

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S.108.....

Witness

George Spicer

Identity

Member of Irish Volunteers, Tralee, 1919

SubjectLanding of Captain Monteith and Bailey
at Banna - 30th Spril 1916.**Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness**

File No. ... S. 721 ..

Form B S M 2

ORIGINAL

Dominick St

Inalee. 18/3/48

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

PERO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

W.S. 108

J O Conoghue

Douglas Road

Cork

Dear Sir

There is a small item I would
like you to insert as I forgot at the
time to mention to you

When Bailly Collins & Stack were
in the kitchen A. St. Paul mentioned to
us that the Motor Car was waiting
for them upon Balamagh near Mucky
Circuit. They all went out together
with my Daughter Hannah. She
walked with Bailly & Collins & Stack
Following Bailly went into the Motor
after getting his instructions and
drove away my Daughter came home
Immediately

I remain

Yours Respectfully G. J. Special

G. J. Special
Enclosing Copies as requested

W.S.
108

STATEMENT OF GEORGE SPICER, DOMINICK
STREET, TRALEE, CO. KERRY.

I was employed in Killarney in 1916, but my home was in Tralee. Thursday was the half-day in Killarney at that time. On Holy Thursday, 1916, I left Killarney on the 3.40 p.m. train, arriving in Tralee at 4.30, with the intention of staying at home over Good Friday, which was a holiday. Before I arrived at home Sergeant Crawford, R.I.C., had called to enquire if I had arrived. The police were aware that I had left Killarney.

I had the shop open about 8 a.m. on Good Friday. I had put out the frame placard, the length of the window, which was used to display newspaper contents posters. About 8.30 a.m. two men, whom I did not know, came to the shop. One of them asked me if he could get in touch with the Captain of the Volunteers. He gave some name which I do not now remember, but which I found afterwards was false. I told him that he could get in touch. He then asked if he and his companion could get some breakfast. I called my young son, and told him to take them to Mrs. Labin's in Bridge Street where they would get a meal. They went there and came back after about half an hour.

I then brought them into the kitchen and sent my son, George, for Austin Stack. They told me they had special information to convey to him. When they were in the kitchen my daughter, Hannagh, came back from Mass and saw me talking to them. She told me not to give them any information as we did not know who they were. I had sent George for Stack before that. One of them stood close to the range and I saw steam arising from his clothes. I asked him were his clothes wet and he said they were. I then got my daughter to bring underwear for both of them and they changed. The man whom I afterwards found was Monteith fell asleep in the kitchen and I brought both of them upstairs to the parlour.

Austin Stack and Con Collins came between 9.30 and 10 a.m. and I brought them upstairs to where the two men were. Stack and Collins were here for about an hour. They then left, taking one of the men with them. There was some discussion about my daughter going with them. She was willing to go but Stack would not allow it; he said it was too dangerous.

The other man remained in the parlour. I got a copy of the "Kerry News" which came out about 4 p.m. and I saw a report in it that a man had been arrested near Ardfert. I brought the paper upstairs and showed him the report. He then told me that he was Monteith and said "My best friend has been arrested. I'll go down and give myself up". I said, "You will not do that. I will sink or swim by you". "If I'm found in your house", he said, "the two of us will be destroyed, and you know there is a price on my head". I told him to stay where he was and I would get him out of the house quietly in the evening. I kept him in the house until between 7 and 7.30 p.m. that evening. No one saw him during that time except my family. There was a parade of the Volunteers that evening. During the parade Monteith left the house with me, and I brought him to the Volunteer rooms

in the Square where I handed him over to some Volunteer Officers who were there.

On the Tuesday after Easter Sunday my house was raided and searched by R.I.C. I had gone back to Killarney. I came back to Tralee on the following Thursday. A message had been left for me to go to the R.I.C. barracks. I went there and was brought up to the office. Head Constable Kearney questioned me about the two men I had in the house. The police had by that time got all the information from Bailey.

After the interrogation I was sent downstairs and the police were told not to let me out. Soon afterwards I was arrested and taken by four policeman with rifles, under Sergeant Crawford, to Tralee Jail. A number of prisoners were already there.

On the following Tuesday morning we were ordered out of our cells, given coffee and bread and marched to the 6.40 a.m. train. On arrival at Mallow we were put on another train which then proceeded to Limerick and picked up more prisoners there. We arrived in Dublin about 7.45 p.m. There were then about 300 prisoners on the train. We were handcuffed in pairs and taken to the Gymnasium in Richmond Barracks. The handcuffs were taken off there and we were given a few buckets of water and a few loaves of bread between us. Prisoners were then taken out in batches of about 25 and issued with one grey blanket each. I was held in Richmond until the last week of May, when I was released.

I have no recollection of Monteith's foot being swollen while he was in my house. It was my own Mackintosh I gave Bailey. I later saw a photograph of him in the dock wearing it. Michael J. O'Connor and Joe Melinn were not here before Stack and Collins came on Good Friday morning.

SIGNED:

George J. Spicet

DATE:

18 March 1948

Witness
DATE:

Florence Donoghue

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