

1916 Project

On November 21st 1921, my Great Grandfather Michael Con O'Driscoll and his neighbours were involved in the Kilmicheal Ambush against the Black and Tans and the Auxiliaries. They were members of the I.R.A., the Irish Republican Army. They arrived in Kilmichael early and stayed there all day. When the ambush was over they walked back in the dark to a safe house which is now often called *The Far Away Camp*, in Granure. The journey took three hours. This was during the War of Independence against Britain.

A safe house was any house where there was a widow or someone who was not involved in the war, or any empty house. They never stayed in a house belonging to other I.R.A. soldiers in their flying column or they never stayed anywhere which had no escape route. There is a granite sign outside the present house at the Far Away Camp of Granure. There is song called the Boys of Kilmichael. That was named after Kilmichael Ambush.

The men involved had guns and ammunition. There were probably places where ammunition and guns was stored: west along by Castlehaven perhaps, but not around in Granure.

When Con came home, back to the Far Away Camp, he came to get his horse and trap. He was sent to Kilbree near Clonakilty to collect Charlie Hurley who was the Brigade Commander. On the journey they heard a chain rattling on the road ahead of them. Con got off the trap to investigate the sound. Charlie warned him to take a gun and put a bullet in it. The sound turned out to be two goats tied together with a chain!

I got this information from Conor O'Driscoll, Granure, my Grandad. My name is Ciara O' Driscoll and I am from Granure.