

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILÉATA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 190

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COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 190

Witness

Mr. J. J. Bradley,
St. Joseph's,
Crookshane,
Rathcoole, Co. Dublin.

Identity

Registrar of Monkstown Parish Court,
Co. Cork 1920-1923.

Subject

- (a) National activities in Shanbally
and Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork districts
1916-1922.
- (b) Monkstown Parish Court

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil.

File No. S.1012.

Form B.S.M. 2.

W/S 190
ORIGINAL

PERSONAL NOTES.

In my humble attempt to relate my activities and experiences during my association with the I.R.A. Sinn Fein, and as Registrar of Monkstown Parish Court, I am of opinion that the following should be of interest, and may help to clarify certain matters contained therein.

Born January 8th. 1889 at Raheens, Carrigaline, Co; Cork.
July 13th. 1903 Centered Haulbowline Dockyard as a Boilermaker Apprentice.
August 3rd. 1920 joined "D" Company 9th. Battalion 4th. Cork Brigade I.R.A. at Shanbally, Monkstown, Co; Cork and took oath of allegiance to Irish Republic in the presence of Richard O'Mahoney Commandant I.R.A. of District, Lieutenant Michael Hanley I.R.A., Captain F. O'Sullivan and Acting Captain James O'Driscoll, and was excused drills, parades, etc; on being appointed as Registrar Monkstown Parish Court.
March 6th. 1921 left employment at Haulbowline on the advice of Sean Bales T.D. chairman of C.C. Sinn Fein. S.E. Cork so as to avoid capture by the enemy.
8th. March started work at Passage Docks as Boilermaker and electric welder.
12th. May 1921 discharged from employment at Passage due to shortage of work.
Unemployed up to 8th. September 1921.
8th. September 1921 started work at Fords, Cork. my address then being, Dundanion Terrace, Blackrock, Co; Cork.
29th. April 1922 left Fords Works Cork and started again at Passage Docks, my address then being Beach Road, Passage West, Co; Cork.

Being employed at Messers. Ford's Cork necessitated my taking up residence convenient to work, being ten miles away from my home. My hours of employment were from 8.a.m. to 5.p.m. weekdays, 8.a.m. to 1.p.m. Saturdays. Consequently our only chance of holding a Republican Court at this period, was on Saturday evenings. On two occasions at least, cases at hearing were not finished until nearly 12 midnight, notably November 5th. 1921 and December 17th. 1921. I had then to walk $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles home, no other means being available. I preserved records, correspondence etc; of this period 1920 - 1922 by the following means:- I had constructed at Haulbowline a steel box about 18" long 6" high and 12" wide equipped with a water-tight lid. My late Father possessed a little farm of three small fields near to the dwellinghouse at Raheens. In the fence of the second field a few furze bushes grew, and I carefully dug a hole in the ground, immediately under one bush, to contain the box. Having inserted the box containing Court Files, etc; I then covered it over with a sod of grass and cleared away all traces of earth and clay. I always took good care to approach from a different direction, so as to avoid making a path, and as the bush grew fairly close to the ground I'm afraid I had often to pick a few thorns out of my hands, when extracting or adding papers. My Sister now uses the box as a food vessel for hens.

Stephen S. Obiville
J. J. Bradley.

January 1949.

JJB/TC.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21

The river Lee in its almost Southerly Course from Cork City to the Sea, turns sharply East at Ringaskiddy from the comparatively wide Bay at Monkstown, having Whitepoint and later Cove, then on its left bank. Before it reaches Cove it is divided into three parts by the small islands of Haulbowline, and Rocky Island, again it unites and forms part of Inner Cork Harbour to be again split up by Spike Island (a notorious Convict Prison at one time), as it journeys South once more to the Atlantic. As if anxious or eager to see as much as possible of the mainland before being engulfed, it again turns sharply to the West, in part, and with Currabinny on the one hand and Crosshaven on the other, it joins with the Owenabuee at Carrigaline Bridge, some four miles inland. This latter tributary includes the famous "Drakepool" where Sir Francis Drake hid with five ships of war in the year 1589 from the Spanish Armada. Past Cove, the inner Cork Harbour comes into being where the greatest Atlantic liners can call, and embark or disembark passengers and mails at all times.

During the period 1913/1921 and previously, English Man-of-war ships were always stationed in Cork Harbour, and in addition, a large training ship, ex-Battleship, (One which was there in my time was called "The Black Prince" later changed to H.M.S. Emerald). was anchored in Monkstown Bay. The Naval Authorities who required space for shore recreation for the trainees on these ships, all lads 15 to 18 years of age, leased some large tracts of land at Ringaskiddy for this purpose, and built recreation rooms, dressing rooms, as well as fitting out football pitches, cricket grounds, erecting swings etc; and other forms of amusement. In addition they built a long wooden Promenade and Pier called locally the Naval Pier, about half a mile long, from Ringaskiddy strand to low water mark in the Bay, so as to facilitate the landing of personnel from the training ship, independent of the variations of the tides at the recreation grounds.

As boys in the neighbourhood, we were never denied access to those grounds when any games were in progress, but were not of course ever invited to take part. The displays given at these grounds, with brass bands manned and played by those trainees, in their neat Uniforms spick and span, had naturally an appeal to the local lads and consequently we had quite a large number of these joining the Royal Navy via the training ship and otherwise. It will be understood then that in the course of years a considerable portion of the male population of the district around Cork Harbour had seen or were seeing, service with the Navy, and were either pensioned off or presently serving, and it would be true to say that very few families in the district, had not had connections with it in some way.

Again, at Haulbowline Island A Naval Dockyard and Stores were established, early in the last two decades of the nineteenth century, and in 1899 a scheme was introduced whereby lads of 14 to 16 years of age, could be apprenticed to the various trades in the Dockyard such as Fitters, Boilermakers, Blacksmiths, Shipwrights, Plumbers, Carpenters, Etc; Etc. This scheme consisted of a fairly stiff Civil Service Exam. in the usual subjects then been taught in National Schools, followed by a Medical Examination by a Naval Doctor. The successful candidates, then were free to choose whatever trade they wished to adopt, according to what progress they had made at the written examination. For instance, he who had got first place had a choice of all the trades then available, the second had a choice of the remainder, and so on. At one period as many as 30 vacancies were to be filled, and as the examinations were held bi-annually, after the first few years, it can be seen that quite a large number had been dealt with in this manner. Due to this, for example when I entered the Dockyard in July 1903 the number of employees consisted of between three and four hundred of all classes, and by the year 1913 this number had possibly risen to four or perhaps five times that number, and at the end of World War 1914/1918 was well over 2,000. Good steady employment was offered and fairly good pay.

An Apprentice, as well as being taught craftsmanship, was also entitled to free advanced education during working hours, for a certain period each week, and should he be successful at the examination held at the end of twelve months, would be eligible to remain at study for another twelve, and if successful again was allowed to continue to a maximum period of four years. Subjects such as Electricity and Magnetism, Logarithms, Cowic sections, Applied Mechanics, History (British of course) Trigonometry, Differential Calculus, etc; etc. were taught at the School and a careful record was kept for future reference by the authorities, of each apprentice, and promotion was dealt out as deserved.

The apprentice on commencing duty was brought before a Naval Officer not less than Commander R.N. (I should mention here that the Dockyard was in charge of serving Naval Officers for the most part, of which the Admiral of the Port of Cork was the chief one) to sign an indenture accompanied by his parent or guardian. He would be asked to solemnly declare, that he would be obedient and of good behaviour etc; etc; and finally to declare that he would bear allegiance to King Edward VII his heirs and successors etc; etc; and finally affix his seal to the document in addition to seal of guardian and aforesaid Naval Officer as witness. The parent or guardian on his or her part had to declare that he or she would be responsible as far as necessary for the support of the apprentice until six years had elapsed when the apprentice became a journeyman. The foregoing gives the reader a fair idea of the position in Cork Harbour and surroundings prior to and during the period 1943/'21.

POLITICS.

Branches of the A.O.H. (Board of Erin) were established in Shanbally, Carrigaline, Passage, and Cove on or about 1910/1911. Previous to this the late W. O'Brien M.P. and others had established the All for Ireland League. This League was almost exclusive to Cork City and County. Gradually the A.O.H. although purporting to be a benefit society, became violently anti- All for Ireland League, and took a very active part in the support of the Irish Parliamentary Party as is well known. The recruiting for the British Army which was carried out by both the Irish Party and leaders of A.F.I. League was also well known, and hundreds of thousands of young men were coaxed or persuaded to join the British Army to fight for "Small Nations". In spite of Bachelors Walk, Howth Gun Running, and later the Rebellion of 1916 the A.O.H. still continued to exist in force, and did not commence to deteriorate until the 1918 Elections and after

THE FIRST AWAKENING.

Though there were some few in my District who were readers of the late Arthur Griffith's "Nationality", "Scissors and Paste" and Bulmer Hobson's "The Irish Worker" and other such literature the vast majority agreed to trust J.E. Redmond and his promises of Home Rule etc;.

Suddenly like a bolt from the blue, came accounts of the Rising in Easter Week 1916. The reactions of a good many people, myself included, were, "What fools they were, to think they could fight England". We, who ^{was} it might be said brought up under the shadow of England's Guns, and given ocular proof of her power, day by day were convinced that it was pure madness, at the time.

However the Dockyard Authorities decided, on being approached by the Military people, to construct an Armoured Train at Cove (Then called Queenstown) to break through to Dublin, which was supposed to be isolated, and I amongst others was ordered to proceed to the Railway Station at Cove to carry out this work. The Armoured Train so-called, was rather a crude affair. It simply meant the shuttering up of the two sides of the engine where the driver and fireman operated, with steel plates, with arrangements of course for their entrance and exit, also the glass windows in front and rear of the Engine Driver were covered in like manner. This work was carried out and completed before Saturday 30th. April 1916. Whether this "Armoured" Train was ever put to the use for which it was intended or not, I am not in a position to state. I do know however, that the steel plates were stowed away carefully somewhere and were used again, I think during the time of the so-called "German Plot" 1918.

At the time of the first assembling of this train no one of the 15 to 20 operatives employed objected to the work, they took it as part of their routine duty, so to say. However a vastly different state of affairs existed on the second occasion, when man after man refused to have anything to do with it, nevertheless a few men were found in the Dockyard eventually, who did the work, but I'm afraid they weren't very "popular" as a result. It is only fair to state that later on, the vast majority of the men engaged in the construction of said train became members of the I.R.A.

H.M.S. "BLUEBELL".

H.M. Ship "Bluebell" was what was then known as a "sloop". Some 30 or 40 of these sloops were on duty around the Southern Coast of Ireland from 1914 - 1918. All were called after names of plants or flowers. Some which occur to me are:- H.M.S. "Primrose", "Daffodil", "Crocus", "Hydrangea", "Begonia", "Verbena", "Laburnum", "Viola", "Myosotis", "Cornflower", "Buttercup", "Jessamine", "Veronica", "Cinnia", etc; etc. These were of course in addition to other Warships such as Cruisers, Minesweepers, Destroyers, Q Boats, Trawlers, etc; etc; and as far as possible these ships were repaired and serviced, and equipped with coal, oil, and stores from Haulbowline. I had worked at one time or another on most of these ships, but the "Bluebell" of all the others was cursed roundly by us, Boilermakers, and for this reason, A sloop would proceed to sea on patrol duty, minesweeping, etc; and be at sea possibly six or seven days. She would then return to Haulbowline and get re-bunkered, new stores, food, etc; and any little repairs that seemed necessary, and also to give the crew a much needed rest. Now I have a distinct recollection of the "Bluebell" on at least six occasions proceeding to sea on duty and after 24, 30 or in some cases 48 to 60 hours at sea, a wireless message would be received by the Admiral to the effect that the Boilers were leaking and she was losing perhaps five to ten tons of water per hour and would have to proceed to Dockyard for repairs. This was going on for a considerable time, (it would be I think year 1915) until at last suspicion was aroused in the minds of the Author

It then transpired that the Engineer Lieutenant in charge of the lower deck portion used to deliberately allow the water in the Boilers to become very low, so low, in fact that the tops of the combustion chambers and some of the tubes and boiler stays were not covered. Consequently they became terribly hot. He would then order the pumps to start feeding the boilers, and the cold water rushing in, naturally caused contraction of the aforesaid boiler parts, with the result that serious leaks developed, and it was only with difficulty that the ship could be kept moving. Immediately, that the ship would reach Haulbowline, the tradesmen concerned would be ordered aboard and work night and day until she was again seaworthy, and the fires would only have been drawn, and the stokehold cleaned up, when the workers would enter the furnace portion of the boilers with wet bags and buckets of water to keep tools cool and work away at the repairs. One can imagine the feelings of these workers when this occurred perhaps four or five times in less than that many weeks. It was believed that this particular Engineer Lieutenant was a Jew, he was removed when discovered and the ship thereafter behaved as any ordinary ship should. I have given a good deal of space to the "Bluebell" as it will be remembered that it was this ship which captured the "Aud" from Germany with arms, on Good Friday 1916, off the Coast of Kerry. The "Bluebell" escorted the "Aud" to Cork Harbour, where as already known she was blown up and sunk by her Crew, after having hoisted the German Flag.

A deep-sea diver from Haulbowline named John Dempsey ex-Naval man and employee of Dockyard descended to the "Aud" and brought up a few rifles, some ammunition and other materials, and was suitably rewarded by the authorities subsequently. Immediately subsequent to Easter week 1916 the garrison in Haulbowline Dockyard was increased to a great extent, and though, being an Island, sentries were posted night and day at vantage points. Men working at night time who would have in the course of their duty to travel about the Dockyard would be held up at the point of the bayonet, questioned, and if satisfactory allowed to proceed, sometimes as often as two or three times on walking from one side of the yard to another. In addition the garrison were drilled each day in full view of the workshops and the instructors would make every effort to impress on the onlookers the fate that would befall them should they not conduct themselves as "loyal" subjects to the King. I remember one drill instructor in particular who used to drill his section straight in front of Boiler Shop in full view of the workmen inside, in the course of his instruction, he could be distinctly heard to say, at Bayonet Drill, in his funny Cockney accent "Naw" if you should 'appen to come on any of those "Sin Feeners" you just give him this in the guts see, then a twist like this, then raise your foot (suiting the action to the word) like this, push off the body, and then pull your bayonet out like this. These directions were usually punctuated with filthy language, and were as a rule greeted with a shout of derision from the people whom they were intended to impress.

A good story is told about one of this garrison, a rather young, raw, Marine. In the course of a chat with one of the Dockyard men this lad asked, "What sort of fellows are those Shin-annigers" A very tall tradesman from Passage West happened to be walking the deck of a Trawler in full view of the speakers. This man was I believe 6' 5" in height and built proportionately. Just then he happened to stand up. "Do you see that fellow over there" said the Dockyard man pointing to the big man, "Yes" said the Marine, he's a fine looking man, I'm sure he's well over 6' high". "He is, said his informant, 6' 5" to be exact, and now he says, "I'll tell you in confidence, that fellow was too small for the Shinannigers and would'nt be accepted, but dont say I told you". The Marine asked no further questions re Sinn Feiners.

All Dockyard workmen without exception were at this time also subjected to a search, on their way to the landing stages where the launches were lying ready to take them to their different destinations. Two R.I.C. men were stationed, one each side of the passage leading to the landing stage, also a Sergeant in charge. A search-house was situated close by also containing two other R.I.C. The Police on the pathway, as the men filed passed, would touch different men on the shoulder. These men would then have to turn into the search-house and be pawed and felt all over by the stalwarts inside. At times the Police would touch two men abreast, then would perhaps let five or six pass, then reach over and touch one in the middle and so on, so that nobody knew when he was to be searched, and should a man who had been touched, attempt to pass without going in to the hut, the Sergeant in charge would pounce on him and force him in.

The next outstanding event occurred on the signing of the Anti-Conscription document in all the towns and villages in Ireland in 1918. Very few men presented themselves for work on that day and all ferry-launches and other boats manned by Civilians in the Dockyard remained tied up at their moorings. Then, after the Sinn Fein victory at the elections, followed by Dail Eireann meeting in 1919 a few of the local lads were gradually admitted to the I.R.A. Followed, the appeal by Michael Collins for subscriptions to the first Dail Eireann Loan, to which incidentally I subscribed. The loan in my District was collected by a chum of mine, Michael Hanley of Shanbally, Monkstown, Co; Cork, and he informed me that there had been a very good response. ~~On the 1st of 1920~~ came the forming of a Sinn Fein Club and the setting up of a Republican Court. Now the organizers of these went a truly democratic way about getting them appointed. They approached the local A.O.H. Division, the local National Foresters Branch, The Farmers, the local C.C., and others and asked them to co-operate, which they did. When the matter was brought up at the local A.O.H. Branch of which I happened to be financial Secretary, the members offered no opposition, but it was clearly pointed out, that any member who offered his services did so on his own responsibility and on his own initiative. It may be mentioned here that at this period the R.I.C. were being withdrawn from isolated Barracks by the authorities and consequently it became necessary in the public interest, that respect for the Law should be enforced, and the I.R.A. took a hand. The first business was the setting up of the so-called Arbitration Courts. This was a misnomer, as the findings were enforced from the very beginning by the I.R.A.. The Court was established in July 1920, and the following were appointed to act, after a free vote had been taken at the meeting of the representatives of the bodies already mentioned; the Revd. Fr. Timothy Murphy C.C. Ringaskiddy, having been moved to the chair.

President. Sean De Baróid. (John Barret) Laurel Hill,
Monkstown, Co; Cork. (Farmer).

(Séamus O h-éidircóil (James O'Driscoll)
(Acting Captain local I.R.A., Ringaskiddy,
(Co; Cork. (Blacksmith)
Justices (Prionnsias O Suillibéan. (Frank O'Sullivan)
(The Tower, Ringaskiddy, Co; Cork. Captain
(local I.R.A. (Farmer)

(Séamus O Donnabáin. (James O'Donovan)
(Monkstown, Co; Cork. (Painter)
Substitutes (Edward Barry, Raffeen, House, Raffeen,
(Monkstown, Co; Cork. (Farmer).
(Patrick J. O'Sullivan, The Castle, Ringaskiddy,
(Co; Cork. (Farmer).

Registrar. Jeremiah Joseph Bradley. (Diarmuid O Bréitilé).
Raheens, Carrigaline, Co; Cork. (Boilermaker).

Very soon after the Court had been appointed, the Sinn Fein Club (Shanbally and Ringaskiddy Branch) came into being the following were the Officers appointed:-

President and Chairman. J.J. Bradley, Raheen Carrigaline, Co; Cork.

Secretary. Jerome O'Connor, Shanbally, Monkstown.

Delegate to Comhairle Ceanntair. J.J. Bradley, Raheen Carrigaline, Co; Cork.

It was very strongly emphasized by the I.R.A. authorities (local) that each official position in both the Sinn Fein Club and the Court should be duplicated, so as that in case of an arrest or shooting of any official, the other could step in and take his place. The importance of the Courts and their activities was very much stressed in several letters from President DeValera to the Comhairle Ceanntair Sinn Fein, and at all costs they were to be kept functioning and their findings executed, were the tone of his remarks. I may here mention that the Monkstown Parish Court did duty for a very large part of South East Cork and its findings were in all cases, carried out punctually and thoroughly by the Republican Police. These Police were recruited from the Sinn Fein Club mainly, though the Lieutenant in charge was an active member of the I.R.A. namely Michael Hanley, Shanbally, Monkstown, Co; Cork. to whom the Police were responsible, and right well they did their duty. A sum of 1/- was paid to the Police for serving summons etc. later advanced to 2/- by the registrar of the Court.

Our first case was called on September the 1st. 1920 at 7.p.m. and the following are the details:- Mr. Cornelius Murphy, Parkgariffe, Monkstown, Co; Cork. charged Mr. Denis O'Connor, Boyworks Road, Roachestown. with assaulting him and causing him grievous bodily injury on August the 8th. 1920. Defendant was found guilty of assault and bound to the peace for three months, and to appear before the Court if called upon, during that time and to pay costs viz 2/6d. This decree was carried out. The Court sat at Parish Hall, Monkstown. Public Admitted. The next case, same date Sept. 1st. 1920 Cornelius Murphy, Parkgariffe, Monkstown, Co; Cork. charged Mr. Michael O'Connor (Brother of the previous defendant) with assault and causing him grievous bodily injury on Sunday August the 8th. 1920. Defendant found guilty, fined 10/- plus 2/6d. Costs of Court and bound to the peace for three Months, and to appear before the Court if called upon during that time. Decree carried out fully.

Justices. Sean DeBaroid (John Barrett), Frank O'Sullivan, and James O'Driscoll.

Registrar. J.J. Bradley.

Our next case was also one of assault and abusive language. Thomas McGrath, Ballyorban, Monkstown. Jeremiah Murphy, Parkgariffe. defendant. Two important witnesses were summoned on this case viz Ed. Hennebry, Parkgariffe. and D. Bateman, Ballymott, Monkstown, and but they failed to appear. For Contempt of Court Hennebry was fined £5 reduced to 5/- to be paid within one week, Bateman was fined £5 reduced to 10/- money to be recovered by I.R. Police. The defendant Murphy was found guilty of a technical assault, fined 1/- and 7/6d. Costs of Court. to be paid within one month. All decrees carried out and money recovered by I.R. Police. Court sat at Monkstown Parish Hall, Sept. the 8th. 1920. Justices:- John Barrett (Pres.) F.O'Sullivan, Jas. O'Driscoll. Registrar, or Clerk. J.J. Bradley.

The next Court was held on November the 3rd. 1920 at Monkstown Parish Hall to decide the following:-

Mrs. Michael Cox, Shanbally, Monkstown. Sued Mr. and Mrs. Ml. Gleeson, Raffeen. for possession of house, situated at Raffeen owned by plaintiff (Mrs. Cox). Evidence having been heard, the Court ordered the Gleesons to vacate the house by 1st. December 1920.

Justices:- J. Barrett (Pres)., F.O'Sullivan,
J. O'Driscoll.

Registrar:- J.J. Bradley.

Next Case.(November 3rd. 1920). same venue as above.
Mr. D. Jackson, Monkstown plaintiff sued Mr. and Mrs. W. Barrett, Monkstown for possession of two rooms in house of plaintiff at Monkstown. Judgment was given in favour of plaintiff, but the parties were called before the Court when judgment was given, and the matter was amicably settled to the satisfaction of all parties.

(Court Personnel, same as above).

The next Court was held on November 29th. 1920. and were it not for the Intelligence Department of I.R.A. the whole personnel of the Court would have been captured red-handed. The following are the details:- The Republican Police complained to the Registrar of Court that the Publichouses at Ringaskiddy were being kept open at all hours for the sale of drink, Sundays included, and in spite of repeated warnings by I.R.P. Consequently it was decided to take action. Each of the Publichouses (Three in number) was raided on Sunday afternoon November 7th.1920. The Proprietors being:-

1. D.B. O'Flynn Licensed Vintner, Lee View, Ringaskiddy, Co;Cork.
2. Thos. Touhy " " Bay View Hotel " "
3. Michael Forde " " " " " "

and 17 men in all had their names taken by the I.R.P. for being on the premises, illegally drinking, at the different houses. Summons were issued by Registrar to appear at the Old School House, Ringaskiddy where it was decided that the Court would sit at 7.30.p.m. on

Monday November 29th. 1920. The proprietors of the different Publichouses having also being summoned. Now I must explain here that I had at all times signed my name to the Court Summons in Irish viz Diarmuid O Breifile. This Irish spelling and pronunciation differs from the accepted one for Bradley, as it is written O'Broilcane but my late Father R.I.P. who was a fluent native Irish Speaker told me and impressed on me that the pronunciation was as I had signed, and I have always adhered to it. Very few people outside the ranks of the I.R.A. and Sinn Fein Club were aware of this, and to this fact

I attribute my freedom from being arrested by the enemy. It must be borne in mind that I was still working as a Boilermaker in H.M.L. Dockyard Haulbowline and continued to do so up to March 1921. However to continue. It happened that one of the men, who had been summoned to attend the Court for a breach of the Licensing Laws, was also a Dockyard Employee, and he was actually seen to hand to Head-Constable Egan, R.I.C. Haulbowline the summons which he had received, and to tell him all the circumstances etc;. This mans name was Daniel Lynch, The Marsh, Ringaskiddy, Co; Cork. Coxswain. Needless to say the Head-Constable made full use of the information, as events proved. However, I was proceeding to the "Old School House" on that November night and I was met half-way (the distance was 2½ miles from my home) by the three Justices and some I.R.A. who had received reliable information that the "Jocks" a Scottish Regiment stationed at Cove and Captained by the notorious Gordon Duff, a cold-blooded murderer, assisted by Black and Tans and R.I.C. intended to carry out a raid on the Court. It was decided, there and then that the Court would sit in an unoccupied house at Upper Shanbally, and scouts were sent round to notify all the people who had been summoned. Shanbally is situated about two miles from Ringaskiddy. The Court sat at about 9.p.m. and dealt with all the Cases. The Three Publicans were fined 7/6d, 7/6d, and 6/- respectively, the one who was fined 6/- having appeared before the Court namely Michael Forde

Of the seventeen men summoned for being on the different premises, seven appeared before the Court and were fined 1d. and Costs total 2/7d. the other ten were fined 2/6d. and Costs total 5/- all of which was duly paid, having been collected by I.R.P. One of the men fined and who did not appear at Court was named Thomas Nolan, Naval Pensioner. This man threatened to blow the brains out of anyone who came to his house to collect any fines. The fine was, however, paid by his Daughter who is now my dearly-loved wife. An amusing feature was that another of the men fined was a Deputy-Justice viz P.J. O'Sullivan, Farmer, Ringaskiddy. In the meantime the "Jocks" and Tans, Etc; duly carried out their raid at 7.30 p.m. on the Old School House, no one, of course was present and they knocked with the butts of their Arms and shouted to open in the Kings name, getting no response, one of the Officers fired a Revolver shot through the lock of the door and burst it open. Imagine their discomfiture when all they could manage to capture was some details and accounts of the Shamrock Hurling Club, who had the use of the School-house for their recreation, meetings etc; I may add that the local Commandant I.R.A. happened to be present at the sitting of this Court together with some Junior Officers as spectators; namely, Richard O'Mahoney, Rochestown, (President) J. Barrett, F. O'Sullivan, J. O'Driscoll, as Justices. Registrar:- J.J. Bradley.

Our next important case was called for December 18th. 1920. It was I.R.A. V. P.J. Fitzgerald, Shopkeeper & General Merchant, Passage West. The charge was receiving stolen goods, knowing same to have been stolen to wit, clothes, mens. Although this happened outside Monkstown Parish the Passage West I.R.A. asked that the case be tried by our Court, as no Court was functioning in their area at this period. The Case was adjourned to Jan. 29th. 1921 and Fitzgerald, who in the meantime had become bankrupt, failed to appear. However the two men who had stolen the clothes and sold them to Fitzgerald, appeared, and pleaded guilty and gave the I.R.P. and the Court every assistance. These two men named respectively Joseph Sanguet, Church Street, Passage West and J. O'Brien, Rathanker, Monkstown, Co; Cork ~~and~~ were both unemployed, and because of their assistance and Co-Operation were bound to the peace and got no further punishment. Now this Fitzgerald was a gambler, pure and simple. He had opened up a big Drapery Store, Provision Store, Picture House, Pawnbroking Office, Etc; in the town of Passage West, got most of his goods on credit, and failed to make the grade. It happened that he was adjudged a Bankrupt between August 1920 (date of the receiving of stolen goods) and January 1921, but the Court tried the case in his absence, and fined him £20. 5. Cd. in all. I should here mention that representations were made on Fitzgeralds behalf, to the District Court Magistrate Mr. Sean Prior of Carrigaline, Co; Cork. to have the fine reduced. This was done and his fine was now £10. 5. Cd. He pleaded inability, to pay but it was of no avail. The Court gave power to the Registrar and the I.R.P. to recover the money by any means, short of being absolutely criminal. A unique method was adopted. The Police, I.R.P. assisted by Passage West I.R.P. called on Fitzgerald and took sufficient goods, clothes, etc; to realize the amount of the fine. These were sold subsequently to people who had already expressed their intention of purchasing same, at cost price, they being fully aware of all the circumstances of the position. Every penny of the fine and costs was collected in this manner, although it took a considerable time.

Same date Jan. 29th. 1921, a decree for the possession of an out-house at Ringaskiddy was issued. Case:- Ed. O'Sullivan Shipwright plaintiff Ringaskiddy. V. Timothy Twomey Defendant Shopkeeper.

The next Court was held at Monkstown on April 9th. 1921. The case was one of abusive and threatening language and injury to house of plaintiff. Mrs. E. Murphy, Strawhall, Monkstown, plaintiff.

Mr. & Mrs. P. Spillane " " defendants

Date of offence March 20th. 1921. Having heard evidence, the case was adjourned to April 23rd. for production of witnesses, and investigation by I.R.P. At this sitting the defendants were found guilty and all parties were bound to the peace in their own security for six calendar

passing on the vital information. True enough, Military and Police did raid the Parish Hall on that evening and could only find some accounts and books re the Hall and a Bible, which fortunately they did not seize, or we'd have been put to the expense of purchasing another in its place for Court purposes.

Then came the truce on July 11th. 1921 but the Court carried on as per instructions from I.R.A. and sat as usual when cases came up for Judgment. On July 20th. 1921. Cork Rural District Council per Mr. D. Corcoran, Rent Collector, sued the following for debts due for Rent of Cottages, Seeds and Manures supplied etc; John Hennibry, labourer, Monkstown. Mrs. B. McGrath, Householder, Monkstown. Michael Fitzgerald labourer, Monkstown. Philip Lineham, Currabinny, and Mrs. T. O'Brien, Householder, Currabinny. The decision of the Court was - An Order was made by Court that all arrears of Rent Etc; were to be paid by instalments, to be completed in six months. This was accepted by Mr. D. Corcoran on behalf of R.D.C. Cork and the decrees were carried out in all cases.

On August 6th. 1921 Mr. D. Corcoran again appeared before the Court at Monkstown on behalf of the Cork R.D.C. to recover a debt of £4. 18. 11d. due to him by Jeremiah O'Callaghan for seeds and manures supplied.

1. The Court found defendant liable for full amount.
2. Defendant ordered by Court to pay a first instalment viz £1 on or before 1st. September 1921.
3. Full amount to be paid on or before 1st. December 1921 and fined 2/6d. and Costs total 5/-.

Justices:- J. Barrett, P.J. O'Sullivan (Deputy Justice)
and James O'Donovan (Deputy Justice).

Registrar:- J.J. Bradley.

Defendant did not comply with the findings of the Court and on April 10th. 1922 he was sentenced to three months hard labour in Cork Gaol for (1) Not complying with decree of Court held Aug. 16th. 1921. (b) Not complying with decree of Court held Jan. 1922. (c) Threatening to assault I.R. Police, when they called at his house to carry out decrees of Court, and refusing to pay Costs and Fines etc; on 3rd. April 1922. He was released from Cork Prison on May 8th. 1922, money having been paid on his behalf by his relatives. (See enclosed letter from Governor Cork Gaol).

A SAD CASE.

On Monday August 8th. 1921 the I.R.P. had in custody in an old barn at Seamount, Ringaskiddy, Co; Cork a prisoner named Patrick O'Neill (22) Loughbeg, Ringaskiddy. He was charged with assaulting his Mother and his two Brothers, Daniel and John, the two latter being I.R.A. Volunteers, on the previous night, at his own home. The evidence submitted to the Court, which was held in the old barn at 7.p.m. that evening, was to the effect that he had arrived home on the previous Sunday evening considerably the worse for drink, had kicked and beaten his Brothers and had thrown a bill-hook at his Mother, which fortunately did not strike her, but struck the door beside her. Both Brothers testified to this at the hearing and were the principal witnesses. The prisoner, who was manacled, was really in a bad way, foaming from the mouth and with a wild stare in his eyes. It transpired later that he had drunk bad Whiskey on the previous night at Crosshaven, which accounted for his unusual bad behaviour, as ordinarily he was not a bad sort, by any means. However the Court sentenced him to deportation for 12 months and he was given the choice of destinations. He chose Scotland, and the I.R.P. were to see to his departure on the Steamer, which was done on the following day, I enquired from one of his Brothers some time later as to his progress and he informed me that he had secured work shortly after his arrival in Scotland, and furthermore that he had got married some six months later and was quite happy and content.

During the remainder of the year 1921 the following cases were heard and dealt with by the Court amongst some others:-

August 20th. 1921 Mrs. A. O'Donovan, Monkstown, Plaintiff V. Mrs. A. Hegarty, Monkstown Defendant, cause of action, Trespass on plaintiffs lands.

August 20th. 1921. Miss K. Coughlan, Ringaskiddy, Plaintiff V. Mr. C. Symons, Shanbally, Defendant, for money due to plaintiff for services rendered..

August 20th. 1921. Miss M. O'Regan, Enniskean, Co; Cork, Plaintiff V. David O'Flynn, Pump Lane, Ringaskiddy, Defendant, cause of action Possession of plaintiffs house held by defendant for non-compliance with payment of Rent.

September 3rd. 1921. Mr. R.W. Hosford, Ringaskiddy, Plaintiff V. Mr. Maurice Murphy, Ringaskiddy, Defendant. for Rent of house situated at Barnahely and occupied by defendant, from middle of June 1921 to date.

September 17th. 1921. Mr. P. Collins, Raffeen, Plaintiff V. Mr. Simon White and Mr. John McCarthy both of Raffeen, Defendants, for using threatening and abusive language to plaintiff.

September 17th. 1921. Miss Nora Johnson, Shanbally, Plaintiff V. Mrs. M. Griffin, Shanbally, Defendant for abusive and threatening language on 9th. September 1921.

September 17th. 1921. Mrs. M. Kelleher, Shopkeeper, Raffeen, Plaintiff. V. Mrs. O'Donovan, Raffeen, Defendant; for recovery of debt due by defendant for goods received.

September 17th. 1921. Mrs. A. Enright, Shopkeeper, Ringaskiddy Plaintiff V. Timothy Roche and John Lynch both of Ringaskiddy for recovery of debt due by defendants for goods and provisions supplied, various dates.

September 24th. 1921. Mr. P. Collins, Raffeen, Plaintiff V. Messers Thos. Ryan, Frank Flynn, and William O'Neill all of Raffeen, Defendants, cause of action for using abusive and threatening language to plaintiff on 20th. Sept. 1921. at Raffeen, and preventing him from digging his potatoes, which were growing on the farm of defendants employer Mr Simon White.

September 24th. 1921. Mr. P. Collins, Raffeen, Plaintiff V. Mr. Simon White, Farmer and Landowner, Defendant for assault on plaintiff and slanderous statements and for assaulting plaintiffs Wife.

November 5th. 1921. Mr. Simon White, Raffeen, Landowner, Plaintiff V. Mr. P. Collins, same address Defendant. (1) For possession of plaintiffs house occupied by defendant. (2) For trespass and larceny of potatoes. (3) Assault and abusive language on the 20th. and 21st. September 1921.

November 5th. 1921. W.J. O'Sullivan, Draper, Grand Parade, Cork. Plaintiff. V. Nurse Kelly, Raffeen, Defendant, recovery of debt £6. 0s. 7d. due by defendant for goods received.

December 3rd. 1921. Mr. P.J. O'Sullivan, Barnahely, Farmer, Plaintiff. V. Mr. P. McCarthy, Labourer, Shanbally, Defendant, recovery of a debt £1. 10. 0d. for Cats supplied to defendant Spring 1921.

December 17th. 1921. Mr. Simon White, Farmer and Landowner, Plaintiff. V. Michael & William Coffey, Raffeen Defendants, for cutting and removing a tree value 30/- from plaintiffs land on the night of 18th./19th. November 1921.

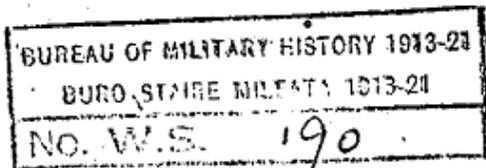
December 17th. 1921. Mr. C. Scannell, Insurance Agent, Ringaskiddy Co; Cork. Plaintiff. V. Mrs. Ed. O'Sullivan, Ringaskiddy, Defendant, for assault and abusive and threatening language on 4th. December 1921 at Ringaskiddy.

Details of these cases were dispatched to the Minister of Home Affairs together with records, cash, etc; at Merrion Street Upper, Dublin. in April 1923 for which I hold receipts, and the District Justices took over as from October 1922.

(See enclosed letter from Ministry of Home Affairs).

Diarmuid Ó Sé
J.J. Bradley.

January 1949



JJB/TC.

THE SHANBALLY AND RINGASKILLY BRANCH OF
OF SINN FEIN AND ITS ACTIVITIES.

The Sinn Fein Cumann was established in our District in August 1920. Its members was recruited, in most part, from those in the locality who were not members of the I.R.A., Although the closest possible co-operation existed between the two bodies, and it would be quite correct to say that the Sinn Fein Club was an ancillary to it, i.e. I.R.A.

Having been appointed President of the Cumann at its inception I collected as many sympathisers as possible, about 30 I think, and we appointed Officers by vote of the parties present. It was expressly laid down for us by the I.R.A. Officers, that a substitute or deputy should be selected to take the place of each official, in case of the latter's capture or death by the enemy, so as to ensure continuity. The following were officials as far as I can remember:-

President and Chairman. J.J. Bradley.

Deputy Chairman and Secretary. Jerome O'Connor, Shanbally.

Deputy Secretary. Ramonn DeBarra.

Comairle Ceanntair Representative. J.J. Bradley.

From the members we selected men for Police Duty. Mr. P. Sisk, Mr. J. Quill, Mr. Florence McCarthy, Mr. Ml. Cronin and some others. These Police under their Officer I.R.A. Lieut. Michael Hanley carried out duties such as serving of summons to I.R. Court, collecting fines and executing decrees, running dispatches, carrying out boycott of British goods, such as papers, cigarettes, magazines, etc; etc; and acting as scouts and sentries for I.R.A. when required.

Meetings of the Sinn Fein Club were seldom held at the one place, sometimes in a disused house, at others in a sheltered corner of a field and so on. All matters and correspondence etc. dealt with at C.C. were duly reported by me to the members, also any news and details of ambushes or attacks on Crown Forces which would not appear in local papers, and in which, of course some of the members of C.C. had taken part notably, our chairman S. Hales, Consequently the meetings were well attended and eagerly looked forward to.

As delegate to C.C. Sinn Fein I attended all meetings of such, which embraced all the area of S.E. Cork. This area included Monkstown Parish, Carrigaline, Kinsale, Bandon, Ballygarvan, Ballinhassig, and Crosshaven. The President and Chairman of C.C. S.E. Cork was the late Brig. Gen. Sean Hales T.D. one of the grandest types of men I had ever met, genial and friendly, but a strict disciplinarian. Sean was one of four Brothers of farmer stock all of whom suffered in the "Tan War". He had a light complexion, Brown hair, was over medium height and very sturdily built. At a guess I would say he was about 16 stone weight, but active and lively, He would be in the forties possibly, at the time I knew him. He was a great athlete in his younger days, as were his brothers, and all the family commanded the greatest respect in their native locality. Better pens than mine, will I'm sure, do justice to this grand family.

/over.....

All reports and directions issued by the Ard Comairle Sinn Fein at Headquarters Dublin were read out and discussed at these meetings which were of necessity always held in some remote farm-house always at different venues. I had, I think attended some six or seven meetings of C.C. 1920/21. and only once was Sean Hales absent and that was due to his attendance as delegate to Ard Comairle Dublin. I had seen him preside as chairman at a C.C. which was held somewhere between Tracton and Kinsale in early 1921; unfortunately I haven't the exact date, but I remember distinctly, that he arrived that day, coated with mud and looked terribly tired. I was told, after the meeting that he had walked 24 miles the previous night and morning, from somewhere in West Cork after an ambush so as to be present. He dealt with all the business, which came up for discussion, letters, orders, etc; without the slightest sign of haste or impatience. When the meeting concluded and we were preparing to go home, a large convoy of the enemy with Lancia Cars, Tenders, etc; could be seen proceeding in the ~~direction~~ direction of Kinsale in the distance.

I have before me a few notes which I took at a C.C. Sinn Fein at Ballinadee, Sean Hales in the Chair, 21 Clubs were represented, Reports of Cumainn from the different areas were submitted also reports on Republican Courts. The Chairman dwelt on the absolute necessity of re-organizing Cumainn in areas where they were falling into decay. All reports were considered satisfactory, A discussion arose as to the carrying out of a decree issued by the Republican Court in Ballygarvan. It was stressed by the Chairman that in all cases the I.R.P. were responsible for the execution of same. In Clubs where Officers had been removed, instructions were issued to appoint new ones immediately. This applied mostly to the Western part of the Area. A Vote of Condolence was passed to relatives of Frank Hurley Treasurer C.C. A tribute to the work of the Courts (Republican) was read in a letter from President DeValera who also pointed out the absolute necessity of keeping them alive. Another dated August 15th. (Year not stated) Upton, Sean Buckley in the Chair, Minutes read and signed. A letter of explanation was read from M. Murphy, Kinsale as to his appearing at Enemy Court, was considered satisfactory, but he was warned as to future conduct. A letter was also read from Ard Comairle asking that a delegate other than the T.D. for area should be appointed. Sean Buckley was proposed by Pat Tobin, Monkstown seconded by P.O'Neill, unanimous. Sean Buckley suitably returned thanks. A letter from Officers of Fire ~~is~~ was read asking to keep circulation of paper alive. The chairman asked delegates to take home this fact to their different Cumainn. The A.O.H. was referred to, and delegates were asked to keep members of same in line. The chairman thought that any action was unnecessary as in most cases the Hibernians had backed up the Republican Courts, agreed. Deil Eireann loan to be concluded. Next C.C. meeting to be held as soon as possible after Ard Comairle Sinn Fein. The question of "importation and sale decree" was then discussed, and a proposition moved that all Clubs notify Shopkeepers. Unfortunately I have no further record of Sinn Fein Club activity but I will add the following:-

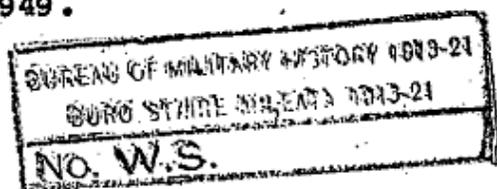
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At a meeting of the members of the various Sinn Fein Clubs who had accepted the treaty position held in Ballinadee April 16th. 1922. Sean Hailes T.D. was in the Chair. When routine business concluded the chairman warned all present on the occasion, that on no account was anyone to carry out reprisals, or interfere with other meetings, nor were any meetings to be held for the present to advance interest of our Candidates. He then turned to me and asked what the position of the I.R.A. members were, in my District, meaning were they pro, or anti - treaty. I replied that the Captain and two Lieutenants were "Republican", and was proceeding, when his face became distorted with anguish and rage, I, of course had used the term unthinkingly. He interrupted me, and in a terrible voice shaking with emotion he asked me did I not think him as good a Republican as any. "If I thought he said" that I had done an injury to the Republic by voting for the acceptance of the Treaty, I'd have cut that right hand of mine off," raising his right hand in the air "before I'd do such a thing" "and" he continued dont you ever make such a distinction again." He was loudly applauded and I tendered my apologies which he accepted graciously, and we were the best of friends ever after. Poor fellow, he was shot like a dog on Ormond Quay in December 1922.

May his gallant and chivalrous soul rest in peace.

Diarmuid S. O'Connell
J. J. Bradley.

January 1949.



JJB/TC.

OTHER ITEMS.

THE FLYING OF THE TRI-COLOUR.

AT RINGASKIDDY, CO. CORK.

On a sunny morning in the month of May 1917 the residents of Ringaskiddy and neighbourhood, and the men proceeding to work at Haulbowline were astonished to see a tri-colour, Green, White, and Gold flying from the top of the highest tree, at the bottom of the hill called "File-a-Cro" just at the entrance to Ringaskiddy Village and immediately inside the boundary wall of "Prospect Villa". Part of this latter Farm or Holding had been taken over by the Naval Authorities as Recreational Ground for Naval Trainees.

This tri-colour could be plainly seen from Cove two miles away and from Haulbowline Dockyard and Ordnance Stores across the Bay.

Immediately there was R.I.C. activity (A Police Barrack was situated at Ringaskiddy at this time, A Sergeant O'Bara and four Constables being the custodians of the law). A shotgun, and a Marksman named Jack Walton (a true "loyalist") was procured and he was asked by the R.I.C. Sergeant to shoot it down. After a few dozen ineffective tries the flag still flew gallantly. The Police then tried ladders, but alas for their efforts; they failed to reach the "terrible" flag even by tying all the available ladders together. The "boys" who had, the previous night attached the flag to the tree, took the precaution of cutting all the branches and footholds from the top of the tree downwards for twelve or fifteen feet. (Now this had been accomplished in the dark of the night with absolute secrecy was surely no mean feat on their part, only two being involved, and the tree being about eighty feet in height. Their names being Timothy Harrington (Farmer) Barnahely, Ringaskiddy, Co; Cork. still resident at same address, and Joseph Dulohery (Engine Fitter) Haulbowline and also a resident of Ringaskiddy, now at Fords Works, Dagenham, Essex, England.

The flag itself had been made of good Naval Bunting at Haulbowline by a Miss Daisy Cahall (Seamstress) Haulbowline also a native of Ringaskiddy, and smuggled out. The R.I.C. Sergeant next phoned the Military Officer in charge of Spike Island where a large garrison of Army Engineers was stationed. This Officer dispatched a party to Ringaskiddy equipped with fire escape ladders, ropes, etc; and after some hours succeeded in removing this "dangerous emblem". It was then about 4 p.m.

Diarmuid S. O'Grada
J.J. Bradley.

January 1949.

JJB/TC.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 190

THE BURNING OF RECREATIONAL HALLS, HUTS, AND "NAVAL" BRIDGE AT

RINGASKIDDY.

Late in 1920 a party of I.R.A. numbering about 25 in charge of Frank O'Sullivan, The Tower, Ringaskiddy, Co; Cork. and consisting of the following amongst others whom I can't remember:-
James O'Driscoll, Lieut. and I.R. Court Justice

Michael Murphy,	Volunteer	R.I.P.	William Barry,	Vol. R.I.P.
Patrick Barry	"	R.I.P.	John Barry	"
William O'Regan	"		Jas. Russell	"
James Harding	"		John Barrett	"
William Cotter	"		Jas. Hennessy	"
Michael Hanley Lieut. I.R.P.			Thomas Wade	"
William Fennell	Volunteer		Wm. Joe Kiely	"
Daniel O'Neill	"		John O'Neill	"
Patrick Bradley	"		Daniel O'Driscoll	"
Michael Kearney	"			

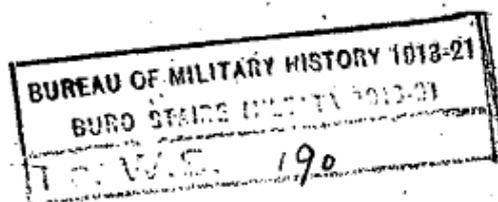
Assembled at Ringaskiddy at 12 midnight, and under a pre-arranged plan, set fire to and completely destroyed all the wooden buildings such as Recreation Halls, Dressing Rooms, Etc; at Naval Grounds adjoining. In addition they also burned part of Naval Bridge and rendered it impassable, and caused damage to the extent of hundreds of pounds. By way of good measure they also dug up parts of Cricket Pitch, Football Grounds, Etc. They were assisted by some members of the local Sinn Fein Club, who acted as Scouts, Sentries, Messengers, and so on. When they had finished, the whole of the well-laid out Recreation Grounds presented a sorry sight. This operation was carried out on a certain Friday night about midnight. No action was taken by the Authorities until Sunday following. During Mass time and afterwards, parties of R.I.C. in extended formation accompanied by Military could be seen walking from Shanbally to Ringaskiddy. They halted at the scene of the previous Friday nights activities, and, as the people were proceeding homewards to Ringaskiddy from Mass by the same route, the Crown Forces held up all the males. They then compelled all those, to proceed to the aforementioned grounds and with shovels and spades to fill in the holes and level off the playing-pitches. As the I.R.A. and their sympathizers had grave suspicions of the enemy movements, they wisely kept out of the way and were not commandeered. Much greater activity, hold-ups, etc. was shown after this.

The exact date of above can be determined by reading the account given by "The Cork Examiner", Newspaper of appropriate time.

J.J. Bradley
J.J. Bradley.

January 1949.

JJB/TC.



THE ESCAPE OF PRISONERS (I.R.A.) FROM

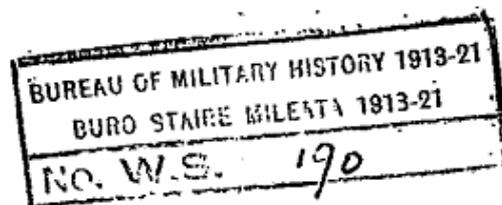
SPIKE ISLAND IN THE SPRING OF 1921.

Late in March or possibly early in April 1921 (The exact date can be ascertained from the Newspaper Cork "Examiner" of the time) a sensational rescue of I.R.A. Prisoners, three in number as far as I remember, including Sean McSwiney a Brother of the Brixton Martyr Terence, took place from Spike Island. This occasion was the first in which any escape from this armed fortress ever took place in living memory. The Shanbally and Ringaskiddy I.R.A. working in conjunction with Cove I.R.A. who procured a Motor Launch carried out the rescue. On a Saturday morning at about 10 a.m. this Launch arrived off Spike Island from Cove, manned by Volunteers. It appears that on a pre-arranged signal, viz the flying of a pennant from the stern of the Launch the prisoners overpowered their Gaolers. (The business was of course well planned beforehand and the prisoners acquainted of the procedure to be adopted). They then, the prisoners dashed to the Beach where the Launch moved in, ready to receive them, got aboard, and away as fast as they could go to the Mainland at the Tower, Ringaskiddy. They were met here by James O'Driscoll Acting Captain I.R.A. Ringaskiddy, who had a smart pony and trap in readiness. No time was lost, they bundled themselves into the pony-trap and off they were driven through Ringaskiddy Village, on to Shanbally and then Raffeen. Some little distance beyond Raffeen the rescued prisoners abandoned the vehicle and set off on foot towards Carrigaline where arrangements had already been made to receive them. They were never re-captured.

James O'Driscoll Acting Captain I.R.A. who took charge of the rescue at Ringaskiddy end, is now residing at East Douglas, Co; Cork, and can supply any further details necessary. At about 2.30 on that afternoon, the Military arrived at Ringaskiddy, coming by different routes, with Armoured Cars, Lancia Cars, Lorries, Etc; but they were too late. Evidently they had some reliable information as to the mode of conveyance which was used to transport the prisoners, as they interrogated several people in the District including school children and enquired if they had seen a pony and trap being driven in a certain direction. Of course, Nobody had seen any such thing, and they had to return disappointed and angry. The rescue was timed and carried out with amazing precision and split-second timing and deserved to be successful.

Diarmuid S. O'Leary
J.J. Bradley.
January 1949.

JJB/TC.



THE "SKELLIG" LIST.

In the first week of Lent 1921, Michael Cronin R.P. and myself, were proceeding homewards from Ringaskiddy at about 10.15 p.m.. It was a lovely moonlight night, calm and still. Half a mile outside the Village, three strange men passed us, In a country place, as is well known, strangers are recognized as such, immediately. We bade them good night, but got no response, 100 yards behind came two others. All were in mufti. These, too, failed to return our greeting. Some distance behind came three others and then a bunch of five. Just as the five got abreast of us, they suddenly turned ~~to~~ us, whipped out Revolvers and stuck them into our sides, "Put them up" "You _____" they hissed "Come on, up higher, You wont touch the _____ sky". We put up our hands, high as we could. The next bunch that arrived apparently contained their Officer, because he immediately started to question us, "Where were we going?" "Where had we been? Etc; Our names Addressee, and our Occupations. When we informed him that we were both employed in H.M. Dockyard, Haulbowline, he seemed to think that we weren't too "bad". "Got any Guns on you" he said proceeding to search us all over. Putting his hand into my inner coat pocket, he pulled out a small bundle of old letters etc; and proceeded to read by the light of his flashlamp. Amongst the letters in my pocket, was what is known in that part of the country, and I may add around the Southern part of Cork County generally, as a "Skellig List". This was posted to me anonymously some days previous. I want to explain here that such a list contains a good deal of the names of marriageable, but unmarried people of both sexes, set out to a kind of doggerel verse, who were resident in the district. The language used in these lists, was hardly to be recommended as a suitable one for a Sunday School Teacher, I will quote one which occurs to me. "Now, theres Minnie McDonnell an uppish young lass, With a soldiers "Grey-Back" to keep heat to her Ass". There were others of course much more "spicy", and needless to say, my name was also included, coupled with some rather advanced, unattractive female. Tradition has it, that people who had'nt got married by Shrove Tuesday, had still a chance to do so by going to the Skellig Rocks, off the Coast of Cork as the time for getting married there, had been extended beyond that date. However, when the Officer started to read the "list" he enquired what it was, what it meant etc; and I hastened to explain. He was highly amused, and remarked that my name was also entered. Luckily enough, he missed searching one of my pockets which contained something I'd have found very difficult to explain, as being innocent. It was a letter from an old friend, who was at work in Tralee, Co; Kerry, and which gave an impression of the activities of the I.R.A. in that district at the time. Having advised us as to the foolishness of being out so late etc; etc; he bid us good night and we proceeded on our way, rather shaken but greatly relieved.

Diarmuid S. O'Connell
J.J. Bradley.

January 1949.

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THE BLOWING UP AND DESTRUCTION OF

CARRIGALINE BRIDGE LATE 1920.

Carrigaline lies on the main Cork-Crosshaven road, 7 miles from Cork and 5 from Crosshaven. A Bridge some 30 or 40 feet span, crosses the Owenabuee river, in the centre of the Village. A very important fortress at Camden outside Crosshaven, and another at Templebreedy, meant that there was considerable military traffic between those Forts and Cork City via Carrigaline in those days. The I.R.A. decided to destroy this bridge and did so very thoroughly. Some of the names of members of I.R.A. who took part in this operation were:- James Hickey, Monkstown, James O'Driscoll, Ringaskiddy, Frank O'Sullivan, Ringaskiddy, Jack Barrett, Shanbally, Patrick Bradley, Raheens, and others whom I can't recollect. They were, of course assisted by the Carrigaline Volunteers. The bridge was almost completely destroyed, except for part of a foot-path, about two or three feet wide which was left intact, and consequently none except pedestrians, could cross over. The breach in one part was only 10 or 12 feet or perhaps less across, the road and foot-path over the bridge being some 35 to 40 feet wide before destruction. A labourer named Cornelius O'Mahoney who lived just beside the bridge decided to cash in on the situation, on the principle that "Tis an ill wind that doesn't blow somebody good" and he acquired two planks about a foot wide, and 15 or 16 feet long, and fairly thick. Before the Motors and Bicycles were prohibited from use by the Crown Forces, in the District, a considerable number of people used to travel from Cork City to Crosshaven, the latter of course being a well known Seaside resort, by Motor as well as other modes of conveyance. When a Motorist would arrive at the broken bridge, Con O'Mahoney being on the alert, would appear on the scene with his two planks, and for a consideration, would lay them across the broken bridge, and thus enable the driver to continue. He did a raring trade, especially at week-ends and Sundays, I have been told on very good authority, that he took in £19. 10. 0d. on one such week-end. Later, of course the Military used to carry their own appliances for crossing Bridges, in cases where the breach wasn't too wide to span.

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January 1949.

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