

Name: Ethan Hurley

Age: nine

Class: 3rd class

School: Castledonovan N.S.

Person who told the story:

Donal O'Sullivan

Address of person who told the story:

Castle donovan Co.Cork.

1919 to 1921

War of Independence

There was an army of black and tans in Dunmanway called the K Company. Sometimes they travelled this road to Bantry to check how the people were behaving. The people did not like it so they set up little armies around the place. So when the black and tans came the people set up ambushes to destroy them. One day they were expected this way from Dunmanway the local army planted a bomb up a gully under the road about half a mile from the school. Fortunately for the black and tans they took the "Leacht an Fear Mearbh" road on that day.

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The local people were very lucky because if the bomb went off, neighbours would be shot and the houses would be burned down. Sometimes animals and fowl were also killed.

Another time just beyond Carráig Gorráidhe locals blocked the road with big rocks and stones. They lined up on high grounds with their rifles loaded ready for the attack. Informers were common in those times and the black and tans were

warned in advance of the situation.

During this time the Irish government set up Dail Eireann with their own courts. My great great grandfather Jerry Con O'Donovan (1868 to 1954) was a magistrate for the parish of Drimoleague.

Usually informers if caught would be executed. In one case since the informer had a large family another punishment was decided. He was made to take off all his clothes and run through a large "brake" of (furze) gorse.