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Retirement of Supt. J. Murray from the Garda Síochána on
14th March, 1958.

A native of the town of Monaghan.

Trained as a National Teacher in St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra, Dublin - 1912/14. Taught in Loughrea B.N.S. 1914/15, and in Bundoran B.N.S. and Boy's Orphanage - 1915/21.

During years 1917-22 took a prominent part in the fight for Irish Freedom and attained the rank of Brigadier in command of the Forth Brigade (South East Donegal), 1st Northern Division. During border fighting in June, 1922, the towns of Pettigo and Belleek in the then Brigadier Murray's area were shelled by the British troops. During the shelling of Pettigo on the 4th June, 1922, four of the defenders were killed in the fighting and twenty-one prisoners were taken.

Joined the Garda Síochána in October, 1922 with the rank of Inspector. Was Adjutant in the then principal Garda Depot in Kildare town in November and December until the Depot was opened in the Phoenix Park at the end of December, 1922. Was subsequently Adjutant at the auxiliary Depot at Collinstown and McKee Barracks, Dublin, respectively, until his transfer to take charge of Dingle District, Co. Kerry in February, 1923. Subsequently served in Dungarvan, Ballisboro, Westport, Gorey and Killaloe Districts, in that order, until his transfer to Cavan Town District in October, 1945, where since stationed.

Supt. Murray, a fluent Irish Speaker, has been prominent in the Gaelic League, G.A.A., and kindred organisations in each of the four provinces since his youth, as follows :-

MONAGHAN.

Was Honorary Secretary of Monaghan County Board G.A.A., North Monaghan (Toal) League, and Clones St. Tiernagh's, G.A.A. Club in 1911-12 and member of Ulster Council during same period. Founded the present St. Tiernagh's (Clones) Club as a hurling club in 1911. Later in 1912 this club embraced football as well. Was an active member of the Gaelic League in Co. Monaghan during the same years.

DUBLIN.

Played on the St. Patrick's Training College football and hurling teams in 1911-12. Was Hon. Sec. of the College hurling team and representative on Dublin County Board 1912.

CONFID.....

COUNTY GALWAY.

While teaching in Loughrea was Ho. Sec. of local football and hurling teams Club, and representative on County Board.

COUNTY DONEGAL.

Between 1915 and 1921 while teaching in Bundoran was one of those mainly responsible for re-organising the G.A.A. in County Donegal in the year 1917, where, prior to that, strange to say, Hurling and Association Football were the only games played. Organised and played with the first G.A.A. Football Club in Bundoran, who later won the first County Donegal Football Championship. During those years was Donegal representative on the Ulster Council, until he left Donegal in October, 1922 to enter the Garda Síochána. During the ^{same} years he was an automatic choice on the County Donegal Senior Football team. Shortly after his coming to Bundoran he organised the first branch of the Gaelic League there, taught Irish Classes, and introduced Irish Dancing and Ceili. Was one of the Founder Members of St. Patrick's Hall as a Gaelic ~~League~~ League Hall, and later as a Summer Irish College.

COUNTY WATERFORD.

Was stationed in County Waterford from 1924-27. In 1925 represented Waterford County Board at the Munster Convention in Cork, where he met such well known builders of the G.A.A. as Very Rev. Canon Hamilton (Clare) Dan Fraher, Waterford, Pat McGrath, Tipperary, Mick Fitzgerald (Kerry), Sean McCarthy (Cork) and Padriagh O'Keefe the then energetic Secretary of Cork County Board. (See E. Cavan 1927-33 and 1945-59 Part 3.)

COUNTY MAYO.

In Westport 1932-35 was Chairman of the local G.A.A. Club.

COUNTY WEXFORD.

While stationed in Gorey 1933-39 took a prominent part in Gaelic League work and organised a very successful Irish Drama Group there. This Group was the winner of the Loch Carman Cup for two successive years by Irish Drama's produced by Supt. Murray. One of the Dramas "An FEALL" was later broadcast from Radio Eireann. Supt Murray also organised two outstanding Garda "Feis Tighe" one of which was broadcast from Gorey and compered by him.

COUNTY CLARE.

In Killaloe 1939-45 was Chairman of the local branch of the Gaelic League and member of the Clare Coiste Condae. Assisted in organising the local Feiscanna and other Feiscanna in Clare and Limerick. On the founding of Comhdhail Naisiunta na Gaedhilge was one of the principal workers in County Clare in this Organisation.

COUNTY CAVAN. 1927-33 and 1945-58.

While stationed in Bailieboro from 1927-33 was Chairman of Bailieboro Shamrocks Gaelic Football Club, and representative on Cavan County Board Sub-Committee for several years. During the same period he was a founder member of Bailieboro Branch of the Gaelic League and organised Irish Dancing Classes and Ceili on a very high plane.

On return to County Cavan in 1945, continued to take a keen interest in the Language and G.A.A. movement. Was one of the first members of the Cavan Drama Festival Committee and organised Irish Drama in many Primary Schools throughout the County. Four Town and four Rural Schools subsequently competed at the Drama Festival in 1946 and 1947. He also helped at Annual Feisanna in the County and acted as adjudicator each year at some of them.

GENERAL.

Throughout his career Supt. Murray was a noted organiser and in this respect constantly devoted his talents to matters Charitable, Cultural and National. Being a noted entertainer he was in great demand and freely gave his services at Concerts and Social Functions in the various places in which he served.

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Joseph MURRAY
(1893 - 1975)

Joseph Murray was born at Park St., Monaghan on 15th March 1893. He attended the local Christian Brothers School, Monaghan until 1909 and worked as a Trainee Teacher in Clones Boys National School before entering St. Patrick's Teacher Training College, Drumcondra, Dublin in 1912. Having successfully completed a two(2) years course in July 1914 he was

"awarded by the College Authorities a First Grade Certificate of merit and First Prize in Swedish Drill"

His first posting as a Teacher was to St. Brendan's Boys National School, Loughrea, Co. Galway on 10th Sept. 1914.

From there he moved to Bundoran, Co. Donegal, on 3rd October 1916 to teach in Bundoran Boys National School. For a short time he resided in the Boys' Ophanage Bundoran where he supervised evening studies from 5.30 PM - 7.30 PM in addition to his work at Boys National School.

Mr. Murray, from his early days in Monaghan, took an active interest in the Gaelic Athletic Assⁿ (G.A.A) and when forming the first Co. Donegal County Board in 1917 met Mr. Colm O'Duffy (Monaghan) who was then Secretary of Ulster Council G.A.A. and a keen sportsman. Later Mr. O'Duffy was appointed Chief-of-Staff of the National Army with the rank of General and in Sept 22 was invited to take complete control of the Civic Guard after the resignation of the first Commissioner - Mr. Michael J. STAINES. He accepted and for a short time General O'Duffy combined both Roles. On 13th October¹⁹²² Joseph Murray was attested as Inspector in Civic Guard Reg. No. 1947. For the record many men served in An Garda Síochána who never held the rank of "Garda". They were admitted into the Civic Guard as Sergeants, Inspectors and Supts and were mainly teachers, Ex-R.I.C men or Ex-officers I.R.A / Sinn Féin / Irish Army. Joseph Murray was promoted Supt on 1st Oct. 1924, and continued in that rank until discharged in CAVAN on 14th March 1958 aged 65 years.

Supt. Murray, a fluent Irish speaker, was prominent in the Gaelic League and kindred organisations as well as the G.A.A. in all four Provinces since youth. Hereunder is a list of his achievements:

MONAGHAN

Was Hon Sec etc etc. 3 typed Pages

While teaching in Bundoran he was held in the highest esteem by parents and pupils alike. His energy, dedication + charm proved invaluable when he was acting in the capacity of Intelligence Officer for the Irish Volunteer Movement and as assistant to Battalion Commdt Thomas Mc Shea, Ardara, Bundoran.

Two (2) Army-style tunics from the 1916-1922 era donated by Supt Murray are on display in the Franciscan Friary Museum at Rosnowlagh, Co. Donegal, also a photograph of himself in Officer's Uniform.

Joseph Murray's first wife was _____

Date of marriage _____ Date of Death _____

Number of children _____

One son Patrick served in the Garda Síochána from _____ to _____ Reg No. _____

He is now retired and living in Athlone

Mr. Murray's second wife is living in a Retirement Home

NAME Margaret Comerford (nee KERRIGAN)

NATIVE OF ARDLONGFIELD, Ballyshannon

The late Mr. Comerford was a secondary school teacher at Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan

No FAMILY with either husband

On Retirement from the Garda Síochána Supt + Mrs Murray came to reside at a Roadside Bungalow in Portnastron on the Ballyshannon - Bundoran Road.

Joseph Murray is buried in the church yard at St. Joseph's Church, West Rock, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. He died on 10th JANUARY 1975 aged 82 years. The inscription on his tombstone can be read when standing on the footpath outside the church and as a fitting tribute to an Irishman of his calibre
tá sé sgríobta as gaeilge.

My History of Events 1917-1922

(183)113

Military Historical Society

Period 1917 - 1921

Statement given by Brigadier
Joe Murray, O.C. 4th Brigade, (South
East Donegal), 4th Northern Division
to Colonel Seamus Conway for
the Army.

Donegal County Council Archives

STATEMENT BY JOSEPH MURRAY,
Superintendent, Garda Síochána, Cavan.

I was born at Park Street, Monaghan on the 15th March, 1893. I attended the Christian Brothers' School in Monaghan until 1909, when I left to take up the position of pupil teacher in Clones, Boys' National School. I worked there until 1912 when I was called to Training at St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra, 1912-1914.

During my early days in Monaghan I took an active interest in the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Gaelic League. To my mind these organisations were the cradle of the Irish Volunteer Movement which was to follow.

My chief mentor in this work was Thomas Traynor, an engineer, attached to Monaghan County Council. Traynor was transferred to Wexford as Assistant County Surveyor in 1911. He was afterwards arrested in Enniscorthy in 1916. At this time, 1911, I was Secretary, Monaghan County Board, G.A.A. and after Traynor's transfer I was acting Secretary of the Ulster Council G.A.A. 1911-'12, until the permanent appointment of Eoin O'Duffy (later General O'Duffy), Clones.

After qualifying in Drumcondra Training College in 1914, I obtained a post as teacher in Loughrea, County Galway, National School. While there I became identified with the Sinn Féin movement then in existence in that town. Despite that, I must not have attracted police attention to myself as I was approached by a British Army recruiting agent (local D.I., R.I.C.), and offered a Commission in the British Army if I would consent to join. This offer I promptly refused.

In September, 1915, I was appointed ^{Assistant} Principal Teacher in Bundoran Boys' National School, ^{and Subordinate in the same in} After settling down there I commenced to organise the G.A.A. and Gaelic League where, up to ^{then} this, it had not previously existed. At this period, County Donegal had got away from Gaelic games, football, hurling etc., and Soccer was the popular game. With the assistance of a few G.A.A. enthusiasts I succeeded in forming the first Donegal G.A.A. County Board in 1917. ^(not then) ~~General~~ Eoin O'Duffy, Secretary of the Ulster Council, G.A.A., presided.

Towards the end of 1917 I was approached by Mr. Ben Maguire, now Independent T.D. for Leitrim, with a view to organising a Company of the Irish Volunteers in Bundoran. He informed me that Volunteer General Headquarters had recommended me as the most suitable man for the work. I told him that I would give every assistance but that, as yet, I was not sufficiently well acquainted with the young men in the area to take on the work by myself. I recommended two local men, who had national aspirations and would be anxious to assist. They were Thomas McShea and Patrick (Pappy) Johnston. McShea and Johnston were later sentenced to death for killing by chloroform two policemen while endeavouring to escape from Derry jail. The sentence was commuted to ten years' imprisonment in Peterhead Prison, Scotland, five of which they served.

We then set about organising a Company of the Irish Volunteers in Bundoran and succeeded in enrolling a good number of men. I refused to take any rank at that stage as I considered it inadvisable to draw attention to myself. I agreed to act in an advisory capacity and also as Intelligence Officer for the Company. This, I considered, in the light of later events, to be a wise decision as I was able to make contacts and obtain useful information from

St. Joseph's (Bundoran) 'Catholic' (?) was because we didn't want to be a 'Catholic'.

British Military Officers stationed in Finner Camp, whom I met in the hotels they frequented in Bundoran. I was also in a position to make acquaintance with prominent hotel proprietors, Justices of the Peace etc., who were in close touch with high-ranking Police Officers in the area. I often procured useful information through these sources; also from Stationmasters and Post Office officials.

During 1917 and up to the early part of 1918, the Company was mainly employed in training. Prior to, and up to the date of the General Election in 1918, the Volunteers were often called out on protection duty at meetings held under the auspices of Sinn Féin.

In December, 1918, my school was closed for a long period, due to a serious outbreak of influenza. I was asked to accept the job of ~~organiser~~ ^{Electoral agent} for Sinn Féin in the Killybegs, Teelan and Carrick and Glencolumcille areas during the General Election campaign. I agreed to do the work and took up residence in Killybegs with a sister of P. J. Ward. Ward, who was elected T.D. and who had long association with Sinn Féin and later the Volunteer movement, was appointed O/C. of our (4th) Brigade. Patrick Byrne, a merchant in Killybegs - an uncle of P.J. Ward and a very good speaker - gave me great assistance while I was in the area.

Shortly before the date of the election, Ernie O'Malley came to Donegal as general organiser. A final rally Sinn Féin meeting was announced for Donegal town to be held on the eve of polling day. Rumours got around that the British Authorities had decided to prohibit the meeting. A hurried call was sent out and Volunteers from all parts of the county arrived in Donegal town. The meeting was held as arranged and attracted a very large attendance, no attempt being made to interfere with it.

A meeting held in Ballyshannon which was addressed by Eamon De Valera also received Volunteer protection. Volunteers from Bundoran were obliged to proceed by the back road to Ballyshannon so as to avoid passing Finner Camp, headquarters of the Bedford Regiment and where they were liable to be subject to assault. In Ballyshannon a very successful meeting was also held and no untoward incident occurred.

A Sinn Féin meeting arranged for Bundoran at which the principal speakers were to be, Madame Conne McBride, Sean Milroy and P.J.Ward, was banned by the British Authorities. A Company of British Military from Finner Camp together with a large force of armed police from outside areas were drafted into Bundoran to enforce the proclamation. As an active Volunteer I organised a decoy party composed of Harry Kelly, proprietor of the Marine Hotel, a visiting priest from Manchester and an English lady visitor who bore a most striking resemblance to Madame Conne McBride. Arrangements had already been made to hold the meeting at the West (Sligo) End of Bundoran. I told the Committee that it was my intention to travel through the town with my party in the direction of the East End and hoped to attract the British Forces in that direction. Accordingly, the four of us set out and people began to follow in groups.

When we reached the outskirts of the town our party broke up and took a short route to the Strand and climbed to the top of "Rogey" rock, from where we could see military and police follow at the double in the direction of the East End. Immediately the meeting got into full swing at the West End, we could hear the voices of the speakers and the cheers of the crowd resounding clearly across the Bay. A warrant was issued for the arrest of Madame Conne McBride, but she did not turn up at the meeting. Count Plunkett replaced her as speaker.

The British Forces, realising that they had been hoaxed, got back as quickly as possible, only to find that the meeting had just concluded. The military were ordered to fix bayonets as the surging crowd, returning from the meeting, advanced down the street. The same Manchester priest addressed the people from a window in the Marine Hotel, and asked them to disperse quietly and not give the British forces an opportunity of repeating the occurrence at Bachelor's Walk, Dublin.

By 1920 the British Authorities had got to the point of banning all competitions organised or held under the auspices of the G.A.A. Their excuse was: that such meetings were likely to lead to a breach of the peace. A hurling match arranged between Ballyshannon and Kinlough was advertised to take place in Bundoran on a particular Sunday afternoon. The next thing we saw was a proclamation posted up, banning the match. I was already appointed official referee for the game and was determined to carry it through if at all possible. We got a bogus team from Ballyshannon to travel to Bundoran and proceed to the playing field already arranged. We had collectors at the gate where some spectators turned up and paid for admission. I turned up at the field myself to give more colour and publicity to the affair. In a very short space of time the police were on the scene, in strong force, to ^{enforce} impose the ban and disperse the crowd. *I had been mentioned in the local press the previous week when the match was billed to take place.*

By that time I had left the field by another route and, conducted by two scouts, arrived at the rendezvous where the match proper was to take place. Both teams and a large crowd of spectators had already assembled. I got the teams lined up and explained to them that I would not use a whistle as it was liable to attract attention. The prearranged signal to indicate a foul

as the referee for the match

was the waving of a white flag and an indication by finger as to the direction of the free. The game was concluded in a very sporting spirit and at its conclusion the large crowd of spectators cheered lustily. We all had a happy feeling that, once again, we had outwitted the British forces in their attempt to quell our national spirit and outlook.

About the end of 1919, Companies were organised into Battalions. Hitherto they had operated on an independent parish basis. The 1st Battalion was now organised with headquarters in Bundoran and was composed of the following Companies : - Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Belleek, Kinlough (Co. Leitrim), Tullaghan (Co. Sligo), Donegal town and Ballintra.

The following is a list of officers appointed to the Battalion staff at the time :-

Battalion O/C.	Thomas McShea,
" Vice O/C.	Patrick Doherty,
" Adjutant	Patrick Gilvarry,
" Quartermaster	Joseph Meehan,
" I. O.	Joseph Murray. <i>✓ advisor</i>

The first major event in which members of the Battalion were engaged was a raid on the Customs Office in Ballyshannon on the 30th May, 1920. A general order had been issued to Volunteer units throughout Donegal to raid all Customs Offices and remove the documents on that date. At that time the R.I.C. garrison in Ballyshannon consisted of, one District Inspector, one Head Constable, three Sergeants and about twelve Constables. Small parties of armed Volunteers were posted at strategic points to protect the men carrying out the raid. The staff working in the Customs Office was held up and all documents removed without

difficulty.

At this stage the military, stationed in Finner Camp less than two miles distant, had got information about the raid and had thrown a cordon around the town of Ballyshannon. A number of soldiers were posted on the bridge, the only exit by road to Bundoran, and were using a rope to line up people for interrogation.

Thomas McShea was anxious to get back to Bundoran as he was afraid of being identified as one of the men engaged in the raid. He walked over to one of the soldiers on the bridge and, acting like a fool or simpleton, said, "I'll bet I jump that rope". The soldiers thought they would have fun with this buffoon, as they took McShea to be. At first they held the rope too high for him to leap over it but eventually lowered it to a height he was able to cross. When McShea got over the rope, he said "Now, am I not a great fellow". The soldiers laughingly admitted that he was and let him go without question.

During the month of August, 1920, I attended an Irish College in Gortahork, County Donegal. During my sojourn there I was transferred to the Cloughaneely Company, 1st Donegal Brigade, together with some other students from Donegal and other counties who were already members of the Irish Volunteers. The Company Captain, Barney O'Donnell, an employee of the Gortahork Co-Operative Stores, called a Company meeting and told us that he proposed to ambush an R.I.C. patrol ^(on 6th Aug. 1920) that travelled from Falcarragh to Gortahork at fairly regular intervals, particularly on fair days, when the patrol was almost certain to come to the village. This meeting was attended by Volunteer students from the College together with some members of the Company.

The plan of campaign was as follows:- Some men were to be issued with shotguns, which were to be dismantled by removing the

stock so that they could be concealed under the overcoats to be worn by the men. The shotgun party was detailed to take up positions at second-hand clothes and other stalls which are a regular fair day feature in Donegal. Another party, of which I was a member, was detailed to use revolvers.

We were instructed to report at the Co-Operative Stores at 10 a.m. on the morning of the 6th August, 1920, which was fair day in Cortahork. We reported as instructed and were issued with the arms and ammunition as arranged. The party armed with revolvers was ordered to remain under cover at the stores until such time as we got information that the expected patrol had arrived. Around 11.30 a.m. we got information that a party of three R.I.C. was cycling into the village. Captain O'Donnell had already explained to us that when the R.I.C. moved through the fair he would produce a white handkerchief and go through the motion of cleaning his nose. This was the signal for us to move into position. When he repeated the handkerchief movement it was the signal for attack.

The three R.I.C. men came into the village, placed their bicycles against a wall and stood with their backs against it for an hour or longer. They suddenly decided to move through the fair and unsuspectingly walked three abreast up the village. As the Company Captain's handkerchief came out for the second time the Volunteers closed in. One member of the R.I.C. drew his revolver. Just as it cleared the holster, a Volunteer named McSorley a native of Omagh and a student at the College, fired and shot him through the wrist: the revolver fell from his hand as a result. The R.I.C. then surrendered without any further resistance and were relieved of their caps, tunics, belts, revolvers and ammunition.

The Volunteers now withdrew towards the Co-Operative Stores, in the opposite direction to that in which the R.I.C. would return to their station at Falcarragh about two miles distant. It was then I noticed that the three R.I.C. men's bicycles had not been collected and they were about to set out on them. Realising that they would reach Falcarragh, if cycling, in about ten minutes and from there communicate with British military stationed at Dunfanaghy, I called on them to halt. I called the Company Captain and asked him was he going to allow the R.I.C. to take their bicycles. He then ordered them to drop the bicycles and return on foot, which they did. The wounded Constable was able to proceed with his comrades.

The next events of importance were attacks on the R.I.C. Barracks at Bundoran and Ballyshannon on the 30th August, 1920. These were by way of nuisance attacks and were intended to test the reaction of the British troops in Finner Camp when they would get an urgent call from the R.I.C. for assistance, also to distract attention from a major raid planned to take place on Belleek R.I.C. barracks on the 5th September, 1920. Actually the British troops were slow in turning out to Ballyshannon and Bundoran although numerous Verey lights had been sent up by the R.I.C. in each place.

Plans were made for a surprise raid on the R.I.C. barracks at Belleek on a Sunday morning. ^{10th Sun in August} The success of the raid depended to a large extent on securing the use of an ambulance, one time used by the British Army and easily recognised as such. At this time the ambulance had been handed over to and was the property of the Board of Guardians and was located at the Union Hospital, Ballyshannon. The plan was :- that this ambulance would be used to convey the main raiding party, who were to be dressed in British

Army uniform, into Belleek and right up to the door of the R.I.C. barracks without arousing suspicion, also as a decoy towards securing the opening of the barrack door.

Arrangements were made to have a requisition sent to the Master of the Union to have the ambulance sent to the Belleek district to convey a patient to Ballyshannon hospital at a specified time on that Sunday morning. A Volunteer, named ^{John} Sheeran, from Ballyshannon Company, ~~was~~ the regular driver of the ambulance, was instructed to be in readiness to take it out at the appointed time. He drove out the Belleek road at the time arranged. Some distance out he was held up by the Volunteers in the British Army uniform. Here another ^{volunteer} driver replaced him. To cover Sheeran's part in the affair he was tied to a tree. This also gave him a good excuse for not reporting the loss of the ambulance for some considerable time later.

The party now set out for Belleek, according to plan, arriving while an early Mass was in progress and where all the Roman Catholic members of the R.I.C. were in attendance. The arrival of the ambulance was the signal for the Volunteers, already posted for the purpose, to cut telephone and telegraph wires and lock the Church doors. The locking of the Church doors served a dual purpose.

(a) It prevented the R.I.C. from getting out in a hurry in the event of any shooting starting in the village. (b) It would also prevent the congregation from creating a panic and getting hurt.

The ambulance driver proceeded to the barrack door where he pulled up. One of our men, who was in the front passenger seat, got out with a large official envelope held conspicuously in his hand. A member of the R.I.C. opened the door; he was handed the envelope and told it was a dispatch from Finner Camp. As he turned around

to enter the barrack the remainder of the Volunteers jumped from the ambulance, where they had been concealed from view, rushed into the barrack and held up the R.I.C. at revolver point. Possession was taken of all arms and equipment, including two machine guns, which were speedily removed. Bedding was sprinkled with petrol and set alight. But the fire was later got under control before the barrack was rendered uninhabitable. Our men then cleared out and, having deposited the booty in a safe dug-out, they abandoned the ambulance and then sent a message to the hospital as to its location.

On the 14th September, 1920, the home of James Connolly, Captain of Kinlough Company, was raided by R.I.C. and British troops. After thoroughly searching the premises and failing to find Connolly they shot his father, leaving his body riddled with bullets. At his funeral two days later in ^{Rinlough} Tallechar cemetery, I delivered an oration at his graveside. From that date, I became more openly active as I had drawn attention to myself by speaking in public at the funeral. Up to that period I had been teaching evening classes in the Orphanage, Bundoran, after finishing my work for the day in the National School. I also stayed there at night. Fearing a raid for me on the place and resultant panic among the children, I resigned my position there and left the place on the evening following Mr. Connolly's funeral.

A patrol of R.I.C. left Bundoran fairly regularly on Sunday mornings and cycled in the direction of Tullaghan ^{from Kinlough} along the main road, returning later by another route. Thomas McShea, Battalion O/C., decided to ambush the patrol. He mobilised some men from Bundoran, Tullaghan and Kinlough Companies. The position selected was situate within 100 yards of Tullaghan National School, which

was the mobilisation point and provided good cover and an easy getaway. The men were placed in position and a scout named Joe Loughlin (now Garda Loughlin, stationed in Kilmainham, Dublin) was sent on a bicycle out the Kinlough Road to a spot where he would have a clear view of a patrol for a distance of two miles. About 2 p.m. the scout returned and stated there was no patrol out up to then. As a result of that report it was concluded that the patrol would not move out that day and the ambush party was about to be disbanded as the "Hun" Doherty, Jim Carroll and myself were to play in a football game in Bundoran that day and it would arouse suspicion if we did not turn up.

We had left the ambush position and returned to the school, where masks were removed and the shotguns dismantled when, suddenly, a member of our party rushed up to inform us that the R.I.C. patrol was coming along quite near us. The shotguns were hurriedly reassembled but we had not time to get back to the selected position. We succeeded in taking up a position behind a low stone wall without being observed by the R.I.C. After a short consultation it was decided that we could not hope to carry out a successful attack on the patrol from the position we occupied and as a result we kept under cover from view and let it pass.

Willie Gilmartin, O/C., Cliffooney Company, got in touch with "Hun" Doherty and myself and arranged to meet us in conference at Peter Finlay's house, known as "The Rock" just outside Bundoran and approachable by a narrow bye-road. The object of the conference was : to enlist the support of Bundoran Company and have its co-operation in the destruction of Mullaghmore Castle. Gilmartin had information that the place was about to be taken over and occupied by British forces. The conference was not long in session when a

member of the household rushed in to say that two lorry loads of British forces were coming in the bye-road. We decided to separate and make good our escape from the place, which we succeeded in doing. In a very short time Finlay's house was surrounded and searched. The raid was most unexpected and naturally we thought that some person had given information about our location on that ~~night~~^{day}. We made enquiries later but could not find out the cause of the raid. I got into the Marine Hotel and from there I could see the British forces taking John Brennan into custody. Brennan was one of our Company Intelligence Officers and often conveyed useful information, which included the location of Belfast 'boycott' goods.

On one other occasion we had reason to suspect that the R.I.C. were receiving some information about our plans. On the 30th October, 1920, we had made plans to attack a regular R.I.C. patrol that travelled along the main road from Bundoran to Tullaghan. The position was selected at a spot behind the Protestant Church. The ambush party mobilised at John Conlon's shed within easy reach of the position. Scouts were posted to watch and give warning when the patrol would set out. The ambush party remained in position but no patrol came in their direction on that day. Considering that the patrol was almost a daily routine at the time, we were naturally very suspicious about their decision not to travel the route on that day.

About this time arrangements were being made for an attack on Tempo, County Fermanagh, R.I.C. Barracks. The Battalion O/C. there asked for Volunteers from Bundoran Company to assist if called upon. The Company waited in readiness all the night but was not called upon. I learned a short time after that the

DURING

barracks was captured, one Volunteer being shot dead before the engagement.

On the 22nd April, 1921, the Battalion O/C., Thomas McShea and "Fanny" Johnston, who had been 'on the run' for a considerable time, were arrested in their homes at 4 a.m. "Hun" Doherty's home was raided on the same night but he was absent. Following the arrest of McShea I considered it imperative to prove to the British Authorities that there were still officers and men left to carry on the fight. "Hun" Doherty was 'on the run' and not available to take charge of the Battalion. Therefore I considered that I should take over as I was, by now, the senior officer in the Battalion.

I received information from John Brennan, ^{Railway Porter,} to whom I have referred earlier, that a consignment of Belfast 'boycott' goods had arrived at Bundoran Railway Station, consigned to various traders in the town. I mobilised some men of the Bundoran Company and posted an armed party to cover the R.I.C. barrack, which was situated convenient to the Railway Station, with instructions to fire on any R.I.C. man who attempted to leave the barracks. The remainder of the party proceeded to the goods store and from there removed and destroyed some tons of goods. Sometime later we raided shops and removed Belfast goods, taking the same precautions to keep the R.I.C. confined to barrack.

At a meeting of the Battalion staff and Company Officers, after the arrest of McShea and Johnston, I was proposed and unanimously elected as O/C. of the Battalion. I asked to be allowed to withdraw in favour of "Hun" Doherty; he was Vice O/C. of the Battalion up until then and I did not wish to accept the appointment over his head. ^{He} WAS APPOINTED BATT. COMDT. AND I WAS APPOINTED VICE COMDT.

About May, 1921 I was called, as representing the Battalion, to a Brigade Council meeting at Laghybar. Henry McGowan, Knock,

Ballybofey, was then O/C. of the Brigade. He asked me to act as Brigade Adjutant and assist in organising the Brigade which was then in bad shape as no attention had been paid to special services, such as ^a good dispatch system, engineering etc., which was very important. I immediately set about getting these services organised and functioning in a fairly satisfactory manner. Henry McGowan was arrested about the 10th June, 1921. As no Vice O/C. had been appointed, I acted Brigade O/C. until the appointment of Sam O'Flaherty Castlefinn, as O/C. towards the end of June, 1921. From then until the Truce and afterwards I acted in the capacity of Vice O/C. and Adjutant of the 4th ~~Donegal~~ Brigade, 1st *Northwestern Division*.

Henry McGowan was arrested in a dug-out at a place called Kelly's Bridge, between Pettigo and Donegal town, along with some members of the Active Service Unit which he commanded at the time. Two members of the A.S.U. were shot dead on that occasion while attempting to escape. Our C.H.Q. ordered an investigation into the matter as it had received information to the effect that an agent on the estate of Lord Caledon, near Kelly's Bridge, was alleged to have given information to the British forces about the location of the dug-out. The Brigade O/C. detailed me to carry out the investigation. It was arranged that I would call on the agent disguised in the uniform of a British Army Officer with six Volunteers from the Ballybofey Battalion ^{IN THE UNIFORM OF BRITISH TOMMIES} under the command of Michael ^{BATT. CONDT.} Doherty, now residing at Ashgrove, Liscooley, Castlefinn, who were to be dressed in the uniform of British Army privates. The Ballybofey party was to convey all uniforms, including the one for me, to Kelly's Brigade.

It was arranged that I would travel as a pilgrim to Lough Derg, from Bundoran to Pettigo, with a Volunteer named Eddie Kelly from Cooney, Killeter, County Tyrone, near the Donegal border, ^{AS GUIDE.} From

Pettigo we travelled by hackney car, driven by Owen O'Donnell, O/C., Pettigo Company, ostensibly under the pretext of buying sheep at Kelly's Bridge. Kelly was in the sheep trade and had a good knowledge of the country around Kelly's Bridge where he had often bought sheep prior to this. Our appointment with the Ballyhofey party was timed for 11 a.m., but they did not turn up until 11.30 and then they had no uniforms. They informed me that they barely escaped interception by a party of British forces, on the way and were forced to abandon the uniforms. However, I was able to investigate the matter on the spot without interviewing the agent and satisfied myself, beyond all doubt, that he was not in any way responsible. It is my opinion that proper precautions were not taken to conceal the location of the dug-out. Such things as empty food tins, cigarette packets etc. strewn around an isolated spot was almost certain to attract attention.

After carrying out the investigation, I parted with the remainder of the party and set out across the mountain to the north shore of Lough Derg where I had arranged to meet Owen O'Donnell, who had returned after setting me down in the morning. When I met O'Donnell he was glad to see me again. He told me that on his way back from Kelly's Bridge he was halted from a distance. He ignored the order and increased speed. Some shots were fired and he pointed out the holes in the side screens of the car caused by bullets.

On Christmas morning, 1922, while I was Adjutant of the Auxiliary Garda Depot at Collinstown, I related the above story to other Garda officers present. The Police Instructor - later Chief Superintendent Maguire of Limerick City, seemed deeply interested in my story, asked me to continue and leave out no detail.

When I had finished he said, "My God, Joe, were you in charge of the I.R.A. party on that day? I was then District Inspector in Raphoe and in charge of the police and military patrol on that day. You can thank me that you were not all pulled in".

As a result of the organisation of Intelligence Units in the Brigade area, raids were frequently carried out on mails. Any correspondence addressed to members of the British forces and suspects was opened and carefully scrutinised. Any information gleaned from this source was passed on to me. Reports on the strength of each R.I.C. and military posts together with the names of the officers stationed there were, at this period, regularly furnished to me. I still retain in my possession a report on the enemy strength in the Brigade area, dated 7th July, 1921.

I also have in my possession a document of the same date setting out the organisation of the 4th Donegal Brigade, 1st Northern Division, also a nominal roll of the Brigade and Battalion staffs. The Investigator has had an opportunity to examine this document and the following is an exact copy :-

The 4th Brigade comprises three Battalions:

O.C.	Vice O.C.	Adjutant	Quarter- master	I.O.
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
BRIGADE STAFF				
S. O'Flaherty.	Joe Murray.	John J. McCool.	Ed. Cassidy.	M. J. Fagan.
1st BATTALION STAFF.				
M. Boherty.	John Davis.	Wm. McMennamin.	Jer. Murray.	Ed. McFeely.
2nd BATTALION STAFF.				
Thos. Daly	Ml. Langan.	P. McDermott.	Ml. Gallagher.	- Knox
3rd BATTALION STAFF.				
Dan Callagher.	Ed. McGrane.	Jas. McKenna.	Vin. McCabe.	John McGrory.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

Engineers	Signals	Transport	Scouting & Despatch.	Training.
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
BRIGADE STAFF.				
Wm. McCloskey.	Thos. Steel.	Seamus O'Donnell.	-	Paddy Lee.
1st. BATTALION.				
Joe Hannigan.	Hugh McMenamin.	Ml. Bogan.	Jas. Poy.	
2nd BATTALION.				
Seamus Duffy	- Bonnar.	Joe McCattigan.	P.T. Munday	
3rd BATTALION.				
Owen O'Donnell	-	Wm. Gilligan.	Hugh McDonnell.	Joseph McCusker.

The above report on officer personnel was submitted at a Brigade Staff Meeting held on Sunday 10th July, 1921. *at the Marine Hotel Bundoran.*

Donegal County Council Archives

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ROINN COSANTA

BURO STAIRE MÍLEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21.)

26 RAEDH NA NÍANTHARACH,
(26 Westland Row),

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.
(Dublin).

Telefón 61018

18th May 1956

Dear Superintendent Murray,

The Bureau of Military History is anxious to have a record of your activities and the activities of your unit in Donegal from your first association with Sinn Féin and the Irish Volunteer movement until the Truce on the 11th July 1921.

I would like to point out, that any statement you give to the Bureau will be treated with the utmost secrecy and will not be released for perusal until 50 years hence, when future historians will be able to record an accurate picture of the period for future generations.

I have been allotted the Donegal area for the purpose of collecting statements, for record, from prominent Officers in the different Brigades. As you come under that category, I would be very pleased to call on you, at your earliest convenience, to record an account of your activities in the National movement.

I have only commenced work in Donegal and have
already got statements from Patrick Breslin, Denis Houston
and Jim Mc Monagle. James Mc Bob has started on his
Statement but has not yet finished.

I enclose O.P. envelope for your reply. Please.

Yours sincerely,

Seamus Conway.