

Thomas Cardiff Papers

P113



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Introductory note

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Thomas Cardiff Papers: content and structure

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Introduction

The Thomas Cardiff Papers were deposited in UCD Archives in September 1992 by Ms Deirdre Wilson. They relate mainly to Cardiff's career as Transport Officer of 6 Battalion, Dublin Brigade; and of 2 Brigade, 2 Eastern Division, IRA, between 1921 and 1922. A small number of items relate to his subsequent service during the Emergency with the 26 Battalion Volunteer Force, a unit of the army drawn mainly from former members of the Dublin Brigade.

Cardiff joined the IRA in March 1917, serving with H Company, 3 Battalion, Dublin Brigade. He was elected Captain in January 1919. He served as Transport Officer for the 6 Battalion of the Dublin Brigade from October 1919, although the material in this small collection does not begin until the middle of 1921; for 2 Brigade, 2 Eastern Division from September 1921.

He took the republican side during the Civil War and was arrested in August 1922; successively imprisoned in Wellington Barracks, Maryboro Prison and Tintown Internment Camp, the Curragh. There are two personal statements of his service record in the collection [see P113/11-12] as well as an affidavit by Cardiff of the service record of a former comrade, Paddy Brennan. It is likely that these were drawn up to support applications for pensions under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1934.

Most of the documents are of a routine but interesting nature, providing evidence of the working of the Brigade Transport Branch during the period between the Truce and the Civil War. They consist of requisitions for transport and directives to Cardiff from his Commanding Officer or Quartermaster to provide transport, for the haulage of, among other things, castor oil, pig iron and potassium chlorate [see P113/5]. One of the most intriguing documents in the collection is the return of vehicles in the brigade area [see P113/4], an unofficial but extremely detailed census of vehicles in the area, presumably intended to be commandeered when the need arose.

May 1997

1 Transport Officer, I.R.A.

1.1. 6 Battalion, Dublin Brigade, June-September 1921

P113/1 [c.June 1921]

1p

A[ndy] McDonnell, O/C, Headquarters, Dublin Brigade, to Cardiff, with instructions for the transport of petrol and beef; and the provision of a car for his own use.

P113/2 12 September 1921

1p

Vice O/C, 6 Battalion, Dublin Brigade, to Cardiff, with instructions for a parade of 'transport men' at Deansgrange.

P113/3 [late 1921]

1p

G. Cruise, [Volunteer] No. 57, to Cardiff, excusing himself from parading that night as he is working late.

P113/4 1921

17pp

Returns, by company area, of automobiles in the battalion jurisdiction. Returns list owners, their addresses, the make of car, the number of seats; with observations as to horsepower, accessibility, age, condition, and availability of petrol and tyres. Most returns are in a prescribed form; one is on Film Company of Ireland, Dame Street, Dublin, headed paper; some are on scraps of paper. Included are commercial and goods vehicles and private cars.

**1.2 2 Brigade, 2 Eastern Division/South Dublin Brigade,
October 1921-May 1922**

P113/5 October 1921–February 1922

21 items

Directives and communications from the Quartermaster's [Lieut Comdt. Niall MacNeill]Department, 2 Brigade, 2 Eastern Division/South Dublin Brigade, to Cardiff, Brigade Transport Officer. Includes orders to provide heavy goods vehicles for the transport of, for example, coke, pig iron, castor oil and potassium chlorate; directions to attend meetings to report on the work of his branch; requests to sell tickets for a 'dramatic entertainment', proceeds from which would support the brigade; and examples of requisition and report forms.

P113/6 7 October 1921

9pp

Brigade Supply Officer, Quartermaster's Department, 2 Brigade, 2 Eastern Division, to Cardiff, enclosing for reference a copy of a circular (8pp) from the Quartermaster General concerning the work of quartermasters and the various sections of their departments, including transport.

P113/7 2 December 1921

6pp

Brigade Standing Orders Nos. 1 and 2, sent by the Brigade Quartermaster's Department, 'for your guidance and general information'. Relate to all procedural matters within the Brigade, including requisitions for material, transport, and funds; and the work and responsibilities of Brigade Staff Officers.

P113/8 December 1921, March 1922

2 items

Directives from Vice O/C, Brigade Transport Officer; to provide the Brigade motor car (7 December 1921, 1p), and to attend for inspection of 3 Battalion transport men.

P113/9 16 February 1922
1p
Requisition from A. McDonnell, O/C, 2 Brigade, 2 Eastern Division, to O/C Transport at Rosemount, for the provision of a Ford car.

P113/10 4 May 1922
1p
Copy of a joint order from Owen O'Duffy and Liam Lynch, Oglagh na hEireann, Headquarters Four Courts, Dublin, ordering a truce 'with a view to giving representatives of both sections of the Army an immediate opportunity to discover a basis for Army unification'.

1.3 Service Records

P113/11 [1930s?]
12x9x0.5cms
Notebook containing a detailed handwritten record by Cardiff of his complete service history, together with names of references [for application for a military service pension].

P113/12 [1930s?]
18x12x0.5cms
Notebook containing handwritten account of his own service history; together with names and addresses of former comrades, including officers. Also includes some notes on arms and munitions.

P113/13 [1930s?]
2pp
Handwritten affidavit by Thomas Cardiff, Bridgeview Cottage, Shankhill, late O/C, H. Company, 3 Battalion; T/O, 6 Battalion, Dublin Brigade; T/O, 2 Dublin Brigade; concerning the service history of Paddy Brennan, an officer in 2 Dublin Brigade.

1.4 Printed Matter

P113/14 September 1921–January 1922

6 items

Copies of four training memoranda, nos. 4, 15, 16, 17, issued by the Director of Training, GHQ, relating to the writing of orders and reports, and to specific firearms. 2 additional sets of unidentified instructions relate to reports and marksmanship.

An tÓglách Official organ of the Irish Volunteers.

P113/15 16 September 1921 vol. 3, no. 26

P113/16 23 September 1921 vol. 3, no. 27

P113/17 30 September 1921 vol. 3, no. 28

P113/18 7 October 1921 vol. 3, no. 29

P113/19 21 October 1921 vol. 3, no. 31

P113/20 28 October 1921 vol. 3, no. 32

P113/21 4 November 1921 vol. 3, no. 33

P113/22 2 December 1921 vol. 3, no. 37

P113/23 23 December 1921 vol. 3, no. 40

P113/24 30 December 1921 vol. 3, no. 41

P113/25 13 January 1922 vol. 3, no. 42

2 26 Rifle Battalion, Volunteer Force, 1944–5

P113/26 1944

16pp

Programme of events of an open day organised by the 26 Battalion, Volunteer Force. Includes lists of members, and photographs of officers and men.

P113/27 1945

1p

Roll of Honour of C Company, 26 Rifle Battalion, including Volunteer Thomas Cardiff.

P113/28 December 1945

1 item

Certificate of service and discharge of Thomas Cardiff as a volunteer in the 26 Rifle Battalion.