

Military Archives

Q. The next thing is Fourmilehouse; is there anything else in between, there would appear to be none?

A. There were other attacks they fell through.

Q. We will deal with the laid attacks; Fourmilehouse what happened there?

A. You have the full particulars there on that sheet.

Q. That was a passing lorry?

A. Yes.

Q. That was in October was it?

A. It was in October 1920.

Q. There were 2 R.I.C. Sergeants and 3 constables killed, three seriously wounded; 2 killed 3 wounded?

A. Yes, 2 Sergeants killed and three Constables.

Q. 5 killed altogether?

A. Yes.

Q. Does that mean there were 2 lorries?

A. No, there was only one lorry, the car came on afterwards we let it pass.

Q. They were travelling in the lorry?

A. Yes.

Q. About 65 took part in the ambush. Were these deaths caused by the firing at the lorry or was there a mine or anything?

A. By firing at the lorry, and grenades.

Q. How many rifles would that party have?

A. There were only about 3 rifles there.

Q. The rest was shotguns?

A. Shotguns we were right up over them, there was a deep cut in the hill.

4 m/house

1 lorry

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- 1 Enmore
- Q. How many grenades were thrown at that?
A. There would be only about one grenade.
- Q. How far would they be from the lorry?
A. Just the same as you are up there.
- Q. Looking down on them?
A. Yes.
- Q. Within 40 yards?
A. Yes, they were within 10 yards.
- Q. If that was the case how many would be engaged in the firing at the lorry; would there be 15?
A. Not at all, the lorry was travelling like that, it is there on the sketch, the first lad started firing, ~~at~~ the lorry kept travelling, the man that was told to get the driver the fellow with the rifle he was in position, we were going to the position when the lorry was going on.
- Q. The driver was not got for a while?
A. The driver was not got at all that day.
- Q. Did you capture any arms?
A. No, the lorry went through with the arms and dead men.
- Q. Took the whole load?
A. Yes, took the whole lot. They were coming from Roscommon they meant to go to Strokestown or Tulsk, they were going so fast he could not turn, he went on to Tulsk.
- Q. How many men were in position would you say?
A. In the centre position there would be about 40 in position.
- Q. Actually did fire?
A. Yes.
- Q. There were plenty there?
A. I have pointed out each place where the road was blocked.
- Q. There were plenty there?
A. I have pointed out the different places where the road was blocked.
- Q. The lorry went across the blockade?
A. (Mr. Simons points out on sketch the position of the parties at the ambush) At this place we sent out a party and told them if they heard shots here they would know the lorry would come from this side. When these fellows heard the shot here they started blocking the road there. There is another blockade on this road, this party heard the shots they started to block the road, they would know.
- Q. To block these two roads?
A. Yes, these fellows when the lorry went past. In order to prevent the lorry coming through, they threw a tree across the road.
- Q. They blocked the road here?
A. Yes. The Sergeant drove right across the blockade on the road in a Crossley tender.
- Q. He never saw it?
A. He does not remember I was speaking to him after the Truce came.

- Q. He does not remember?
 A. No, he was a remarkably good man, he escaped another night too.
- Q. There were about 9 men in the tender?
 A. About 9 men, I think.
- Q. If you had 40 men in that ambush position, you had only 15 men for blocking the roads at these four points?
 A. 25 men.
- Q. There would not be many men at each particular place?
 A. No, there would not be.
- Q. There would be only 5 or 6 in each place?
 A. As far as I remember.
- Q. They were originally the main body of the forces that went there?
 A. Kilgaven Company acted as the A.S.U. really.
- Q. Pat Madden was claiming in the vicinity of Fourmilehouse that morning of the ambush there were at least 150 men engaged, that may take in local Companies that were mobilised; they might be blocking roads 4 or 5 miles away?
 A. In my memory the local company outside this Company knew nothing at all about it, it would not be safe to talk about it. Our own fellows did not know about it that morning.
- Q. How many men were in your col?
 A. We had the whole Kilgaven Company, every man was an A.S.U. man, then they were assisted by Kilbride Company and Clontuska.
- Q. Were they all in that firing position?
 A. Everyone.
- Q. How many would be in that?
 A. There would be about 40 in Kilgaven.
- Q. Kilgaven Company composed that?
 A. There might be 4 or 5 to cover off the retreat a bit back. Outside Kilgaven Company there would ~~not~~ be 10 others.
- Q. From other local Companies?
 A. Yes, in the actual firing party.
- Q. What I mean is of the A.S.U., men that were actually mobilised for every job of importance that was carried out in the area, how many would be for that ambush; was that still Kilgaven Coy?
 A. Yes, it was.
- Q. They would be taken for every Battn. operation everywhere?
 A. Yes. That was Pat Madden's own parish, I lived there and the Company was all around about us.
- Q. Who were the other few fellows who were in the position; what other Coys?
 A. Clontuska Company Peter Egan, John Scally, then there was a second John Scally he got killed in an action afterwards. John O'Connor, or Connor, I do not know which.
- Q. What other Coy. would send a contingent?
 A. Kilbride Coy

Q. Who were the men from Kilbride Coy. you could give us practically all the names for these operations?

A. About Kilbride Company, there were about, I think, 25 or something it, turned out that morning. This is the Roll of Honour, they signed themselves that were in it. 28 of Kilbride Coy. turned out that morning.

Q. How many would be in the firing position?

A. I would say there would be probably about 8 in the position who these 8 were I do not know at the moment, they all turned out at the spot to take part in the ambush.

Q. There were 3 Coys. in it?

A. Yes, that is all.

Q. Clontuska, Kilbride and Kilgaven?

A. Yes. Clontuska, Kilbride and Kilgaven?

Q. About what length of the road would that cover, the firing position; would it be $\frac{1}{4}$ mile?

A. About 50 or 60 yards, they were in as close as they could be over the wall.

Q. If three lorries came you would let the first one or two of them pass?

A. That is right.

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