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COSANTA:

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. .... 113 .....

**Witness**

Simon Donnelly

**Identity**

O/C. C/Coy. 3rd Battalion,  
Easter Week 1916.

**Subject**

Comments on article by Geo. A. Lyons.  
"Occupation of the Ringsend Area 1916".  
in An tOglach, 10th April 1916.

**Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness**

File No. .... SA 662.

Form B.S.M. 2.

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRS MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 113

16 Arnott Street,  
Dublin.

21 April 1948



The Secretary,  
Bureau of Military History 1913-1921.

A Chara,

I wish to bring to your notice what appears to me to be a serious historical error which appeared in An tOglach on April 10, 1926, page 7, para. 3, in connection with a description of the fighting at Boland's Mills 1916.

George A. Lyons, the author of article and participant in the fighting, says. ("On the field) Lieut. Simon Donnelly was promoted to the rank of Captain owing to the failure of his own Captain to answer the mobilisation. He <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ than compensated for the deflection of his senior by his courage, coolness and skill. He won great confidence during the week from his brother officers. He was a good second to De Valera and came very near supplanting him on one occasion."

The correction I wish to make refers to the part underlined.

Firstly - Throughout the entire week's fighting Com. De Valera enjoyed the fullest and sincerest loyalty of all ranks officers and men without a single exception and there could not be any question of anybody supplanting him, least of all myself, as, during the week's fighting, we were very much <sup>unbreakable</sup> together and the ~~great~~ <sup>in fact, incredible</sup> loyalty prevailed between the Commandant and myself. We were all very attached ~~to~~ to our Commandant. Latter day politics cannot alter or take from the loyalty and devotion to our accepted leader during Easter Week, 1916.

If it had become necessary to appoint an officer to take over from the Commandant, in the event of his becoming a casualty, there were two other officers senior to me who would have taken over command. They were Capt. Joe O'Connor, O/C. A/Coy. and Capt. Sean McMahon, O/C. B. Coy. Therefore, the question of me nearly supplanting the Commandant could not arise and never would have arisen.

Such was the spirit of loyalty and devotion to duty that inspired all ranks during the Week's fighting.

Mise, le meas,

S. Donnelly

Acting O/C. C/Coy. 3rd Batt.  
Easter Week, 1916.