



Identity Statement

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Dates: 26th April – 16 June 1916
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CONTEXT

Creator(s): Court Service, Coroner's Court

ARCHIVAL HISTORY

The material was deposited with Galway County Council Archives in circa 2002. It was among a bundle of material relating to Galway Urban District Council which had been held by Galway County Libraries for some years.

ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

Listed by Patria McWalter, Archivist, April 2015

SCOPE AND CONTENT

File of handwritten material, including signed sworn witness statements, relating to the Inquest held at Eglinton Street Barracks, Galway into the death of Constable Patrick Whelan, RIC Officer¹, on 26th April 1916. Whelan was shot following an exchange of gun fire with Irish Volunteers close to Carnmore Cross early that morning.

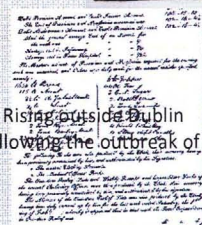
The Inquest was conducted by the Deputy Coroner², Louis Edward O'Dea, for the Western Division of the County of Galway, Solicitor, and his Jury, with evidence provided by Dr William Sandys, George B Heard Eyre, County Inspector RIC, Navan, Co. Meath, and Head Constable Patrick J. Killacky, Eglinton Street Barracks

¹ Whelan was 34 years at the time of his death. He joined the RIC eight years early. He was the first casualty of the Rising outside Dublin

² The Coroner, George Nichols, Solicitor, was an Irish Volunteer and was one of the first men arrested in Galway following the outbreak of the disturbances in April 1916.

Galway County Council
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 Island House
 Cathedral Square
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Includes list of the 13 jury members; resolution of sympathy from the Jury to the family of Whelan; proposal to adjourn inquest until 3 May; and a sworn statement from Dr Sandy, advising that he found wounds '*...caused by pellets of number of four gunshot (one of which I extracted)...Death was caused by haemorrhage of these vessels and by shock*'. Also the statement of George B Heard, County Inspector RIC, Navan, Co. Meath, with most pages signed by Heard, stating following a report of an insurrection he '*...left Barracks at about 3.20 am on the morning of the 26th of April 1916. I was accompanied by a party of thirteen police including the deceased Constable Patrick Whelan... We went in eight motor cars*', also, '*...I know that the shot that killed Constable Whelan was not fired by John Mulroyan but I saw him fire many shots subsequently. Constable Hamilton was subsequently wounded in the leg ...*'. Also a signed statement of Head Constable Patrick J Killacky, Eglinton Street Barracks, Galway, and a pre-printed vellum Inquisition statement stating that the death of Whelan was '*caused by a wound inflicted by a gunshot on the morning of the 26th of April 1916 and that the gunshot which caused the death was fired by some person or persons unknown*', signed by the Jurors and the Deputy Coroner.

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Allied Material For an account of the ambush see also Bureau of Military History Witness Statements, such as Witness Statement no. 342 of Michael Newell, also Witness Statement no. 345, of Brian Molloy.

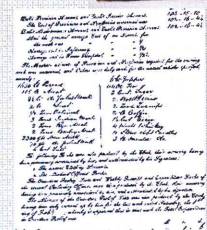
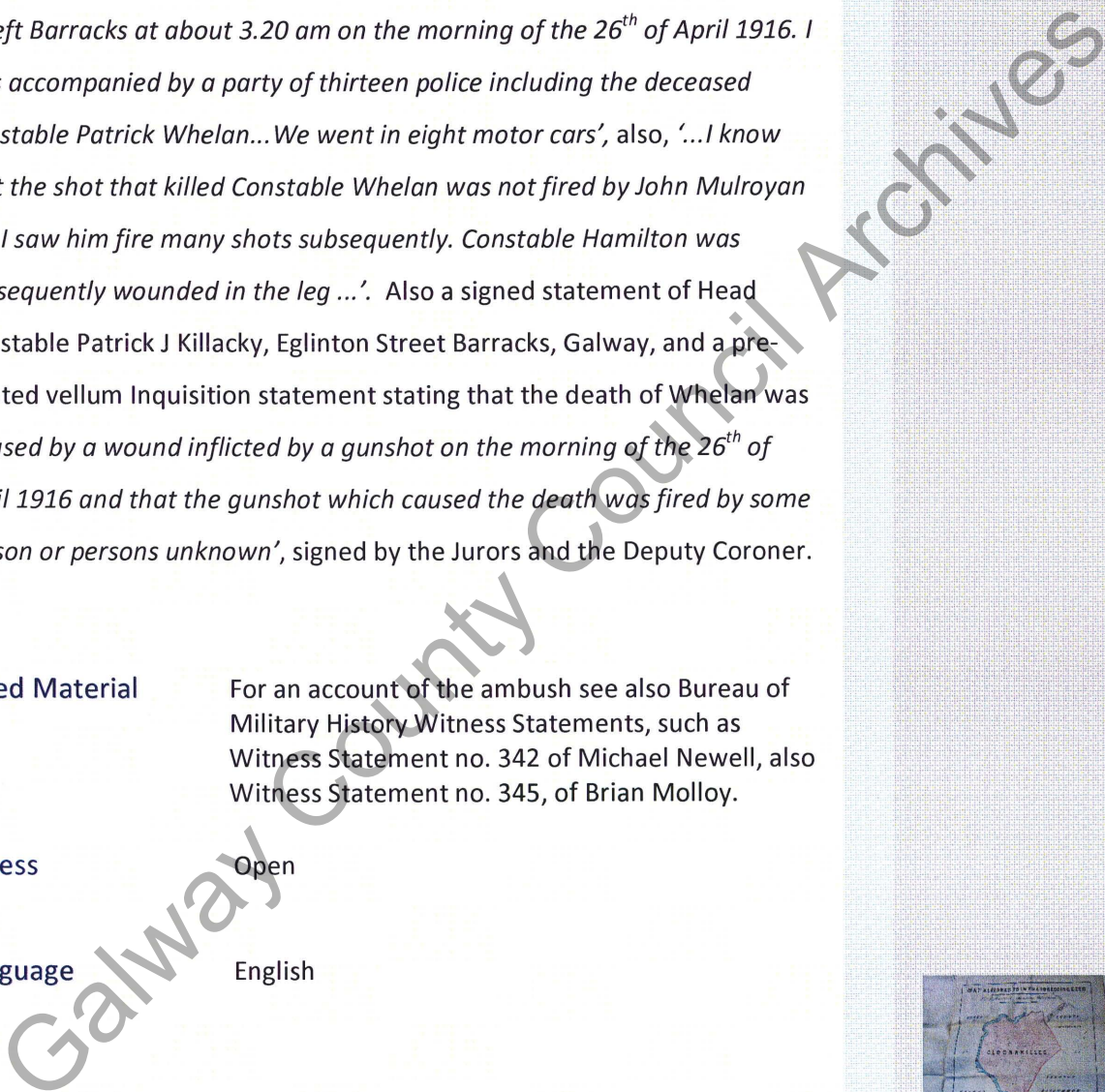
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Language English

*Digitised in 2015 as an action of County of Galway
Decade of Commemorations Strategy 2013-2023*

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County of Galway } At an Inquisition taken for our
 To wit } Sovereign Lord the King at Eglinton Street
 Barracks in the Parish of St Nicholas, Town and County of Galway
 on the 26th of April 1916 on view of the body of Patrick
 Whelan late of Eglinton Street Barracks a Constable of the R. F. C.
 then and there lying dead before me Louis Edward O'Shea Deputy Coroner
 and the jury who were duly sworn and who present as follows: -

"Having heard the evidence of Doctor Whelan a
 Surgeon the jury have decided to adjourn this
 Inquest until Wednesday the third of May
 1916 at the hour of six o'clock p.m.
 and accordingly this Inquest is adjourned until the
 date and hour above named"

William Dillon
 Foreman.

p.p. George Nicholls
 Louis E. O'Shea

Deputy Coroner
 for the Western Division of
 the County of Galway
 Solicitor, Galway

Jury
 William Dillon Jeweller,
 Michael Lydon of Eglinton Street
 Jeremiah O'Sullivan of University Road
 John J. Flynn - W^m Street
 Richard Walsh of Abbeygate Street
 Thomas Sweeney of William Street
 John J. O'Flynn of William Street
 Michael John O'Brien of William Street
 James Kelly of Shop Street
 Patrick Albert of Taylor Hill
 Patrick Fahy of Demerick Street
 Timothy Raftery Shop St
 George Deacy High Street

County of Galway } at an Inquisition on the death of
 To wit } Patrick Whelan late of Sinton Street
 Police Barracks and in view of the body of said Patrick Whelan
 deceased taken before Louis Edward O'Lea Solicitor, Deputy
 Coroner for George Nicolls Solicitor Coroner and a jury which was
 duly sworn it was.

Proposed by Mr. William Dillon Foreman and
 seconded by Mr. Jeremiah Sullivan and passed
 unanimously.

"That we the jury empannelled do
 inquire into the circumstances of the sad death
 of the late Constable Patrick Whelan and
 tender to his relatives our deepest sympathy
 in the great loss they have sustained and that
 copies of this resolution be sent to his relatives
 by Head Constable Killackey."

Signed

William Dillon
 Foreman.

Louis Edward O'Lea
 Deputy Coroner, Solicitor
 Galway

Proposed by Mr. Dalton Foreman and seconded
by Mr. Patrick Fahy that the Inquest do
stand adjourned until Friday the 19th day
of May 1916

Signed /

William Dillon

Patrick Fahy

George Nicolls Coroner

P. J. Louis Edward O'Lea

Solicitor

Deputy Coroner

This Inquest is adjourned accordingly

Louis E. O'Lea

Deputy Coroner

Galway County Council

COUNTY OF GALWAY, } THE INFORMATION OF
To Wit. }

Taken before me, GEORGE NICHOLLS, B.A., Solicitor, one of His Majesty's Coroners for said County. The Information being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelists, deposeth and saith—

Proposed by Mr. Tho. Pweeney
Decided by Mr. Fahy

That the Inquisition do stand adjourned until the hour of six o'clock p.m. on the eleventh day of May 1916

Signed

[Signature]

D. Fahy

P.P. George Nicholls

Louis Edward O'Lea

Solicitor Galway

Deputy Coroner for the
Western Division of the
County of Galway

Taken, Sworn, and Acknowledged before me.

County of Galway }
 To Wit }

The evidence of William A Sandys Esq Medical
 Doctor of The Crescent Galway who
 deposes having been first duly sworn and saith

"I was called to the Eglinton Street
 Barracks Galway this morning at between six
 and half past six o'clock. I saw the
 deceased whose name as I am now informed
 was Patrick Whelan a Constable of the Royal
 Irish Constabulary stationed at Eglinton Street
 Galway. He was then dead, The
 left side of his face of his forehead and of
 his neck nearly to the collar-bone were
 covered with blood which I washed off
 and found he had several punctured
 wounds over the regions I have described
 These wounds were caused by pellets
 of number four gunshot ^{of one of} which I extracted
~~Some of~~ These wounds penetrated through the cheek
 into the mouth and the bloodvessels in the
 side of the neck were wounded. Death
 was caused by hemorrhage of these
 vessels and by shock

W. A. Sandys.

Sworn this 26th of April
 1916 at Galway before me
 the words "one of" and "some of" on
 the fourteenth and fifteenth lines hereof
 having been first interlined

James Edward O'Leary

Deputy Coroner
 for the District Division of Galway
 Galway

p. p. George Nicolls

Coroner

Inquest

Comt. Patrick Whelan
Deceased

Galway County Council Archives

COUNTY OF GALWAY,
To Wit.

THE INFORMATION OF

George B. Heard Esq

County Inspector R. S. C. of Navan County Meath

James Edward O'Dea Solicitor, Deputy Coroner acting for

Taken before me, GEORGE NICHOLLS, B.A., Solicitor, one of His Majesty's Coroners for said County. The Information being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelists, depose and saith—

I was District Inspector in charge of the Galway District during the month of April. In consequence of reports of an Linnreochan being broken out I deemed it necessary to visit certain outlying stations of this District and also to visit the houses of some of the alleged leaders. I left Barracks at about 3.20 am on the morning of the 26th of April 1916. I was accompanied by a party of thirteen police including the deceased Constable Patrick Whelan also by a party of a few soldiers and sailors and civilian motor car drivers. We went in eight motor cars. I was in the ^{second} leading car with Captain Bodkin. Captain Bodkin was in the first car. We first visited Killeen Barrack and in consequence of information received I turned back and went on to the Brierhill road and thence in the direction of Carnmore Cross Roads. When within less than half a mile of the Cross Roads my attention was drawn to a girl in a field shouting and apparently signalling. I passed on and after going a couple of hundred yards I noticed a number of people on the road and in the fields near the cross. They were nearly half a mile away and I lost sight of them almost immediately afterwards.

Taken, Sworn, and Acknowledged before me.

G. B. Heard.

G. B. F.

To Mr Dillon.

It was the volley that was fired
when I fell that hit Constable
Wheeler

To the Coroner

I cannot identify any of the
men who fired that volley, but I
know that the shot that killed Constable
Wheeler was not fired by John Truogham.
but I saw him fire many subsequent shots.
Constable Hamilton was subsequently wounded
in the leg by a fire shot wound.

To a friend Mr O'Sullivan

The firing continued about fifteen or
twenty minutes.

we would not have left there then

but I had a shrewd suspicion that a larger party of rebels
was in the neighbourhood and our number was small

COUNTY OF GALWAY,
To Wit.

THE INFORMATION OF

George B. Heald Esq

Taken before me, GEORGE NICHOLLS, B.A., Solicitor, one of His Majesty's Coroners for said County. The Information being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelists, deposeth and saith—

When within a couple of hundred yards of the cross roads I halted the cars. Constable Whelan was in the third car immediately behind me. We all left our cars. I went forward accompanied by Sergeant John Clarke, the deceased Constable Whelan Acting Sergeant Casey and Constable Hamilton came immediately behind us. When running forward I saw at the far side of the cross roads behind a wall a man named John Mubrogan whom I knew, he had a single barrelled gun in his hand. When I had gone a few yards shots were fired from a hill not further down the road from the Lydian side and the shots were returned ^{by Captain Bodkin and} some of my party. I ran forward to the spot where I had seen Mubrogan and got close up to him. Constable Whelan being immediately on my left hand side I covered him with my rifle and I believe the deceased Constable Whelan did the same.

Taken, Sworn, and Acknowledged before me.

G. B. Heald

COUNTY OF GALWAY,
To Wit.

THE INFORMATION OF

Georg B. Heard

Taken before me, GEORGE NICHOLLS, B.A., Solicitor, one of His Majesty's Coroners for said County. The Information being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelists, depose and saith—

I called on them to surrender. Almost immediately when I had got them within three yards of them a ~~volley~~ volley was fired by a party of ~~any~~ between fifteen and twenty men who were lying on the left side of the wall and only came into my view as I reached that spot. The Deceased Constable was a very tall man of about six foot three and the shots fired appeared to go high certainly over my head. Whether from the concussion or the Constable falling on me I cannot say but I fell out into the middle of the road. Constable Whelan the Deceased was also on the ground when I recovered myself and we both crept back to the shelter of the wall on the west side. Constable Whelan as he lay up against the bank behind the wall within a few yards of me for some time was a little bit exposed to fire then so I spoke to him and got him to move down a few yards. The side of his face was then covered with blood.

G. B. Heard

blood

Taken, Sworn, and Acknowledged before me.

COUNTY OF GALWAY, } THE INFORMATION OF
 To Wit. }

Taken before me, GEORGE NICHOLLS, B.A., Solicitor, one of His Majesty's Coroners for said County. The Information being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelists, deposeth and saith—

blood. I knelt on my knee a few yards out from the wall and I continued to return the fire of the Rebels. At this time we were all exposed to fire from the corner where I had seen Mulroyan but the fire gradually slackened and we could see parties of men slipping away in the distance when they got out of shelter of the wall. In all I saw about eighty men there. After a few minutes I called up some assistance for Constable Whelan and first aid was rendered but he was then apparently dying. Not knowing whether the Rebel party were trying to take us on the rear we went forward on to the Oranmore Road and home that way. Constable Whelan was apparently dead before we got him into the car. I addressed him a couple of times when lying against the Bank and could get no answer from him although he moved a few times. Constable Whelan was one of the finest young Constables in the force and was splendid in physique and in general character was excellent.

Taken, Sworn, and Acknowledged before me.

George B. Heard Express evidence continued

To Mr Dillon

It was the volley that was fired when I fell
that hit Constable Whelan

To the Coroner.

I cannot identify any of the men who fired
that volley but I know that the shot that killed Constable
Whelan was not fired by John Ambroyan but I saw him
fire many shots subsequently. Constable Hamilton was
subsequently wounded in the leg by a fire shot wound

To Mr O'Sullivan Juror.

The firing continued about fifteen or twenty
minutes. We would not have left them but I
had a shrewd suspicion that a larger party of rebels
was in the neighbourhood and our party was small

Signed /

G. B. Heard.

Taken sworn and acknowledged before me

Louis J. O'Connell

Deputy Coroner

for George Nicolls

Coroner for said County of Galway

COUNTY OF GALWAY, } THE INFORMATION OF *Head Constable Patrick*
 To Wit. } *J. Killacky of Eglinton Street Barracks Galway*

Louis Edward O'Shea
 Taken before me, GEORGE NICHOLLS, B.A., Solicitor, one of His Majesty's Coroners
 for said County. The Information being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelists, depose
 and saith—

*I saw the late Constable Patrick Whelan leave the
 Eglinton Street Police Barracks on duty on the morning
 of the 26th of April 1916. I saw him ~~at~~ was then
 in good health. I saw his dead body which
 I afterwards identified and which the jury afterwards
 viewed later on that day.*

*J. Killacky
 H. Const*

Taken, Sworn, and Acknowledged before me.

Louis Edward O'Shea Deputy Coroner.
for George Nicholls, Coroner

1916

INQUEST

Constable M. Whelan

Galway County Council Archives

COUNTY OF GALWAY.)

To Wit,

An Inquisition intended taken for our Sovereign the King at the

house of *The Elinton Street Police Barracks* in the Parish of *St Nicholas* in the Town of *Galway* Barony of *Galway* and County of Galway, on the *16th* day of *June*, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and *Sixteen* before, *Louis Edward O'Leary Deputy Coroner acting for* GEORGE NICOLLS, Esquire, B.A., one of His Majesty's Coroners for said County, on view of the Body of *Patrick Whelan*, late of *Elinton Street Galway R.I.C.*, in said County, then and there lying dead before me and the Jury hereinafter named.

- 1 *William Dillon* *Jeweller* 10 *George Deacy of Hill St Galway, Victualler*
- 2 *James O'Sullivan* *St. L. Galway* 11 *Matthew Naughton* *Merchant Galway*
- 3 *Richard Walsh* *Contractor Galway* 12 *James J. Kelly* *Merchant Galway*
- 4 *Patrick O'Leary* *Merchant Galway* 13 *Michael Lyden* *of Elinton St Galway*
- 5 *Thomas Sweeney* *Draper Galway* 14
- 6 *John J. Glynn* *Merchant Galway* 15
- 7 *John J. O'Hara* *of William St Galway Merchant* 16
- 8 *Michael J. O'Brien* *of Galway Victualler* 17
- 9 *Patrick Fahy* *of Galway Coach Builder* 18

Who being duly empanelled, sworn and charged on their Oaths do say and Present that the death of the aforesaid *Constable Patrick Whelan* was *caused by* a gun shot on the morning of the *26th* of April 1916 and that the shot which caused the death was fired by some person or persons unknown

In witness whereof, as well the said Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid have hereunto Set and Subscribed their Hands and Seals the day and the year first and above-mentioned.

- 1—Foreman (Seal) *William Dillon* 10 (Seal) *Matthew Naughton*
- 2 (Seal) *James O'Sullivan* 11 (Seal) *James Kelly*
- 3 (Seal) *Richard Walsh* 12 (Seal) *Michael Lyden*
- 4 (Seal) *Patrick O'Leary* 13 (Seal)
- 5 (Seal) *Thomas Sweeney* 14 (Seal)
- 6 (Seal) *John J. Glynn* 15 (Seal)
- 7 (Seal) *John J. O'Hara* 16 (Seal)
- 8 (Seal) *Michael J. O'Brien* 17 (Seal)
- 9 (Seal) *Patrick Fahy* 18 (Seal)

Louis Edward O'Leary Deputy Coroner for said County.
for George Nicolls Coroner for said County

Conat Park Whelan

deccord.

Inquisition



Galway County Council Archives