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G.2 Branch.

Department of Defence,
Red House,
Infirmary Road,
Dublin.

30th March, 1936.

The Secretary,
Military Service Pensions Committee,
Griffith Barracks,
Dublin.

Record of Activities of 5th Bn.
Dublin Brigade 1919-1921.

As a result of my interview with the Advisory Committee it has occurred to me that a document containing the above would be of assistance to the Advisory Committee in its consideration of applications. I accordingly enclose a copy of such a record the original of which is in my possession.

In order that the Committee may properly appreciate the value of this record I give here the method of its compilation.

The Battalion Council decided that in order to assist claimants to fill up their forms it would be necessary that each Company should prepare a record of its activities, together with a record of the officers of the unit and the period during which each officer held his appointment. These Company records on completion were forwarded to the Battalion Council for scrutiny and approval, and the enclosed is the finally approved record.

Whilst this record was primarily compiled for the purpose stated above, it had the additional value that it prevented a man making an inaccurate claim or a false claim, i.e. presuming he sought the assistance of his Company officers in preparing his claim.

It will be noted that this record does not cover the activities of the unit from which this Battalion originated - "K" Coy. or G.H.Q. Engineering unit.

I would like to take the opportunity of stressing the fact that the activities of the units were for a long time confined to organisation, training, and procurement of equipment. Training had to be mainly theoretical as it was out of the question to give practical demonstrations in the Dublin area of the theory taught.

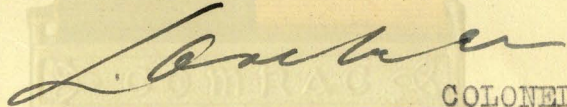
This restriction of activities was directly due to the specific orders of the Director of Engineering who was not prepared to risk the loss (through death or imprisonment) of comparatively highly trained men by permitting them to engage in ambushes etc. He held the view that at any time a crisis might arise which might demand wholesale demolition in the Dublin area and he looked upon this unit as a "special reserve" (if I may use the expression) to be maintained intact for such



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an emergency. His view was that this was the main reason for the existence of the unit; and that if he agreed to the unit engaging in activities normal to the other four infantry Battalions there would be no justification for its existence as a separate unit, and its personnel should be absorbed into the other Battalions.

I stress this point because it has appeared to me that the operation of this policy might now have an adverse influence on the claims of men of the unit to "active" service. Their cases are not on a par with those of men of other units who were never selected for an operation. In the case of the 5th Bn. there existed a definite prohibition against engaging in operations other than those of a purely engineering character. I think this is a factor which should have an important bearing upon the claims of personnel of the 5th Battalion.



COLONEL.

(L. ARCHER)
C.S.O., G.2 Branch.

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Military Service
Pensions Collection