miss Maggie O'Toole, afterwards President of the Cumann na mBan.

There was a strong branch of the Irish National Aid running in Arklow town at this time. It was organised by Paddy Redmond, who had been an officer in the Redmond Volunteers. He and Ned Redmond operated it, and collections were held at the gates of Kyrloch's every pay-day. I had nothing to do with it.

Shortly after the formation of the Company, Martin Redmond went to America, and I was elected Company Captain; Seamus O'Brien of Rathdrum was Brigade O/C., and Jim O'Keeffe was Battalion O/C.

There was not much activity in the Arklow Company or Wicklow Brigade area during 1917 and 1918 other than propaganda work - distributing literature, posting up bills etc. - and trying to accumulate stocks. We collected the ingredients for making gun-powder from local chemist shops, and we collected lead for the purpose of making buckshot. We were actually making pikes as well. Some of the pikes were made by a chap called Mooney, a blacksmith in Avoca.

I began to get uneasy about the fact that we had no small firearms, and I discussed the matter with Seán McGrath, Secretary of the Self-Determination League of Great Britain who, incidentally, was married to an Arklow girl and spent his annual leave in Arklow. He told me that he could supply me with revolvers if I could arrange to collect them in Liverpool and pay cash for them. I agreed to purchase £50 worth altogether. I think it was ten revolvers and 500 rounds of ammunition. He arranged to leave them at an address near Edgehill Station, Liverpool, and they were to be collected by me. I went across to Liverpool myself, but failed to get them, and I had to return to Ireland without them. I was supposed to collect them from Neil Kerr, and he told me they had already been collected for G.H.Q.

Shortly after my return to Ireland, the late Major-General Tom Culler came to Arklow and informed me that I was to travel to Dublin immediately.

He took me to Cullenswood House on Oakley Road, where I met Michael Collins for the first time. Collins started off with a terrible harangue and abused me at a frightful rate, for daring to interfere by tapping a Headquarters source of supply for arms. Michael Staines, who was present during this interview, said something on my behalf, whereupon Collins appeared to change his views towards me. He shook hands with me and congratulated me for trying to secure arms. He said there were so many people trying to avoid getting them. He agreed to give me six revolvers for cash and three hundred rounds of ammunition. They were not the type of revolver which I was actually looking for, but a .38 revolver made by Harrington and Richardson of America. I got these just before the general elections in 1918.

An interesting sequel to my visit to Liverpool was the well known London arms case, when Seán McGrath was arrested on Rugby platform. I cannot definitely remember whether he was arrested prior to my interview with Collins or after it. I had written a letter to Seán McGrath from No. 6, Harcourt Street, and that letter was found in his possession when he was arrested. At that time, I did not know where the headquarters of the I.R.A. were, as I was not sufficiently well known in the Movement to be told. I went to No. 6, Harcourt Street to try and contact someone in G.H.Q. and somebody suggested that I should write to Seán McGrath from there, which I did. That was how my name, "Matthew J. Kavanagh" and "6, Harcourt Street, Dublin", appeared on the letter found in Seán McGrath's possession. The whole case was published in full in the "Daily Mail", and the exact information could be got from the files of the "Daily Mail" office. Mr. Burrows, the Manager of the Midland Gun Company, was also arrested. Both were charged with being implicated in the exportation of arms to Ireland. They pleaded that the arms were for

the Ulster Volunteers. Burrows received a sentence of six months' imprisonment, and McGrath got twelve months. Seán McGrath did not appear to be satisfied after being sentenced. He shouted, "Up the Republic!"

After my first introduction, I had close contact with G.H.Q. from then onwards up to the time of my arrest in December, 1920.

In April, May or June, 1918, John Broy, who was the Quartermaster of Arklow Company and a brother of Eamonn Broy (afterwards Colonel), informed me that he had a brother (Eamonn) in the D.M.P., Dublin Castle, who was willing to give information if he could contact the right person. As I had no contact with G.H.Q. at this time, I handed the information and his name to Micheál Staines who, in turn, transmitted it to G.H.Q.

Some time in either June or July, 1918, two Special Constables, who were guarding Kynoch's works, were arrested, through mistake, by the R.I.C. for carrying firearms. A hostile crowd formed to attempt to rescue them from the police, in the belief that they were I.R.A. men from Wexford. They were actually from Wexford. The crowd became very hostile and stoned the police. A baton charge was ordered, as a result of which eight members of the local Company were arrested.

They were tried before what was then known as a Special Crimes Court. As far as I know, this was one of the first of the Crime Courts set up in the country. I, in conjunction with Mr. N. J. Dwyer, a solicitor practising in Arklow and now County Wicklow Registrar, briefed Mr. Cecil Lavery, now a Judge of the Supreme Court, to defend the eight men arrested, as we had received special instructions from G.H.Q. that they were to recognise the Court. This was, as far as I know, Cecil Lavery's first appearance in a petty sessions Court and, I think, his only appearance. He acted for the eight men without remuneration of any kind. Two of them got two months in jail, and the other six were acquitted. One of the men convicted was not a member of the I.R.A.

It was principally the members of the local Companies in the County that conducted the election campaign of 1918, acting as personating agents, guarding polling booths etc.

The officer then in charge of the 5th Battalion area was Jim O'Keeffe, who was a student in the forestry department in Avondale House. Avondale House was used as headquarters of the Battalion. O'Keeffe was arrested early in 1919 and imprisoned with Jack Walsh of Rathdrum, who was Captain of Rathdrum Company. Jack Smith of Killiskey, Ashford, was O/C. of the 4th Battalion at this period.

The location of the Companies was at Ashford, Laragh, Arklow, Wicklow, Avoca, Barndarrig, Togher or Roundwood, Rathdrum, Johnstown, and Glenealy. There was a Company in Delgany at this period also, but it was not there later on.

This area was divided into two Battalions, the northern portion of the County being the 4th Battalion, and the southern portion being the 5th Battalion. The northern portion which embraced Ashford, Wicklow, Togher, Laragh and Delgany, was under the command of Jack Smith of Killiskey, and the southern portion, Arklow, Avoca, Barndarrig, Johnstown and Glenealy, was under the command of Jim O'Keeffe of Rathdrum. Jack Smith held his appointment until some time in 1920 when he was arrested, and O'Keeffe held his appointment until his arrest about March 1919. O'Keeffe never returned to his appointment, and the Brigade O/C., Seamus O'Brien, carried on the Battalion for him.

At this time, Myles Cullen was O/C. of Arklow Company. Jack Holt was acting O/C. of the 5th Battalion. Later, Holt's rank was approved by G.H.Q. and he was appointed Battalion O/C, which rank he held until June, 1920. I was then Battalion Adjutant. Major-General Cullen came to Arklow and verified Holt's appointment as O/C., 5th Battalion.

National Archives Act, 1986, Regulations, 1988

**ABSTRACTION OF PART(S) PURSUANT TO REGULATION 8**

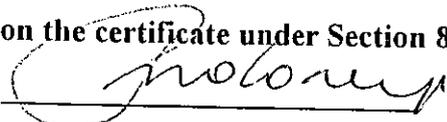
**Form to be completed and inserted in the original record  
in place of each part abstracted**

- (i) Reference number of the separate cover under which the abstracted part has been filed: WS 1472/A
- (ii) How many documents have been abstracted: 2
- (iii) The date of each such document: 10/8/56.
- (iv) The description of each document:  
WS 1472 Witherspoon's Court H. J. Wavering p 6 + 7  
Information of a personal nature

(Where appropriate, a composite description may be entered in respect of two or more related documents).

- (v) Reason(s) why the part has been abstracted for retention:  
(c) Would or might cause distress or danger to living persons on the ground that they contain information about individuals, or would or might be likely to lead to an action for damages for defamation.

( These will be the reasons given on the certificate under Section 8(4).)

  
Name: (J. Moloney.)

Grade: Col.

Department/Office/Court:

Date: 7 March 2003.

During this period, Jack Smith, O/C. of the 4th Battalion, was arrested for a raid on the mails at Kilcoole Station and was sent to England for a term of imprisonment. This left things more or less disorganised in the northern part of the county.

Seamus O'Brien was shot in an ambush on R.I.C. in Rathdrum town on the night of 11th February, 1920. Fox, Darcy, Paddy (Red) Byrne

and Jack Walsh were with him on this occasion. They were using the revolvers, which I had loaned him, and they proved ineffective. Sergeant Mulligan was in charge of the R.I.C. patrol.

A meeting of the 4th and 5th Battalion officers was held at Avoca, a representative from G.H.Q. being present, in October, 1920. The two Battalions were merged into one and called the East Wicklow Brigade. I was elected Brigade O/C. Subsequently, my appointment was confirmed by G.H.Q., and I held this appointment until the time of my arrest, 14th December, 1920.

I was arrested by British Military at O'Rafferty's licensed premises in Arklow, in a back bedroom which we used as headquarters. There were no R.I.C. present at my arrest, and the military appeared to have been summoned hastily, as some of them wore only camp slippers. I was accompanied by the Brigade Adjutant, Andrew Kavanagh, and the Arklow Company Adjutant, Patrick Kelly. Nobody in Arklow, except and my Adjutant, who was arrested with me, knew of the house we used as headquarters and also as a covering address for G.H.Q. correspondence. The most serious view G.H.Q. had taken of was the effect of his careless talk and discussing the nature of Headquarters documents in a publichouse to the manager of the military barracks canteen. father and brother were arrested by the military also, and kept in custody for a few days until we were safely removed from the town.

We were brought to the military barracks at Arklow, and later removed to Wicklow Jail where we were kept, pending trial. About two months afterwards, we were transferred to Kilmainham Jail and court-martialled there. Kavanagh and Kelly were sentenced to two years' imprisonment, commuted to one year's imprisonment, and I was sentenced to five years' penal servitude, commuted to two years'

imprisonment. Kavanagh and Kelly were released shortly after the Truce, their sentences having expired, and I was released in December 1921, just before Christmas.

At the time of my arrest, I was in the act of duplicating orders to the various Companies. All these documents were seized by the military who arrested me. The envelopes had already been addressed to the various officers with just the word, "O/C., Arklow," "O/C., Johnstown", etc., no names being given. Of course, the military tried to extract information from me as to who exactly the letters were for, but I just laughed at them. I had previously cautioned Kelly and Andrew Kavanagh that the military would probably try this ruse and that, in the event of the military informing them that I had told everything, that they were not to accept their word. This was exactly what the military did, but the two young fellows disclosed no information to them. We were all interrogated separately, their object presumably being to get the names of the Company officers.

One of the Cumann na mBan girls from Wicklow, Kathleen Treacy, whilst visiting me in the jail at Wicklow a couple of days after my transfer there, informed me that there was a gentleman going around the county, wearing a Fainne and stating that he was an officer from General Headquarters. He informed them in Wicklow town that he was sent down from G.H.Q. to reorganise the county and convene a meeting, for the purpose of appointing somebody to replace me and take reprisals for my arrest. I immediately got suspicious, as I had never notified G.H.Q. of my arrest, nor had any notice of my arrest appeared in the press, and I told her to let the lads outside know and be extra cautious.

Some days afterwards, I heard that this alleged G.H.Q. organiser had used the correspondence, which I had already addressed, and made

an effort to contact the various O/Cs. of the Companies for the purpose of convening a meeting at Barndarrig Hall of all the Company officers. It was a Brigade Council mobilisation. He actually contacted local Sinn Féin leaders in each area and asked them to transmit the correspondence to the O/C of the I.R.A. They were instructed by circular to bring a list of the men, arms, ammunition and equipment of each Company area with them. The ruse was upset, due to the suspicions of the men. I think Mr. C. H. Byrne was primarily behind the upsetting of the ruse, and I am sure he could give better information about this than I can.

I got a description of the gentleman alleged to be an organiser from G.H.O. from a member of the Cumann na mBan, who later visited me, and a couple of nights afterwards I actually saw him coming into Wicklow Jail, escorting two prisoners and beating them. I remembered his face distinctly later, on seeing him during my courtmartial at Kilmainham courthouse. While I was awaiting trial in one of the cells under the courthouse, I saw him walking with a military officer on a bank overhead, outside in the yard. I asked a friendly disposed British soldier, named Roper, who was guarding me and my fellow prisoners, to find out who this man was. He went away to enquire and, when he returned, he informed me that he was a Sergeant Dunry of the Royal Garrison Artillery, stationed at Tallaght, Co. Dublin, and living at Inchicore. He said he never wore uniform and he understood that he had a telephone in the house. I had the information about this man conveyed to Michael Collins direct and, to the best of my knowledge, he was found shot some time later in a field at Inchicore.

After promulgation of my sentence, I was transferred with Father Dominic, Andrew Kavanagh and Kelly to Mountjoy Prison. It was the intention of the military authorities to send me to England with Father Dominic, but I was instructed by Michael Staines, who was O/C. Prison

at Mountjoy, to demand amelioration, which I did on the following morning, and I was allowed to remain in Mountjoy Prison. Father Dominic refused to apply for the amelioration and was sent to Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight. This was about the month of February, 1921.

On the 14th March, 1921, there were six prisoners executed on the one morning. Before the executions, all the prisoners in D. Wing were transferred to Arbour Hill Prison and later transferred back to Mountjoy. Whilst in Arbour Hill Prison, we noticed a prisoner on the ground floor in a cell by himself. He appeared to be isolated, and all the prisoners were wondering who he was, as none of them appeared to recognise him. I recognised him as being Ned Broy, a brother of our previous Company Quartermaster, but I gave no information as to who he was. During Mass on the following Sunday and whilst receiving Holy Communion, the priest - I think he was a Father Sherwin - asked me to go to the vestry. I went in there and saw Ned Broy. He was waiting for me and asked me to try to get information as to what documents were found in his desk at the Castle. I got word out, and a reply came from Headquarters, informing me that one of Broy's fellow-officers had destroyed whatever documents were in his desk. I understand that Broy intended seeking political treatment and on receiving this information, he was in a position to defy the British authorities and plead innocence.

Seamus Dobbyn of Belfast was the Prisoners O/C when I arrived in Mountjoy and, on his release in June or July, I was appointed O/C of D. Wing. During October and November, due to the bad conditions prevailing in the prison we ordered a general hunger strike for the purpose of having the Auxiliaries removed from the proximity of our cells. They had been repeatedly beating us up in our cells at night. As the Truce was on at the time a liaison officer came in and we

succeeded in our demand. We all were released at the general release on December 15th, 1921.

Activities of the Arklow Company.

In 1919 raids were carried out by the Arklow Company for shotguns from the farmers, so as to forestall the collection of them by the R.I.C. We collected thirty and forty shotguns and a number of obsolete small arms.

We got information that a British Officer, who played golf at Woodenbridge, usually left his revolver in his clothes in the clubhouse. We went one day while he was on the links and got his revolver - a .45 webley and twenty rounds of ammunition for it. This revolver was used later when three sentries who were guarding Kynoch's Works were held up and disarmed. We got three .303 service rifles and 150 rounds of .303 ammunition. The three soldiers were tied up and left there. Immediately after the report of this hold-up appeared in the newspapers we got instructions from C.H.Q. to send the rifles and ammunition to Dublin.

About this time a large number of troops who were quartered in huts on the North Beach moved out for training. We burned the huts without incident or loss of life.

On the return of Andrew Holt to Arklow in 1919 after his hunger-strike in Mountjoy jail he was met at the railway station by the local Company of the Volunteers. A big parade was held through the town. The R.I.C. did not interfere, but individual groups of soldiers tried to break up the parade. I succeeded in getting the civilians to leave the streets and appealed to the soldiers to return to their barracks. Two particular soldiers tried to break through our ranks and get back into town again. I shot one of them; the other returned to barracks.

BETWEEN

About half an hour afterwards a party of twenty and thirty soldiers, armed with rifles, returned in the direction of the town. They opened fire on civilians who were congregated at the bridge corner. An ex-R.I.C. man, who was in no way sympathetic to us, was shot dead. A nephew of mine, John Kavanagh, was shot through the lungs and was successfully operated on afterwards. He now resides in London.

From early in 1920 until the time of my arrest I transmitted information to G.H.Q. Rev. Father Hobbins, who was C.C. in Avoca parish, had a brother who was a District Inspector in the R.I.C. in Cork. The Inspector wrote frequently to Father Hobbins who gave me the letters which I forwarded to G.H.Q.

In 1918 Kynoch's munition factory closed down, but a quantity of explosives was stored there, some of it not being completely manufactured. The British maintained a 24-hour guard on the works.

Early in February, 1920, one of Kynoch's boats called the "Dandelion" was loading explosive material, some of it completely manufactured and more of it in an unfinished state, for transport to their Works in England. I was informed of this by Joe Kelly, who was an Intelligence man in the Company. He also said that there was a quantity of gelignite in the boat. I made arrangements to raid the boat that night - 5th February, 1920. Together with ten men of the Company I carried out the raid. We held up the sentry and seized his rifle and fifty rounds of ammunition. We captured two and a half tons of gelignite made up in half-cwt. boxes and got successfully away with it. None of it was re-captured although the town and beach were raked for it night and day. On instructions from G.H.Q. the major portion of the gelignite was sent on to Dublin by rail in suit cases, per Tom Caffney who was a guard on the railway. A quantity of it was handed over to Mick Newport for the North Wexford Brigade. We also

had to send the rifle and ammunition to Dublin. Later, some of the gelignite was used to destroy Aghrim and Red Cross R.I.C. Barracks which had been vacated.

The following carried out the raid on the boat on 5th February, 1920:-

Matthew J. Kavanagh (myself) Company O/C. in charge,  
 Michael Green  
 Joe Kelly  
 Jack Holt  
 William Cleary  
 Myles Cullen  
 Bob Hickson  
 Laurence Whyte  
 John Kavanagh  
 Andy Holt  
 James Dolan.

In 1920, I manufactured bombs, both from short lengths of rain water pipe and from the metal boxes of cart wheels. They were filled with gelignite and the ends closed with wooden plugs, and a fuse inserted through one of the plugs. I started to manufacture these with the intention of attacking the R.I.C. Barracks in Arklow, not with the hope of capturing it, as that would be utterly impossible. It was originally a military barrack, with a wall ten or twelve feet high surrounding it. The barrack itself stood a considerable distance back from the wall.

The time selected for these minor attacks was when the people were coming out from Sunday evening devotions. On the occasion of the first attack we used a cart wheel box bomb. The man who was selected

especially because of his height to throw it, was Hyles Cullen, Captain of the Arklow Company. He had previously practised throwing stones of similar weight. When Cullen threw the bomb it struck the top of the wall and came back among the congregation. Cullen had to take it with the fuse still burning and throw it again. We came to the conclusion that a wheel box bomb was too heavy for throwing any height or distance and discontinued making <sup>them.</sup> We then concentrated on the rain water pipe type.

Four such attacks were made on Arklow R.I.C. Barracks during 1920, after we had got the gelignite. The first three attacks were carried out by seven or eight men each time. One man threw the bomb and the remainder, who were armed with revolvers, acted as a covering party, and to warn civilians to keep clear.

The last attack on the barrack was made by Jack Holt and myself on the main gate. We placed a rain pipe bomb underneath the main gate at about 10 o'clock one night. Having lighted the fuse we ran for cover but the fuse went out and we had to light it again. Before we succeeded in getting round the corner for cover we were blown down by the force of the explosion. The R.I.C. came out through a smaller gate and fired at random through the town. The following night they came in uniform and wrecked my home. They looted the shop, taking everything in the window. This was my home and the residence of my aunt, Maria Curran, who was Sinn Fein chairman of the Arklow Urban District Council.

One Sunday in June or July, 1920, I took three Volunteers to Johnstown where an Aericocht was being held. We suspected the Aericocht would be suppressed by the R.I.C. We went there to join up with the members of the Johnstown Company, fully prepared to shoot the R.I.C. When we arrived in the field where the Aericocht was being held the

R.I.C. were already there. We moved towards the three R.I.C. men: they moved out of the field on to the road. We followed them and they disappeared through the hedge. We followed in the direction in which they went but we never got sight of them again.

In November, 1920, I learned from Joe Kelly, who was employed at Kynoch's Works and who was an I.O. of mine, that an expert had arrived from Kynoch's Birmingham Works to examine some "left over" war material which was lying in the Arklow Works. I immediately procured a sample of it and proceeded to Dublin to have it analysed. Collins put me in touch with Peadar Clancy. He was in Sean McMahon's office at Andy Clarkin's premises in Great Brunswick Street (now Pearse Street). I might mention here that prior to this incident we had been figuring seizing a miniature manufacturing plant which had been lying at Kynoch's Works with a view to manufacturing our own explosives in Dublin. We had in Arklow an expert in the manufacture of explosives who had previously worked as a chemist in Kynoch's and he thoroughly understood the manufacturing of explosives. He was Paddy Butler and is at present employed in the Department of Defence. He was willing to give us any assistance he could.

The sample which I had brought to Dublin was taken away by a man in clerical attire to the National University for analysis. The opinion of Butler was that the sample I had procured was T.N.T. and this, on analysis, proved to be correct. I met Peadar Clancy about 3 o'clock that evening and he told me the result of the analysis. He asked me when could I capture the explosive. I told him I would get it that night. He arranged with Leo and Jimmie Fitzgerald to come back to Arklow with me and bring the captured material to Dublin. We started off in a car which had previously been commandeered. Peadar Clancy saw us off at Harcourt Street, leaving about 10 p.m. and we arrived in Arklow about midnight. I drove the car as we

could not use the lights. I parked the car on the outskirts of the town and left the two Fitzgeralds in charge of it. I then went to round up some of the Volunteers. I collected seven Volunteers and proceeded to Kynoch's Works. There was no sentry on duty near the store where the stuff was kept. There was a patrol man whose duty was to phone the military every hour and report. We left an armed Volunteer with him and gave instructions that he was to ring the military every hour and report "all well". We loaded the car with all it could hold - 13 cwt. in all - and what we could not take we destroyed by dumping in the harbour. The two Fitzgeralds and I then started off for Dublin and arrived there without further incident about 7 a.m. We parked the car with the T.N.T. in it in a garage situated in a lane opposite Faggot Street Hospital. The raid took place on 13th November, 1920. In addition to myself and the two Fitzgeralds, the following took part in it :-

Paddy O'Brien, 1st Lieutenant,  
 Joe Kelly, Company Intelligence Officer,  
 Michael Mulligan,  
 Michael Greene,  
 Jack O'Brien,  
 Robert Tyrrell.

Later that morning, after parking the car, I went to Vaughan's Hotel to see Colline who had promised me some hand-grenades and ammunition. He told me to see Seán McMahon who promised to send them on to me in a few days. In due course I got ten grenades, 25 rounds of .45 revolver ammunition and 100 rounds of .303. Previous to this I had received instruction in the handling of grenades.

About this period the railway men refused to carry British troops or war material. Almost every morning soldiers from Avondale Barracks tried to board the train at Rathdrum Station. The train crew refused to move the train with the result that the driver, foreman and guard were arrested. I had figured out attacking the soldiers who usually numbered about eight. Before doing so I decided to give instruction on the grenade to the officers of the Brigade at a meeting in Barndarrig. Having demonstrated the handling of the grenade I luckily decided to fire one. It proved to be a dud, and not unnaturally the officers decided not to go ahead with the attack.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

