

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILITARA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1636

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1636.

Witness

Lieut-Col. M. O'Kelly,
8, Parkmore Drive,
Terenure,
Dublin.

Identity.

Lieut., 'E' Coy., 2nd Battn., Dublin Bgde., I.R.A.

Subject.

Ambush of British military by members of 'D'
Company, 2nd Battn., Dublin Brigade,
June, 1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

File No S. 2780.

Form B.S.M. 2

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No. W.S. 1.6 86

THIRD STATEMENT BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL M. O'KELLY,
8, Parkmore Drive, Terenure, Dublin.

On Whit Monday, 1921, which, in that year, fell on the 1st June, I, with other members of "D" Company, 2nd Battalion, Dublin Brigade, took up ambush positions in the area, North Frederick Street/Dorset Street, our instructions being to hit up anything in the way of enemy forces which came our way.

The time fixed for the operation was 11 a.m. and, as the day was exceptionally fine and a public holiday, a big number of people were moving about, some on trams and cars going to various places of amusement, and generally enjoying themselves as well as the circumstances of the time permitted.

We were hoping to attack a lorry load of Tans and were anxious to get the job over and done with, as quickly as possible, so that we could get away.

I, with another member of "D" Company, was stationed outside Findlaters Presbyterian Church at the corner of Rutland (now Parnell) Square and North Frederick Street. From that point we could see a lorry-load of British Military had stopped outside the temporary G.P.O. in O'Connell Street and facing in our direction. We decided, in the event of nothing else turning up, we would have a 'go' at the Military lorry.

We waited for about twenty minutes but nothing turned up. The streets were becoming more crowded with pedestrians enjoying the sunshine but we were very worried about their safety as enemy forces, when attacked, usually fired indiscriminately without regard to the lives of the passers-by. We could not, of course, warn the citizens of the danger, and had, perforce, to take a chance and hope that the

ordinary people would remain unscathed.

The lorry commenced moving in our direction very slowly and we prepared to attack it. The British troops were packed very tightly in the vehicle. When it reached Findlaters Church, the first ambush position, we opened fire and threw two hand grenades which landed right in the centre of the lorry. The occupants immediately started firing indiscriminately and a number of pedestrians were wounded. The lorry accelerated until it reached Dorset Street corner where it again came under attack from our men stationed there.

My comrade and I got away from the scene as quickly as possible, and went to Howth, where we hired a boat. We rowed out of the Harbour and went adrift. We were picked up miles out to sea by a fishing boat, but that is another story and enough of excitement for one day.

SIGNED:

Michael O'Keefe & Coe

DATE:

12th June 1957.

WITNESS:

Mr Ryan Connell

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILENTA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1,636