

**THE
MILLSTREET
BANK
ROBBERY**

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INTRODUCTION

The Millstreet bank robbery of November 1919 was a sensational event. It involved an enormous sum of money for the time - £16,700 - which would be worth at least half a million Euro today. But more importantly it created a real challenge for the new Irish government that had been formed earlier that year. There were two governments in the country – the new legitimate Irish Government and the now illegal British government that had been rejected overwhelmingly in the 1918 General Election. There was a full scale war developing between the two. Part of this war was a propaganda war and the robbery was used by the British Government as an example of what would happen if the Irish Government was allowed control of the country. It was even suggested that the robbery was carried out by the Irish Government

All this made it imperative for the new Government to assert its authority, clear its name and gain the confidence of the people that they could be trusted with law and order and good government. Liam Lynch moved into Drishanebeg to supervise the investigation and presided at the court that heard the case. The recovered money was returned to the Bank. The solving of the case was very significant as it made the new Government credible, trustworthy and effective in running the affairs of the country. Its reputation was enhanced immeasurably destroying the propaganda campaign against it by the British authorities

This is the story of how it was done and the report is taken from the files of the Irish Bulletin which was the official paper of the Irish Government from 11 November 1919 to 12 December 1921. It was set up after all Republican press outlets were suppressed and the new Irish government needed to make information about the War of Independence available and to put its case for independence to the world. Hence the paper was aimed mainly at audiences abroad to make them face up to what was actually happening in Ireland.

It was edited by Erskine Childers and Frank Gallagher. The latter began his journalistic career with the Cork Free Press and was the first editor of The Irish Press. The Bulletin was very successful and seriously upset the propaganda efforts of the British Government at home and abroad.

At one stage (20/3/1921) its place of operations was accidentally discovered over an Easter holiday when no staff were present. Every single bit of machinery, equipment, paper, ink, envelope and address list were taken to Dublin Castle and used these to produce forged issues for about a month. This was testimony to how successful it had been at countering the Castle's propaganda. The Bulletin itself was re-established almost immediately and continued its work.

The other items in this pamphlet are local examples of the behaviour of the Crown forces toward the civilian population. The first is a statement by the caretaker at Drishane Castle on how he was treated after the nearby Drishanebeg (or Glebe) ambush. The second is a statement on the killing of Mikie Dineen of Ivale which occurred during the Musher Round-up following the Rathcoole ambush.

Jack Lane
February 2011

A REPUBLICAN CAUSE CÉLÈBRE**REMARKABLE STORY OF A DARING BANK ROBBERY****How a Gang of Thieves were Rounded Up by Republican Police**

The following is the first accurate account to be public of the recent Bank Robbery which took place at Ballydaly Cross near Millstreet, County Cork, and was one of the most sensational of modern bank robberies. The account is written from the official Republican records and discloses for the first time the details of the arrest, trial, and sentences of the gang that carried out this audacious theft of £16,700. The discovery of the identity of the robbers and their subsequent arrest is one of the most remarkable achievements of the Irish Republican Police.

Nor is it a less sensational feature of the occurrence that the gang were not interfered with by the British Police or any efforts made by that force seriously or enquire into the circumstance of the robbery or to trace the robbers. The cause for this inactivity will be better understood when it is mentioned that in the first instance the Republican movement was by official propaganda saddled with the guilt of the crime. In accordance with this official British view the investigations of the British police in connection with the occurrence were restricted, first in an effort to suborn evidence implicating a member of the Republican Government of Ireland in the robbery and secondly an endeavour to track down those Republicans who engaged themselves without payment in the unravelling of this mystery and in the dispersal of the dangerous gang whose handiwork it was.

The incident here related are an example of the ability with which the Irish people, without assistance from any British institution, preserve law and order in Ireland, detect crime and inflict salutary punishment upon criminals. The names of witnesses and of judges are suppressed in this account as, were they given, these witnesses and judges would themselves be liable to arrest by British police.

THE ROBBERY.

On November 17th. 1919 the representatives of the Munster and Leinster Bank and of the National Bank left Millstreet, County Cork at 8 a.m. to attend a cattle fair at Knocknagree in that county. They carried with them £16,700 in notes and silver. The officials of the National bank drove in a jaunting car and those of the Munster and Leinster Bank followed in a motor car owned and driven by Patrick Carmody of Millstreet. When the jaunting car was some three miles from the town of Millstreet, five men armed and disguised suddenly appeared on the road and holding up the occupants deprived them of the £6,700 they carried. The five men then loosed the horse from the car and having bound the bank officials to a tree returned to the road to await the arrival of the other bankers.

When the motor car was heard approaching, the jaunting car was used to block the road, and the second “hold up” took place and an additional £10,000 was stolen. Patrick Carmody, the motor driver, was, as were the bank officials tied to a tree, and the steering gear of the car destroyed. The robbers then disappeared. Half an hour later the victims succeeded in freeing themselves and at 9 o’clock they returned to Millstreet and reported the robbery to the British police, who did not even visit the scene of the occurrence but announced later that day they could find no trace of the robbers. No effort was spared by the British press and British politicians to advertise the fact that the robbery was committed by Sinn Fein and on that plea Patrick Carmody was two months later awarded £300 compensation by a British judge for the damage to his car.

THE REPUBLICAN POLICE INVESTIGATE

It was obvious from the action of the British police after the robbery had been reported to them that they were reluctant to trace the real culprits. As the thieves were allowed to by the British police time to cover their traces completely, the task of establishing their identity seemed hopeless. It was, however, undertaken by the Irish Republican police acting under the authority of Dail Eireann, the Republican Government of Ireland. Progress was slow. The mystery seemed insoluble. But eventually a clue was discovered and it was seen that great caution would have to be taken, as the gang, if they got any inkling of the discovery, would leave the country taking with them the huge sum of money they had stolen. Finally the moment came for striking. Evidence had been secured establishing the identity of every member of the gang, and warrants, of which the following is a copy, were issued against them:-

“Headquarters,
Millstreet Battn.,

24th April 1920

To

I being the officer for the Millstreet area responsible for the lives and property of all Irish Citizens, hereby arrest you on the charge of having (with others) waylaid and robbed certain Bank Officials on the morning of November 17th.

As the enemy police (Royal Irish Constabulary) have aided and abetted this outrage instead of tracking down the culprits, it is my duty to the public, until such time as the Irish Police Force is established, to capture and punish the robbers in this particular outrage, which is only one of many carried out at this period when Irishmen are making the final struggle for Independence.

SignedCommander, Millstreet Battn.”

THE ARRESTS

At 10 o’clock p.m. on April 24th 1920, five months after the robbery, fifty armed Republican Police assembled at the town of Millstreet, and scouts were placed to watch the houses of the robbers. These scouts reported that three of the men were in their residences but the fourth, the man most wanted, was at a concert in the Town Hall. The arrest which was timed to take place at 10.30 p.m. was postponed until the concert had concluded. After 11

o'clock the Republican Police took position of the streets of the town. Some of them, by means of a cordon, isolated the two houses in which the suspects were, while others forced an entry into them and arrested Jeh. And Cornelius Buckley and P. Carmody of Main Street, Millstreet, three of the four men.

To the dismay of the Republican Officer in charge the missing man was found to be Daniel Buckley, Main Street, and the ringleader. The three captives were promptly blindfolded and bound, and were placed in a waiting motor car. As the car was about to be driven away a man was seen to be walking in the direction of one of the raided houses. The man was Daniel Buckley. Two minutes later, after a short struggle, he was taken into custody. At the same time other Republican police were engaged in similar operations in neighbouring districts, where four others of the gang, Michael O'Connor, Coolihane, Michael Murphy, Liscreagh, James Cotter, Mill Lane and Denis Sullivan, were arrested. In a third locality, at Nadd, other bodies of Republican police raided the residence of Daniel and Hugh O'Brien, brothers the remaining two of the thieves known to have played a prominent part the robbery.

The arrest of the O'Briens was, however, not effected. The motor car carrying one party of Republican police whose duty it was to surround the O'Brien's house, broke down, and during the delay this caused the men escaped. The eight prisoners were then brought to a Republican prison and having been fed, were left under a strong guard during the night.

SILENT ROBBERS

At 4.15 a.m. on Sunday morning, April 25th, the eight accused were brought individually before a preliminary court, and each was closely questioned. Each denied absolutely is complicity in the robbery and after an examination lasting several hours, the men were put back into their cells.

WITNESSES WHO FEAR BRITISH POLICE

Later on that day, in response to information that British troops and police were seeking to discover the whereabouts of the prisoners in order to liberate them, the guard was doubled at all points. It was then decided to hand the men over to the Banks from which the money had had been stolen and to place these banks in possession of all the evidence against the prisoners. But for this a series of signed statements was required from those upon whose evidence the gang had been rounded up. Thereupon a new complication arose. Some of these witnesses feared action by the British police against themselves if these statements were handed over to the Bank Officials. The witnesses were, however, finally prevailed upon to sign statements of their evidence.

CRIMINALS UNTOUCHED – ENVOY HUNTED

Armed with these signed statements an envoy was sent on Monday 26th to the directors of the Banks in question. He returned on the same evening with the reply that the Bank directors would advise then more fully of their attitude on the following Wednesday. After his return to Millstreet it was learned that the British police had visited the banks at which the envoy had called, and had endeavoured to establish his identity in order to take action against him.

GANG GIVE WAY

On that Monday, April 26th, the prisoners were again individually brought before the Republican Court. They were told that evidence ensuring their conviction was in writing, signed by several witnesses, and they were advised to disclose the whereabouts of the stolen money as, were that refunded, the sentences passed on them would be considerably lighter. The prisoners again refused to declare their guilt; but subsequently under a lengthy examination Daniel Buckley broke down and confessed. He refused, however, to disclose the hiding place of his share of the stolen money but offered to go for it himself and bring it back. This offer was declined by the Court, and some hours afterwards Daniel Buckley disclosed the hiding place. A Republican officer was despatched immediately to the spot indicated and returned with £2,623. 9. 6, the amount left of Buckley's original share of £2,724.12.6.

Daniel Buckley's confession unnerved his confederates, and before midnight four had admitted their guilt and disclosed the places in which they had concealed their spoil. Carmody returned £1,113 out of his share of £1,517; the rest he had spent. O'Connor returned £2,100, M. Murphy £2,276 and J. Buckley £995. When the Court rose £9,206.12.6 had been recovered and Cornelius Buckley had been found to be innocent of any complicity in the robbery. The prisoners were then placed in the cells and the decision of the Bank directorates was awaited.

PREVENTING A RESCUE

On Tuesday, April 27th. it was learned by the Republican authorities that the locality of the prison in which the men were was known to the outsiders. Fearing that the information would reach the ears of the British police and that a rescue would be attempted, the guards were again reinforced until, at 11.30 p.m. the decision was come to to take the prisoners to another prison some miles distant. The removal was successfully carried out during the night.

THE COURTMARTIAL

On Wednesday, April 28th., no intimation of their decision having been received from the Bank officials, it was decided to courtmartial the prisoners. Great precautions were taken that the Court should not be surprised, and large bodies of Republican troops were mobilised to secure all road leading to the house in which the Court was held. At 6 o'clock in the evening the Court assembled. It was composed entirely of Republican officers holding high rank. The trial lasted for five hours. Evidence disclosing the full facts of the planning and the carrying out of the robbery was placed before the Court and this evidence was subsequently substantiated by statements made by the accused. The story of the robbery as disclosed in that evidence is as follows:-

THE HISTORY OF THE HOLD UP

In the April of 1919 the plan was first conceived of robbing the Bank officials. Michael O'Connor, one of the accused, in his statement said that in that month it was spoken about by himself, Daniel O'Brien, Hugh O'Brien and Daniel Buckley. Hugh O'Brien and O'Connor, with whom the plan seemed to originate, called the first meeting of the robbers which was held at night in a graveyard. The gang was definitely formed in October and Patrick Carmody was engaged was engaged for some weeks in enlisting suitable members for it. Witnesses gave evidence that they had been approached by Carmody who promised them

an “easy job” in the hold up and equal shares of the loot. A few days before the robbery Michael Murphy inquired among his acquaintances as to the best method of making a mask and at 2 a.m. on the morning of the 17th. November 1919 Daniel Buckley, in a cowhouse owned by O’Connor, presided over the final meeting of the conspirators and distributed to them the masks he had made and instructed them in the art of disguise and the method of attack. Six hours afterwards the hold up took place.

Daniel Buckley was leader of the attack on the jaunting car and the O’Brien brothers of that on the motor car. Immediately after the robbery Daniel Buckley and Ml. Murphy walked calmly to their homes. One witness stated that he was at the house of Ml. Murphy when the latter entered after the robbery. He noticed that the pores of Murphy’s face were black and that he wore broken boots with no heels on them. Daniel Buckley was seen to enter his house with some red paint still upon his face. The two O’Briens who had taken the £10,000 from the Munster and Leinster bank officials climbed a neighbouring mountain to wash off all the marks of their disguise, and did not return home until 5 o’clock that evening.

COUNTING THE MONEY

Two days afterwards a meeting was called of the gang to count the money. Daniel Buckley in his graphically described the ceremony of counting:-

“We met at J. Tarrant’s outhouse in Coole to count the money. Hugh O’Brien was in charge of the count. Daniel O’Brien was on his left hand. I was on his right hand side. Murphy was next to me and then O’Connor. It was on a heap of oats we counted it with a bag under it. We counted about £16,000.”

Before the count was over the thieves began to suspect one another. Nobody except the O’Briens were aware of what amount of money was in the bag taken by them. Nobody even knew that the bag with the £10,000 had been taken at all. Hugh O’Brien in explaining that some of the notes in that bag had got wet and he had thrown them away, suddenly realised that the rest of the gang were not aware that there had been any such bag. Daniel Buckley describing this scene in his statement said:-

“O’Brien felt he had made a blunder when he acknowledged to us there was a small bag we knew nothing about, He could have opened the bag without our knowledge.”

It was believed by the gang that the O’Briens had secretly helped themselves from this bag. None of them accepted the story of the wet notes. But the O’Briens seem to have been too powerful to antagonise for the sake of a few hundred pounds. The counting finished it was agreed to divide the spoils evenly. Daniel Buckley got more than his share as he admitted to the court.

“The mistake” he politely explained “happened by my being given a bunch of £5 notes instead of £s.”

A MEMBER OF THE DAIL – AND THE ROBBERY

The spoils divided each man took his to separate hiding place. The Buckley and Ml. Murphy buried theirs. Carmody placed his in a pillow case which was, on December 28th. seen by a witness. The pillow case, the witness said, was “filled to the top with money.” After

the allocation of the £16,000 the men returned again to their homes and subsequently met frequently in the homes of Carmody and Daniele Buckley. Only two of the gang were ever interrogated by the British police. Daniel Buckley was asked by a constable to state his movements on November 17th. His statement was accepted without question. Carmody who was an old of the police and closely questioned by Sergeant Mulcahy of the Royal Irish Constabulary stationed in Millstreet. He was not questioned as tot his own but as to those of Mr. P. O’Keeffe, elected member of Dail Eireann for the Constituency of North Cork, when on the 16th November he had driven in his car to Newmarket. In his statement to the Court Carmody said:-

“I was closely questioned by the Royal Irish Constabulary as to the destination of P. O’Keeffe M.P. when I drove him from his home to the North of Newmarket on the day previous to the robbery. Sergeant Mulcahy also tried to persuade me that I was back at Ballydaly Cross at 12 o’clock on the night of the hold up with P. O’Keeffe, M.P. He also suggested that O’Keeffe was hard up for money.”

(This effort to implicate in the robbery one of the elected representatives of the Irish people, a Member of the Republican Government and the General Secretary of the Sin Fein organisation, is a sinister example of the “duties” performed by the British police in Ireland.)

A SECOND HOLD UP PLANNED

Mr. O’Connor was evidently the accountant of the robbers. He it was who distributed the shares to each of the others. At the beginning of January 1920 the meetings in Carmody’s house became more frequent. A new plan was developing. The November hold up had been carried off with such success that the robbers were encouraged to greater ventures. By March 1920 the new plan was almost complete. It included a night raid on the Munster and Leinster Bank premises in the town of Millstreet. One of the gang was overheard to say that he had secured an instrument that would cut through the safe door “like a knife.” Should the manager of the raided bank come on the scene it was decided to choke him, that being the most noiseless way.

But other plans were developing at the same time and Republican detectives were now watching Carmody’s and Buckley’s houses day and night. Hearing of the proposed raid on the Bank an armed Republican guard was placed on this building each night and these guards had instructions to shoot, if the raid was attempted. But before the gang had time to put their more ambitious projects into operation they had been rounded up.

The parts played in the conspiracy by James Cotter, Jerh. Buckley and D. O’Sullivan were the least important. Cotter had accepted some of the stolen money as a bribe to keep silent as to the identity of the robbers all of whom he knew. Jehr. Buckley did not take part in the hold up but accepted £1,000 which he knew to have been stolen. Denis O’Sullivan was given sums by the robbers. During the examination Carmody admitted that he himself broke the car for which a British judge awarded him £300 compensation to be levied off the people of the district, and he signed an undertaking renouncing his claim to the compensation.

THE SENTENCES

Such was the story told at the trial. Close upon midnight on April 25th seven of the prisoners were found guilty and their sentences were immediately promulgated.

Daniel Buckley, publican, ex-soldier, ex-convict, a man with many years of evil-doing to his credit, known to have been implicated in many minor robberies was sentenced to 16 years' transportation. During that period he was warned against "*entering the Irish Republic without the necessary permit from the commanding officer of the Battalion area.*"

Mr. O'Connor, labourer, who was convicted of engineering the hold up in conjunction with Hugh O'Brien and whose record was very bad was sentenced to 15 years' transportation.

Patrick Carmody, baker, motor car proprietor & general merchant, who was convicted of complicity in the robbery but who was shown to be largely under the influence of others who had employed him because he was the driver of the Bankers car was sentenced to 10 years' transportation.

Mr. Murphy, small farmer, who was convicted of complicity in the robbery but whose record was not bad was sentenced to 8 years transportation.

John Buckley, brother of Mr. Buckley, who took no part in the robbery but was convicted of accepting £1,000 of the stolen money was sentenced to 12 months transportation.

James Cotter, labourer, who took no part in the robbery but who was aware of the conspiracy and accepted hush money was sentenced to five years' deportation from the county of Cork.

Daniel Sullivan, labourer, who was convicted of receiving a small sum of the stolen money, was sentenced to leave Millstreet within 24 hours.

These sentences were passed, the Court declared, "*In the interest of Millstreet and especially in the best interest of law and order under the Irish Republic.*" The prisoners sentenced to transportation broke down when they heard the terms of their sentences. They were permitted to see their relatives. Under the supervision of the Court arrangements were made by them to contribute to the support of those dependent upon them. At 12.30 a.m. on April 29th. they were removed under armed guard to the coast and were subsequently transported.

THE RINGLEADER RETURNS

Twelve days subsequently those who had been ordered to keep these prisoners under observation reported that Daniel Buckley had returned to Ireland. After two days he was again arrested, and in his possession was found a pencilled list of those he had marked for execution. The list contained 20 names of those who had been engaged in his trial either as witnesses or as judges. He was immediately brought before a Courtmartial and his sentence was increased to 20 years transportation. On the following night he was sent out of the country an armed guard travelling with him.

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WANTED BY REPUBLICAN POLICE**Bank robbers who may make armed resistance to arrest.**

In the detailed account given in yesterday's IRISH BULLETIN of the bank robbery at Ballydaly Cross, Millstreet, County Cork, and the subsequent capture of the band of robbers concerned in it, it was mentioned that two of the principal thieves, Daniel and Hugh O'Brien had escaped arrest. The following description of these missing men has now been circulated by the Republican Authorities:-

HUGH O'BRIEN, of Inchamay, Lyre, Banteer, Co. Cork.

Height 6' . 1", athletic and well built, has all the appearance of a drilled man. Eyes sparkling and of a restless disposition; wore a well cared for moustache which now be shaved off; appears to be of a highly-strung temperament, speaks with a peculiar accent. From information on hand he seems to be an adept at disguising his identity. No risks should be taken in connection with the arrest of the man, as it is likely that might defend himself with firearms.

DANIEL O'BRIEN, of Inchamay, Lyre, Banteer, Co. Cork.

Height about 6' . 1" . and built in proportion. Features brownish-red, of a hardy nature, walks with a loose gait and is a typical countryman. He has a peculiar habit of opening his eyes extra wide when looking at any person. A powerfully built man. All precautions should be taken when placing him under arrest.

The arrest of the above mentioned two brothers has been ordered by the O/C., Millstreet Battalion, and Cork 2nd. Brigade on the instructions of the Minister of Justice, Dail Eireann. It is of the utmost importance that should these men be found in your area they should be immediately placed under arrest, and you should communicate at once with above officer.

INCIDENTS IN A "RUINOUS CONFLICT"

FURTHER SIGNED STATEMENTS OF VICTIMS OF BRITISH VIOLENCE

We print below copies of signed statements which have just arrived in Dublin. Should the present peace negotiations break down and the British war of aggression re-commence, it is as well for the public outside Ireland to understand what war of this kind means to the civil population. For the last year non-combatants in all parts of Ireland have lived under a terror, the full extent of which is only now becoming known in Ireland, and is not known at all in other countries. The statements published below, with their tales of murder, outrage, cruelties and indignities to women, illustrate the method of restoring "*law and order*" which have been in use among the British forces for many months. These are not isolated incidents; they are the common experiences of thousand of Irishmen and women.

It will be noticed that all the incidents described took place within the last six weeks, several of them after Mr. Lloyd George had proposed to President de Valera a conference for the purpose of ending "*the ruinous conflict which has for centuriesembittered the relations of the peoples of these islands.*"

A Sick Man Pummelled And Beaten.

Statement of Thomas Byrne, Lodgekeeper, Drishane Convent, Millstreet.

(Thomas Byrne, aged 46, lives with his wife and six children in the back lodge of Drishane Convent, Millstreet, Co. Cork. He was visited four times in all by the Auxiliaries and Black and Tans. On two of these occasions he was dragged from bed and beaten. The following is his account of these two incidents):-

"On Friday, June 12th., at 10 p.m., I was raided by Auxiliaries and Black and Tans from Millstreet. At that time my wife was sick in bed for a fortnight and myself down with 'flu (influenza) from the previous Wednesday. I had put a bandage around my head to ease the headache I felt. An Auxiliary came to my bedside, asked me what the bandage was for, and when I said "*For the headache,*" he said "*Well, I'll give you a better one.*" Then drew his revolver and dealt me a blow which knocked me senseless. When I came to they asked me where tow certain men on the run were. I said I did not know, and I did not. They, thereupon, beat me and pummelled me for what seemed at least half an hour. After that they dragged me downstairs, put me on a chair, and pressing a revolver to both temples they gave me three minutes in which to tell them what I did not know, threatening to blow my brains out if I did not answer, and swearing with much blasphemy. At this moment my daughter entered the house, flung herself between me and them, and resisted when they tried to drag her from me. She kept herself between me and them until I got up to my room, and thus, I believe, saved my life.

"On June 17th. They burst in my door at 5 a.m., came to my bedside swearing vengeance for a recent ambush (I have never taken part in an ambush). One said I knew and concealed the men who had felled the trees round the turn of the road. (I did not know them and did not conceal them). He ordered me downstairs and out on the road and asked another, I suppose an officer, would he shoot me. The latter answered: "*Don't mind it this time, but*

give him a few punches.” These he gave, knocking me down inside my own door. Then they called on me to get up and come out again. But I did not move and my daughter closed the door against them, whereupon they went away still swearing.

“I vouch for the truth of the above statement.

(Signed): Thomas Byrne.”

The Torture and Murder of Michael Dineen.

(The following statement has a peculiar interest in that neither the Press nor Dublin Castle ever reported this murder. Such crimes on the part of the British forces have been so numerous that eventually both the press and the public ceased to be surprised at them, regarding them as normal incidents in the daily life of the people. Dublin Castle, whose agents were involved in this horrific murder, were careful to conceal its occurrence).

Statement of Daniel Dineen, Ivale, Kilcorney.

“About 7 a.m. on Friday, June 24th., I noticed some Auxiliaries and a policeman at a little distance from my house. I have since ascertained that the policeman’s name was Dowd. I called my brother, Michael, who was in bed. He got up and dressed, and was saying his morning prayers when the Auxiliaries came in. They questioned him and charged him with being in the Rathcoole Ambush on the previous week, and with being an office in the I.R.A., all of which was untrue, and which he denied. Then they took him out of the house and one of them went to his room, searched it and took some money. When this man came downstairs he ordered my brother to be brought in again, and questioned him about Sinn Fein, etc, and said: *“I’m going to shoot you because you must be an officer in the I.R.A.”* *“If you do,”* said Michael, *“I can’t help it. I suppose you shot as innocent men as me.”* He ordered Michael to be brought outside again.

“We heard Michael shouting.”

“My wife and I begged that Michael would not be shot, but the door was shut on us. We heard Michael shouting as if he were being beaten. My step-son went out, and he saw two Auxiliaries shooting my brother. He also heard them telling Michael to run, but he did not. My wife went out, and three men in uniform told her she had better go into the house again. She heard a good deal of firing as she returned to the house. Shortly afterwards two Auxiliaries came into the house, and one of them told me they had shot my brother, that they had turned the machine-gun on him, and he ought to be dead by this. He told us bring him to one of the sheds and put him in a coffin, and bury him, and said they would report the matter themselves, and that I need make no report. The man who said this was the man who had questioned Michael previously and who had taken the money. I can identify that man. The policeman named Dowd was present during the whole proceedings.

Terrible Wounds.

“When I examined the body of my brother, Michael, I found that one of his legs completely shattered at the knee. There was no wound or any mark of gun fire here, so the leg must have been broken when he was beaten. His back was covered with bullet wounds, and

nearly all the blood was drained from his body. There was a long cut in his vest, and a large open wound in his breast, which I thought was caused by a bayonet.

“I have never been asked to give evidence at any inquiry into my brother’s death.

(Signed) Daniel Dineen.
Ivale,. 3rd. July 1921

Incidents of a raid by Auxiliaries

Statement of Mary Margaret Dennehy, Millstreet

“11.15 p.m. on the 18th. May some Auxiliaries in uniform accompanied by Constable Duckham entered my father’s house. They my brother John name, striking him in the face at the same time. They charge him with typing despatches for the I.R.A. They kicked him and struck him with a rifle so that his face was swollen, and he bled from the nose and mouth.

“At 11.30 p.m. on June 29th. A body of Auxiliaries again entered our house. I and a lady friend were in bed. Our room was entered by uniformed Auxiliaries, who ordered us to get up, and remained in the room while we did so. They searched our room including the bed. My mother, who was in delicate health, was compelled to stand barefoot outside the street door. My brother was dragged out of the house. Two Auxiliaries who were drunk were dragging him along. One said to the other to carry him up the road and shoot him. My mother overheard this, and appealed to the officer in command, who ordered them to leave my brother go.

“This raid lasted about three quarters of an hour.

(Signed): Mary Margaret Dennehy,
Millstreet, 3 rd. July 1921.”

END

Written from: Mallow.

Signed: ‘LL’.

Comments on the recent capture of the Millstreet bank robbers by the Volunteers’ Millstreet Battalion and the local Republican police, mentioned by Tom in his last letter – ‘did you dream that it was I got this in motion & was through it, in fact we will not finish (*sic*) this for some time longer. This case has set all Ireland on like jobs ever since . . . We have now double enemies (*sic*) the last perhaps worse than the old.’ (On 27 April Liam had presided over a special Court before which eight prisoners were tried for the robbery on 17 November 1919. Following the investigation co-ordinated by Lynch, the robbers were tried and sentenced to deportation. All of the money recovered was returned to the banks.) ‘Bobbies have threatened to track us down to death, in fact we got a list on one having 22 down for execution including a priest. Will arrange where you can stay with me for a few days during holidays (*sic*) when we can have a long chat.’
MS36,251