

CENTRAL REGISTRY.

47/772/70

Central Registry No. and Date.

Attached Files.

7/44101
13. 4. 21

WD34
124/39

SUBJECT, AND OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

Courts, Martial - Civilians

John Hastings (Keraghy), John Hastings (Hammin) - Derrygheshort
Suspected of being concerned in ambush of Guilmore Police Patrol
and murder of Sergeant Roughlan.

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<i>Ro</i>	<i>13/4/21</i>				
<i>E.W.S. (min)</i>	<i>2/9/21</i>				
<i>R.O.</i>	<i>5-9-21</i>				
INSPECTION PERMITTED UNDER s 5(4)				P. A.	Date
				<i>CLOSED</i>	<i>6/9/21</i>

Schedule of Correspondence.

CLOSED
UNTIL
2023



C.R.I.O. 2/44101/R.O.

Headquarters,
Galway Brigade,
GALWAY.

In the case of JOHN HASTINGS (Heraghty) Drumm, Co. Mayo.
JOHN HASTINGS (Salmon)

Reference your 2/R.O./290 of 17/6/21.

It is considered that these men should be
released, unless you wish to detain them for other reasons.

G.H.Q., Ireland,
Parkgate, DUBLIN,
21st June, 1921.

Lieutenant-Colonel,
for Deputy Adjutant General.

BL.

Galway
17-6-21.

Colonel.
Colonel Commandant
The Galway Brigade.

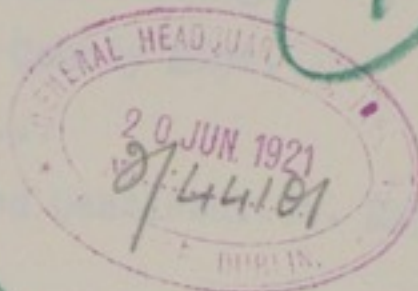
The two men mentioned above were among the eight who captured
me. They appeared to be the leaders as they were the men who
issued any orders. About 150 to 200 yards further up the road
I saw more civilians about 20 strong.

General Headquarters
I R E L A N D.

2/RO/290.

4

John Hastings } (Heraghty)
John Hastings } (Salmon)
of Drummin Co. Mayo.



3

Reference 2/44101 of 14-4-21.

An identification parade was held at Galway Prison on 16-6-21 in the case of the above named.

The three wounded constables viz Jeremiah Creedon, Michael, J. Love and Patrick Maquire attended. Creedon and Love are both certain of the two leaders of the ambush at Cuilmore on 22-3-21 but failed to recognise any of the twelve men paraded as having taken part in the ambush.

As the two men detained on suspicion were included in the twelve men paraded and remain unidentified would you please instructions as to their disposal.

I attach statements of the ambushed police as requested.

Galway
17-6-21.

Colonel.
Colonel Commandant
The Galway Brigade.

HER

The two men mentioned above were among the eight who captured me. They appeared to be the leaders as they were the men who issued any orders. About 150 to 200 yards further up the road I saw more civilians about 20 strong.

Statements of Evidence in the case of JOHN Hastings
(HERAGHTY) and JOHN HASTINGS. (Saámon). County Mayo.

1st Witness.

of the Royal Irish Constabulary stationed Castlebar. Co. Mayo
states:-

On 22nd March 1921 at about 2000 hours in the townland
of Derrykillee I was one of a patrol returning from Leenane
to Cuilmore. The patrol consisted of one Sergeant and two
Constables in addition to myself mounted on cycles.
At a point about three miles from Cuilmore we were suddenly
fired at from both sides of the road. At the time Sergeant Cough-
lan and I were riding abreast ahead of the others. The road was
about two feet higher than the bog, through which it ran. At
the first volley Sergeant Coughlan was struck and fell against
me. I was also hit through the left thigh. I took cover by the
side of the road in the bog and returned the fire. The firing
continued for about ten minutes during which time I saw two
men dressed in waterproof coats and grey caps. These two men
were about fifteen yards distant and had revolvers in their
possession which they were firing. I saw them clearly and can
identify them if produced. One was a tall man about 5'11" the
other about 5'6" or 7" the firing ceased and someone called
upon me to surrender. I made no answer. Someone then called
upon Constable Love to get me out of the dyke. I then came out
and handed in my revolver. Eight men-civilians then came towards
me all carrying revolvers. ^{T. King} They took my revolver and felt and
searched me and made me swear that I should resign from the poli-
ce force and have nothing more to do with the British Government.
The two men mentioned above were among the eight who captured
me. They appeared to be the leaders as they were the men who
issued any orders. About 150 to 200 yards further up the road
I saw more civilians about 20 strong.

Constable Coughlan disappeared from the road immediately.

(2)

1st Witness continued.

Who appear^s to have taken part in the ambush. I was cautioned not to leave the spot for three hours. The eight men then joined the other party and left in the direction of Carrowkenedy. I then saw Sergeant Coughlan lying in the water on the other side of the road. I tried to pull him out of the water but failed. I went to the nearest house for assistance which I obtained. We got the Sergeant from out of the water, and took him to the nearest house. Sergeant Coughlan died the same night at about 2200 hours. On June 16th at 15-50 hours I attended an identification parade at Galway Prison. Twelve men stood in a row and I was asked by Captain E. Chuter, Galway Brigade to touch on the shoulder any man I could identify as being present at the ambush on March 22nd 1921. I did not see the men prior to being taken to them by Captain Chuter. I walked up and down the rank but failed to recognise any man present. The tall man I had referred to as being one of the leaders had a remarkable mouth the lips being turned up and down respectively to a marked degree. He was clean shaven and unmasked. All the eight men were unmasked but I could only remember the leaders as they were the more prominent.

s/d 1st Witness.

2nd. Witness. of the Royal Irish Constabulary stationed at Westport C. Mayo states:-

On 22nd March 1921. at about 2000 hours I was one of a patrol proceeding from Leenane to Cuilmore. Patrol consisted of a Sergeant R.I.C. and two other Constables in addition to myself mounted on bicycles. At a point about three miles from Cuilmore where the road runs through a bog, fire was suddenly opened on the patrol from both sides of the road. Sergeant Coughlan and Constable Creedon were abreast and ahead of myself and Constable Maguire. I was hit at the first volley in the left foot, and fell to the ground. Sergeant Coughlan and Constable Creedon disappeared from the road immediately.

(3)

2nd Witness
continued.

I managed to get my shot gun from my bicycle and rolled on to the left side of the road where I took cover and opened fire on the party on the right side of the road. From the flashes I ~~saw~~ ^{saw} I estimate the attacking party at least 50 strong spread on both sides of the road. Firing continued for about 10 or 15 minutes. Maquire on the right side of the road had fired several shots. I was loading my last cartridge when four men on my left shouted "Hands up" These men were practically on top of me and covered me with revolvers. They were not fully exposed but I noticed they wore soft caps were masked and did not wear top coats or any discription. I would describe them as being of the farmer class of the district. I had no option but to surrender. I could now see Sergeant Coughlan ahead of me and heard him groaning. At this time a man crossed the road from the right side and fired four shots in Sergeant Coughlan's direction. This man was about 5'11" and was wearing a trench coat and soft cap. I would have no difficulty in recognising this man if produced as he had very pronounced lips which protruded to a marked degree. He was clean shaven and appeared to be the leader. He approached me and told me to prepare for death as he was going to shoot me. I was made to get out of the ditch and go on ~~top~~ to the road. He then went to Maquire and took possession of Maquires revolver. I was ordered to go and get Creedon from out of the ditch. Creedon was disarmed. We were then lined up together and Maquire fell being badly wounded. After having been forced to take an oath they departed in various directions. During the whole of these proceedings the leader referred to was the most prominent man but was assisted by a second man about 5'6" or 5'7". I would identify this man if produced. He was clean shaven wore a trench coat and had a round face. The other attackers stood some distance away and looked on. I would not recognise any of these on lookers again.

(4)

2nd Witness continued.

Before departing the leader told us not to move from the spot three hours. We eventually got help and were taken to barracks at Cuilmore. On June 16th at 15-50 hours I attended an identification parade at Galway Prison. Twelve men were lined up a single rank and I was asked to touch any man on the shoulder that I identified as being in the ambush near Cuilmore. I did not identify any man as being present at the ambush at ~~Kylemore~~.

Cuilmore

s/d 2nd Witness.

3rd Witness.

of the Royal Irish Constabulary stationed at Cuilmore, Co. Mayo. states:- On March 22nd at about 2000 hours I was one of a patrol proceeding from Leenane to CUILMORE. Patrol consisted of Sergeant Coughlan Constables Love, Creedon and myself. About three miles from Cuilmore ~~where~~ the road passes through a bog, fire was suddenly opened on the patrol from both sides of the road. I was hit in the first valley and badly wounded. I fell from my bicycle and managed to make for the right side of the road. I returned the fire with my revolver but having fired a few rounds I was again hit in the right hand and chest. I had at the outset of firing seen flashes on both sides of the road. I was so badly hit that I began to ~~lose~~ ^{lose} consciousness and am unable to give a detail description of the ambush. I remember one man who appeared to be the leader placing us in a row and making us swear an oath to leave the police force. I had to be held up for this proceeding as I was unable to stand. I might be able to recognise this man again but am a little doubtful. I attended an identification parade at Galway Prison on 16th June 1921 at 1550 hours. Twelve men stood in a row and I was asked by Captain E Chuter to touch any man on the shoulder who I recognised as being present at the ambush at Cuilmore. Before being taken to the men I did not see them assemble. I was unable to recognise any man as being present at the Cuilmore ambush on March 22nd 1921.

s/d. 3rd. Witness.

①

SECRET



2/RO/290 - 291.

8/44101

General Headquarters, Ireland.

Herewith Police report in the case of
John Hastings (Heragh)
John Hastings (Pammin) of Derry Herbert Drummin
Civilian, for favour of instructions, please. C. Mayo

Chuter
Captain
for Colonel Commandant
Commanding Galway Brigade.

GALWAY

Date 11-4-21

Heck