



Pat, Martin, Larry
and Josie. The
Clancy family of
Ballylusky,
Drangan, in the
War of
Independence.

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Note: spelling of names and places, dates and locations that are quoted are as originally written in military witness statements, military pension and medal applications and other statements. It should also be noted that the 'Volunteers' and 'IRA' were interchangeable titles in contemporary usage. The latter title emerged from a Dáil Eireann decision in August 1919 that Volunteers would take an oath of allegiance to the Dáil and the Irish Republic. This 'old IRA' existed until the Treaty split in the first half of 1922. Thanks are due to Eamonn Kiely, Joyce Kiely, Tommy Clancy, the third generation commemoration group (the 3G's) and the staff of the Source Library, Thurles, for their assistance with research. The drone photo of the Ballylusky site were taken by Aidan Clancy. An earlier version of this booklet is to be published in the Tipperary Historical Journal.

The 1901 Census recorded Lawrence Clancy, an elderly farmer residing in Ballylusky, near Drangan, County Tipperary. The only other resident on the farm was his brother whom he cared for. (The census recorded his brother, William, as an 'idiot'). The farm was small and isolated. It amounted to 20 acres and was located in a remote place, a long distance from any paved road and even some considerable distance from the nearest unpaved boreen. Ten years later, the Census recorded a much larger family grouping. Lawrence's son, Martin and his wife Margaret had returned from England¹. They had seven children, two of whom were born in Liverpool – Lawrence and Patrick. Despite the progress achieved under the Land Acts, there was still land disputes and agitation in the Drangan area. Lawrence senior had been regularly summoned to Court in the 1890's for failure to pay rent and rates on his small holding². There was a strong correlation between activity during the war of independence and historic, or even more recent, land agitation and disputes. Tipperary had a strong history in this regard. By the early 1900's, it had what was described as 'saturation policing' with a total of 55 Royal Irish Constabulary barracks in South Tipperary. Historic land agitation led to a consequential heavy police presence. In 1911 there was one policeman for every 411 inhabitants compared with 598 in Wexford³.

The seeds of conflict never disappeared. During the War of Independence, one of the Volunteer leaders, Sean E. Walsh recorded shooting two alleged spies, both 'emergency men' – who had occupied and lived on farms from which he contended that *'the lawful tenants had been evicted'*. He also recorded shooting an extensive landowner on instructions from his Brigade and Battalion Officers without knowing the reasons for the order⁴. Eamonn Kiely, a nephew of the Clancys wrote that the Clancys had lost land in the nineteenth century but *'recovered some of it at the time of the truce in 1921 in a coup de main carried out at the instigation of the eldest son, Larry'*⁵.

Little or no significant activity occurred in County Tipperary during the Easter Week Rising⁶. That did not prevent the RIC County Inspector drawing up a list of 'dangerous people' to be arrested afterwards. A total of twenty eight South Tipperary residents were arrested including Tommy O'Donovan (also known as Donovan), a motor mechanic from New Birmingham who was arrested on

¹ Lawrence had another son, also named Lawrence, who was a private in the British Army at the time of the Boer War. He died of disease (most likely typhoid) in May 1900 and was buried in Bloemfontein.

² Ireland, Petty Sessions Court Registers 15/06/1896.

³ Augusteijn, Joost, *Why was Tipperary so active in the War of Independence?*, Tipperary Historical Journal 2006 p 208.

⁴ WS 363 Sean E. Walsh, Commandant, 7th Battalion, 3rd Tipperary Brigade.

⁵ Kiely, Eamonn, *Pat and Martin Clancy in the War of Independence* p. 1 (Private Publication).

⁶ O'Duibhir, Eamonn, *The Tipperary Volunteers in 1916* Tipperary Historical Studies 1991 pp 9-18

15th May 1916⁷. O'Donovan, the son of a village grocer and publican, lived in his aunt's house in Drangan. As many of these prisoners were kept together in various barracks in Tipperary and, later, in prison camps in England and Wales, a bond and network was created. In many cases among people who had not previously known each other. Following the releases of prisoners in late 1916 and into 1917, the Volunteers were reorganised. These were mainly locally based but in October 1918 the Third (South Tipperary) Brigade was established at a meeting presided over by the national Chief of Staff, Richard Mulcahy⁸. Seamus Robinson (an 'outsider' from County Antrim who had fought in the Easter Rising and had been involved in organising Volunteers in South Tipperary since the release of prisoners) was appointed as Brigade Commandant. Tommy O'Donovan seconded the motion to appoint Robinson. The Volunteer organisation moved to public, open drilling of members, was assisted by a range of public events including those marking the death of Thomas Ashe in September 1917 and the conscription crisis in the late spring and early summer of 1918.

The Third Brigade, which over time amounted to approximately 3,500 members, was made up of eight separate Battalions⁹. The South Tipperary 7th Battalion, with 334 recorded members, was based in Drangan and was established in July 1920¹⁰. Over time, each Battalion was made up of separate companies. By the time of the truce there were 56 companies in the 3rd Brigade. The 7th Battalion had seven companies based on distinct areas or districts. For example, 'A' Company was based in Drangan, with 62 members and 'G' Company, with 34 members, was based in Killenaule¹¹. O'Donovan was the Drangan leader but was appointed Commandant of the entire Battalion by the Brigade HQ. Cumann na mBan was based on the same organisational and geographic structure. Initially the Drangan Company had no arms and except for weekly parades or meetings there were no activities¹².

By January 1920, it was clear that the Irish attempts to secure recognition for independence was not going to emerge from the Versailles talks. This led to the Volunteers GHQ sanctioning the use of offensive action against crown military and police forces. This certainly suited Tommy O'Donovan who had been regularly arrested (sometimes for petty offences like making a collection without a permit or driving a motorcycle during curfew hours without a light¹³) and was also subject to internment orders¹⁴. He was bored by prison life and decided to fight rather than endure further arrests and imprisonment. Under his leadership the area of the 7th Battalion became a hotbed of activity¹⁵.

In his witness statement, James Leahy from Poulacapple, who was a member of the Kilkenny Brigade, recalled that, early in 1920,

I was in touch with the late Tommy Donovan of Drangan, then Commandant of the 7th Battalion of the South Tipperary Brigade, regarding a proposed attack on Drangan R.I.C. barracks, to be carried out jointly by units of both battalions, i.e. 7th Battalion of the Kilkenny Brigade and the 7th Battalion of the South Tipperary Brigade - our areas joined each other along the Kilkenny-Tipperary border. Tommy

⁷ Marnane, Denis G *The 3rd Brigade* 2018 p. 94

⁸ Mulcahy was later leader of the Fine Gael Party and served in Government of several occasions.

⁹ By way of comparison, the Dublin Brigade, at the time of the truce in July 1921 had almost 5,500 members.

¹⁰ WS 1,243 Thomas O'Carroll, Adjutant 7th Battalion

¹¹ Marnane, *ibid* pp 471-472.

¹² WS 1,243 Thomas O'Carroll, *ibid*. However, the Report of the 7th Battalion in the Military Archives records that the men on the run after the Soloheadbeg ambush were kept in the Drangan Company area for a period of time.

¹³ Ireland, Petty Sessions Court Registers 22/08/1919.

¹⁴ WO 35/139, National Archives, London.

¹⁵ Augusteijn, Joost, *The operations of South Tipperary IRA, 1916 – 1921*, Tipperary Historical Journal 1996 p 152.

Donovan was arrested before the plans were completed and for the moment the idea of an attack on Drangan barracks was abandoned.

However, as part of a nationwide campaign to attack RIC Barracks, a further plan was prepared to attack the Drangan Barracks. This commenced at around 10.00 pm on June 3rd 1920 and continued until the police surrendered during the morning of the 4th. The attack was led by Sean Treacy. Seamus Robinson and Ernie O'Malley were also involved¹⁶. Two young participants in the attack were Pat and Martin Clancy¹⁷. Pat was a storeman in the local Drangan co-operative creamery while Martin was a farm labourer on a neighbouring family farm¹⁸. Their sister, Josie, later recalled the strong smell of paraffin oil from their clothes the morning after the burning of the Barracks¹⁹. Their brother Larry was also a member of the 7th Battalion and Josie was a member of Cumann na mBan. Josie joined Cumann na mBan in April 1919 at the age of 15 and, along with other roles, smuggled guns around the area on her bicycle, hidden under baskets of hens and eggs²⁰. She held the rank of vice president of the 7th Battalion. Pat had joined the Volunteers the previous year. Martin and Larry had become active by 1920²¹. Their mother stated that younger brother Jim also played a role in the struggle before the truce in mid-1921²². Family members recall their father Martin complaining of their regular absence from work on the family farm. He went to see Tommy Donovan to complain but returned home stating that Tommy relied on them and no more was to be said.

James Leahy was also involved in this attack. He recalled,

That morning in Callan I met Fr. Delahunty, who told me that the attack on Drangan barracks was to come off that night. He told me to be ready and to be on the road. Later on in the day I received a dispatch to report at Cahill's of Cappahenry at 9 o'clock that night. There I met Jim Roughan, the Battalion Commandant, and six of his Ahernure men. They were armed with rifles. I was given a shotgun, as there were no more rifles available. I already had my revolver, which I had brought with me. There was some kind of a discussion, in which it was stated that only men with rifles were to go to Drangan. None of those who had rifles would part with one, and then it was agreed that I should take charge of a party of men who were also there and who had hatchets, cross-cuts and saws to block the Kilkenny-Drangan road between Modeshill and Lismolin.

Edward Halley and myself took charge of the blocking of the roads. We were only about three miles from Drangan, and hearing the explosions and seeing the Verey lights which the police sent up, we knew that the attack was on. After we had felled either 7 or 8 trees across the road I sent the men

¹⁶ A detailed account of the attack is contained in Ernie O'Malley, *Raids and Rallies* (Cork 2011) pp 42-60

¹⁷ Apart from their republican activities, both brothers were keen sportsmen, winning medals for athletics. A photo of Pat's athletic medal is in the appendices. A point worth noting is that his IRA membership and rank were engraved on the medal at the height of the War of Independence. Martin travelled to Templemore in September 1920 to view the infamous 'bleeding statue', later found to be a hoax. (Kiely, *ibid* p 5). It is unclear whether he attended as a sightseer or in his capacity as a Volunteer, as the IRA had effectively taken over control of the town during the events.

¹⁸ Military Service Pensions, *Martin Clancy*. In a later document, Pat was described as a cheesemaker.

¹⁹ Kiely *ibid* p. 6. Pat's involvement is confirmed in the 3rd Tipperary Brigade Drangan Company report held in the Military Archives.

²⁰ Kiely, Josie (nee Clancy) *Letter of application for military service medal*. Military Archives MD18871.

²¹ Clancy, Larry *Obituary 1956*. The 7th Battalion Report in the Military Archives records Pat as being active in drilling, arms instruction and raiding for arms in the period April 1918 to March 1919. Martin and Larry were recorded as being involved in these activities from March 1920 along with making munitions, raising funds, blocking roads, raiding mails and guarding men on active service.

²² Military Service Pensions, *Martin Clancy*.

home and I then went on towards Drangan. It was daybreak by this time, and at Knockclura Hill, about a mile from Drangan, I met some of the Mullinahone Volunteers, who had been on scout duty, on their way home. They gave me the news that the police had surrendered and that the attack was over. After the attack on Drangan, the R.I.C. in Mullinahone were reinforced by a company of the Lincolnshire Regiment and, at the same time, a company of the Devonshire Regiment were posted to Callan.

The Lincolnshire's obviously began to make their presence felt as the war in this region was to quickly become a deadly dual between the Regiment, the local population and the Volunteers. Ambushes and reprisals became the order of the day.

James Ryan recorded the prominent role played by O'Donovan in the Drangan attack.

He was a brave soldier of Ireland as was also his companion Mick Burke. In the attack on Drangan Bks. he acted with great daring. Climbing to the roof of the barracks, under fire, he removed the slates and poured petrol in, which set fire to the barracks²³.

Leahy, again, recalled,

About mid August, 1920, I was again in touch with Tommy Donovan ...who had returned after serving a prison sentence. We planned an ambush at Ballincullen or New Line Cross on the road between Mullinahone and Slievenamon. We occupied the position with about 50 men drawn from both battalion areas. Twelve were armed with rifles, the remainder with shotguns. As a decoy to draw out the military from Mullinahone, we held up the mail car, took the mails and then allowed it to go on into Mullinahone. A patrol did come out on bicycles to investigate, but when within a short distance of the ambush position they must either have noticed something or become suspicious, for they suddenly turned around and cycled back towards Mullinahone. One of our men fired a few shots after them. Tommy Donovan, who was in charge, then decided to disperse our men. Later a larger party of military came to the scene. They burned cocks of hay and arrested a man named Gleeson who lived nearby. All our men got home safely.

Patrick Ryan from Fethard was a Captain in the 1st battalion. He was close to Tommy O'Donovan and participated in a number of attacks with him. He recalled that in the Autumn of 1920 he was 'on the run' and spent practically all his time with O'Donovan and others from the 7th Battalion area. He recalled that O'Donovan told him that he had orders from G.H.Q to shoot a Lieutenant Litchfield (Litchford) from the Lincolnshire Regiment who was then stationed in Killenaule. O'Donovan gave orders that Litchford was to be shot on sight²⁴. On a few occasions they went to Killenaule at night and patrolled the streets but failed to see Litchford. Clearly Litchford's activities had come to the attention of the national IRA leadership who made him a marked man.

Edward Rowland Litchford was a 22 year old British Officer, an only child, born in 1899. His father was Rowland Litchford, who was born in Fenagh, County Carlow in 1870, so he had Irish connections. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Lincolnshire Regiment in August 1918, too late to play any significant role in the Great War²⁵. He was appointed as a full Lieutenant in February 1920²⁶.

²³ WS 151 Ryan, James Irish Volunteers, Clonmel, 1916

²⁴ WS 1,380 Patrick Ryan, Captain 'B' Company 1st Battalion, 3rd Tipperary Brigade.

²⁵ <https://deriv.nls.uk/dcn30/8816/88162475.30.jpg>

²⁶ <https://deriv.nls.uk/dcn30/8928/89285183.30.jpg>

He wrote a letter to his mother in August 1920 which gives a flavour of his personality and the mindset of the British Officer Corps assigned to Ireland at the time²⁷. Writing from the Barracks in Tipperary Town he thanked his mother for cake and a letter. *'The former is splendid and jolly good to eat.'* He then commented on the situation in Ireland. He referenced the capture by the IRA of a high ranking British officer, General Lucas, who was later released or escaped. He complained of a journalist having the cheek to ring the Barracks at 10.00 in the morning making enquiries. *Having received a short and to the point response that does not bear repeating, 'I don't think he will bother us again'.*

More seriously, he referred to IRA attacks on mail cars, killings and injuries. *'Sooner or later there will be a burst up in this place. If any of our fellows get killed the troops will undoubtedly sack the place. We had some difficulty in keeping them in after the mail car episode'.*

On the other side of the battle lines on Sunday 31st October 1920, Patrick Ryan was present at a meeting when O'Donovan decided to take a party to Killenaule. An Active Service Unit had been established in October 1920 which included Drangan Company members and the ASU, including Pat Clancy, went to Killenaule²⁸. O'Donovan's plan was to fire a few shots at the sentry who patrolled outside the Barracks and to lure Litchford out of the Barracks. Along with Ryan and O'Donovan were a wider group – all armed with revolvers. O'Donovan sent Ryan and Clancy into the town to scout around. They saw two RIC men leave the Barracks and enter O'Connell's Public House. O'Donovan, who had followed the two, observed that they would capture the two RIC men and hold them hostages. A number of Volunteers blocked the back door and O'Donovan, Ryan and Clancy approached the front door. They entered the pub and unsuccessfully searched the premises for the RIC men. The landlady shouted and screamed and became violently hysterical and the three abandoned their search. O'Donovan then decided to carry out their original plan but the Barracks sentry had been withdrawn.

Patrick Ryan described the subsequent events;

'We moved down the street and when about 100 yards from the barracks stood for a few minutes while Donovan considered what our next move should be. What looked to us to be two very drunken British soldiers then came around a corner about 50 yards away from us. They had their arms around each other's shoulders and were singing "For He's a jolly good fellow". They staggered about the street and as they approached us Donovan remarked to me, "Will we hold them up", and I replied, "What's the use? They are only two poor drunken soldiers". Donovan's remark were the last words he ever spoke, for when the two soldiers were about two yards from us they shed all signs of intoxication and fired point blank at us with revolvers which they had in their hands. They were, in fact, Lieutenant Litchfield himself and a sergeant of his unit. Donovan was hit in the head by a shot, and as he fell he, too, fired and I saw the bullet from his gun break the surface of the road. I was hit by a bullet which entered my right leg just over the knee and emerged near the groin. Clancy was wounded in the arm and back. Both Clancy and I crawled to the opposite side of the street, where we were again fired at,

²⁷ MS 41,539 (NLI) Letter from Edward Rowland Litchford to his mother, Mrs. E.V. Litchford of Roseleigh, Billdeston, Suffolk, 1920 Aug. 2.

²⁸ Report of the 7th Battalion - *Military Archives*.

but this time without effect. I next saw Litchfield and his companion catch Donovan by the legs and drag him to the barracks'.

Harry Bushe and Nicholas Moroney came to the assistance of Clancy and myself. They put me up on a bicycle and, holding me on it - one at each side - they took me to a house some distance from the town. Clancy was able to walk; the wounds in his arm and back were not so serious as what was first feared. We were then taken in a pony and trap to Hayden's of Parson's Hill, near Drangan, where Dr. Stokes of Fethard attended to us both. It was dangerous to remain at Hayden's as this house was frequently raided, so, again in the pony and trap, we were brought to Tobin's of Knockkelly, where we remained for the night, and next day we were removed to Doran's of Slievenamon. After two or three days at Doran's it was learned that British military with bloodhounds were searching the countryside for wounded men and we were moved further afield to Cahill's of Grangemockler, where we remained for some nine or ten days. From Cahill's we were again taken by pony and trap to Donovan's of Castlejohn, near Callan. This latter house was situated in a nice quiet place, and a neighbouring nurse called each day to dress the wounds. Dr. Stokes of Fethard and Dr. Conlon of Mullinahone paid weekly visits to me while I was a patient at Donovan's.

Tommy O'Donovan's replacement as Commandant of the 7th Battalion, Sean Walsh, recalled;

On the day on which Tommy Donovan was killed. i.e. on 31st October, 1920, I attended a battalion council meeting which was held at Mrs. Kennedy's house at Mogordun near Moyglas There was at the time a notorious British Army officer named Lieutenant Litchfield stationed in Killenaule, and it was decided at the meeting that Tommy Donovan (the Battalion Commandant) with a party of 5 or 6 men would go to Killenaule that night to attack Litchfield if, as was his custom, he left the barracks and went to his favourite publichouse for a few drinks. Donovan selected Denis Sadlier²⁹, Paddy Ryan, Paddy Clancy, two or three others and myself to accompany him to Killenaule, but as I had no bicycle he told me to go instead to Hayden's of Parson's Hill where some Volunteers were mobilised and to take them to Drangan where he and his party would rejoin me on their return from Killenaule. Donovan was of the impression that if Lieutenant Litchfield was shot in Killenaule the British military would carry out reprisals in his (Donovan's) native place of Drangan. I was only a very short time at Hayden's when two Killenaule Volunteers arrived, bringing with them Paddy Ryan and Paddy Clancy, both of whom were wounded, and also the news that Tommy Donovan was dead in the barracks in Killenaule, having been shot in the attack on Lieutenant Litchfield which had miscarried. For the moment Drangan was forgotten and I had to concentrate on getting a doctor for the two wounded men and to get them to a place of safety. The British military did not, however, make any attempt to carry out reprisals in Drangan that night³⁰.

Ironically, it would seem that Litchford was not involved in the Killenaule event. There was a case of mistaken identity between him and another Officer, Lieutenant George Hooton – sometimes mistakenly named as Heuton. The Regimental report on the episode named Lieutenant Hooton and Sergeant Davies as the men responsible for killing O'Donovan whom it called '*the most daring murderer in the South of Ireland*'³¹. The RIC Chief Inspector's report described him as '*the notorious*

²⁹ Sadlier was an experienced soldier, having previously served in the British Army.

³⁰ WS 1,363 Sean E. Walsh, Commandant 7th Battalion, 3rd Tipperary Brigade.

³¹ Marnane, *ibid* p 335.

*Thos Donovan...It is hoped that the disappearance of this young ruffian from the countryside will have a salutary effect*³².

In the shoot-out, Davies was wounded in the shoulder and Hooton very slightly in the hand. The two were later given prestigious awards - an MBE for the Officer and an OBE for the Sergeant³³. With poignant timing, the awards were presented to them one day after the truce came into effect in July 1921³⁴. A military report on the situation in Ireland dated 1st October 1920 listed the Killenaule incident as one of a number of gallant actions for which rewards have been granted. The officer and corporal were described as having put up a most gallant and skilful fight against a number of armed civilians. A wounded man was dragged back to the barracks where he died. *'He turned out to be the most desperate murderer in the district, and it was proved that the civilians had arrived for the purpose of arranging ambushes and murders'*³⁵.

Thomas O'Carroll, Adjutant of the 7th Battalion, gave the following account,

About this time, i.e. October 1920, the officer in charge of the British forces stationed in Killenaule was a, Lieutenant Hueton. He let it be known that if either himself or any of his men were ever attacked, he would bring out a party of British forces and burn down the village of Drangan. We had information that in company with a sergeant he was in the habit of frequenting Connell's public house in Killenaule at night time. A member of the Moyglass company, the late Michael Burke of Knockforla, had been arrested by Hueton and was then undergoing a prolonged hunger—strike in Cork. We were daily expecting to hear of Michael Burke's death. At a Battalion Council meeting which was held in the barn of Mrs. Kennedy's farmhouse at Silverfort near Moyglass on Sunday, 31st October 1920, it was decided to challenge Hueton's threat and the following plans were drawn up :

(1) Denis Sadlier, the Battalion Vice-Commandant, to take a party of 5 or 6 members of the A.S.U. into Killenaule that night to raid Connell's premises and to shoot Hueton. Scouts from the Killenaule Company to keep in contact with Sadlier and his party and to let them know when Hueton and his friend the sergeant had left the barracks and gone to Connell's public house.

(2) I to go to Drangan to mobilise the local unit and to make preparations to deal with the British forces if and when they came to the village to carry out their threat. In this I was to be assisted by Sean Hayes and his company.

(3) Tommy Donovan, the Battalion Commandant, to go to Hayden's of Parson's Hill (between Drangan and Killenaule) where Hayes and myself were to report back to him that night, and where Sadlier and his party were also to report on their return from Killenaule. All would then go to Drangan for what we termed the "Defence of Drangan".

Sean Hayes joined me that evening in Drangan and, having made our plans for the night, we went to Hayden's to report to Donovan at about 8 or 9 p.m. Donovan was not there.

Thinking that he might be at King's of St. John's Town, we went on there. The house was in darkness but, in answer to our knocking, Mrs. King opened the door. She asked me in rather frightened tones

³² Augustteijn *ibid* p 152

³³ Marnane, *ibid* p 335.

³⁴ <http://www.cairogang.com/awards-medals/obe-mbe.html>

³⁵ Kautt, W.H. *Ground Truths – British Army Operations in the War of Independence* (Kildare 2014) p 204.

what had happened and, as I paused rather surprised, she added: "Tommy Donovan is dead He was shot tonight in Killenaule". This was a bit of a shock to Hayes and myself. Subsequently, I learned that before leaving for Killenaule, Sadlier had some difference of opinion with Donovan about the plans for when they got to Killenaule. Donovan decided to go with them. In Killenaule they failed to contact the scouts (if the scouts were ever put out) and, after waiting for some time, Sadlier was of the opinion that the job should be called off for that night. Taking two members of the party with him (Paddy Ryan of Fethard and Pat Clancy of Ballyuskey) Donovan went up the street and knocked at the door of Connell's public house. After some hesitation, Mrs. Connell admitted them. Lieutenant Hueton and the sergeant were not there. Donovan and his two men then left the public house and took up a position on the opposite side of the street and, shortly afterwards, Hueton and the sergeant left the barracks and came down the street in the direction of Connell's. Donovan then made the mistake of crossing the street in the bright moonlight in front of them. He was wearing a trench coat which, I suppose, helped to give him away if he was not known. The sergeant shot him while he (Donovan) was still in the act of getting his Colt automatic out of his pocket. I also learned at the time that Donovan was not dead when he was brought into the barracks and that in the barracks Lieutenant Hueton fired a shot at him which proved fatal. The threat to come out to burn Drangan did not materialise on that night or on any other night³⁶.

O'Carroll's account of the events in Killenaule was second hand and the details of the shooting cannot be relied on. However his account of the original plan and O'Donovan's fatal departure from the plan has a ring of truth about it³⁷.

³⁶ WS 1,243 Thomas O'Carroll, Adjutant 7th Battalion.

³⁷ An entirely different account of the events of that night are contained in an anonymous paper contained in the Sean O'Mahony papers TL/A/48B/50 dealing with the 1920 attack on Killenaule Military Barracks. This is held in the Tipperary County Library in Thurles and maintains that the attacking party took a bottle of whiskey with them in the car from Drangan to Killenaule and O'Donovan consumed some. It is unclear whether this account can be relied on as many of the other details in the paper are factually incorrect.

To understand O'Donovan's foolhardy initiative, it is important to understand some contemporary events. The 25 year old, second in command of the 3rd Brigade, Sean Treacy, was killed in a shoot-out with the military in Dublin on 14th October. Terence MacSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork, had died on 25th October after 73 days on hunger strike. Kevin Barry was due to be executed the day after the Killenaule attack. This had national prominence and emotions were high in the ranks of the Volunteers. In addition, O'Donovan's close friend and comrade from the 7th Battalion, Mick Burke, had been arrested and badly beaten by a military party under Hooton, having tried to pull the pin from a bomb he was carrying in order to throw it in the direction of the soldiers. According to his family, Burke was beaten beyond recognition. He went on hunger strike in Cork jail which lasted 90 days. He came off the strike at the request of the national leadership but he was not expected to survive. No doubt this was an emotional time for O'Donovan who was described by a historian of the period as impetuous³⁸. Ernie O'Malley saw him as *'eager and willing to fight. He was wild and wildness counted'*³⁹.

Donovan had been under continuous pressure from the military and police. He was arrested frequently. In early 1920 he was interned accused of acting, or having acted or being about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety and the Defence of the Realm⁴⁰. He was sentenced to two years hard labour for possession of arms, ammunition and explosives. In response, he described himself as a soldier of the Irish Republic. After a hunger strike, he was later released. In September 1920, military files recorded an instruction that he be arrested without warrant, being suspected of a recent murder⁴¹. An informer had offered to locate him for a reward of £30⁴². Increasingly, he had been involved in violent activities and like Sean Treacy, he took more chances than were wise⁴³.

Josie Clancy was sent to Killenaule Barracks to identify the remains of O'Donovan, indicating his closeness to the Clancy family and the fear of sending an adult into the charged atmosphere of the army barracks⁴⁴. The Weekly Freeman newspaper reported widespread fear in the locality of military reprisals. It also recorded that the *'deceased saw the inside of many jails as a political prisoner and was more than once on hunger strike. He was identified with the volunteers but for some time past has been 'on the run'*⁴⁵.

In his witness statement, James Leahy from Poulnacapple, who was a member of the Kilkenny Brigade, recalled a further episode arising from the movement of the wounded Volunteers

'The officer in charge of the British forces in Callan was a Captain Banim. He was a District Inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary. One night I learned that he had gone in civilian clothes to visit Briarsfield House near Mullinahone. With two others I went to Briarsfield and closed the avenue gate

³⁸ Maher, Jim *The Flying Column – West Kilkenny 1916 – 1921* p 36.

³⁹ O'Malley, Ernie *Raids and Rallies* p 43.

⁴⁰ WO 35/139, National Archives, London.

⁴¹ This was a reference to the shooting of RIC Sergeant Tobin who was killed in an ambush near Cashel.

⁴² WO 35/110, National Archives, London.

⁴³ Augusteijn, Joost *Why was Tipperary so active in the war of independence*, Tipperary Historical Journal 2006, p 213.

⁴⁴ Kiely, Josie *ibid.* By coincidence, Josie Kiely was buried almost 67 years later in a grave in New Birmingham beside Tommy O'Donovan's final resting place. In later years her family recalled her reminiscing about 'poor Tommy Donovan'. She had married Denis Kiely from Glengoole. She was the mother of 15 children, 14 of which survived to adulthood. Josie was awarded a military service pension and medal in the 1950's. She explained her late applications were due to her fear that she would not receive fair treatment from the previous Fianna Fail Government due to her support for the Free State side in the civil war.

⁴⁵ Weekly Freeman, 6 November 1920.

so that he would have to get out of his car when leaving. As Briarsfield was in the Mullinahone Company area, I sent for Paddy Egan, the O/C of that company. Egan told me that there were two wounded Volunteers lying in a house nearby and, on that account, we decided not to shoot Banim that night. The two wounded Volunteers were Patrick Clancy of Killusty and Patrick Ryan of Fethard. They had been wounded in Killenaule on the night of October 31st when my old friend Tommy Donovan was killed⁴⁶.

Pat Clancy ended up in the home of family friends, the Vaughan's of Garryricken, completing his recovery⁴⁷.

Thomas O'Carroll gave an account of the killing of Pat Clancy.

Patrick Clancy, one of the two men who accompanied Donovan to Connell's public house in Killenaule was wounded on that occasion - He was sent to friends of his at Garryricken, near Callan, to recuperate. He was a Lieutenant in 'A' (Drangan) Company. When he was all right I sent him a dispatch to report to a company parade⁴⁸. I attended the parade after which Clancy mentioned that he was anxious to visit his people at Ballyuskey. He was armed with a police carbine which, against my advice, he insisted on bringing with him. He was accompanied on his way home to Ballyuskey by two unarmed members of the company, Joseph Byrne and James Maloney. It so happened that on this particular night, 18th Nov. 1920⁴⁹, a patrol of military left Killenaule to meet a patrol from Mullinahone at Drangan. The patrol from Killenaule was attracted by a youngster who was flashing a flash lamp in the yard of Hickey's house at New Line, Newtown, Drangan. Some of the patrol surrounded the house, while the remainder took up a position on the road. It was dark at the time and Clancy and his two pals walked straight into the party on the road. Clancy had the carbine slung over his shoulder and when he received the order to put his hands up he had no chance either to use it or dispose of it. An officer named Lieutenant Lichfield (sic), who was in Hickey's Yard investigating the flashing of the lights, was brought on the scene by one of the N.C.Os. Lichfield walked straight up to Clancy and shot him dead on the road. Byrne and Maloney were taken prisoner and they were detained in custody until the general release after the signing of the Treaty in December 1921⁵⁰.

Pat Clancy's brother, Larry, was about 200 yards behind his brother and was apprehended minutes later. It is obvious that he was returning from the parade in Drangan and he was arrested with two comrades, Jimmy Maloney and Joseph Byrne. Martin Clancy was further behind, walking alone. When he was arrested and asked his name, he had the presence of mind to initially say 'Martin Casey'. All of them were taken under military escort to Mullinahone but Martin was released⁵¹.

⁴⁶ WS 1,335 James Leahy, Commandant 7th Battalion, Kilkenny Brigade.

⁴⁷ Information from Johnny Cody, Chicago. The Vaughan's house was occasionally raided by the military with memories of beds being bayoneted.

⁴⁸ This parade took place in Drangan.

⁴⁹ The correct date was the 19th November.

⁵⁰ WS 1,243

⁵¹ Clancy, Ed – letter to Tipperary Star 27th January 1968.

When brought to trial, Larry gave evidence of the events of that night⁵². He said the officer told his brother to leave down his hands and proceeded to search him. Joseph Byrne also said that Patrick Clancy had his hands down by his side at the time he was shot. Larry's evidence was reported;

He was halted a quarter of a mile from the village of Drangan, placed under arrest and marched into a farmyard at that place. He recognised Jas. Moloney, Jos. Byrne standing under a military guard. He saw a man lying on the ground, breathing heavily and appeared to be dying. He asked one of the men on guard who he was, and the reply he got was 'I expect he is your pal'. He whispered to one of the men who was under arrest and asked who he was and he answered 'Pat'. Accused asked the man on guard, would he allow him to get a priest and he referred him to the officer. Just then the officer walked out from the house to the wounded man who was about four paces from the door, lying on the ground. He bent down over the man, caught him by the hair of the head, and lifted his head off the ground and said 'I wonder if this b----- is done enough'. The officer then said he possibly could live. Accused tipped the officer on the hip to draw his attention, saying 'excuse me sir, would you allow someone to go for a priest for the dying man, that he (the accused) could get a girl to go as it was only about 200 yards distant where the clergyman lived'. He replied 'you know this man then' and accused answered that he did and told him that his name was Clancy, and that he was deceased's brother. The officer then said 'I will give you priests – those who murder need no priests' – at the same time giving him a blow of his fist on his nose, which bled. With two or three of his men, they punched him and knocked him down.

In an internal report to his military superiors, Litchford denied all of Larry Clancy's allegations. The military also took steps to prevent a repeat of this type of allegation 'adverse to the conduct of His Majesty's forces' being made in open court and should not be published without their right of rebuttal⁵³.

As had happened with O'Donovan, Josie had to identify the remains of her brother in Mullinahone Barracks. She also visited her brother Larry who, along with Byrne and Maloney and the young Hickey, had been arrested and charged with unlawful assembly. Clancy and Hickey were acquitted after a trial in Cork but Byrne and Maloney were sentenced to 18 months hard labour. On another occasion, Josie succinctly recorded that Larry was arrested and charged 'for murdering his majesty's forces'⁵⁴.

Three days after the Drangan shooting, a military Court of Enquiry was held in Killenaule. Most of the evidence confirmed Thomas O'Carroll's description of the events. Litchford gave evidence. He stated that one of his men advised him that a civilian had been caught with a carbine.

I then went out to investigate. Just as I came up to him, I said 'what is your name?' He replied Patrick Clancy and as he said it his right hand went down to his pocket whereupon I promptly shot him. I was present when a pistol was removed from his pocket by one of the men of my patrol immediately after he had fallen to the ground. I was also present when a quantity of ammunition was taken from his pockets. I went into Mullinahone to try to get a Ford car to take the body to Killenaule but could not get a car. Next morning, two Crossley Tenders arrived and with the County Inspector from Clonmel. I placed a Lewis gun and an escort on one tender and fetched the body to Killenaule.

⁵² WO 35/127, National Archives, London.

⁵³ WO 35/127 *ibid*.

⁵⁴ Kiely, Josie *ibid*

Other soldiers confirmed that Pat Clancy was shot in his head, over his right eye. He had a pistol with six rounds, an RIC carbine and thirty three rounds of ammunition, two detonators and a map⁵⁵.

It was inevitable that Pat Clancy would have wished to return home for a visit. He had been shot and wounded and ferried from one safe house to another. He was a nineteen year old youth who naturally wanted to visit his homestead where he would have been welcomed in his own right but also for his role in the struggle. He may well have wished to display his weapons to his parents and siblings. It is clear that his superiors did not oppose him visiting his family but there were reservations about him bringing weapons. His decision to go armed certainly appears foolhardy. The fact that his two unarmed comrades were not executed out of hand would imply that he may have survived if he was unarmed. However, we do not know if he was a marked man whose only hope of survival from an encounter with the military was to be in a position to defend himself. He had been on active service and was described by the police as a 'well known Sinn Feiner'⁵⁶. He had attempted to kill a prominent British officer and may well have been responsible for other attacks. His brother, Larry, also believed that he would have been shot that night if he was found to be a brother of Pat. No reliance can be placed on the soldiers' evidence to the Court of Enquiry. All those who gave evidence had the same tale of a quick movement towards his pocket which allegedly took place with little or no visibility in the pitch dark. Any conclusion can only be a matter of speculation in the absence of any other evidence.

However, it is worth noting that a file prepared for the Under Secretary in Dublin Castle by military GHQ in anticipation of parliamentary questions, listed Patrick Clancy's killing under the heading 'attempting to escape'⁵⁷. A consistent narrative was difficult to maintain.

The day after the killing of Pat Clancy, while his body was still in the Mullinahone Barracks and his brother and three others were being held prisoner, members of the Tipperary football team began to gather for their journey to Dublin for a game against Dublin on what soon became known as Bloody Sunday. Most of the players joined the train in Fethard while the remainder joined it at Templemore. A group of soldiers then boarded the train in Ballybrophy. During the journey, some words were exchanged and a melee developed between the soldiers and some of the Tipperary players. Some football boots were thrown out of a window but the players had the best of the contest as they were joined by the remainder of the team who rushed in from other carriages. Two soldiers were thrown from the train and the remainder left the train at the next stop. Six of the Tipperary players were from the Mullinahone club. It is inevitable that they knew the prominent local sportsman and volunteer, Pat Clancy, and had heard of his killing the previous night. The soldiers were members of the Lincolnshire Regiment⁵⁸.

⁵⁵ *Proceedings of a court of enquiry into the death of Patrick Clancy*, WO 35/147A National Archives, London

⁵⁶ The RIC Inspectors report for October 1920, signed by L.T. Gates stated that 'Armed bands of young men, on the run, were keeping this Riding in a state of disorder and unrest'. The November report in Gates handwriting says 'During the month a well known Sinn Feiner attempted to draw an automatic pistol when held up by a military patrol near Killenaule and was shot dead. There was a police carbine and much ammunition found on him'.

⁵⁷ WO 35/145, National Archives, London.

⁵⁸ There are varied accounts of the incident on the train. See Foley, Michael *The Bloodied Field* Dublin 2014 pp 146-147. See also <https://www.headstuff.org/culture/history/bloody-sunday-croke-park/> and Walsh, Denis *The Day Croke Park Bled*, Sunday Tribune 19th November 1995. The Tipperary player, Michael Hogan, who was shot in Croke Park the following day had delivered messages from Sean Hogan of the 3rd Brigade to the Dublin leadership.

In a post script to the event, a Cork IRA battalion adjutant, Tom Barry⁵⁹, later recalled an ambush he led around 10th December 1920 near Mitchelstown, They captured some mail bags and in the search of the mails afterwards *'we found three silver medals - one which I possess now. It is inscribed, "To Lieutenant E.R. Litchford, Lincolnshire Regiment, for gallant conduct in Ireland, 19th November, 1920". 'This was the first time I became aware they were awarded decorations for gallant conduct in Ireland'*⁶⁰.

The award was obviously granted to Litchford for having killed Pat Clancy.

Cousins of the Clancy's, the Slattery family of Drangan collected funds to send Pat's brother Martin to America to keep him out of danger, fearing the loss of a second family member. Martin refused to leave and became more involved with the Volunteers, reaching the rank of Adjutant⁶¹.

There was a significant escalation in the war at the end of 1920 and the beginning of 1921. Casualties grew on both sides. The 7th Tipperary and Kilkenny Battalions worked on joint operations through their Active Service Units. This included an attack on a cycle patrol of RIC and Army leading to the deaths of a RIC Sergeant and the wounding of a Black and Tan. In January, a mixed convoy of military and police were attacked at Poynestown, just outside Tommy O'Donovan's birthplace, New Birmingham. Two soldiers of the Lincolnshire Regiment were killed and seven wounded⁶². While the attack was led by the Flying Column of the 2nd (Mid – Tipperary) Brigade, it took place in the 7th Battalions area of South Tipperary. In retaliation, several properties in Glengoole and the village of New Birmingham were destroyed as an official reprisal.

William Campbell was an RIC Constable based in Mullinahone. It would appear that he regularly passed on military intelligence to local volunteers. In early March 1921, he received information in the barracks that a farm house in Knockroe, overlooking the Mullinahone Drangan Road was to be a venue for a council meeting of the 7th Battalion and a raid was planned by the Army. He told two local IRA members of the plans but his warning was ignored or never got through⁶³.

Sean E. Walsh recalled;

On Sunday evening. March 6th, 1921, I was present at a battalion council meeting which was held in an outhouse on a farm at Knockroe near Drangan. This outhouse was situated in an isolated spot on the brow of a hill, and at the back of the hill there was a deep ravine covered by gorse and shrubbery. The nearest road was about 200 yards away. As far as I can now recollect, there were twelve battalion and company officers present. I was armed with an automatic revolver and I cannot say if any of the others were armed with short arms. I am sure none of the officers had rifles or shotguns. The meeting lasted for about half an hour, and before it ended I sent out one man to scout around and he reported

⁵⁹ Not to be confused with the author of the same name of *'My fight for Irish Freedom'*.

⁶⁰ WS 430 Thomas Barry, Battalion Adjutant, County Cork

⁶¹ Information from Tommy Clancy. These funds were eventually used to send the youngest Clancy, Ned, to Rockwell College – a most unusual education at the time for someone from such an impoverished background.

⁶² Marnane, *ibid* p 376.

⁶³ Marnane, *ibid* p 423.

that all was clear. Five minutes later as we were breaking up I saw from the doorway some British soldiers who had arrived cross-country in extended order. At the time I saw them they were about to occupy a position behind a stone wall not more than 15 yards from the outhouse door. I fired one shot with my automatic and this had the effect of making the soldiers take cover for a few seconds at least. When I went to fire again I found that my automatic had jammed. Meanwhile, with one exception, those who were with me had got out of the outhouse, around to the back and headed for the cover of the furze and gorse in the ravine. The exception was Dick Fleming, Captain of the Moyglass Company. He seemed to hesitate and was killed almost beside me as I left the doorway by the first, or one of the first, volleys fired by the British soldiers. In addition to rifle and machine-gun fire, the British soldiers fired rifle grenades and two more of our men, Martin Clancy and Patrick Hackett⁶⁴, both of Drangan, were killed before they reached cover. A fourth man, Denis Croke of Laffan's Bridge, was wounded and captured and my brother Maurice, who went to Croke's assistance when he fell wounded, was captured. Our casualties might have been higher still had I not seen two or three others going towards an open space which was under fire by the military. I attracted their attention by whistling and waved them back to the ravine by using the cover provided in the ravine and later moving across country, we got away towards Cloneen and were given food and shelter.

Thomas O'Carroll was also in Knockroe.

On Sunday evening, the 6th March 1921, I attended a Battalion Council meeting which was held in an disused stable at Knockroe. There had been an arms fund collection in the battalion area shortly before and the company officers were handing in the money collected at this meeting. The officers from the Ballingarry Company had not arrived and we hung on for a considerable time so that they would not be disappointed if they came. Meanwhile, our principal scout, who was posted on a nearby hill, left his post and came into the stable. As the meeting was almost over we took no notice of him. There were 12 officers including myself and Denis Sadlier at the meeting. Of the 12, I think only Sadlier, myself and perhaps one or two others were armed. At length it was decided to wait no longer and I called the meeting to attention and was about to give the order 'Dismiss' when someone remarked "Look outside". Glancing through what had once been a window, I saw the steel helmets of British troops advancing in extended order towards the old stable. There was only one exit through the doorway and that was facing the oncoming soldiers. I was more than familiar with the countryside around Knockroe and I felt that if we could reach a fox covert through which ran a ravine some short distance to the rear of the stable, we would have a good chance of escaping. There was no time for any discussion, so, telling them to follow me, I rushed out the door and reached some cover provided by a low wall to the right of the stable. Six or seven of the party, including Sadlier, followed me. From the cover of the wall, Sadlier fired a few shots at the soldiers, made them take cover for a few moments at least. We succeeded in getting around the stable and, under fire from the troops, we managed to reach the fox covert and eventually the ravine. Here Sadlier parted from us and went away on his own. While picking my steps through the ravine, I had the misfortune to be knocked down into thick slimy mud by one of my own party. I was covered with it almost up to the neck and it left me almost powerless to move. I discarded my overcoat and, dragged myself through some high grass and furze in an effort to remove the mud. In addition to rifle fire, the troops were now firing rifle grenades into the covert. Leaving the

⁶⁴ Two other members of the Hackett family were members of A Company of the 7th Battalion, Andrew and John.

ravine, I had to cross an open space which was under fire from another small party of 3 or 4 troops, but by running diagonally I succeeded in joining the others safely, and we made our way across country to Cloneen. There I discovered that a bullet had ripped through my coat at the shoulder.

To revert to the remaining members of the party at the stable, two of them, Martin Clancy of Drangan and Denis Croke of Laffan's Bridge, turned left when they came out the doorway. They had got about 150 yards from the stable when they came directly under the fire of the British troops. Clancy fell wounded at the side of a ditch and when the soldiers came up to him they shot him dead. Denis Croke was wounded and captured. Patrick Hackett of Drangan was riddled with Lewis gun fire and died on the side of a hill directly opposite to and about 100 yards from the stable. Apparently he ran straight towards the soldiers. Richard Fleming of Moyglass remained in the stable and was killed there by a grenade which the soldiers flung into the stable⁶⁵.

Lieutenant M.N. Ormond of the 1st Lincolnshire Regiment gave evidence to a Military Court of Inquiry the following week. He gave the following evidence;

At Knockroe, New Drangan, on 6th March 1921 at about 16.00 hours, I was in charge of a mixed patrol. On approaching a ruin some shots were fired at the patrol and a party of around 15 armed rebels ran out of the ruin towards a deep ravine. The Lewis gun section opened fire on the right flank killing one rebel and wounding another. Some of the remainder ran past the left flank of my patrol and one armed rebel was shot there by rifle fire. The remainder escaped into the ravine. We proceeded to comb the ravine and two rebels came out of it and surrendered. One of them was wounded. The unwounded gave his name as Morris Walsh of Curraghtonena. The wounded prisoner's name was Denis Croke.

We then gave up the pursuit, collected the casualties and took them to the Court House at Mullinahone. The next day, one of the dead and the other wounded man were identified as Martin Clancy and Patrick Hackett respectively.

Morris Walsh, after surrender stated to me that he had been sent with a message to O/C 3rd Battalion (Brigade?), the gist of which was that the receiver of the message was to assemble his men at Mullinahone at midnight 6-7th March 1921 to attack the police barracks. He refused to give any information about the description of the man who received and sent the message.

We picked up two service rifles and two bandoliers of S.A.A⁶⁶ containing about 50 rounds of ammunition. The rifles had charged magazines and were loaded.

Private J.R. Marsh was in charge of the Lewis gun.

He gave the following evidence;

When approaching an old ruin we saw some armed rebels. We extended and advanced towards them and they fired some shots at us. I opened fire with the Lewis gun at the barn door to cover Lance Corporal Wymer who advanced towards it. I then advanced and when about 15 yards from the door a rebel came to the doorway and fired at me with a revolver. He missed me and I shot him. Later we

⁶⁵ O'Carroll *ibid*

⁶⁶ Small arms ammunition.

advanced to the ravine and I emptied a drum along the bottom of it. Two prisoners came out and surrendered.

Captain J.H. Howitt R.A.M.C. gave evidence of having examined Martin Clancy's body.

Gunshot wounds were identified in right and left legs, both bones fractured, right side of body and front of chest, the last named penetrating the heart. The wounds were such as, in my opinion, might have been caused by fire from a Lewis gun. Death was due to shock and haemorrhage.

It is clear that Martin's death was instantaneous and the fatal shots were fired by the Lewis gunner, Private J.R. Marsh. Martin Clancy was later described as an Adjutant in the 7th Battalion but, unlike his brother Pat, he was not known to the military according to the Intelligence Officer of the Lincolnshire Regiment for the area⁶⁷.

The word of the Volunteers' deaths spread in the locality and, as before, Josie Clancy was sent to identify the dead. She wrote;

I was compelled the next day to go to Mullinahone again and identify the dead. As in the fight, the IRA got separated and the dead were unknown, and I may add this was just a little too much for me, as I got such a shock to see my second brother dead in a couple of months⁶⁸.

One can only imagine the shock for a 16 year old to unexpectedly find her dead brother. She had not expected to find her brother as the family had received reports that he was seen in Killusty after the shootings. She was so shocked that she was unable to cycle her bicycle and was assisted in the barracks by a local RIC man named McGuire who had received the tip off from Campbell⁶⁹. She wrote that this caused a breakdown in her health that lasted over twelve months, rendering her unfit for work of any kind. Josie recalled that Martin's body was thrown disrespectfully on a mound of coal. While she observed him and she being in a state of shock, a nerve seemed to move in his body. Thinking he could still be alive she threw herself on him to embrace him. But he was well dead but the incident would have increased her trauma⁷⁰.

On 10th March 1920, the remains of the three dead volunteers were removed from Fethard for internment. The three coffins were placed on the back of a lorry. Following the lorry were two cars carrying the relatives of the deceased men. The breastplates contained their IRA rank and 'Died for Ireland'. The coffins were draped by the tricolour flag. A large force of military, with a machine gun, took up a position near the church and remarkably stood to attention as the remains were borne out of the building. The number attending the funeral was limited by the military. It was intended that the day was to be marked by general mourning and all shops closed but the military compelled them to

⁶⁷ WO 35/147A/64 *Courts of Inquiry in lieu of Inquests*, National Archives, London.

⁶⁸ Kiely, Josie *ibid*

⁶⁹ Information from Tommy Clancy.

⁷⁰ Josie Kiely account to family members.

reopen until the coffins passed by⁷¹. The funeral was attended by members of the active service unit of the Kilkenny 7th Battalion. They met their Tipperary comrades in Killusty and they identified Litchford as the foxy haired officer who had killed Pat Clancy and they also blamed him for the massacre at Knockroe as they believed he had ordered rifle and machine gun fire and explosive grenades to be directed at unarmed or lightly armed volunteer officers⁷². The two battalions decided to carry out a combined attack on the Mullinahone Barracks to restore the prestige and morale of their men⁷³. This never came to pass as, having returned from the funeral to Garryricken House, near Callan in Kilkenny, the Kilkenny volunteers found themselves ambushed in a significant engagement with police and military. Most of the ASU escaped but several police and Black and Tans were killed in the engagement.

Lieutenant Litchford continued to have a high profile and remained a target due to his treatment of Volunteer prisoners. O'Carroll was arrested soon after the Knockroe incident and was used as a hostage as army units travelled around the area. This was common practice as the military sought to use civilian prisoners as human shields to protect their convoys.

Once in Mullinahone a Mrs. Ryan, seeing my plight in the lorry, approached with some tea for me. One of the officers, Lieutenant Lichfield, already mentioned as the officer who shot Patrick Clancy, pointed his gun at her and ordered her away at once. I was not permitted to accept the cup of tea.

Litchford was now a constant target as his enemies sought to kill the 'foxy officer'.

James Leahy recalled;

I received a despatch saying that the officer in charge of the British forces in Mullinahone had gone with 3 soldiers in a commandeered motor car to Tipperary Town. I cannot now recall what his correct name was but we always called him "the foxy officer". We assumed that he was attending some kind of an inquiry into the shooting at Knockroe on the previous Sunday. The six of us (i.e. the A.S.U.) and Sean Hayes of Moyglass, who had come to Ballymack with us from Ballingarry, went that evening to Cappagh Cross, about 3 miles from Mullinahone on the Mullinahone-Fethard road, in the hope that we could ambush "the foxy officer" and his party on their way back from Tipperary Town. It was a desperately cold night and we waited until 3 a.m., but no sign of our quarry. Next day at Tobin's of Kyleaclea we received word that he had returned to Mullinahone by another route the night before and that he had left again that morning, presumably on another visit to Tipperary Town where the headquarters of his regiment, the Lincolnshires, was situated. Reinforced by three local Volunteers with shotguns, we occupied the ambush position at Cappagh Cross again that night. Again we remained there until 3 a.m., but again we were disappointed. On the following day, Friday, we got word that he was back in Mullinahone, and that night we decided that Sean Hayes would go to Drangan for a few

⁷¹ Freeman's Journal, 14 November 1921.

⁷² There is no evidence that Litchford was involved in the Knockroe ambush. In contrast to the Pat Clancy inquest, he gave no evidence to the Martin Clancy Inquest.

⁷³ Maher, *ibid* p 81.

extra men and that we would meet him on Saturday night and go into Mullinahone for a further attempt to get "the foxy officer"

Separately, Edward Aylward of the Kilkenny Brigade recalled;

Another incident which comes to mind concerns an individual who was known to us as "The Foxy Officer". I do not know whether he was an Intelligence Officer or not, but he had been in Killenaule and I think he had also been stationed in Tipperary town. Everybody in the 3rd Tipperary Brigade and in our Battalion area was anxious to get this man who had made himself particularly unpleasant and was looked upon as a dangerous character. I got word one night that he was in Mullinahone and that we would most likely find him in a certain publichouse there, where he often adjourned to play the piano and have a few drinks. I got a lot of the men from the Ahenure Company together and placed them at the back of the barracks, with instructions that when they heard our fire at the publichouse where we intended to go to shoot "The Foxy Officer", they would open fire on the barracks to keep the enemy indoor. That was the plan, but it miscarried. Three or four of our men went along at the back of the houses opposite the house where the Foxy Officer was, and Jimmie Kelly and I went along the street and stood in a doorway near the pub. In this way we thought that if the men on the opposite side of the Street, failed to get him when he came out, we could get him if he came our way. Whichever way he went we could have a crack at him. One of the houses which the other men passed behind across the street was the house of one of the ordinary R.I.C. men and as this fellow was at home and heard the men walking down the back gardens, thinking perhaps it was someone trying to steal something, he came out and followed them, coming in behind them to the empty house opposite the pub where they had got into. He was in uniform and when he suddenly appeared in the house coming in on their rear and glimpsing his uniform in the semi-darkness, one of the men shot him. Immediately this shot was heard, the men behind the barracks, assuming that that was the shot fired at the Foxy Officer, opened fire on the barracks and then, of course, the fat was in the fire. The soldiers in the barracks began replying to the fire and the Foxy Officer and the others with him, guessing at the situation, did not emerge from the pub. There was nothing to do, therefore, but retire. That incident took place, I think, sometime in April 1921 and the name of the policeman who was shot was Grace⁷⁴.

The policeman was not named Grace. In fact, he was Campbell – the RIC man that had attempted to warn the IRA of the fact that the Knockroe meeting was to be attacked. Campbell, a native of County Leitrim, was on sick leave at the time. He was a married man with three children, the youngest just a few months old⁷⁵. He was, in reality, the final victim of the Knockroe incident, shot and killed on 20th March 1921⁷⁶.

After his service in Ireland, Litchford was assigned to the Tank Corps, becoming a Lieutenant Colonel at the end of 1941 during the Second World War. He ended his military career as Deputy Chief Inspector in the Inspectorate of Fighting vehicles and he died in Bury St Edmonds in Suffolk in 1984.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ Aylward, Edward WS 980 O/C 7th Battalion, Kilkenny Brigade.

⁷⁵ Marnane, *ibid* pp 423-424.

⁷⁶ Knockroe continued to be a meeting place and was used by the anti-treaty forces in the Civil War to plan an attack on Carrick on Suir. (E. Hall. Drangan Co-Operative Creamery Society Ltd. A Century of Success 1897 – 1997 (Kilkenny: 1997) p 151.

⁷⁷ <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/records/4476959/colonel-e-r-litchford-british-army-inspectorates-defence/>

Postscript 1.

I was staying at Kennedy's of Silverfort near Moyglass when the Truce came into operation on 11th July. There were quite a number of us there at the time and we had been notified of the Truce by Brigade Headquarters. To celebrate the cessation of hostilities, the local members of Cumann na mBan arranged a dance in Moyglass for that night. As it was still early in the day, we got a few horses and traps and drove to Drangan. On our way we met a British armoured car and a lorry of troops. It was then about 1 p.m., or about one hour after the Truce had come into operation. I was in the first car and wondered for the moment what action the British troops would take. However, saying to myself that the Truce must be on, I made no effort to conceal the rifles and equipment which we had with us. When the armoured car came alongside, the soldiers on it saluted smartly as did those on the lorry as they too passed by. We returned their salute and continued on our way to Drangan.

Thomas O'Carroll, Adjutant, 7th Battalion, Third Tipperary Brigade.

Postscript 2.

In the dying weeks of the Civil War, a group of republican irregulars in the Knockmealdown Mountains sought to escape from a sweep by the national (Free State) army. One of those seeking to escape was the Commander in Chief of the anti-treaty forces, Liam Lynch. As the small group of irregulars sought to escape over the mountain, they were spotted standing on rocks and the officer in charge of the pursuing soldiers ordered that his men fire at the escaping party. A man was observed to fall. His comrades sought to drag him away but, under fire, they turned leaving him on the hillside. As the soldiers approached the wounded man, some thought they had shot and captured Eamonn de Valera as the wounded man wore glasses like Dev's. As the soldiers approached, he said 'get me a priest and a doctor, I'm dying'.

The wounded man was Liam Lynch. The officer in command of the soldiers was Larry Clancy who had taken the Free State side in the Civil War. Over the next few hours the two conversed. In 1953, Clancy recorded his memories of that morning.

Lynch asked him;

'Are you one of the old crowd, the IRA, I mean' Clancy replied that he had two brothers killed during the Tan war, with smoking guns in their hands and that he had been tried by Field-General Court-Martial at Victoria Barracks, Cork for murdering his majesty's forces and police. Lynch raised his right hand and said *'Shake hands, I am one of the old crowd too'* and with that, tears began to stream down his face. Clancy wrote; *'With my hands clasped in his, I too, sobbed. God Pray for me. All this is a pity. It should never have happened. I am glad now I am going from it all. Poor Ireland. Poor Ireland.'*⁷⁸

⁷⁸ Evening Herald, February 1, 1972.

Postscript 3.

Obituary of Senator Bill Quirke, 2005.

Bill Quirke took the anti-treaty side in the terrible Civil War of the early 1920s. One day, the story goes, he came face to face with Larry Clancy, a neighbour from Drangan who was on the pro-treaty side. Both of them were armed. Bill is alleged to have defused what might have been a serious situation by saying, "Larry, if I shoot you or you shoot me, there is not much in that for either of us, so why don't we both have sense and go home?"⁷⁹

Postscript 4.

Under the Army Pensions Act of 1923, Martin Clancy senior was awarded a gratuity of £100 in respect of the death of his son, Pat and £50 in respect of his second son Martin. His wife, Margaret received a small allowance. The gratuity of £50 was accepted by Martin senior under protest and the Ministry of Defence was advised that he would not have done so 'except that he is very poor and much in need of the money'⁸⁰.

Endpiece.

In 1952 Josie wrote that she hadn't applied for a pension under the 1934 Act as she was not aware that women were eligible for pensions. In the same submission she recalled 'the 7th Battalion area to which I belong was a most active area between 1919 and July 1921. As I was Vice President of the Cumann na mBan for the area we were kept very busy as whole time members attending to wounded, laundry, identification of dead in enemy hands⁸¹. The monument depicted on the cover was originally dedicated to the memory of the three Clancy Brothers. As the role of women in the struggle for independence is only now beginning to achieve proper recognition, it was timely to publicly recognise the role of their sister, Josie, by adding her name to the monument a hundred years after these historic events.

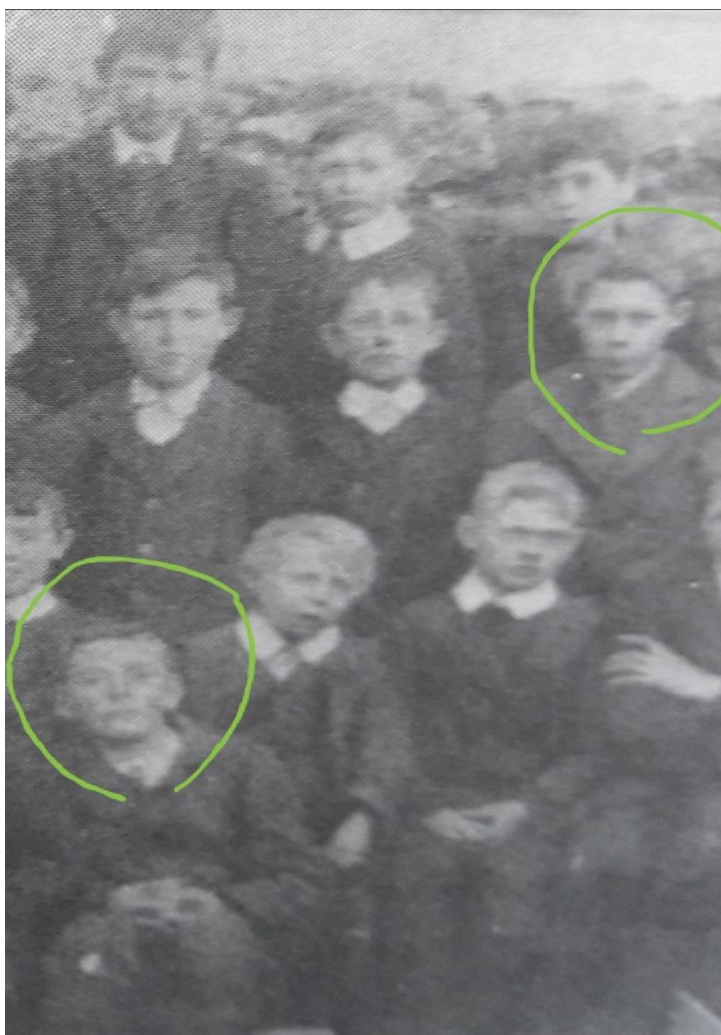
⁷⁹ Fethard News, 14th March 2005. Quirke was one of the irregulars with Liam Lynch when he was shot and killed in April 1923.

⁸⁰ Letter dated 18th April 1925, Military Archives.

⁸¹ Military Service Pensions, *Josie (Clancy) Kiely*.



A contemporary map which highlights that most of the events described were within a five mile radius with military, police, civilians and volunteers living and fighting in close proximity.



Martin Clancy (marked left) and Pat Clancy (marked right) in a school photograph taken in Drangan around 1912-13.



In addition to the attacks on the police, an attempt was made to shoot a military officer at Killenaule on Sunday night. Details are lacking, but it is said that one of the attackers was killed.

Tom O'Donovan⁸²

Come listen to a story, a sad tale I will tell

Of a noble hearted hero who for old Ireland fell

Tom Donovan was this hero's name, from the Abbey of Glengoole

Who worked with all his might and main to conquer English rule.

In 1916 he joined Sinn Fein, to his colours he proved true

To Frongoch Jail he went in pain with Irish comrades two

Though then a lad of scarce eighteen with courage bold and brave

To his noble heart what did it mean, if his country he could save.

When Irish men demand that those prisoners should be free

Their voice also commanded unconditional it should be

With all old England's tyranny, she was compelled to yield

And our boys were set at Liberty again to take the field.

⁸² Tommy Clancy, Ballyluskey. The words of the song were found by Bridget Moroney and sung by Michael Hanrahan.

Tom Donovan was the first of them again to take his gun
And he joined up with those brave lads, who then went on the run
He dodged the black-coat bloodhounds for a time you all know well
Till he was surrounded in a house convenient to Clonmel.

He found himself in Mountjoy jail with many a brave young man
His courage never did him fail or his mind to make a plan
The hunger strikers he did join for holy Ireland's cause
And succeeded for to undermine and to break those British laws.

The cat and mouse act was no toy for such an Irish man
He called his men together to tell them of his plan
Those Irish Peeler's barracks we will have to burn down
For I could not stand that cruel mark, the harp below the crown.

On June 3rd his voice rang out with his famous volunteers
Around his own loved Drangan where he spent his boyhood years
The barracks there he captured from his most deadly foe
Who could give their lives to capture him and prove his overthrow.

We next found Tom at Oola⁸³ with a heart both light and gay
He was one of those brave heroes that was foremost in the pray
Where Lucas they received many lads with shot and shell and bell
It was many a soldier tumbled there and many of them fell.

⁸³ This is a reference to a major attack on a military convoy on 30th July 1920 near Oola in County Limerick. Two soldiers were killed and three wounded.

But our hearts are wrecked with sorrow at the fate our heroes met
On that last night of October his foes they had him set
He led his men to action as it was his duty's call
And he died a noble soldier that night in Killenaule.

These lines so sad I'll finish of a lad so brave true
Who gave his life for Ireland to free both me and you
When our Country's fight is ended and our flags with triumph wave
We will not forget Tom Donovan who is cold now in his grave.



Pat Clancy's three miles championship medal. Note that it records his IRA membership and rank.

CHARGE SHEET.

The accused MARTIN MULLALLY of Priestown, Drangan, in the County of Tipperary, civilian, is charged with :-

1st Charge.
REG. 27.
R. O. I. R.

Contravening the provisions of Regulation 27 of the Restoration of Order in Ireland Regulations, namely being in possession of a document containing a statement the publication of which would be likely to cause disaffection to His Majesty,

in that he,

On or about the 1st day of August, 1920, at Knockuragh, Drangan in the County of Tipperary was in possession of a Document namely a Manuscript Document containing the following passages :-

" Oath of Allegiance to the I.R.A.
" I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I do not and shall not yield a voluntary support to any pretended Government Authority or power within Ireland hostile or inimical thereto and I do further (affirm or) swear that to the best of my knowledge and ability I will support and defend the Irish Republic which is Dail Eireann, against all enemies foreign and domestic that, I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and that I take this obligation freely without any reservation or purpose of evasion. So help me God."

End Charge.
REG. 27.
R. O. I. R.

Contravening the provisions of Regulation 27 of the Restoration of Order in Ireland Regulations namely, being in possession of a document containing a statement the publication of which would be likely to cause disaffection to His Majesty.

in that he,

On or about the 1st day of August, 1920, at Knockuragh, Drangan, in the County of Tipperary, was in possession of a document namely a Manuscript Document containing the following passages :-

" Proclamation by the ruling Military Authority in Drangan, To the citizens of the Parish especially those whom it may concern. You are hereby warned against associating in any way with Members of the Alien Forces. Furthermore any person found giving voluntary information to the Enemy will be shot at sight and we wish to remind you that we are at present oiling the rifles but hope we shall not need to use them. All riotious conduct including stealing, raiding, plundering etc. will be severely dealt with by our Courts. Publicans are ordered to close their Licenced Premises at 9.35. old Gaelic time. persons are strictly warned against criticising the actions of our Republican Soldiers and Police and anyone found to insult or illuse the latter while on duty is guilty of a criminal offence and shall be Court-Martialed by the Volunteer Authority.
Summonses may be issued by the clerk of the Arbitration Court on complaint of police or civilians at a cost of 2/6 each. This amount will be included in the costs and shall be levied as the Magistrates desire.
Persons failing to appear as defendants when summoned shall/

Charge sheet detailing IRA activities in Drangan area in August 1920.

R. I. C. Barrack, Mullinahone.



TWO KILLED AND THREE ARRESTED.

An official report states that at four o'clock on Sunday afternoon a mixed party of Lincolns and R.I.C. surprised a body of about fifteen armed men near Mullinahone. The rebels fired on the Crown forces.

The fire was returned, with the result that two armed civilians were killed and three others were captured, two of whom were wounded. Two rifles and a quantity of ammunition were also captured.

There were no casualties among the Crown forces.

Our Kilkenny Correspondent telegraphs:—A conflict between troops and armed civilians took place last night some distance from Mullinahone, County Tipperary. On receiving information that a large number of armed men were congregating a short distance away, a party of military left Mullinahone, and went to the place. When they arrived, fire was opened. The engagement lasted for nearly an hour, two of the civilians being shot dead and two wounded. The latter were removed to the Military Hospital in Kilkenny.

Shortly after he was brought in, one of the wounded men died. One wounded man was taken prisoner, and it is stated that after the encounter the military found some rifles and a quantity of ammunition which had been left behind by the rebels as they retreated. So far, the names of the men killed and wounded cannot be definitely ascertained, but it is stated that one of the dead men is a man named Croke, and that another belongs to Drangan, near Mullinahone. The military suffered no casualties.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Our Clonmel Correspondent writes:—Serious conflicts between Crown Forces and civilians took place in Co. Tipperary yesterday, resulting in loss of life. At Knockroe, near Drangan, the scene of several previous encounters, a party of Crown Forces is said to have been ambushed, and as a result of the conflict two civilians were killed and two were wounded and captured, and an unwounded man was also captured. Rifles and ammunition were also taken. The bodies and prisoners were brought to Mullinahone.

MAN SHOT IN BELFAST.

James E. Kane, aged 19, was found in Roden street, Belfast, at half-past ten o'clock last night suffering from a bullet wound. He died in a hospital at one o'clock this morning.

No reason can be assigned for the shooting of Kane. At half-past ten, when the "Curfew" Order comes into force, the sound of a revolver shot was heard from Roden street, and a constable who ran in the direction found Kane leaning against a wall badly wounded. No other person was visible in the neighbourhood.

ERECTED BY A LOVING
PEOPLE, TO THE MEMORY OF
THOMAS O'DONOVAN
COMMANDANT
7TH BATTALION 3RD
TIPPERARY BRIGADE I.R.A.
BORN 19TH SEPTEMBER 1896
KILLED IN ACTION AT
KILLENAULE 31ST OCTOBER 1920

— • —
*AH! TOO SOON WAS HE CALLED
TO YIELD UP HIS YOUNG LIFE
AND 'T WAS SORELY WE MISSED HIM
THROUGHOUT THE DARK STRIFE
BUT WE FELT THAT HIS SPIRIT
WAS CHEERING US ON
IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM
ROUND OLD SLIEVENAMON.*

Ballad of Knockroe.

'Twas on the sixth day of March
That day, it brought us woe
We lost our gallant comrades
They were murdered in Knockroe.
But had they all been armed
They'd boldly make a stand
And show those English cowards
How they'd fight for motherland.

O brave, brave Martin Clancy
You were a hero true
Likewise, Paddy Hackett
And Richard Fleming too.
You are gone from us dear comrades
To the land that knows no pain
But your names will live forever
With the glories of Sinn Fein.

May God protect our comrade Croke
Who was wounded in the fray
Likewise Walsh a prisoner
Who was captured on that day
Our watchword now is vengeance
For those heroes who are gone
Until the flag of freedom we can float
O'er the slopes of Slievenamon⁸⁴.

⁸⁴ Clancy, Ed *ibid*.



The Barracks
Tipperary.
2. 8. 20

Dear Mummy

Thanks awfully for the cake and letter of good wishes. The former is splendid and jolly good to eat.

The General who was captured has escaped as I expect you will have heard by now. For about 24 hours after he had got away we were plagued with newspaper reporters. One of them had the cheek to ring up on the telephone at 10 o'clock in the morning.

An orderly went and told the orderly officer, who's reply was short & to the point but does not bear repeating.

I don't know if the reporter got the message but if he did I don't think he will bother us again.

The same day the mail car was attacked and two of the escort killed and two wounded. They did not know if they had got any of the rebels.

When the said car returned we supplied it with an escort. The following day on its way up from Cork, it was again attacked.

Some of the escort were wounded.

at the start by a bomb. They then fought for 2½ hours, and eventually got back to Cork without losing the mails or any arms. They know for certain that they killed one Simon James, and wounded another very badly.

The official telegram also said that many pools of blood were noticed round about, so quite possibly they got a good many more.

Sooner or later there will be a bust up in this place. If any of our fellows get killed the troops will undoubtedly sack the place.

we had some difficulty in keeping them in after the mail car episode.

The ordinary mails now are very erratic, and nearly always come a day late if not more.

How is the landlady now? I heard from Aunt Edie that you had been into Burg & met them.

The weather here has improved a bit the last few days. We have actually seen the sun once or twice.

With very best love to you & Daddy.

Remain
your loving son
Edward Howard Litchford.

E.R. Litchford's letter to his mother dated 2nd August 1920.

1st Witness

Martin Clancy (son) of Ballylucky being duly sworn states & identifies the deceased as my son Martin Clancy aged eighteen years, single a free laborer. I last saw him alive about a fortnight ago at my own house. His sister went in to Mullinahone on Monday evening & found that her brother Martin Clancy was lying dead in the Court House. I know nothing about his political tendencies.

Martin Clancy

2nd Witness

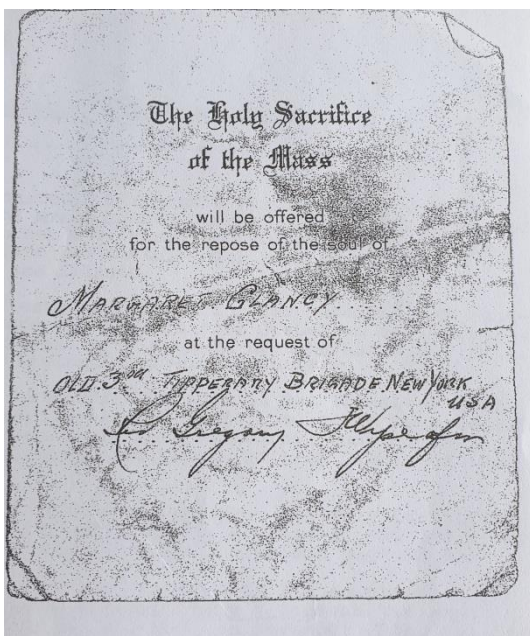
Martin Clancy's evidence to the Military court of enquiry into the death of his son, Martin Clancy.



Pat and Martin's posthumous War of Independence service medals.



Josie's War of Independence service medal.



On the death of Pat and Martin's mother, Margaret, in 1954 the family received correspondence from the Old 3rd Tipperary IRA Brigade in New York. It was stressed that 'many of us here in New York were very welcome at Mrs Clancy's home in those years'⁸⁵.

⁸⁵ Letter dated 12th June 1954.

Southern Command Headquarters,

C O R K.

Ref.No.SC/1220/276.

9th February, 1925.

To : Adjutant General, G.H.Q., Parkgate, Dublin.

From : Adjutant, Southern Command, Cork.

SUBJECT : Mr. Martin Clancy, Ballinluskey, Drangan,
Co. Tipperary.

Reference your A/16404 dated 30th ultimo, the following report is submitted, please, for your information :

- (1) 6th March, 1921. On this date, the deceased with other members of the South Tipperary Column, were surprised by Crown Forces at Knockroe, Drangan, Co. Tipperary. During the engagement that followed, the applicant's son was killed.
- (2) The deceased was killed whilst performing his duty as a Volunteer. There was no negligence or misconduct on his part.
- (3) He was Adjutant, 7th Battalion, Tipperary Brigade.



Comm. "The Classic" MAJOR.

ADJUTANT : SOUTHERN COMMAND.

DS/MT.



We proudly remember our Comrade and great leader Sean O Treasaigh, V.O.C., 3rd Tipp Brigade whose courage and example inspired his generation in the Anglo-Irish War, 1916-1921.

We also proudly remember all our Comrades of the Brigade who have passed on to their eternal reward since 1923, whose names are too many to record here. Ar Dheis De go Raibh siad uiligh.

SEÁN Ó TREASAIGH

TAOISEAC I n-ARM POBLAIC NA hÉIREANN. A TUIT I SCAT I SCOMHID FORSAI NA SASAID I mbaile ÁRA CLIAIC. 14 DEIRE-FOMHAR, 1920

We salute your memory in this the 50th anniversary year of your death in Dublin

Born in the parish of Solohead, Tipperary, 14th February, 1895. From an early age dedicated his life to Ireland's freedom. An Irish language enthusiast and organizer, he also organized the Irish Volunteers in County Tipperary and was their outstanding leader. His death of daring in the Anglo-Irish War would fill volumes. His decision to renege guerilla warfare at Solohead on 21st January, 1920, was the most significant episode since the Keshmolee, resulting ultimately in the freedom we have today. He died in battle against British forces in Talbot Street, Dublin, 14th October, 1920, and is interred in Kilmacolin churchyard. His name and fame will never fade: His heroic spirit still lives on.

We recall with your valiant the Fight for Freedom

THIRD TIPPERARY BRIGADE — ROLL OF HONOUR, 1916-1923

Officers and men who gave their lives for the Fight for Freedom.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>1st Batt.
(Rosegrove area):</p> <p>Tom Lee
Jerry Lyons
Tom Larkin</p> <p>2nd Batt.
(Golden area):</p> <p>Pierce McCann
Paddy Hogan
Lar Luby
Jim Luby
P. Delaney
Patrick Lynch</p> <p>3rd Batt.
(Dundrum area):</p> <p>Dan Carew
Martin Purcell
Jack Ryan (Master)
Mick Ryan (Patsy)
P. Dwyer (Bradshaw)
D. O'Dwyer (M)
Peter Maher
Seamus Quirke</p> | <p>4th Batt.
(Tipp. Town area):</p> <p>Sean Treacy
Sean Duffy
Pat Moloney
Frank O'Dwyer
Ned O'Dwyer
Willie Ryan
W. Crowe
Bill O'Brien
Jim Hickey
Mick Edmonds
Sean Ailey
Tom Loozy
Jack Hayes
Jim O'Meara
Jerry Riggs
Coo Hanley
Patsy Dalton
James O'Connor
Martin Breen
Denis Ryan
Denis Lacy
Paddy McDonough
Jerry Kieley
Mick Fitzgerald
Jack Riordan
Michael Hartnett</p> | <p>6th Batt.
(Cahir area):</p> <p>S. O'Mahony
Patrick English
Tom O'Dea</p> <p>7th Batt.
(Drangan area):</p> <p>Patrick Mackett
Jim Hayes
S. Brett
M. Ryan
S. Quinn
Dick Fleming
M. O'Neill
P. Bennett
John Egan
Tom Donovan
Denis Sadler
Mick Sadler
Ned Somers
M. Hoffmann
Paddy Clancy
Martin Clancy</p> | <p>5th Batt.
(Clonmel area):</p> <p>Jim O'Keefe
Frank O'Keefe
Mick McGrath
Michael Condon
Theo English</p> <p>8th Batt.
(Carrick area):</p> <p>L. O'Neill
S. Tobin
P. Dalton
P. Neachton
S. Browne
R. Meagher
Maurice McGrath
Michael Hogan
S. St. John
Tom Kennedy
T. Torpey
Pat Butler
Ned Butler
P. O'Hanlon
Pat Quinlan</p> |
|--|---|---|---|

Go ndeansigh Dia trochaire ortha uiligh.

Published by the Commemoration Committee, 1970
Printed by Fitzpatrick Bros. Tipperary.

IN LOVING MEMORY

— of —

Lieutenant Patrick Clancy

Irish Republican Army

Ballyluskey

Killed in Action

on 19th November, 1920

Aged 19 Years

R.I.P.

To Thee who hung upon the cross,
While senseless crowds did mock and jeer,
Behold a people's bitter loss—
A people's supplication here.

In grief, O Christ, we cry to Thee,
His weary tortured soul to rest;
He gave his life to make us free,
To break the yoke of the oppress'd.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be
everywhere loved.

Sweet Heart of Jesus be Thou my love
All for Thee, my Jesus, all for Thee.
Virgin Mother of Good Counsel intercede
for him.

Our Lady of Lourdes pray for him.

3

"All I ask is that, wherever you may be, you
will remember me at Holy Communion,
and at the foot of the Altar."

— † —

Merciful Jesus! let one drop of that
Precious Blood which flowed from Thy
wounds be applied to the soul of Thy
servant, Patrick, if he is still detained in
Purgatory, since it was shed for him so let
it solace, comfort and release him. —Amen.

O Immense Passion! O Profound
Wounds! O Profusion of Blood! O
Sweetness above all Sweetness! O Most
Bitter Death! grant him eternal rest.

—Amen. *400 day's Indulgence.*

— † —

Jesus meek and humble of Heart, make
my heart like unto Thine.

300 day's Indulgence.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for him.

—300 days.

Sweetest Jesus! be not my Judge, but my
Saviour. —*500 day's Indulgence.*



IN LOVING MEMORY

— of —

Adjutant Martin Clancy

Irish Republican Army

Ballyluskey.

Killed in action

on 6th March, 1921

Aged 18 Years

— † —

R.I.P.

3

"O Lord Thou hast given him to us to be
our joy, and now Thou hast taken him
away from us; we give him back to Thee
without a murmur, though our hearts are
wrung with sorrow." —*St. Ephraim.*

— † —

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I give you my
heart and my soul.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, assist me now and
in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, may I breathe
forth my soul in peace with you.

*300 days each time the three aspirations are
said.*

100 days if only one is said.

— † —

O Immense Passion! O Profound
Wounds! O Profusion of Blood! O
Sweetness above all Sweetness! O Most
Bitter Death! grant him eternal rest. Amen.

— † —

He is gone but not forgotten,
Never shall his memory fade,
Sweetest thoughts shall ever linger,
Round the grave where he is laid.



Site of the original Clancy home place in Ballylusky, now covered by trees and ground view.