My Great Grandad's name was Daniel C. Kelly. The "C" stands for Christy which was what he was known by. He was born on the 24th of December 1902. He was born in Bantry and he and his family moved to Mardyke St. Skibbereen in 1906 and later he moved to 3 Townshend St. Skibbereen (my mum now owns this premises).

When the Irish volunteers were organised in Skibbereen in the summer of 1917, he joined the local unit, his brothers Willie and John were also part of this unit. Christy was 15, Willie was 19 and John was 22 years of age. My Great Grandad main job at the time was to transport ammunition and guns for the unit around West Cork and East Kerry.

When this unit was started there were 14 to 16 people but by the end of 1917 the strength of the Skibbereen unit increased to about 25 people. During 1918 all members of this unit were engaged in organising the general public, collecting subscriptions for the Anti-Conscription Fund, making buckshots and improvising weapons such as pikes.

Early in 1919 Cork Brigade, which controlled the whole country was divided into 3 brigades. Christy, Willie and John were now in the 16th Batallion of the 3rd brigade. Training for all units continued throughout 1919 and the early parts of 1920. My Great Grandad took part in the normal activities of the local unit (Skibbereen) in addition to attending to his duties as despatch rider.