

# ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURÓ STAIRÉ MÍLEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 38



Telefón 61018

ROINN COSANTA.

BURÓ STAIRÉ MÍLEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21),

26 RAFDH NA NIARTHARACH,  
(26 Westland Row),

BAILE ÁTHA CIHAIRN  
(Dublin)

DOCUMENT W.S.38

Joint Statement by

Liam Jones - Greenhill  
Patrick McCarthy - Lahakineen  
Cornelius O'Regan - Monaparson

Mourneabbey, Co. Cork.

Dated: 20th October, 1947.

On: Mourneabbey Company I.V.  
1915-1916.

4 pp. - Typescript - Foolscap.

File No. S.354.

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURG STAINÉ MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

No. W.S. 38

W 5 38

JOINT STATEMENT OF LIAM JONES, GREENHILL, MOURNEABBEY, CO. CORK  
PATRICK McCARTHY, LAHAKINEEN, MOURNEABBEY.  
CORNELIUS O'REGAN, MONAPARSON, MOURNEABBEY.

PERIOD: JULY, 1915, TO MAY, 1916.

UNIT: MOURNEABBEY COMPANY, I.V.

Mourneabbey Company of the Irish Volunteers was started in July, 1915. The immediate circumstances which gave rise to the inauguration of the Company were that Timothy B. Riordan, Blacksmith, Analeenta, asked Tomás MacCurtain to come out and speak. There was never a Company of National Volunteers in the district, which was strongly O'Brienite in political sympathies. There was a small Branch of the Gaelic League, but it contributed nothing to the start of the Volunteers, none of its members joining up. There was a G.A.A. organisation also, but it did not influence the start in any way. A large percentage of the people in the district had sound national ideas, and were ready to support a vigorous national movement.

Tomás MacCurtain spoke after Mass at Analeenta and Burnfort churches on a Sunday in July, 1915. About 23 men joined at Analeenta and 7 at Burnfort. The Company was formed immediately. For the first few weeks there was a Committee in charge, of which Pats Curtain was Chairman and Jeremiah Mullane Secretary. Dan Leary was Vice Chairman.

The first meeting of the Company was held at Jordan's Bridge. After a few Sunday parades, Tomás MacCurtain sent Captain Tom McCarthy from Dublin, who was in Cork at the time, to us, and he stayed for about a month, during which time he gave us training in drill. Daniel McCarthy of Lahakineen was elected Captain. He had to withdraw for family reasons after about a month, and Liam Jones was then elected Captain. At the end of 1915 the strength of the Company was about 80 men. Up to November, 1915, an ex-soldier named Jack Coughlan trained us. He was a workman employed locally and left the district about that time. He was given some small remuneration for his services.

Jeremiah Mullane attended the course of training carried out by J.J. O'Connell at the Hall in Sheares' Street in January, 1916. On his return he was elected 1st Lieutenant. About the same time Michael Ronan was appointed Quartermaster, and Patrick McCarthy, Maurice Walsh, Timothy Looney and Maurice Callaghan were appointed Section Commanders.

MICHAEL NAGLE, L. J. R.M.G. Co. 2

A weekly parade was held on a week night and a parade every Sunday. Sunday route marches took place to Bweeing, Whitechurch and Kilavullen on different dates for the purpose of recruiting for the Volunteers. The Cork City Companies were at Bweeing and Whitechurch on the same Sundays that we were there. Tomás MacCurtain spoke at both places. No other Company was at Kilavullen the day we went there, and there were no speakers. Whitechurch was the only one of these places at which a Company was formed.

The Company paraded about 80 men for the Manchester Martyrs' Commemoration parade in Cork in November, 1915. Some had arms, mostly shot guns, and caps, belts and puttees were worn by the majority. We had about the same number, similarly equipped, at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Cork in 1916. On both occasions we travelled to and from Cork by train.


The men paid 3d a week into a Company fund for the purchase of equipment. Most of them had been supplied with caps, puttees and belts early in 1916. Haversacks were carried for the first time on Easter Sunday, 1916.

The orders for Easter Sunday, 1916, were brought to Liam Jones verbally by Fred Murray of Cork some time in the previous week. They were to the effect that the Company was to mobilise on a war footing, with all available arms, ammunition and equipment, and march to Bweeing on Easter Sunday. They were to carry three days' rations. Arrangements were made accordingly, and every members of the Company was mobilised.

The Burnfort men assembled at Burnfort after first Mass and marched to Liam Jones', Greenhill, to collect the ammunition there. They then marched to Analeenta, where the whole Company assembled after Mass, at about 11 o'clock. Ammunition was distributed there. The Company then marched to Bweeing Cross. The route was from Analeenta, through Monaperson, Ballyphilbeen, Carrigcleena, Clashaboy to Bweeing. There were no bicycles; all the men marched. No advance or rear guards were detailed. An R.I.C. man named Donovan followed us part of the way.

The following is a complete list of Officers and men of the Company who paraded on Easter Sunday, 1916:-

Company Quartermaster:	Mick Ronan,	Clashmorgan.
	Timothy Harold,	do
	John Cronin,	do
	Timothy Cronin,	do
	William P. Cronin,	do
	John Looney,	Ballyphilbeen.
1st Lieut.:	Jeremiah Mullane,	Monaperson.
	Jeremiah Cronin,	do
	Jack Buckley,	do
	Jack Mullane,	do
	Tadg Mullane,	do
	Dan Church,	do
	Con O'Regan,	do
	Tom O'Regan,	do
	Jack O'Regan,	do
	Paddy Donoghue,	Ballyknockin.
	Tim B. O'Riordan,	do
	Anthony Murphy,	do
	Denis Sullivan,	Glynn.
	Danny Looney,	do
	Jerome Buckley,	do
	Paddy Buckley,	do
Section Commander:	Paddy McCarthy,	Lahakireen.
	Jack McCarthy,	do
	Daniel McCarthy,	do
	Patsy Donovan,	do

	John Murphy,	Burnfort.
	Mick Hanlon,	do
	Paddy Barry,	do
	Jeremiah Hassett,	do
Coy. Captain:	Liam Jones,	Greenhill.
	Dan Jones,	do
	Richard Jones,	do
	Maurice Walsh,	do
	Dave Walsh,	do
	Patrick Ronan,	do
	Jack Ronan,	do
	Mick Ronan,	do
	Patrick O'Regan,	do
	John Connell,	do
	Tim Riordan,	do
	Patrick Flynn,	do
	Con Twamey,	do
	Jack Looney Connell,	do
	Maurice Callaghan,	do
	John Mulcahy,	Tooreen.
	Denis Mulcahy,	do
	William Mulcahy,	do
	Tommy Mulcahy,	do
	Thos. T. Mulcahy,	do
	Mick Nagle,	Knockbrack.
	Dick Nagle,	do
	Ned Flynn,	do
	Jack R. O'Sullivan,	do
	Mick R. O'Sullivan,	do
	Mick S. O'Sullivan,	do L.J. PALG 
Sec. Commdr.:	Timothy Looney,	Island.
	Mick Looney,	do
	John Connell,	do
	Tim Connell,	do
	Patrick Foley,	do
	Con Foley,	do
	John Conway,	do
	Dave Moylan,	do
	Mick Riordan,	do
	Denis Linehan,	do
	Patrick Dorgan,	do
	Maurice Mahony,	do
	Con O'Leary,	Gurtanelig.
	Maurice Finn,	do
	Jack Finn,	do
	Timothy Sheehan,	Mourneabbey.
	Timothy Keefe,	do
	Jeremiah Hurley,	do
	Tadg O'Riordan,	do

The arms which we had on Easter Sunday were:-

One old Snyder rifle, with a few rounds of ammunition.  
One .22 rifle, with 100 rounds.  
Sixty shot guns, with 2,000 rounds, at least 100  
of which had been loaded with slug.  
Fourteen pikes.  
One .38 and one .22 revolver, with a small quantity  
of ammunition.

We had bought twelve of the shot guns in Mallow. Others we had bought from the Brigade. The remainder were the property of the men themselves or of their fathers. The pikes were made locally by Tim Riordan, Ned Flynn and ~~Jack~~ Sullivan. They had <sup>L.J.</sup> 8 ft. handles which we had purchased at Scotts in Cork. Seán <sup>pal</sup> Curtin brought out most of the guns that came from the Brigade. He also brought the pike handles and some ammunition that came to us from the Brigade, free of charge. We had purchased some ammunition with Company funds, the men had bought some individually and we had got some from Dan Hegarty, Mallow. The Snyder rifle was an old Fenian Weapon. It was serviceable.

We had no information that day as to the purpose of the parade. Liam Jones had been at a meeting in Cork on the previous Sunday at which instructions were given to prepare for a turn-out with all arms and equipment. No date for the turn-out was specified at that meeting, but stress was laid on the necessity for all Companies to be ready and prepared whenever called upon. It was advised also that all the arms and ammunition possible should be procured.

There assembled also at Bweeing Companies from Kilmona, Whitechurch, Courtbrack, Mallow, Donoughmore and Castletownroche. A guard was put on the public houses, and some exercises were carried out on Shea's Hill nearby. Miceal Lynch arrived on a motor cycle and side car soon after we got to Bweeing.

It was getting dusk when Tomás MacCurtain, Terence MacSwiney and Tom Kent arrived in a car from the Donoughmore direction. Tomás MacCurtain spoke to the whole parade, standing on a roadside fence. He spoke briefly. He said that he had hoped for better things that day. The men were to return quietly to their homes, they may be called upon again at any time and they should remain alert and ready for further orders. They should safeguard their arms.

The car in which the Brigade Officers travelled returned towards Donoughmore. Miceal Lynch left about the same time as they did.

We marched back to our own area. The night was very wet and everybody was soaked through. When we arrived in the Company area we dismissed.

No orders of any kind came to the Company during Easter Week. The men were available for mobilisation at short notice. There were no raids or arrests in the area, and no arms were lost or surrendered.

There were no I.R.B. or Fianna organisations in the area before 1916. Cuman-na-mban may not have been formally organised but the ladies who afterwards were active in it were active then. They made the haversacks for the Company.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MIL'ITA 1913 21

No. W.S. 38

SIGNED:

Liam Jones

Patrick Mac Carthy

Anneline Ryan

WITNESS: Florence Donoghue,

DATE: 20th Oct 1947.