

Joseph Murray Superintendent Garda Síochána
 of Cavan resided at Bundoran County Donegal
 in the years 1920, 1921 and till _____
 in October 1922 and was a member
 of Oglagh na hEisinn holding the following
 ranks in 4th Brigade, 1st Northern Division

(see State Records)
~~the following ranks~~ — —

During that time I knew Patrick Hugh
 McDermott who resided first time at
 West Port St Ballyshannon and
 next time at East Port St Ballyshannon

I hereby certify that from early in the
 summer of 1920 until about the middle
 of September 1922 he held the following
 ranks ^{continuously} ~~in~~ in the forces of
 Oglagh na hEisinn

Adjutant of Ballyshannon Company of South Donegal Brigade 1st Northern Division	from	to
	about 12 June 1920	about late winter of 1922 or early Spring of 1922

Rank	From	To
Adjutant of 2nd Battalion 4th Brigade 1st Northern Division	about early Spring of year 1922	early Summer of year 1922
Adjutant of 4th Brigade, 1st Northern Division	From early Summer of year 1922	about middle of September 1922

During these periods, so far I could ascertain he took part in the various activities of his company, Battalion and Brigade respectively, except for two periods during which he was ill in Ballyshannon Hospital - one being for about a couple of months in the Winter of year 1921 and the other for about 2 weeks in September 1921.

- At this stage I think it well to mention that a strong force of British troops was stationed at Finner Camp situate between Ballyshannon and Bundoran and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant from each of these two towns and about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Belleek, until after the signing of the treaty. The Military Barracks in Ballyshannon town, overlooking the bridge there and the main St. was also occupied by British troops most of the time, and detachments from the camp and barracks were frequently stationed at Ballyshannon bridge obviously as

search parties

Mr McDermott was energetic in his duties as adjutant and had drill and other exercises of the Company carried out regularly and had his company well disciplined.

The R.D. had ceased to exercise a lot of their normal activities, and the San Francisco Courts functioned without interruption in the Coy area. The local Authorities whose offices were in the area severed their connection with the old Local Government Board and transferred their allegiance to Dail Eireann Local Government Minister; also instead of Co. Council funds collected in the area being lodged with the Council's Treasurer - the Bank, was handed over to Local Trustees who in turn handed them over to the Council. The organising and disciplinary ability thrown into the carrying out of these objects by adjutant McDermott together with his position in public life in the locality contributed largely to their success.

Communications between North Connaught and Co. Donegal + Derry City was normally via Ballyshannon, yet I never knew of any of the numerous despatches or any

Oglough no income property was being captured by the enemy in passing through also success in this matter was in great measure due to Mr McDermott and the resources at his command.

The principal operations of the Ballyshannon Company I recall to mind of pre-truce days are:-

- 1) Raid of Income Tax offices - Mr McDermott informs me this was carried out before he joined the Coy and he did not take part in it
- 2) Attack on Barracks in Ballyshannon town occupied by R.I.C. - about early in August 1920
- 3) Capture of Belleek Barracks occupied by R.I.C. in August 1920 - just a week after the Ballyshannon attack
- 4) The setting on fire of a British Military Barrack at East Park Street Ballyshannon - about 30 yards from the British Military barracks I am not sure of the time but think it was about a few months before the truce
- 5) The destruction in G.N. Ry Station Ballyshannon of goods classed as "enemy goods" - about April 1921
- 6) Throwing into the sea at Ballyshannon Quay of a motor car classed as "enemy" about end of winter 1919
- 7) A general raid for arms in the area about July 1920
- 8) Procuring 2 or 3 Army rifles and 2 or 3 boxes weight of ammunition about July 1920

With regard to no 2 above Mr McDermott informed me he was not in the attack but was associated with the attacking party in that he and other of the Coy officers along with Brigade Vice Col. (S. Ward) arranged the attack. He stated the simple duty assigned to him so far as he remembers was to remain away from his ^{usual} residence on the night of the attack which he did, but he heard several of the bullets fired in an erratic manner ^{by the R.I.C.} strike the building in which he took up temporary residence.

With regard to No 3. This was a Battalion operation of which the Bandonan and Ballypherran companies formed part. The R.I.C. Barracks at that time were equipped with steel shutters to the windows, and an apparatus for sending up rockets to attract attention of the British military, therefore a rapid attack and cut-away was essential to success. At the time also motor cars were not allowed on the roads without permits from the British military or R.I.C. Any tampering with telegraph wires or roads, he would likely have the military alerted. Knowing the attack and the reaction of the military on the Ballypherran Barracks of a unit previously was

taken into account. The attack as the inhabitants
of the neighbourhood quickly knew commenced
on a Sunday morning while church
services were going on in the local
churches and the broad square in
the front of the barracks had been deserted
when a British Red Cross ambulance
drove up to the barracks door and
a man dressed in British soldiers
uniform alighted from it stepped
up to the barracks door, gained
admittance without opposition white
and immediately overpowered the R.C.
man who admitted him, almost immediately
others rushed from out the ambulance
followed by others who had got to the neighbourhood
entered the barracks and was the R.C.
within overpowered before they had
time to raise any alarm. They quickly
stripped the barracks of arms, ammunition
etc. ~~and~~ set the building on fire
and got away safely with the goods
in cars. The ambulance referred to was
one of those apparently not required by the
British at the close of the first World

war, and had for some time previously been kept at Ballyshannon Workhouse in charge of the Workhouse master and used for conveyance of Workhouse inmates. Mr Underhill informed me that in selecting men for the operation he who was familiar with Workhouse routine was selected to forge the necessary documents to take ~~with~~ out the ambulance and ensure they were acted on at the right time, while John Shurin who generally drove the ambulance was selected to drive it to a point where it would be taken over by other members of the attacking party, all without arousing suspicion in any quarter as to its being out on other than a genuine workhouse case. He forged the necessary documents, John Shurin drove it to the appointed place & handed it over to others at the time appointed. no hitch occurred and its use was one of the main items

contributing to the success of the attack. Mr. W. S. ... informed me that after all the other attackers had cleaned away after the attack another member of the Ballyghannon Company J. J. Maguire drove the Ambulance from Mellish to within a mile of Ballyghannon where he left it on a byroad, and he handed him over the Guardroom day book of the Barracks.

As regards No. 4 Mr. Underhill's account of this is that one day on arriving in Coast Road St. Ballyghannon he observed a Stationary British Army Lorry and on inquiry learned that 30 or 40 of the men of his Coy had held up the two drivers of it and one of them was ~~was~~ about to set it on fire with petrol - just at that stage a member of the Coy was passing along the street with a tin of petrol for the purpose. He stood by while the man poured the petrol on the lorry and set it alight and then they immediately all scattered. He says that though he had not been there originally his presence during part of the operation would leave him as guilty perhaps as any of the others should

A heavy load of soldiers from ^{or to} ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~camp~~ ~~was~~ ~~sent~~ ~~along~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~time~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~narrow~~ ~~streets~~, and there was much movement of troops about there in those days.

With regard to No 5 the ~~under~~ ~~growth~~ account was that one evening orders had been conveyed to him to destroy some goods, ^{classified as "enemy goods"} in a particular wagon in the G.P. station ^{at the time} and he selected ~~2~~ ~~or~~ ~~4~~ other members of the Coy and ~~at~~ during the night the rest at the station found the goods referred to and destroyed them, without any mishap.

With regard to No 6. ~~the~~ ~~under~~ ~~growth~~ says he was not engaged in this operation.

As to No 7. this was part of a general raid for arms throughout the Brigade area on one particular area night. ~~the~~ ~~under~~ ~~growth~~ he himself and almost every man in the Coy went out on this raid.

in small sections of about 4 men each with a particular area for each section and taking in almost the entire Coy area. Nothing better than shotguns were got in the raid although it was said some of the rifles of the Ulster anti-Home Rule ~~Ulster~~ gun runners had come to the area years previously. One member of Ballyshannon Coy named Giffender, also a member of Pettigo Coy named Dan Gallagher got shot wounds from houses being raided that night (one day nearly two years afterwards while travelling from Ballyshannon towards Derry a bullet apparently intended for me pierced the windscreen of my car. I promptly had a search made of the vicinity and one of the old Ulster rifles was found there) You can thus understand that up North enemies were not confined ~~to~~ to R.I.C. British military.

Regarding No 8 This was a case in which I word our Brigade Vice Ob. had contacted a person (presumably a soldier stationed at Finner Camp) who could

supply 2 or 3 rifles and a quantity of ammunition for same - for cash. Mr Ward immediately contacted ~~our~~ adjutant Mr Dermott who got the rifles ~~used at the barracks~~ which were delivered at Mr Ward's premises and he handed the £7 - to Mr Ward to pay for them + the ammunition. Mr Dermott placed the rifles in a secret hiding place over the office in which he worked and another member of the Company, Frank Donagher, took the ammunition to him ^{there}.

In those days the office of adjutant of a Company of say 50 men - with drill investigation of many matters often needless rumours, getting in contact with various officers + section leaders, doing practically all the correspondence of a Coy, keeping in safety the Coy records, getting an enough distributed it was not an easy one but in the case of Mr Dermott

situated as he described himself "at the gateway between the West and North" (that is between Derry & Sligo) he felt he was particularly busy, and always on duty.

After he became Coy adjutant activity became more pronounced in the locality.

So much for pre-train days.

After the train - about Octr 1921, a training camp for the Battalion was established at Tullaghan Co. Leitrim in which he underwent a couple of weeks' training.

About the beginning of Winter 1921 part of Ballyvaughan Workshops and grounds were taken over by the 4th Coy of the 1st Northern Division in which batches of men from various Companies in the area - about 30 or 40 at a time underwent a

course of military training. Petkus continued to come & go till on into the Spring of 1922 when the camp closed down. Mr McDermott, being Adjutant of the local Coy had to act also as Camp adjutant with whatever help he could get from others mostly of the Ballymahon non Coy. In the camp most of the time were two prisoners from Clady Co Tyrone who were suspected of having given information concerning a shooting affair between a party of O'Flaughnahan and Rob. at Clady some time previously and in which one of the latter was killed. No charge was proven against these men and they were released after several weeks.

About April or May 1922 fighting took place at the border at Pettigo between O'Flaughnahan forces and R.M.B. considerable rifle shooting continued for some days but no one on either side appeared to be hit up to that, but then British military arrived at Pettigo with at least one Cannon and fired some

shells across to the Loughgal side and killed 2 of our men. Our divisional Medical officer was also made a prisoner by the British. Lieutenant Mc Dermott was there on one of the days while the fight with the R.M.C. went on and again on the evening of the day on which the British shelled Belleek.

Some few days after the latter incident fighting went on across the border at Belleek between Ogloughnahone forces and the R.M.C. also and one of the latter was killed and an armoured car captured by the Ogloughnahone forces. To avenge any attempt of the R.M.C. to recapture their armoured car or as a reprisal for shooting of one of their divisional O.C. Joe Buckley and I, with whatever forces we had at our disposal at the moment went to Belleek and ~~conducted~~ ~~and~~ carried out road blocking and remained in the vicinity till early next day but the fighting was not resumed then.

However later on in the day a party of British Artillery arrived at Mellick and shelled ^{some machine-guns} some positions on the Coorgyal side which had been occupied by Sylaugh no Kumaon forces on the previous day, but were vacated by the time of the shelling. No one appears to have been hit by shell or machine gun fire, but a man named M. George who had been ill at the time died then - death probably caused by the shock. A very rigorous search was then carried out of nearly all houses in Mellick town and neighbourhood and hundreds of people fled across the border into Coorgal side and on to Madlyalunnon. Scores of these refugees did not consider it safe to return home and as I felt we had to provide for them - I immediately got in touch with the ~~British~~ Mr Logan who was then local Government Inspector for Coorgal with plenary powers and we took over the Great Northern Road Bundaraw where we accommodated with food and lodging all those who

it unsafe to return home at the time. Many of them remained there for a couple of months and finally almost all returned home. Mr. [unclear] assisted us in getting the refugees settled and maintained there.

At the time the British forces vacated Finner Camp - between Ballyshannon and Bundoran - and handed over possession to the Provisional Government our Government put a number of the [unclear] force in occupation supplied with a quantity of military equipment. These forces continued in occupation but early in the summer of 1922 they set up to oppose that Government. Towards the end of June 1922 I received instructions from the C. of 1st Northern Division (Dublin) to take over, on behalf of the Provisional Government, possession of the camp - at that time it was estimated there ~~about 50 or 60~~ was a force of about 50 or 60 in the camp. Accordingly on the night of 29th June 1922 I mobilised about 50 men principally from the

Ballyshannon and Bundoran Companies
together with some from the Ballyshannon Coy.
~~and~~ and before dawn on the morning of 30th
June 1922 had them placed in position in
3 sections - No 1 Section of which I was
in charge to north of the camp. No 2 Section
with which was commandant during the day
and our Brigade Adjutant Pte. H. McDermott
and No 3 Section to South East of the camp.

At dawn I sent a messenger to the camp
with a white flag to demand possession, but
before he got there shots from the camp
were fired at him and he had to return
to his section. I then called on those
in the camp to surrender but their only
reply was to continue firing. I then ordered
our men to fire & to have the ~~roofs as~~^{roofs as}
~~target~~ targets. Firing on both sides became
general for a short time. We ceased fire for
a time and again call on them to surrender.

Thus we repeated several times and it was

not till 2 or 3 hours after dawn before they
 that they finally surrendered. I then
 took possession of the camp on behalf of the
 Provisional Government as ordered. The camp
 had been used for over a hundred years
 by the British, is situated on sandy soil
 with huts in the centre (mostly wooden) capable
 of accommodating at times a couple
 of thousand men. There were no
 casualties on our side but two
 of those in the camp were wounded - not
 seriously - and one man was killed
 some distance from the huts.

Mr MacDermott continued in the army
 till about the middle of September 1972
 when he retired to take up a civil occupation.

Pressure Points that might count
even though not known from
personal knowledge

- (1) Belleek Barracks could hardly
be captured, before military
from Dunes + Brock barracks
came on the scene - owing to
Barrack having shut shutters
on windows - also having
rockets, only that men were
got there by a Military Ambulance.
I got out ambulance without arousing
any suspicion.
- (2) I kept an arms dump beside
where I usually worked
- (3) Owing to the location of
Ballyshannon I was
responsible for safe
passage of dispatches
sometimes taking them

myself. No I.R.A. material
was captured from any such persons

XIV An adjutant's duties generally
entailed a lot of clerical
work - getting drill the
carried out, and seeing
that the officers instructions
were carried out

Donegal County Council Archive

Rome St

Granville Ballybofey PD

Co Kerry

9th March 1952

Dear Mr Murray,

I enclose a very long worded document and perhaps you will kindly revise it - cutting out + correcting adding, abstracting, re-arranging, etc of it to get it into whatever you consider best shape - and from the old letters or returns you might be able to place the approximate dates of becoming South Adm and Express.

I tried brief items but could not get them of any value.

If you revise it I will send it to me I will type it and return it for your signature, or if you get it revised as typed then I will pay the typists charges.

Hope you are well & may find time to deal with the matter.

Yours truly

Patrick Howard Smith

Mr Liam Duffy, the first Adjutant of the South Donegal Brigade, and at present a solocitor's clerk in the office of ~~xxxxxxx~~ Messrs. J. Boyle & Co. Stranorlar, tells me the following is the usual form of certificate required by the Referee:-

I, the undersigned, (1) Name and address) (2) (Rank or ranks held during the period referred to in the certificate) do hereby certify that (3) Name and address of applicant for pension) formerly residing at (4) address or addresses at time referred to in certificate) held the rank/ ranks ((5) here state the ranks held and the time during which each rank was held by him) stating ~~xxxxxxx~~ the particular Company, Battalion, or Brigade) 1st Northern Division Oglai gh na hEireann and to my own knowledge took part in the following activities of the ((6) Company, battalion or brigade as the case may be)

(2) The several activities to be set out in chronological order)

Date of certificate.

Signed by/^{ex} officer issuing certificate

Present address.
To the Referee, Military Service Pensions Board , Dublin

I would like you to let me have a certificate setting out what you my activities from your own knowledge, also a statement of my activities of which you had not actual personal knowledge but learned from others or by inference or special circumstances.

amongst others
I have been told that in cases the following have been accepted as active service:-
Carrying despatches, storing arms and ammunition, digging trenches etc in road blocking, raiding for arms,

P/183/9/11(23)

From Patrick Hugh McErmott formerly of East Port And West Port Six Streets, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, and at present residing at Pound St, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal.

(In the matter of application for re-investigation of my application for military service pension. -My original application having been rejected)

I took the oath of allegiance as a member of the Ballyshannon Company of the 2nd Battalion of the South Donegal Brigade Oglaiigh na hEireann about the end of Spring or early in Summer of year 1920, and held the following ranks:-

Adjutant of said Ballyshannon Coy from about 9th June 1920 the Springtime of year 1922.

Adjutant of 2nd Battalion of 4th. Brigade 1st Northern Division Oglaiigh na hEireann from about middle of Spring time 1922 to about beginning of Summer, 1922 -being promoted from Coy, Adjutant.

Adjutant of the 4th Brigade 1st Northern Division Oglaiigh na hEireann from about early in Summer 1922 to about middle of September, 1922- being promoted from rank of Capt. adjutant.

I was not a member of the force at the time the Income tax offices in the area were raided, and was not out on that raid.

Our Coy had drill and such exercises (at which I always attended) fairly frequently, sometimes in the Rock School (old hall near the Rock Chapel Ballyshannon) and sometimes in fields outside the town.

On one occasion at least, when a hurling match was banned by the Government authorities (the Ballyshannon hurling team were almost all members of the Ballyshannon Coy I.R.A.) we simply played the match in a different field a little above the town after our Q.M. Eddie Case Cassidy told the Head Constable (Leyden) of the R.I.C. that R.I.C regulations were no longer recognised.

Some members of the Coy. constituted the local Republican Courts and police force and members of the Coy. had to enforce the Court's orders. I did not belong to the police section but had to do some clerical work for them and on one occasion I had to go to Antrim on some case arising in the Co. Antrim area, and on another occasion I had to accompany Joe Maguire, a member of the police section when he served a Court Order on one of the Hegarty clan to leave the area and remain outside a radius of, I think 20, miles from Ballyshannon for 12 months - The Hegartys promptly left the district and did not return to the area for years at least).

Ballyshannon and Belleek Coys. had a sort of a prison at a large house at Castle Caldwell. I don't think many were sent there but some were detained there.

The influence of the I.R.A. locally was such that the R.I.C. ceased almost entirely to interfere in affairs; even on the frequent occasions when they turned out with the search parties of armed British soldiers at Ballyshannon bridge they seemed indifferent, yet I suspected they knew much of what was going on, as for instance on the Sunday ~~XXXXX~~ I became a member of the Ballyshannon Coy at the '98 Hall when less than a dozen were present Head Constable Leyden told Michael Maguire, Solicitor that the Ballyshannon I.R.A. after dinner time that day that the Ballyshannon I.R.A. had got another recruit - naming me; Then again on another occasion when Seamus Ward got 2 or 3 rifles and about half a hundred weight of .303 ammunition - The ammunition was sent to Terry McShea's shop in East Port St where Frank Donagher a member of our Coy. worked, Head Constable Leyden loitered about the shop (where Donagher apparently had the stuff camouflaged as soap) and accompanied him as far as West Port St while he was taking it to the Workhouse on his

P/1183/9/11 (24)

shoulder remarking as they went along "I'm sure you have some heavy loads to carry these times". Donagher told me afterwards that from the way Hayden made the remark that he knew what was in the box. I never heard definitely where the rifles and ammunition came from but understood at the time they were purchased from soldiers in Finner camp as Seamus Ward told me they had to be paid for. I contributed £7 which I handed over to Ward next day (£3 from my own pocket and £2 each which I got from Cormac McGowan and Denis O'Flannagain. I think they guessed afterwards what the money was for)

I fixed up a place over the offices in the boardroom at the Workhouse, where I worked, to store some arms and ammunition. It was between the office ceiling and the attic floor. The attic floor was littered with old books of 20 to 50 years old. At any rate so far as I remember these rifles and ammunition were the first arms I had to store in it. Mick Munday the Coy. O.C. had the rifles out part of the time and a couple of months later the then Brigade Adjutant instructed us to send them on to Donegal town about Sept, 1920.

About August or September, 1920 so far as I can recollect all the members of the Coy turned out in sections on a general raid for arms in our area - yet on thinking things over lately I cannot remember any particular house at which we called though I have an impression I was in M. Munday's group that night and that shot-gun he was not satisfied with the scarcity of shotguns. I do not remember getting even one gun that night and putting it in the workhouse arsenal, but I remember having to pay men to cut corn in place of a man named Gilfedder who was laid up for some weeks with a shotgun wound which he received when out on the raid with another section that night.

About a couple of weeks before the capture of Belleek R.I.C Barracks by the 2nd Battalion in Aug or Sep. 1920. I knew a Barracks was to be attacked - Ballyshannon, Belleek, and Bundoran were mentioned. So far as I remember Belleek was finally decided on a week before the attack, and on that Sunday night a slight attack was to be made on Ballyshannon Barracks to find out how the Military at Finner would act. At any rate Seamus Ward, I think alone, made the attack on Ballyshannon Barracks on the Sunday night before the Belleek attack. The Military were slow in turning out from Finner camp although several rockets were fired from the Barracks. Scores of shots were fired from the Barracks a parently rather wildly as I heard several of them strike the walls of the workhouse, where I put up for the night.

About the capture of Belleek Barracks:- I don't remember at what stage in the planning or who suggested the use of the workhouse ambulance to take the attackers to the barracks nor do I remember, and doubt if I ever knew who were the men who actually took part in the attack at Belleek that day, but I remember that on a night or so previous to the Sunday of the

the attack being at an I.R.A. meeting in the back room of Ward's public house in the Port Ballyshannon I got my instructions to do whatever was necessary to get out the ambulance for the attack that morning, without arousing any suspicion. John Sheerin, so far as I remember was there also and got his instructions to drive it out at the particular time needed. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ John Sheerin who was a member of our Coy, was also ambulance driver for the Ballyshannon Board of Guardians at the time. My part was to make out a requisition for the ambulance to take in a patient from the Belleek district to the Workhouse, ensure that Denis ~~xxxxxx~~ O'Flannagain ~~xxxxxx~~ the workhouse master would receive it and would in an unsuspecting manner instruct the ambulance driver to take out the ambulance at a particular time in the morning. Either beforehand or at the meeting I wrote I wrote out the requisition for the ambulance to call for some particular patient near Belleek

I think that before the meeting I put the requisition in the letterbox of Mr. O'Flannagain's room and ensured that he sent word to the ambulance driver to do the ambulance run in the morning at a particular time. A few of us frequently played cards in Flannagain's room in the workhouse, also - occasionally did some of O'Flannagain's work so the requisition was easily acted on. Of course I took the liberty of using the name and style of writing as well as the class of paper used by Mr. P. Greyson the Relieving Officer for Belleek District with which I was familiar. I suppose a Crown Solicitor of the time would call my simple part as "forgery with felonious intent". Whether I had put something in the requisition that made it seem necessary for the nurse of Doctor to see the ~~nurse~~ patient at a particular time in the morning or not I forget, but I distinctly remember having it mentioned afterwards that as the ambulance driver had not turned up exactly on the minute to take out the ambulance ~~xxxxxx~~ a nurse from the workhouse went out to his house nearby to make sure of his punctuality on that occasion although Mr. O'Flannagain had sent him notice in the usual way the night before. The ambulance referred to I may mention was one which was given to the Lallyshannon Board of Guardians by the Red Cross of some British military authority as "surplus to British Army requirements" shortly after the end of World War No. 1. and naturally a vehicle which at that time would be engaged on British Army Red Cross work. It was kept at Lallyshannon workhouse, in the charge of Mr. O'Flannagain workhouse master. John Sheerin took out the ambulance as planned and delivered it over to the attackers at a secluded spot about halfway between Lallyshannon and Belleek, and it was successfully used in getting the men not alone up to the barracks door without suspicion, but I believe served as a means to induce the R.I.C. to open the barrack door and thus ensure an easy capture. About 1 o'clock on that Sunday Joe Maguire, a member of our Coy, came to me at West Port St, and said he had taken back the ambulance from Belleek after the raid, to a byroad at Killeen about half a mile from Lallyshannon. He said nobody appeared to have been appointed to take charge of it after the attackers had cleared away. He had with him an automatic pistol which he had in his pocket and the barrack dayroom book which he hid in a ruck of hay near where he left the ambulance. He seemed proud of getting the pistol in the raid and was proceeding to go up the workhouse road with the intention of examining the pistol in a quiet place, but just as we turned on to the rock street a party of British soldiers of about 20 or 30 were advancing towards about 30 yards away. Maguire was not a bit put about but made a remark in a low tone "they know nothink only that they're getting off duty for the day" they were the force on the Rock Barracks who were being relieved by a fresh force from Finner camp. In the ordinary course of events Maguire and I would have gone on to the workhouse, but the presence of the military awakened a sense of caution in us and we changed our course as soon as the military had passed us. As it happened

a party of British military called at the workhouse almost immediately afterwards ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to inquire into the circumstances in which the ambulance came to be used in the raid on Belleek R.I.C. Barracks that morning. They arrested two ~~xxxx~~ outsiders they found on the premises viz. ~~xxxxxx~~ Joe Sheerin a brother of the ambulance driver and a boy named McGee from West Port St.. Some time before that John Sheerin had walked back to the workhouse and informed Mr. O'Flannagain that a party of armed men took the ambulance from him while on his way for the patient at Belleek and Mr. O'Flannagain immediately went to inquire about it. They soon discovered it was at Killeen and took it to the workhouse. John Sheerin the ambulance driver had left for his home after taking it in just before the Military arrived, and I think was not a rested till a day or so ~~xxx~~ later. Practically everyone locally knew that evening that Joe Maguire had taken back the ambulance after the raid, and Con Maguire, with whom he lived and worked, fearing a military raid on his house ceased to employ him in a short time after. He gradually went on the run, at that time I was living with a man named John Connolly in a house at West Port St occupied

I supplied Joe Maguire with blankets later on when things were getting hot for him, but to get back to the day of the Belleek raid. - The British military in their investigation of sending out of the ambulance had to get the requisition from Mr. O'Flannagain which he assured them seemed to him a genuine one signed by Mr. J. Greyson Relieving Officer of the Belleek district. Possibly they looked up former requisitions of Mr. Greyson while ~~in~~ on the files while there, - at any rate they seemed satisfied that Mr. O'Flannagain was innocent of the affair. Mr. Greyson of course knew nothing about an ambulance being sent for on that day and denied any knowledge of it when questioned; therefore the military must early have come to the conclusion that the requisition must have been faked. My working in the workhouse combined with being known as active in the I.R.A. if only be the number of people coming to me with or for messages (despatches) naturally led people locally to assume that I sent in the bogus requisition. About the beginning or middle of the October following I had been suffering from appendicitis for some days but did not know it; thought it was simply indigestion when one evening I chanced to be travelling by train from Donegal town to Ballyshannon with Tom McShea. As the train was about to start 2 men wearing trench coats took their seats in the same compartment as us. I assumed they were detectives keeping track of McShea's movements, and a nod he gave me convinced me he was of the same opinion. The only conversation on the way up was about the weather or such things but as soon as we got out on the platform at Ballyshannon McShea told me my house and one or two other houses in Ballyshannon were to be raided that night. I forget now what the other two houses were but remember that at the time I did not know of any I.R.A. man residing in either of them. We parted at the station and on my way down the street I gave McShea's message to the first I.R.A. man I met and told him to warn the other 2 houses - It was only afterwards that it occurred to me that possible Joe Maguire stayed in these 2 houses at times - As it happened I went then straight to the workhouse to get something to relieve internal pain and the doctor found I had appendicitis but on operating on me next day or so found that the appendix was perforated. He did not remove the appendix then but kept me in Hospital for about ~~six~~ 6 weeks while the thing was being drained out. Either before or very shortly after the operation my sister arrived and I think I told her get rid of any I.R.A. documents or things she might find about my house or clothes. On the morning or so after the operation she and Mr. O'Flannagain the workhouse master removed everything from any of my clothes that were at the workhouse and searched O'Flannagain's room where I sometimes kept documents. They had all the I.R.A. documents collected and most of them destroyed when a party of military from Finner camp arrived at the door of the room - On knocking, O'Flannagain went to the door and they told him they were coming to search the workhouse and asked him to accompany them on their rounds. He told them he would be with them in a moment and went back into his room softly closing the door after him; at that stage some papers still remained unburned and were in my sister's lap in the room. O'Flannagain picked them up and shoved them under a secret panel in a desk in the room (it was too risky to throw them in the fire then as they would be only partly burned in time) On closing the panel he went out to the search party. They said they would commence with his room, which they searched thoroughly examining all the documents in drawers, desks etc. but they did not detect the secret panel, and thus missed the dangerous documents. They next called for my clothes in which of course they found nothing - I sometimes used that room. They then searched almost all the apartments in the workhouse except the children's ward, where they simply looked in the door and announced they would leave that room for another day. they did not come back to search again, and they did not discover the place I had fixed for guns and ammunition. On the following day as a British Officer from Finner camp accompanied by Dr. Flood then M.O. for the British forces at Finner came to the ward in the workhouse Hosp where I was, and as far as I remember Dr.

P/18319/1(27)

McCullen the workhouse M.O. Dr. Flood examined me while the Officer looked on - I can still remember that Flood's fingers appear big as compared with McCullen's - (if you read all this you will wonder what it is leading to) well I think their object in searching the workhouse and my clothes and then visiting me in the Hosp. was to arrest me for my part in the use of the ambulance at Belleek, perhaps finger prints or something on the requisition could be identified as mine, - about the same time as well as local people I believe suspecting me of the forgery. At the same time Joe Maguire was on the run and a few days after my operation I heard that a party of nine armed R.I.C. surrounded John Durneen's house in West Port St. where he took shelter a couple of nights previously. I think that the military had got instructions to arrest Maguire and me about that time. Seamus Ward was not arrested till a month or so later. The three would be regarded as having something to do with the Belleek affair as well as John Sheerin whom they already had in jail. So far as I remember my house was not raided at the time but Mr. O'Flannagan told me later that after the workhouse search Mr. Connolly with whom I lived arrived at the workhouse with a parcel of I.R.A documents which my sister promptly destroyed.

One night about the Springtime of 1921 Terry Houghlin of our Coy. came to me and announced that an order had come to destroy some ^{enemy} goods in a railway wagon at the G.N. Ry. station and he was instructed to pass the word to me to get the order carried out. Mr. Houghlin and 2 or 3 other members of the Coy. whom we collected on the way went to the Ry. station, found the wagon, ~~and destroyed the goods~~ in the goods store there and destroyed the goods.

One day, about the summer of 1921, pretruce period as I was passing along East Port St. Malleshannon I observed a British military lorry stopped outside John Kane's house in that St. As I came towards it I noticed one or two other members of our Coy. going over it towards with a petrol tin. On inquiry I was told that one of the drivers was held up in Kanes where he had gone to get a cup of tea, and that they were about to set the lorry on fire with the petrol they had in the tin. I remained there while they were pouring the petrol on the lorry and setting it alight. I did nothing but looked on - there was nothing for me to do at the time but stand by - I would have to take my share in the risk if a lorry of soldiers or some of the soldiers in the rock barrack should come on the scene. Well the lorry was set on fire and then we all immediately cleared away, but as I was over near the Bridge, about 60 yards away I looked back and saw a man get up from under a large tarpaulin which was on the body of the lorry, and jump off. He was dressed like a tramp. The lorry was partly burned, and was towed to inner camp by the soldiers later in the day. Joe Maguire whom I met a little later that day that he observed two drivers in the lorry and saw one of them go into Kane's while the other went over towards John Sweeny's hotel, apparently to have a drink. He held up the latter with an empty revolver while the lorry was being set alight

As I mentioned I constructed a little arms store in floor of the attic over the offices where I worked in the workhouse and kept rifles and ammunition there while not out with other members of the Coy. I think only the Coy Officers and about 2 other members of the Coy ever seen it till recently when Co. Council workmen came on it when they were carrying out some alterations in the building. The Military in their search failed to find it.

One night ~~at about 10~~ in Septr. 1920 I got a despatch, per Paddy Lee, from the Brigade adjutant to have the rifles and ammunition held by our Coy delivered at Donegal at a specified hour on the following morning. Mick Munday had got out the

Rifles and a little of the ammunition some days previously as we had decided it was too risky to keep them all in the same place for long. He had also prepared two other temporary storing places in dry ditches - one near his own house and another about quarter of a mile away. I had read the despatch before Paddy Lee had his car turned on the road (He was driven for Hugh Mulrine Ballyshannon) and as he did many jobs for the Coy I told him

we had to get 3 rifles and 3 or 4 stone of cartridges to Donegal town that night or early in the morning, and at the time these were all at the workhouse and at Munday's, which was to the south side of the river; at that time Ballyshannon bridge was frequently occupied by search parties of British from Finer camp, and no boat was available for crossing the river - the only safe way seemed to be throwing a rope across the river at Athleen's falls to a man on the far bank of the river and hauling the things across - Paddy laughed at the idea of there being any difficulty in the matter. He said he was booked to drive the District Inspector of the R.I.C. from Ballyshannon to Donegal at 9 o'clock the next morning and he would take them in the car with him without the D.I. knowing anything about it, besides there would be no danger of being searched with the D.I. in the car. I then went up to Munday's the O.C. with the despatch and explained Paddy Lee's offer with which he agreed and Munday & I collected the rifles, took them to the workhouse that night and about 8 o'clock in the morning got the car to the workhouse and Paddy - I tied the rifles under the body of the car and put the ammunition in a spare tyre and he set off, picked up the D.I. and got to Donegal in good time without any interruption, delivered the rifles to Liam Duffy at the then Brigade adjt. at Floods garage Donegal. Duffy acknowledged receipt of same.

From and after the time the Ballyshannon Board of Guardians, the Ballyshannon, Belleek, and Kinlough Rural District Councils, all of which 4 public bodies had their offices in the Ballyshannon workhouse, severed their connection with the British controlled Local Government Board and pledged their allegiance to Dail Eireann, about the Summer of 1920 I took from the offices of these public bodies the minutes of proceedings of meetings, financial and other statistical records and other documents of the class hitherto sent to the Local Government Board daily or weekly as the circumstances required, and delivered them to trusty messengers for delivery to the then Dail Eireann Minister for Local Government, who I think at the time was Mr. Cosgrave. The receipt of these documents was fairly regularly acknowledged as can still be seen from the files of correspondence of these bodies ~~the~~ later transferred to the Donegal Co. Council offices. A Commercial traveller named Barney Kelly, who lived mostly at East Port St. Ballyshannon was the principal messenger, and so far as I remember on some occasions when I could find no reliable messenger I would leave the documents with Seamus Ward vice O.C. who came in contact with more people than travelling than I.. I remember the

Draft forms of resolutions of allegiance to be passed by these 4 public bodies came to me as Adjutant of the Ballyshannon Coy. and I took them before these bodies to be passed. This, even though a very simple matter, was a thing of importance and not without risk - assisting in usurping the authority of the British government in the country, I suppose it would be called by a Crown Solicitor.

Ballyshannon was a place of importance both strategically and otherwise from 1919 to 1922. It was one of the only 2 places where the Erne from Enniskillen to the sea could be ~~passed~~ crossed by pedestrians and vehicles, viz. the bridges at Belleek and Ballyshannon. There were no boats on the Erne so far as I remember. The Erne Fishery Coy had a couple of boats on the north side of the estuary and I think Major Myles had a motor boat on the south side but these boats were too well protected to be available

to the I.R.A. The result was that communications between north Connaught and counties Donegal and Derry was via Ballyshannon bridge, which was frequently held by British Military search parties from Finner camp up to the time of the truce.

Many I.R.A. despatches of our own Coy. outlying Coys. Battalions and Brigades had to be passed over the bridge. As I had connections with Belleek and Anlough districts which brought me to these areas frequently on district Council work, also in Donegal district where I acted similarly some years and still visited occasionally, and was generally known in these districts to be in the I.R.A., and was generally to be found about Ballyshannon workhouse many of the despatches came through me in the first instance, and although our Coy always had a good squad detailed for despatch work there were many occasions on which a despatch bearer was not available and I had to take despatches myself, generally not far but just until I could find a despatch bearer. In all the searching at the bridge never heard of a despatch having been captured. In fact though I must have crossed the bridge about once or twice a day on an average in these years I think I was searched but once - A reply "going to the post office" or "coming from the post office" as the case might be generally served as a password with the soldiers who being strangers knew practically nobody about the town and the R.I.C. were always hoping nothing would be found which might get them into trouble.

A motor car belonging to a Belfast traveller who was regarded as an enemy was thrown into the sea at Ballyshannon, I think about the spring of 1921 but I knew nothing about it till the deed was done. I did not hear of any reprisals but perhaps a malicious injury claim arose later.

I was secretary to the Ballyshannon branch of the White Cross during the period that organization was in existence and had to investigate several ~~claims~~ cases, prepare claims and hand over the cheques as they arrived in due course, or or call on the parties affected and notify them of rejection as the case might be.

John Downey proprietor of one of the two local newspapers published in the area frequently consulted our Coy. O.C. and me in connection with some of his publications in the Donegal Democrat. In some of his articles he might have been sailing near the wind but beyond getting a warning from the R.I.C. now and then I think his plant was not damaged, although he gave the R.I.C. to understand he was not to be intimidated by them. (I was given to understand that Downey was amongst some of the first batches of I.R.A. taken on in the area before my time but his name was not to appear on roll call or other I.R.A. documents nor was he to attend parades or other exercises of the Coy. It appears the Coy. O.C. ~~too~~ ~~valuable-to-the-movement-in-these-~~ considered the running of his paper too valuable to the movement in those days to run

too much risk of having it closed down. Downey may have been I.O for all I know)

One morning before daylight a cattle-dealer

PERIOD AFTER TRUCE.

About Oct. 1920 I, along with a few other members of the Ballyshannon Coy. also several members of the other Coys. forming the Battalion, spent a week in the Battalion training camp at Tullaghan, Co. Leitrim, and shortly after, in the following winter a Brigade training camp was set up at Ballyshannon for members of the 4th. Brigade where military training was carried out for about 3 or 4 months - on into near Springtime, and in through which about 200 got short coursed of training- there were approximately about an-average a daily average of 30 there. The 4 th Brigade was then known as the South Donegal Brigade. They were there from different Coys. in South Donegal to as far away as Dungloe and Pettigo at the one end and Pettigo at the other end, coming and going in small batches. There was an officer from Buncrana named Doherty and another from Dungloe named McInley, -probably members of the Divisional staff in the camp most of the time and instructions were generally given by some of the officers of the various coys. who sent members in but practically all of the heavy work had to be done by members of the Ballyshannon Coy. Joe Maguire and a couple others were there almost constantly. The brigade had the use of about a quarter of the buildings, whatever furniture they required also any of the yards and lands needed at the nominal rent of 1/- a week. They furniture includes cooking utensils. They were to provide their own food & washing, heat and light. The trainees were supposed to pay for their food but money was sometimes scarce and the Ballyshannon coy. had to raise a considerable part of the cost. By the time the camp was closed nothing had been paid for the fuel and light- workhouse property- which they used with the result that long afterwards, after workhouse haly yearly stocktaking + had to pay that part which amounted to over £43 - The Dept. of Defence however refunded me £40 of it about 4 years later. The camp had no regular adjutant or secretary, with the result that all the secretarial work and account keeping was thrown on me. Mr. J. McLoone N.T. assisted me with most of the accounts, and the Brigade refused to pay any man to help me - some of the trainees whom I talked to pointed out they came for training not for work. The result was that I had in great measure to act as camp adjutant. The camp broke up at the time of the split in the I.R.A in the spring of 1922. The treatyites managed to get possession of the one serviceable rifle in the camp which was about the only worthwhile property there. we left some hand made hand grenades in the possession of the anti-treatyites rather than risk injuries or perhaps loss of life.

In the Spring of 1922, about the middle or towards the end of March there was a danger of a state of chaos arising in the locality- after the split- and I think you or some of the other coy. or Battalion officers told me ~~get-the-rock-barracks-ballyshannon-occupied-by-a-well-armed-force~~ send a despatch to the Div. O.C. Joe Sweeny to get the rock barracks occupied by a well

well armed force, at any rate he sent Commandant Henry McGowan with about 20 of 30 fairly well armed man who took over the rock Barracks Ballyshannon. About that time also I also remember on getting instructions similarly, sending a despatch to the Div. O.C. that it was not safe to get rifles overland to Donegal owing to the activities of the irregulars in the Co. Sligo and Leitrim and advised him get them in by boat, in the course of a week or so after sending the despatchaddy Lee called with me and said the Miracha (I mean that first I.F.S warship) arrived at Buncrana with a lot of rifles and a light gun, but he said the gun was not light as it sunk through the body of a lorry when the lifted it from the boat. Even with the assistance afforded by the force in the Rock barracks the activities of those of us in our Coy. who supported the treaty was nowhat lessened.

One morning before daylight a cattle-dealer

passing along the street in Ballyshannon on his way to a fair in the west of Ireland was robbed of £200 or £300 on said street. Our O.C. was immediately informed of the matter and he promptly took measures to trace the thief; when he had narrowed possible suspects to the one most likely he personally called on that suspect, told him of the robbery, and his reasons for suspecting him of being the culprit. He then gave him till a fixed hour - I think 3 o'clock that day to have the money deposited at a certain house in Ballyshannon that day with the result that by the time fixed the full amount was deposited at the house mentioned, and was restored to the owner on the afternoon of the morning of the robbery.

In that springtime also the peaceful activities of our local police force in Ballyshannon were being interfered with with the result that on one occasion a man not a member of our police force received a bullet wound in the leg. Disciplinary measures had to be taken on the occasion. You arrested one of the two men most prominent in the affair and I took the other into custody. The police were not interfered with afterwards so far as I remember.

Somewhat later on in the spring or early summer a banker on his way from Ballyshannon with cash for his branch office at Belleek was robbed of whatever cash he had for the bank - about midway between the two towns. Mr. ~~Hande~~ in the forenoon one day. Mr. Munday, O.C. of the Ballyshannon Coy. was promptly informed of the robbery. - he lived about 3 miles from the scene of the robbery - He again got his men into action and had the money recovered on the same evening, and returned to the bank. I think the man who ~~did~~ played the principal part in the tracing and ~~recovery~~ recovery of the money in that case was named Feore, at present holding the rank of Supt. or Deputy Supt. in the Civic Guard force. I was not actually amongst those in either of the two chases after robbers; my part did not go beyond discussing the subject with other members of the Ballyshannon Coy.

In the spring or early summer of 1922 sniping across the Donegal-Fermanagh border at Belleek took place (R.U.C. being on the Fermanagh side) resulting in an R.U.C. man driving an armoured car getting shot ^{dead} within about 50 yards of the Donegal border. The car ran into the fence and was taken possession of by, I think, the irregulars and taken across the border into Co. Donegal. Matters appeared to be getting out of hand and nobody on this side seemed to know whether the British were likely to take reprisals. I and I think most of the Ballyshannon Coy. were on the border (Donegal side) that evening. I remember taking a crosscut saw with me for possible road blocking. I remember seeing our Div. O.C. there also, and when I heard him order that 2 trees be cut across the road near the creamery on the south side of the river I felt a bit important in handing over the saw

I don't now remember doing anything there but we spent the night - about 30 or 40 of us - in an empty house or old school near the border, and had a number of rifles. Neither the British nor the R.U.C. showed up however and we returned to Ballyshannon some time next day. I was not present when the sniping took place, and so far as I know the only one killed there was the R.U.C. man. However in a couple of days after or so a British artillery section shelled the Donegal side of the border there but nobody was killed; those who had been in the old fort (Donegal side) had left the fort a little time before the shelling. Shells fell both on the north and south sides of the river, and a man named McGonigle residing on the north side and who was ill, at the time died that evening. It was said the shelling hastened his death. I think the British also used machine guns. The noise could be heard at Ballyshannon, 3 miles away. The Belleek Coy of our battalion

however before a shot was fired, and thus he stopped, other shots were followed and he had to return to the action. The firing on both sides was intense. The order to give

were fairly active before this and naturally some of them and their friends cleared out of the Co. Fermanagh portion of their area and made their way towards Ballyshannon as soon as the shelling began. It was of course our Coy would provide accommodation for these people - about 100 or so - as far as possible until the trouble should blow over. Fortunately at the time there was at Ballyshannon at the time a Local Government Inspector or Commissioner who I understood had plenary powers from the Government so far as Local Government was concerned. Those officers of the Coy. Batt. and brigade, and who were available and I immediately consulted him regarding the condition of the refugees and he immediately took over the G.N. Ry, Hotel Dundoran as a residence for them, where he had food and etc provided for them. I understood the Government paid the expenses for them while there. I gave Mr. Coogan what assistance I could in getting in the refugees, and on several occasions he discussed the running of it with me. Matters appeared to have gone on smoothly in the place but on one occasion he - he Mr. Coogan had to remove one of the men whom he found communicating by electric light signals with someone in Mullaghmore castle.

In the Summer of 1922 sniping also took place across the Donegal-Fermanagh border at Pettigo (R.U.C. on the Fermanagh side) I did not hear of anyone being injured in the sniping. I visited Pettigo one day while the sniping was going on and though I heard no shots on the Fermanagh side - heard several bullets strike buildings on the Donegal side. - the bullets coming from the Fermanagh side. When the sniping had gone on for a couple of days or so the British shelled the Donegal side of the border there and killed a man named Flood and I think 1 or 2 others. I visited the neighbourhood of the town on the evening of the shelling but did not go into the town. I heard that Dr. O'Farrell Div. M.O. had been arrested there by the British.

Shortly after the signing of the treaty Finner camp was vacated by the British, also the R.I.C. barracks at Ballyshannon Dundoran and Amlough were vacated by the R.I.C. and handed over to the Irish Free State authorities. The Irish Free State Government installed an armed military force in Finner camp, and after the split in the spring of 1922 this force or apparently the greater part of it ceased to obey the orders of the government - At any rate it appears the Government instructed the O.C. of the 1st Northern Division take over possession of it on behalf of the government. On 29th June 1922 Commandant Henry McGowan, the officer sent to the Rock barracks 2 or 3 months earlier received instructions to take over the camp and accordingly he decided to do so, he anticipated he would not get peaceful possession. He fixed the time for taking possession at dawn on the following morning 30th June. On 29th June he informed me of the coming operation and said he required a certain number of men from the Ballyshannon Coy. - I think about 20 or 25 - I immediately informed the Ballyshannon Coy. O.C. who had the Coy mobilised and selected the men required. I think he and the commandant arranged for

the distribution of the men amongst the Rock barracks force. The entire force than so far as I remember was about 50 or 60. The plan of procedure was that an unarmed man carrying a white flag should approach the camp at dawn and demand possession. After Commandant McGowan should have his men in the positions allotted to them - His column was split into 4 sections, one each to north, southeast and east of the camp with a reserve section between east and S.E. sections. I formed part of the E. section of which the Commandant was in charge and saw the despatch bearer with white flag set off to demand possession - All the men were in position before dawn and as far as we knew had not been observed by anyone in the camp. The despatch bearer, Tom Healy had not gone far however before a shot was fired, and thus he stopped, other shots soon followed and he had to return to the section. The firing on both sides soon became general. The order to give

P1183/9/1(33)

was not therefore delivered but in a short time the officer in charge of the north section stood up on a bank and called on those in the camp to surrender. The only attention paid to his demand was increased firing. This officer was a man named Smith, his section overlooked the camp. Firing on both sides was almost continuous for about a couple of hours though those in the camp were called on to surrender ~~on~~ another couple of times. Finally some of those in the camp hoisted a white flag, after which only a small number of shots were fired from the camp. Our men then ceased firing and more white flags were put out. Commandant McGowan then took over possession of the camp, confining those in the camp - I think about 50 or thereabouts-. So far as I remember no one on our side was injured but 1 man in the camp was killed and a small number slightly injured. The smallness of the casualties was what might be expected having regard to the fact that the place was a military training camp of upwards of 100 years standing. In my position in McGowan's section I could hear the bullets strike the ground, some as near as 3 feet away yet none of us were in any-~~de~~ hardly any danger except by exposing ourselves unnecessarily; the only part of the body necessarily exposed being the upper half of the head while firing, and in some cases not that much as firing could be done through loopholes in a stone fence also.

After the Finner camp affair the locality took on a fairly settled and normal temper, and in about 2½ months later I retired from military service and returned to civil occupation; about the beginning or middle of September, 1922.

JH Darnall 30/7/54

P.S. After 30 years my memory may not be too good but the fighting are things I seem to remember

Personal

From Patrick Underwood (V)
Pound St P1183/1/1(34)
Strawson
Ballyhogy Rd
Co Donegal
27/5/54

Dear Mr Murray,

You will probably remember me as Brigade Adjutant for a short time in 1922 at Ballyshannon.

I applied long ago for a military Service pension but was not successful. Then I applied under the Act passed 3 or 4 years ago and my appeal went to the hands of the Comptroller of the Exchequer at the Court House, Lifford on 11.00 am on 3rd June 54.

I have a bad memory and how long since lost or given away ~~about~~ all or almost all

2

records of those troubled times.

I would be pleased if you could let me know the approximate dates of the following:—

(1) Date when I was appointed Battalion Adjutant some time after leaving Ballyhamon workhouse training camp I think in Spring of 1922

(2) Date when I was appointed as Brigade Adjutant (It was about the time General Duffy addressed a meeting ^{in that} on a Sunday. You will recall he got a telegram announcing his sister's death while addressing the meeting.)

(3)

Any other particulars
which are convenient
which you might
consider useful

I have not much prospect in
succeeding with my appeal
but intend to go before the referee
now that I did appeal

I hope you are well
and finding the times fairly
comfortable

Yours truly

Patrick McDermott

Remond



Deputy Superintendent of Murren
Quire Guard Barracks
Caron

pl103/9/1 (37)

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Donegal County Council Archives

Personal.

(From Patrick McDermott - formerly Deputy at Ballyshannon)

P1183/9/1(38)

Pound St,

Stranorlar,

Co. Donegal.

14th. June, 1954.

Mr. Joseph Murray,
Superintendent
Civic Guards Barracks
Cavan.

Dear Mr. Murray,

I applied many years ago for a military service pension but without success. Last year under a pensions act passed about 3 years or so ago, I appealed against the decision, and I appeared before a sitting of men from the Military Service Pensions Board, at Letterkenny on 3rd. inst. In going there I had not much hopes of succeeding in my appeal and did not take any witness, but got the impression, from conversing with others from various parts of the county having their appeals heard, that the term "active service" now has a wider meaning than heretofore.

I had just a note of a few events ~~noted-on-paper-~~ ~~and-commenced-to~~ jotted down on a sheet of paper and began to recite them - nearly at the start the Chairman asked me if I had any witnesses and I said I had not except a post-truce one (Henry McGowan) who happened to be there on another case - He said it was not necessary to call him as the records would probably show my army service - post-truce. I then told him in reply to some questions he put me "that I had only on one occasion to leave my ordinary residence for a night owing to enemy action"

"that I took part in one raid for arms"

"that I took ~~and~~ ^{over} 2 or 3 rifles and some ammunition which we got and conveyed to a safe store, and later had them sent to the Brigade adjutant at Donegal in response to a despatch from the latter"

"that I was directed to ensure that the Workhouse Ambulance was available for the capture of Belleek Barracks"

The Chairman then told me ^{he} would not close my file for some time to enable me obtain certificates of military service from some of the higher Officers and send them on to him.

Major General Joe Sweeny in a letter I had from him said he had no records and it was doubtful if there are any of those old records available in the Adjutant General's office.

I would like if you could let me have a certificate which might be of some service. I do not want anything only what you are sure of and can stand over. See Notes attached.

Yours truly

Patrick H. McDermott

Patrick H. McDermott

Personal.

P/183/9/1(39)
Pound St, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal.
30th. July, 1954.

Mt. Joseph Murray,
Superintendent Civic Guard Barracks,
Cavan.

Dear Mr. Murray,

As you will see from enclosed letter which I had written on 14th. June last but not posted till now I am looking for a Military Service Pension. and will be thankful if you let me have a certificate of what you know, of your own personal knowledge, of my activities in the Oglaiha na hEireann force. I would like also if you send a statement of my activities which you learned of from sources other than of your own personal knowledge.

I made out a long statement and some of it may help to bring some matters to your mind.

I am not sure of the exact periods for which I held the ranks mentioned but:-

I became a member ~~about~~ of the Ballyshannon Coy about the Spring or early Summer of 1920. I have no written records now of the period, but to keep myself safe I told the Referee it as on 9th June 1920. I was appointed adjutant of the Coy almost immediately then.

I was appointed Adjutant of the second Battalion of 4th Brigade in the Spring of 1922 probably about April.

I was appointed adjutant of the 4th. Brigade about the beginning of Summer, 1922 + You will be able to fix the approximate date in this case as it was about the time General O'Duffy had a reorganization meeting in Donegal- While speaking at the meeting I remember a telegram being handed to him informing him of the death of his sister. These 3 posts ran concurrently.

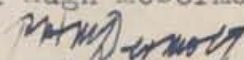
I do not remember at what stage I became acquainted with you as a member of the ~~Ir~~ I.R.A. nor the exact time when you left off to take up Garda post.

I wrote to Mr. Morgan a couple months ago about this matter but he told me he thought he was interned before I joined. So far as I recollect Mick ^{Munday} was C.C. of the Coy., Eddie Cassidy J.M, and Mick Gallagher and Hugh Gallagher Lieutenants. when I first took the oath of allegiance.

Mr. Morgan said he might see you some time he would be passing through to Dundalk, so I said I would send him a copy of the letter I would write you. I am accordingly sending him a copy of this letter and statement.

I hope you are getting along comfortably.

Yours truly,
Patrick Hugh McDermott



P.S. I wrote the Adjutant General over a month ago to know if he had any records of my service but got no reply. and as Joe Sweeny said in his letter it is doubtful if there is any.

The Name in full is Patrick Hugh McDermott

P/183K/12(1)

Station St

Peltigo

19th Nov. 34

Supt. Murray G. S.
Westport

Dear Sir

I would be very much obliged if you would give me a ref for the I. R. A during 1919 to 1922. as I am filling up a pension form

As you remember I was sec in command of 3 Batt under Danny Gallagher. I was over the special services reporting to you once a month.

I worked hard around here during that time and

J. R. A.
Co. he Grane, Lettero

P/183/9/2

(2)

BAI 5
19



Supt. Joseph Murray
Garra Siotchana
Co. Mayo Westport

Donegal County Council Archives

P 183/913 (1)
If you might also state that I was appointed Batt Police Officer in March 1921 as that was the time

Thanking in anticipation
of a reply. (soon)

Newtown Cottage
Bundoran.

Jan. 20th) 1935

My Dear Joe.

Just a few lines hoping to find yourself
Mrs & Family in the Park as this leaves every one
round the old town

My object in writing is to see if you would
be good enough to send me a few lines
saying something good about me.

I am filling a form re this Pension & I
might as well do it as well as I can

I would like you to refer to a few instances
in which you & I soldiered together namely
raiding the shops & G.O. & station you can do
it as well as you can in your own learned
way I am sure a line from a man in
your position may help I was speaking to
Jimmy & he told me to write to you. he
is anxious to help me also.

I am yours faithfully
John Johnston

I.R.A.
John Johnston

Superior Joe Murray
Westport
Co Mayo.



P.1183/9/3(2)

P/183/9/4 (1)

Ardfarna Bundoran.

13 March 1935,

My dear Mr Murray,

I must first apologise for my long delay in replying to your note at Christmas last.

Since then we had further meetings at Joe Meekens at which all the available ^{Company} Officers of the 1st Battalion were present. It was decided to ask Mr Rogers Lohr to fill all the Pension Forms at a fee of 5/- each and that he was to do so during the week following St. Patrick's Day.

Mick Gillespie intends filling a form with the rest and asked me to write you for permission to use your name as reference and in case you agree to him doing so he wants to know how far you would go in recommending his claim. To this I would like you to reply direct to Mick.

Three weeks ago I was in Dublin before a Medical Board in connection with the Disability Pension. The doctors there decided I would have to remain in Saint Brigid's Hospital for a period of 3 months for treatment but allowed me to go home to make arrangements so I am waiting every day to get the call to go back.

Yours very sincerely

J M Shea

Ardara Bundoran,
8 April 1935.

Very dear Mr Murray,

For the past few days there has been much joy among your old comrades because of a paragraph which appeared in the Press announcing changes which were to be made among the Officers of the Guards. However a wet blanket seemed to have been thrown over the enthusiasm by a rumour that was current in Bundoran for the past few days that you had decided to remain in Gorey. But we here are still hoping to see you fixed up soon in Glenties.

Referring to your letter which I received about a fortnight ago, I handed the cheque to Seumas O'Donnell, who is at present ill. He will write to thank you as soon as he is well again.

I was at a meeting, summoned by P J Ward in Donegal last week, to make arrangements for the filling of the forms this month. The meeting approved of our arrangement in getting ~~me~~ Mr Rogers to do the work. Mr Ward gave me a certificate that I held the rank of Commodore of No 1 Battalion from the first week in

Jan 1919 to the 22nd April 1921. when I was then arrested
 Mick Gellespie says he joined the IRA in March
~~1921~~ 1919. and continued up to the Truce period
 in 1921.

I have no idea of the exact date of transfer
 from the South Donegal Brigade to the 3rd Western
 Division and can only say definitely that it did
 not occur before my arrest - on the 22nd April 1921.

I saw Seumas O'Donnell this evening he was still
 in bed he told me to ask you as soon as you come
 to Donegal to make arrangements to hold a Batt
 meeting

With kindest regards and best wishes
 to Mrs Murray family and self
 yours very sincerely
 Pios W. Shea.

From
Mr. Skelton.
Semi-
Personal Letters



Superintendent of Murray,

Gorey,

to Wexford.

P/183/915 (1)

GARDA SIOCOÍNA.

Division of..... **Wexford.**

District of..... **Gorey.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Date..... **12th. June, 1935.**

To whom it may concern.

MILITARY SERVICE PENSION Act, 1934.

I certify that Seamas O'Donnell of Ballyshannon held the rank of Brigade Captain, Director of Transport and Supplies in the 4th Brigade, 1st Northern Division, from the beginning of July 1921 to the end of June 1922.

I was Vice Brigadier of the Brigade during the period in question.

SUPT.

(J. MURRAY.)

Donegal County Council Archives

100

oġlaig nā h-éireann. P/183/9/5(2)

4TH BRIGADE, 1ST NORTHERN DIVISION.

DATE _____

To Mr _____

Please Supply and Charge to Account of above Brigade :

Signed _____

Captain of Transport and Supply.

(This Docket to be returned to me immediately on completion of Work).

P/183/9/5(3)

Market St,
Ballyshannon
Co, Donegal.

Joseph Murray Esq.
supt. Garda Síochána
Gerey
Co Wexford.

A Chara.

Would you be good enough to send me a certificate in support of my application for a service pension under the Act of 1934.

I give you as reference Vice C.O. of the Brigade from the period that I was appointed Brigade Capt. Director of Transport and Supplies which was according to my recollection was on the 11th July 1921 to the 30th June 1922.

If you would give me a Cert. in the following form

I certify that Seamus O'Donnell of Ballyshannon held the rank of Brigade Capt. Director of Transport and Supplies in the 4th Bgd. 1st, Northern Div. from the beginning of July 1921 to the end of June 1922.

You will recollect that I was appointed by you shortly after my release from prison which was in Feb. 1921. As proof of my Rank I attach for your information a Voucher which was in use during your command.

Mise le meas agat.

Seamus O' Donnell.

SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN.

P1183 1915 (4)
CHRISTMAS DAY
DELIVERY-POST
BY THE POST OFFICE

~~DR 8~~
Cavanagh

Siomas O'Donnell.

Supt. Joseph Murray,
Gorey,

C O. W E X F O R D.



Donegal County Council Archives

P/183/95(4)
~~District Court Clerk's Office~~

Market St,
Ballyshannon
Co ,Donegal.

Joseph Murray Esq.
Supt. Garda Siochana
Westport

A Chara.

In view of the Military Service Pensions Act 1934.
under which I intend making an application for a service pension
and needles to say will be giving your name as reference in support
of my claim. Now having a doubt existing in my mind to the following
matters and dates.

On what date did you take charge ?
of the 4th Bgd. as Comdt.

Who was Vice Bgd. Comdt .during ?
your term of Office.

What was the Strenght of the ?
Bgd. at that time.

Who was in Charge prior to you.?
(was it Sam. O'Flaherty)

Do you remember me ranking at
Capt. of Transport & Supplies ?
during your term.

I believe you were in Command until you Joined the Garda force.
What was the date?

I will depend on you for reliable information in above
matters .I well understand it will be diffeult for you the remember
dates

Hoping I am not giving you too much trouble

P S.

Mise la meas agat.

Seamus O'Somell

If there is any other matter you can
recall please let me know

SD

Personal

Seamus O'Donoghue



J. Murray Esq.
Supt. Garda Síochána
Westport
County Mayo.

p/183/9/5(5)

1183195 (6)
Market Street,
Ballyshannon,
Co. Donegal.
29/12/37.

A Chara ~~Me~~

I again venture to trouble you for advice and any assistance you can give me in connection with a rather difficult matter.

The facts are - I made an application for Disability pension or Certificate under the Army Pensions Act 1937 and after a considerable amount of correspondence between the Dept. of Defence and my Solicitor a letter addressed to my Solicitor from the Dept. has raised a very difficult problem and makes things difficult for me to answer. I enclose a copy of this letter

I have no recollection of having completed the form referred to in the letter but I must have done so and it has escaped my memory. However I have no doubt you will remember that I never joined the National Army and so far as I can remember had no Official connection with that Army. You will perhaps remember that I was offered a rank in the Army in the capacity of Pay-Master in Finner with the Rank of 1st, Lieut. which I did not accept as I was expecting my present appointment as D.C.C. I remember you mentioned to me that my name was submitted for the Rank in November or early in December 1922.

If you can give me any assistance in this matter I would feel very much obliged.

If you have no doubt, you might be good enough to send me a certificate to the effect that I never Joined the National Army and that I never had any Official Connection with that Army

My reason for enclosing the copy letter is just to let you see how the matter now stands and that you will be in a position to do what is right.

I again apologise for troubling you but you see it means a lot to me if I can satisfy the Dept.

I wish yourself Mrs Murray and family a prosperous New Year

Mise, le meas agat.

Seamus O'Donnell

Ja Murray Esq.
Supt. Garda Siochana.

P.S. I was appointed D.C.C. about Jan 1923. 803

Ref.No.D.P.9065.

Department of Defence
Parkgate,
Dublin.

18/12/37.

A Chara.

I am directed by the Minister for Defence to refer to previous correspondence regarding the claim of Mr. James O'Donnell, Ballyshannon, under the Army pensions Acts, and to your letter of the 30th ult. in which you state your client did not serve in the National Army. I would point out, however, that on the 16th September 1924, your client completed a form of application under the Army Pensions Act 1923, which was duly witnessed by you. In reply to one of the questions in the form your client stated, as regards his service:-

" Company Adjutant 1917-1918. Battalion Police Officer
1918-1921. Brigade Captain of Transport 1921-1923 (Donegal)
Served with the National Army from first established up
to 1923 as Brigade O/C of Transport"

Perhaps your client would be good enough to reconcile the ~~present~~ present statement that he did not serve in the National Army with the statement made in September 1924 as outlined above.

The question as to whether your client served in the National Army has a bearing on his claim under the Army Pensions Acts, and before proceeding further with his claim the Minister would be glad of an explanation from Mr. O'Donnell.

Mise, le meas
J.J. Morgan
Runai.

P.E. Rogers Esq.
Solicitor,
Ballyshannon,
Co. Donegal.

29 / Jan 1935

Dear Mr Murray

I suppose you seen by the papers that the government has passed a bill to give pensions to the I.R.A I thought to ask you if you would be so kind to give me a recommendation I would be very thankful for same I joined the I.R.A in 1919 and I was out a lot at night for a long time I was doing police duty from 1920 to 1922 when I had to go to Hospital for 3 months you might remember me been in the Rock Hospital then as you were in charge of the men there it was me that ~~he~~ gave the I.R.A the information about who was getting in Belfast goods during the boycott also other information about supplies to the British at Finnee Camp and also what drivers was doing British troops I have not been in good health since 1922 and I had to give up my job on the G.N Railway owing to ill health I blame my activities with the I.R.A for it I was at every thing that was done here from 1919 to 22 I am sorry to give you this trouble as I know you are a very busy man I am sure you remember all yourself I will be very thankful if you can ^{use your way} to do this

Louis Linnery Ross Bunkoran

I filled in my form and sent it in
about a month ago I was in Hospital when
it was filled in and when I came home
and seen the way others were filling in,
theirs I am afraid I mine was not done
right so, that's the reason I would
like to get a recommendation from
you

Donegal County Council Archive

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long
of inland



Superintendent Murray

Garey

to Wexford

P/183/9/6(2)

9/4/39

This is to Certify that I knew Michael Munday of Sunmuckrum Ballyshannon as Capt. of Ballyshannon ^{Company} I.R.A. The Truce. and he was a very reliable officer quite Capable of his post. as Capt. He took part in all engagements in the District and was always very successful. in Carrying out his duties. He was very active in establishing training Camps. in 1921. and give a Considerable amount of his time in this respect.

A Chanc.

would you please send Mr. Munday a Certificate something similar to above. He is very anxious to have one from you. Thanks for the one which you sent me.

— Miss

S. O. Somell
Ballyshannon

P18219A(1)

I enclose this from
A. Munday Ballyshannon
who requires a certificate
from you. This has no connection with
Michael Munday's application which I
enclose. S.O. Donnell.

P1103/9/4(2)

East Port,
Ballyshannon,

20th March 1937.

Dear Sirs

Leumas has told me you would like me
to state exactly, or as near to that, what I would
require in the Cert.,

As I would not ask you to certify for anything
only what you had an intimate knowledge of, I
would suggest that you send me a certificate
stating that you knew I was imprisoned while in Co.
Monaghan, and as a result of same lost my
position. Then, ^{that} afterwards was a prominent
volunteer, and took an active part in the move-
ments.

You probably may not have heard that ^{we} were exam-
ined before the Board on the 26th ult., therefore, the
certificate would require to reach them immediately.

Thanking you in anticipation of same.

I remain,

Yrs Sincerely,

A. Munday

Donegal County Council Archives

Oct 1918

Personal.

R

J.R.A.

Reference

Allie
Michael

J. Murray Esq.

Supt. Garda Síochána
Gorey.

County Wexford.



Donegal Council Archives

1831917(3)

Supt J. Murray;

Gorey.

to Westford.



Donegal County Council Archive

21133191 (4)

P/183/117(5)

Sáirda Siocána.

Division of WEXFORD

District of GOREY

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
GOREY

Date 28/4/37.

To Whom It May Concern.

This is to certify that I have known Michael Munday of Dummickrin, Ballyshannon since 1916. He was Captain of the Ballyshannon Company of the I.R.A. almost from its inception in 1917. He held this rank actively up to the time of the split in the Army and during his period of office carried out his duties in a most efficient manner. He took part in all activities in his area, was a regular attender of all Battalion Council Meetings and did much work in connection with the organization of his Company. He was very active in establishing the training camps in 1921 when it was believed that there would be another round with England.

I recommend him to the favourable consideration of the Award Board.

Signed:-

SUPERINTENDENT.G.S.

(J.MURRAY).
 Ex Brigadier (Post Truce)
 Ex Vice Brigadier (Pre Truce)
 4th Brigade (South East Donegal)
 1st Northern Division.

82

P/183A/8(C)

To Supt Joseph Murray.
A Capt.

Quay St.

Donegal.

Thursday.

Thanks very much for message last night was delighted to get in touch with you. I know you are in good form. Well what I want to get is a ref- from you up to Kuce July 11th 21. I was in Dublin just this day last night & should have got in touch with you sooner. I was adj. Batt. from 1919 up to Kuce. (this) 2nd Batt. 4th Brigade 1st northern. I have no idea if you have to give a check but in case you have I suppose its better to mention some. Burning barracks. Barmeore Pettigo Ballintra. burning Courthouse. Raid for arms. Attack on Donegal barracks. Shifting arms for attack on Ardara Barracks. I expect this would do if necessary you could say off my arrest & interment on S.S. Argente in Belfast Longht from May 22. until Dec 24. Hoping this will give you the information wanted

Ineman

yours etc.

Phil Lemmon

SARUA SIOCCANA.

Division of Wentworth

District of Leominster

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Date 9/9/37

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

THIS TO CERTIFY that Philip Timony of Quay Street, Donegal, was a very active member of the I.R.A. in South East Donegal area from its inception up till the Truce on 11th, July, 1921. He held various ranks from Volunteer up to that of Batt. Adjutant in the 2nd Batt. 4th Brigade, 1st Northern Division. As far as I can recollect he took part in all activities in the South East Donegal area including the destruction of enemy Barracks at Barnesmore, Pettigo & Ballintra, attack on Donegal Barrack, destruction of Donegal Courthouse and transport of arms for attack on Ardara Barrack. Later on he served a term of imprisonment in the S.S. Argenta in Belfast.

(Signed) _____ Supt.
 Vice Brigadier Pre-Truce,
 Brigadier Post-Truce 4th Brigade,
 1st Northern Division, I.R.A.

Donegal County Council Archives

To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify that Philip Timony of Quay Street, Donnell was a very active member of the I.R.A. in South East Donnell area from its inception up till the Truce on 11th July 1921. He held various ranks from volunteer up to that of Batt. Adjutant in the 2nd Batt. 4th Bde., 1st Northern Div. As far as I can recollect he took part in all activities in the South East Donnell area including the destruction of enemy barracks at Bagnamore, Pettigo & Ballintra, attack on Donnell Barrack, destruction of Donnell Courthouse & transport of arms for attack on Ardara Barrack. Later on he served a term of imprisonment on the ^{S.S.} Argenta in Belfast.

Signed

Subl.

Vice-Brigadier Post-Truce,
Brigadier Post-Truce
4th Brigade
1st Northern Div.,
I.R.A.

J.R.A. Ref.
Phil Tenonies.



Supt Murray:

Gorey.

Co Wickford.

P/183/9/8/4

P/183/9/9(1)

Lt Col. Sawlans
Sonegal
11.9.31

Dear Supt.

In reply to your letter
relative to the D.R.A. service of James
Lallagher. (deceased) I made local enquiries
and the following are the particulars,
date of shooting. 13th Feb'y. 1922.
date of death. 14th Feb'y 1922
service in D.R.A. in arch 1918 until date of death
Rank. S. O. Officer
Company. A. Company, Sonegal
He held the above rank during the above
period. Those particulars were supplied by
his brother Paddy and Phil. Timony.

Yours,

W. J. Hughes. Spt

P1183/9/19/2

•Uimhí Tagartha

(Ref. No.) II/RB/863.

Roinn Cosanta,
(Department of Defence)

Dopu Cláracháda Seirbhíse Míleata,
(Military Service Registration Board)

Dún Uí Ghrioftha,
(Griffith Barracks)

Baile Átha Cliath.
(Dublin)

2 October, 1937.

ARMY PENSIONS ACT, 1932.

A Chara,

I am desired by the Military Service Registration Board to refer to the application, under the above Act, of Mrs. Catherine Gallagher, Lackrum, Donegal, in respect of her deceased son, James, and to furnish for your observation the following extract from the "Donegal Vindicator" of 17th February 1922:-

"It would appear that the deceased was in a public house owned by a Mr. P. Gallagher, in company with others, a man named Britton, an ex internee, and Thompson, a soldier in civilian clothes, who was a member of the soldiery stationed in Finner Camp. They had a conversation during which time Thompson stated he was a deserter and had some Arms concealed near Ballyshannon. He asked if he handed over the Arms would they not hand him up. It was decided to go by motor to the place where the Arms were supposed to be hidden. Thompson then asked if they were armed and when told it was no business of his, and if he were armed, he pulled a revolver and fired four times, the bullets wounding Britton & Gallagher, who died next day. Thompson was accompanied by a man named Lawson. In the melee which followed both men succeeded in making their escape but were captured next day by members of I.R.A.

At the inquest which followed next day the above was sworn to by Malachy Doherty, who also stated that Gallagher had not spoken to Thompson and no provocation was given. The jury found the deceased was killed by a bullet fired wilfully by Alfred Thompson, who was a deserter, and found a verdict of wilful murder against Alfred Thompson."

The Board are anxious to decide the case, and they will be very grateful if you will furnish any information at your disposal regarding the death of James Gallagher. Please state between what dates deceased served with I.R.A.

Mise, le meas,

Runai.

Supt. Joseph Murray,
Gorey,
CO. WEXFORD.

Re-Kelling of Vol. James Gallagher
at Donegal town on
13th Feb. 22



Mrs. J. Murray

Touraine, Hotel.



England

P/18319/9(3)

P11231 (1100)

The Mall

Ballyshannon

19th June 1940

Dear Mr Murray

In answer to your letter of January last. I was talking to Eddy Cassidy and he told me he would give you full particulars of my service and I hope you will give me a certificate on his recommendation.

I thought you knew me better as I met you quite often in the early period I was Adjutant for Belleek Battalion area when you were acting in a like capacity at Bundoran.

I joined the volunteers in 1912 and had continuous service I was made Captain of Belleek Company in 1917 and I took part in all engagements around Belleek Pettigo and one in Bundoran. P Doherty (Hun) could verify all my statements but he is too far away.

yours sincerely
John J. M. Gonnigle


J. P. P.
Penions
John J. K. P. Penions



Sept. 26 Murray
Kellaloe

Co Clare
P/183/9/10-(2)

EDWARD CASSIDY,

DRAPER AND OUTFITTER  BOOT AND SHOE MERCHANT.

SOLE AGENT FOR "SURE PHIT" AND "DRI PHIT" IRISH FOOT WEAR.

Supt. J. Murray
Killaloe
Co. Clare

Ballyshannon..... 18th June 1940

4 Copies

The application of Mr John James Mc Gorrigle.
The Mall, Ballyshannon and formerly of Belleek
for a Military Service Pension -

J. J. Mc Gorrigle was one of the original
organisers of the Volunteers in Belleek
area and had continuous service from
1912 onwards.

He acted as Captain of Belleek Coy. from
1917 to 1922 was Battalion adj. for Belleek
Area in 1920-21 previous to reorganisation
and I am sure you often had occasion to
meet him in that capacity during the
period - though years have fled since then.

He took part in all the activities in the area
including of course the taking of Belleek Barracks.
It is difficult to remember them all though
you were familiar with most of them.

I am
Yours faithfully
Edward Cassidy



TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

This is to Certify that JOHN J. McGONIGLE,
The Mall, Ballyshannon, County Donegal, was a
member of the Irish Volunteers and Old I.R.A.
from the time of their inception. He was Captain
of Belleek Company from 1917 to 1920 and Adjutant
of Belleek Battalion area from 1920 to 1921, and
again Captain of Belleek Company from 1921 to 1922.
During his period of service he took part in all
major operations in South and South-East Donegal
including the capture of Belleek R.I.C. Barracks.

I recommend him for the very favourable
consideration of the Pensions Board.

(Signed)

(J. Murray)

Superintendent, Garda Síochána,
Ex-Brigadier General, 4th Brigade,
1st Northern Division.
(County Donegal)

A Shosonk, a Chara Dil,

Last January twelve months
 you wrote me asking if I would like
 to re-organize the old 4th Brigade, 1st Northern
 Div. - Pre-Times & I replied that I would
 point out (I think) that I was 14 days
 annual leave coming to me in March, '54
 & that I would ^{spend them in} Dundee on leave
 that purpose. The unfortunate my wife got
 a "stroke" on 5th Feb. '54 and died with
 a second "stroke" on 7th Feb. last (R.I.P.)
 She was in the Mater Hospital, Dublin from
 12th Feb. until 1st March & naturally I had
 to spend my fourteen days going to
 Dublin in & off during that time. You
 will understand therefore why I did not
 carry out my promise to you.

Now to that you had
 strongly advised me to apply for an
 R. R. A. pension which I have not done.
 At that time. Recently I was again
 advised to make application but was
 afraid that the time had expired. On
 11th inst I applied for advice on the
 matter to the Secretary, Dir. of Defense &
 was informed that I should apply by 15th
 March next within which to apply & I
 was furnished with application form a D.R.A.
 and National Army Service. I have always

P/183/9/11(2)

don't know how due to me in Dec
March & will go to Boudouan to get
all my data, etc. ~~for~~ in order, and
will have my publications submitted in
good time (D.P.).

I am sure you as my
the 1. reference, and will have with
a number of other sound references
including Joe Wood (to Boudouan), Harry
Pallander (Compt?) & Tom the Clerk, Boudouan.
I was a member of the S.P.A. from its
inception in South America and held
various Batt. & Brigade ranks up to
the rank of Vice Brigadier for some
years latter rank I held until the Army
split when you left. I was Brigade
C/O in place of ^{John O. Flaherty (D.P.).}
I held this rank, until I received the
General's orders on 10th Oct. 1922. It was
I was then given to the two Brigades of
Boudouan & Boudouan were from the "Invasion".
I was Relief Battalion from being "bounced"
over by Tommy's side of Boudouan to the
Invasion. I took part in most of the
Army work including along the border
including Boudouan & Boudouan. On your instructions
I went on duty & took from Drummer to
the relief & Boudouan when it was needed.

follow me

Approved for S.H. Co. as correct

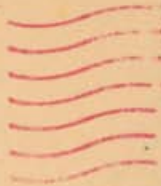
See O'Keefe & get about 8% the progress

Free Electricity
and T.V. Licence Application.



ÍOCTHA GO

HOIFIGIÚIL



Mr. Joseph Murray,
Port na Sanna,
Ballyshannon,
Co. Donegal.



P/183/9/120



AVAIL OF ANNUAL
MAGAZINE



Statement of I.R.A.
Activities for Bureau of Military History
1913-21.

Superintendent Joseph Murray,
Garda Síochána,

AF 418A.

Dept. of Defence.

Bureau of Military History:

Garda Headquarters,

Bavan

P/183/9/12(2)

PERSONAL.

Coy. & Batt.
Rebunts
1901-22;

Joseph Murray Esq.
Superintendent
Garra Glechana
Garra
Co. Wexford.



Military Pension

P/18319/12(3)

Donegal County Council Archives

A	Company	Ballyphanna
B	"	Ballaak
C	"	C. Caudwell
D	"	Rossmola
E	"	Donegal
F	"	Raghey Bar
G	"	Heenanreen
H	"	Tomanally

↳ Leicester (Cafe, 1st floor)
MORTIMER K. FADA
Ash Grove.

Eddie Kelly,
Crony.

Killed
at the
near Caddis

Thomas McEowan
arrested on 10th June, 1921

P/183/9/12(4)

A.R.A.
Military pensions.
Accounts from
my Brigade Area
Copies of References

SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN.



USE THE OFFICIAL
TELEPHONE PAID

Supt. Joseph Murray
Garda Síochána



~~Westport~~ Gorey,
Co. Wick L. Westford.

Donegal County Council Archives

PH 183/12/65

Memo for Income Tax Purposes.

813

MURRAY. *MARY RAPHEAL* ----- *Oct. 1924. DIED Oct. 24*
 Michael Joseph Augustine 11th Sept. 1925 Bándoran. No
 Nora Mary Philomena 8th Nov. 1927 Do. No
 Marie Celine 2nd Jul. 1933 Balieboro. No
 Charles Gabriel Mary 30th Mar. 1935 Gorey. No
 Margaret Mary Bernadette 6th Feb. 1937 Gorey. No
 Joseph Desmond 23rd Feb. 1938 ^{COURTOWN HARBOUR,} Gorey. No
 Patrick Vincent 23rd Aug. 1940. ~~Killaloe~~
NENASH.

Donegal County Council Archives

P1183/9/12(6)

James



Engineers

List of Officers
(all Ranks), etc.



Colonel Leumas Conway

Rathoween

street

Co Westmeath



1182/9/12 (4)

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