

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21  
No. W.S. 105

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 105.....

**Witness**

Doctor de Burca

**Identity**

Member of I.R.B.

Member of Ulster I.V. 1916.

**Subject**

I.R.B. London 1895

Irish Volunteers, Ulster, 1916.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

File No. ....S.28.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

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STATEMENT by Dr. de Burca.

1  
I was born in 1876 and I was admitted to the I.R.B. in London in 1893. My credentials were checked by a man named Buttimer. The first job I got for the I.R.B. was the organisation of the G.A.A. in London with the object of making as big a splash as possible and, by activities in G.A.A. Organisation, to collect possible recruits for the I.R.B.

2  
Dr. Mark Ryan, whom I then knew, suggested to me the idea of getting Civil Servants transferred from London to Ireland. I was then in the British Excise Service. Of the seven men who joined the Service at the time I joined, there was only one who did not remain a good Civil Servant. However, I got transferred to Belfast and got introduced to Eithne Carbery. I was also introduced to Eithne Carbery's father, Johnston, an old I.R.B. man who had at that time become more interested in his business projects than matters pertaining to the I.R.B. Mr. Johnston was, however, good for a subscription to the I.R.B., when required.

3  
When in Belfast, I visited Dublin often. In Dublin I met Alice Milligan and a man whose name I forget who was a sub-Editor on the "Independent." Those two had unending quarrels which produced a harmful effect on the I.R.B. Organisation. I also

met/

met in Dublin Paddy Devlin from the Newry District. This man was on the staff of the Farmers' Gazette. He was a powerful worker and speaker. Although in some ways unstable he was most useful. I was transferred to Kilkenny. I met Thomas McDonagh there who was teaching in Kilkenny. I took him into the I.R.B. I had a son at St. Enda's, and, by this circumstance, got to know Padraig Pearse. Pearse informed me that he knew that the I.R.B. existed; that he made speeches that should have attracted the I.R.B. to him. Pearse was too big a man to be only a member of the I.R.B., and the approach between Pearse and the I.R.B., should come from the I.R.B.

4  
During the period immediately preceding the Rising, I was living near Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. I was an enthusiastic cyclist and travelled from Carrickmacross each week-end, and, at times, twice per week. I reported mainly to Pearse but sometimes to Tom Clarke. I took the orders from Pearse to the Ulster Council on the Wednesday of Holy Week. I gave the orders to the Council collectively. I would say that the idea of the Belfast and Tyrone men marching to the West of Ireland to join Mellows as part of the plan for 1916 is incorrect. I returned to Dublin on the Thursday of Holy Week. There were no orders for the Rising for any Ulster county except Belfast and

Tyrone/

Tyrone. The organization elsewhere was scrappy. The majority of the men who travelled from Belfast to Co. Tyrone for the Rising were formerly Redmondite Volunteers who had much respect for Eoin MacNeill's orders. The Ulster Council of the I.R.B. comprised five members. Denis McCullagh and Dr. Patrick MacCartain were members. I cannot remember the other members. I only knew Seamus Dabbin from association with him in Reading Jail after the Rising.

5.  
When I took Pearse's orders to Denis McCullagh on the Wednesday prior to the Rising, he cried. McCullagh's activities during the Rising were not approved of by the I.R.B., and he was refused re-admission to the I.R.B., after the Rising.

6.  
During Easter Week, 1916, I tried to get the Monaghan men out in the Rising. The men obeyed MacNeill's orders and refused to participate. I had to go "on the run" from my own men who resented my efforts to get them to do something.

7.  
I came to Dublin the week after the Rising. I was arrested in O'Connell Street and sent across to prison in England.

8.  
I would say that the intention of the Leaders was to keep the I.R.B. membership small and select. The members of the I.R.B. were looked on as important and reliable men. The Irish Volunteers were to be officered by the I.R.B.

9  
One of the soundest men I met in I.R.B. circles  
in Dublin pre-1916 was a shoemaker named Jack  
Hanlon. He was the mainstay of the Organisation  
after 1898.

10  
William Laughran was the most important man  
in Monaghan County in 1916.

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