

Willie Chambers from Teadies, Enniskeane was my great Grand Uncle. I am going to give you a brief description of his involvement in the War of Independence and The Civil War.

As a young man, Willie was quite strong and athletic so he was used to transfer messages by bike or foot between the different sections and the Command centres. You must remember that this was before mobile phones!

He was also a scout, which meant he had to watch out for The Black and Tans and the English Army and report back what he saw. During the famous Kilmichael Ambush on the 28th day of November 1920 Willie then aged 19 was a scout on Enniskeane Bridge for 6 to 8 hours after the actual Ambush.

Guns and ammunition were scarce so different tactics were used to disrupt the enemy patrols around West Cork. Sometimes trenches were dug across the roads. Willie was involved in cutting overhanging trees, ready to fall in the event of an ambush, he did this once in Malmore but the Tans took a different route that day. It wasn't long before he was on a wanted list, where he was described as "medium to tall, brown hair, stocky and smiles a lot." His farmhouse was surrounded by the Tans and RIC once but Willie was away on some messaging duty, his brother was arrested by mistake for him. Con was in Dunmanway RIC Barracks for a week before he proved he wasn't Willie.

Willie didn't have a gun during the war but after the truce, he discovered he was a crack shot and became a sniper during the Civil War where he fought on the Anti Treaty side. Willie became Captain of the Ballineen Company 4th Battalion Cork number 3 Brigade. His brother Con was the Company Quarter Master.

Willie's son Liam tells me he remembers his father been given a shotgun once as an older man in his mid sixties and he shot 2 crows in seconds flat. He said he was West Cork Darts Champion several times proving what a great eye he had.

Like a lot of people who have witnessed armed combat, Willie didn't speak a lot about his involvement and Liam says that his dad had nightmares about sides during those times nearly a hundred years ago. When Willie died in He was given a military guard of honour as a tribute to the part he played during those times at the birth of our Nation.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Company of 4th Battalion 3rd Corks Brigade

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Names of Companies	Names of Captains	Addresses	Rank
Ballineen ✓	William Chambers	Deatice Enniskean	†
Kenneigh ✓	John Nyham	Derry pt Ballineen	Capt
Coppen. ✓	James Barrett	Aherlick Enniskean	†
Shanavagh ✓	Michael O'Neill	Shanavagh Ballineen	Capt
Belrose ✓	John Gallagher	Unites Castle town Enniskean	Capt
Abiohill ✓	Michael Walsh	Abiohill Enniskean	†
Kilmeen ✓	James O'Hara	Kilmeen Rossmore Ballineen	Capt
Ballinacarriga ✓	Michael C. Driscoll	Cranure Ballineen	Capt

Rank marked †
to be decided by Referer of
military Service Pensions

Signed Patrick O'Brien
Giltough
Ballineen



Ballineen Company
4th Battalion
60th III Brigade

Strength, 2nd critical Date,
58 members
61 members

RANK	N.A.M.E.	A.D.D.R.E.S.S.
Wt.	Patrick Stanley	Ladies Ennisken Co Cork
	Jerome Hurley	
	Boris Hurley	
	John Murray	
	Samit Lally R.I.P.	
	Patrick O'Connell	
	Amiaty Keohane	
	John Mc Donald	
	Amiaty Warren	Ballinacree Co Cork
	Jack Hennessey	
	John Hennessey	
	Samit Moynihan	
	J Lombard	
	Willie Lombard	
	Willie Coarty R.I.P.	
	Amiaty O'Seary	
	Sam Warren	
	Sam Crowley	
	Sam Hourahan	
	Richard Burke	
	Patrick Lyons	
	Tim O'Regan	
	John Cahalane	
	Quay Donovan	
	Boris Crowley	

58

Signed: William Chambers Ladies Ennisken Co Cork

P. S. N.	103455
OIBIG AN REIFEORA	
FAIGHTE	
1. C. DEAL. 1935.	
DÓN UÍ GRÍODHTEA	

8A

RANK	NAME	ADDRESS
Capt	William Chambers	Ladies Ennistean Co Cork.
1st Lt	Garret Barry	Ennistean Co Cork.
2nd Lt	E O'Donovan R.I.P.	Ennistean Co Cork.
Adjt	Denis M ^c Carthy	Ennistean Co Cork.
Q. M.	Edw. Chambers	Ladies Ennistean Co Cork.
Vol	William Cullinane	Ennistean Co Cork.
	Denis Suller	
	Jim Connell	
	Dick Sullivan	
	William M ^c Carthy R.I.P.	
	Jerry M ^c Carthy R.I.P.	
	Denis Murphy	
	John Murphy	
	James O'Leary	
	James O'Donovan	
	John M ^c Carthy	
	Charles M ^c Carthy R.I.P.	
	Pat Slyne R.I.P.	
	Sam Slyne R.I.P.	
	Thomas Donovan	
	James Sherten	
	Chris Eniscoll	
	William Keohane	
	Lossey O'Donovan	
	Pat Twomey	Castellards Ennistean Co.
	James Twomey	
	James O'Brien	
	Jack O'Brien	

Fwd: Willie Chambers

From : Gillian Crowley <crowley.gillian@gmail.com> Tue, 19 Sep, 2017 09:09
Subject : Fwd: Willie Chambers
To : scoilphadraignaofa@eircom.net

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ronan Crowley <rojocrowley@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 19, 2017 at 8:18 AM
Subject: Fwd: Willie Chambers
To: Gillian Mom <crowley.gillian@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPod

Begin forwarded message:

From: Liam Crowley <liamcrowley1@gmail.com>
Date: 19 September 2017 at 7:17:29 a.m. IST
To: Ronan <rojocrowley@gmail.com>
Subject: Willie Chambers

Hello Liam. Glad you're doing well. My father was quite athletic so he was used to transfer messages either by bike or foot, and acted as a scout e.g Kilmichael where was to keep on eye on the Enniskeane bridge over the Bandon in the 6 to 8 hours after the actual ambush. He also was involved in having trees overhanging roads ready to fell in the event of an ambush that were potential ambush opportunities e.g an Mawmore on main road on a straight stretch of road . On that occasion the Tans took a different route from Bandon to Enniskeane. (He did not have his own gun but later after the Truce he discovered he was a crack- shot and was used as a sniper in civil war where he too the Republican side) The Tans and RIC surrounded the farmhouse during the Troubles but he was off on bike on some IRA messaging duty at the time, but his brother Con was arrested by mistake . Con finally proved he was not Willie so was released after a week in the RIC barracks in Dunmanway. My father was on a wanted list by RIC and Tans. They described him as "medium to tall, brown hair, stocky and smiles a lot". He was a West Cork Darts champion several times including at least once in the 1960'ies and I say him being handed a gun maybe twice when he was circa 60 to 65 and