

EXTRACT FROM MICHAEL CORDIAL'S WITNESS STATEMENT:

Bureau of Military History, 1913-21.

Statement by Witness.

Document No. W.S. 1712.

Witness: Michael Cordial, Kinnitty, Co. Offaly.

Identity: Q/M, 3rd Battalion, Offaly No. 2 Brigade.

Subject: "C" (Kinnitty) Coy., 3rd Battalion, Offaly No. 2 Bgde., I.R.A.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness: Nil

File No. S.3024

STATEMENT BY MR. MICHAEL CORDIAL, Kinnitty, Co. Offaly.

Formerly Quartermaster, 3rd Battalion, Offaly No. 2 Brigade.

EXTRACT FROM WITNESS STATEMENT:

The attack on Pearson's.

=====

The Pearsons were a family who lived on an extensive farm or estate about one mile from Cadamstown and about three miles from Kinnitty. They were – particularly so, the male members of the family, father and three sons – violently opposed to the National Movement and they looked with contempt on local Volunteers or I.R.A. men.

Things reached a climax some time before the Truce when they fired with shotguns on a small party of Volunteers who were blocking a road. One Volunteer, a man named Heaney, was seriously wounded. A full report on the matter was made to the Brigade staff who after serious deliberation ordered that the four male members of the Pearson family should be executed and their house burned down.

On 30th June, 1921, a party of about thirty men were mobilised to implement the order. The house was surrounded and all women folk were removed from the scene. Fortunately for themselves, the father and one son were away from home that day. The other two sons, Richard and Abraham, were captured in a hay field. They were brought into the yard and informed of the order. A firing party was appointed and the executions were there and then duly carried out. Next, the house and out-offices were set on fire. Heavy explosions were heard while the house was burning which indicated that a large amount of ammunition was stored in it.

The remaining members of the Pearson family left the district and did not return. Years later, the Irish Land Commission acquired their estate and divided it up amongst the local people.

SIGNED: Michael Cordial

DATE: 13th December 1957

WITNESS: J. Grace

[Courtesy of the Bureau of Military History, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines, Dublin 6.]

