

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1580

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1580.

Witness

James J. Enright, B.A., M.D.,
34 Ulverton Road,
Dalkey,
Co. Dublin.

Identity.

Medical Doctor.

Subject.

Medical service rendered to members
of I.R.A., May, 1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

File No S. 2857.

Form B.S.M. 2

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1,580

STATEMENT OF JAMES I. ENRIGHT, B.A., M.D.,

34 Ulverton Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

(Late of Listowel, Co. Kerry.)

In May, 1921 - I forget the exact date - a young girl of the Cumann na mBan approached me, and asked me if I would come out to a farmhouse, about two miles from Listowel, to attend a young I.R.A. man who had been wounded that morning in an ambush at Gortaglanna, near the village of Knockanure, Listowel. A meeting place - about half a mile outside the town - was arranged with a person who was to lead me on to the farmhouse.

I was accompanied by my sister, Mrs. Henigan, The Square, Listowel. She was the wife of a veterinary surgeon there. I wanted a decoy. I was taken in a pony and trap to a place called Dromin, about a mile and a half from there. I was brought into a farmhouse where I saw Cornelius Dee, lying in a bed. He said he was wounded in the thigh. On looking at the wound, I could see that it was not serious.

Dee told me that, that morning, he was accompanied by three of his companions, Dalton, Lyons and a third man, whose name I cannot remember, and they were overtaken on the road by a military lorry, containing Black and Tans. The four of them were surrounded, arrested and taken to a field by the roadside where they were lined up before a firing

party of Black and Tans. Dee said that he made up his mind to escape, and made a dash for it. While doing so, he heard the shots being fired; and presumed that his three companions were killed. He kept running over a bog, being fired at by the Black and Tans. One bullet hit him in the thigh, but yet he was able to keep going, and took shelter in this farmhouse where I saw him.

The wound was not serious, and, having dressed and attended to it, I advised Dee to move away from that locality as I knew the hue and cry that would be out to capture the only witness to the tragedy.

I subsequently heard in the town - that afternoon - that these three young men were dead, and that their bodies had been brought to the town of Listowel, with a view to getting relatives to establish their identities, but nobody did so. The bodies were moved to Tralee where they were later identified.

Sequel

There was a strange coincidence to this story. After a lapse of thirty-four years, I was on a visit to the U.S.A. where, out of the blue, I came in contact with the same Con Dee.

One evening, I met a relation of his in an American café in Chicago. I was introduced to a man called Pierce, who immediately said, "Are you the Dr. Enright of Listowel who attended Con Dee in May, 1921?" I said, "Yes". "Well", he said,

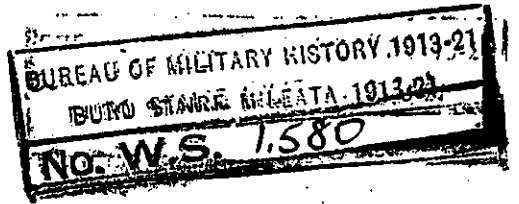
"I am his brother-in-law". He was an American.

On the following morning, Con Dee rang me on the 'phone, and came along to meet me. He was all over me and, having presented me with a beautiful Schafer fountain pen, with a stand, asked me to keep it on my desk as a memento of the incident in May, 1921.

In the words of Wordsworth "The gratitude of man had often left me mourning"!!

SIGNED: *J. E. Smyth*

DATE: 18.2.54



WITNESS *Angela McVron*
Michael Ryan Court