



IN MEMORY OF  
LIEUT. DENIS KELLY  
I. R. A.  
KILLED IN ACTION  
17<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1923.  
R. I. P.

First I asked my nan Mary Hoelnett about any stories she remembered from 1916 - 1923.

She said that when she was going to school a girl in her class told her a story of her mother. When she was small her family hid a man who was fighting in the civil war. Their family name was Eronin. On this night the Pro-treaty army came to the house and banged on the door. They managed to hide the man in an outhouse. The next morning when the man left the Pro-treaty were waiting for him. Nan didn't remember his name but remembered he was shot and there was a memorial on road for him.

Nan told us it was on the road outside Kealkil on the way to Capabue. Nan rang again a few days later. She remembered that there was a story that the lady of the house wanted to throw holy water over the man when he was leaving but he refused. At the time the Anti-treaty were against the church also as the church were Pro-treaty.

After we got the news about the man from my nan we went for a drive to Kealkil to find the monument. We weren't sure where the monument was so we drove slow. We thought it would be small but when we did come across it, it was a very big cross. It was the colours green, white and orange. We were able to find the name of the man who died he was "Lieutenant Denis Kelly" He died on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1923 We said as we were there that we should try and find out a bit more information so we called to the house opposite the statue. It was a man that lived there his name was Ted Cronin. Later we found out he was a distant relation.

Ted Cronin told us that the house they came from was up the hill above him. There were two men not just one. Lieutenant Denis Kelly and the other man he did not know his name but what Ted did know was they were on horseback coming down over the hill. The sound of shots rang out and both men fled but Lieutenant Denis Kelly was killed where his monument lies today, fortunately the other man escaped. Lieutenant Denis Kelly's grandnephew lives in Bantry today. He was the one who put up the monument.

Extra:

I asked my other nan (Mary O' Connor) and she remembers stories about the Black & Tans. She says they were cruel people. They would burn houses. When people went to mass, they would wait outside houses with the names of people from the I.R.A. They tied people onto horses and dragged them through the village. She also remembers a story about a boy called Tead, he was her next door neighbor. He kept telling this disturbing story when he was out walking when he came upon the Black & Tans and they started laughing while shooting at Tead. They were only messing by shooting over his head. They hadn't a care in the world if they shot him as my nan says there are cruel people.

Ireland had a War of Independence from 1916 - 1922. In 1922 a treaty was signed. This meant that most of Ireland was to be a free state except the 6 northern countries which were to be ruled by England. The I.R.A fought for the War of Independence. After the treaty was signed the I.R.A split into two Anti-treaty and Pro-treaty (blueshirts). The majority were on the Pro-treaty side. The church, Guards etc were all Pro-treaty. They had access to loads of guns and ammunition. The Anti-treaty didn't have access to much. People who fought together in the War of Independence now fought against each other. Sometimes families were divided and even brothers fought against brothers. It only lasted 10 months but when it was over people didn't really want to talk about it much.

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5<sup>th</sup> class