

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY
BUREAU STAIRS &
I.C. W.S.

127

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 127

Witness

James Doyle

Identity

Member of C/Coy. 3rd Bn. I.V.
" I.R.B.
" A.S.U.

Subject

- (a) Mount St. Bridge Area, Easter Week 1916.
- (b) Custom House Action, May 1921.
- (c) Active Service Unit

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

File No. S. 709

Form B.S.M. 2.

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY
BURO STAIR
1913-21
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The Arch W.S. 127

collation

laminated

to Wicklow

18th May 1948

Secretary / Department of Defense
Bureau of Military History



W.S.
127

A. L. Hanna,

In reply to your letter of the 21st April 1948. I am afraid that I am not able to give much information about the rising of 1916 etc as I only played a small part in some. How and ever, I am enclosing a statement that might be of some little help to historians in the years to come. If you consider that I could give any more help I shall be pleased to do so.

Yours truly,
James Duffie

Statement by James Doyle

The Rock, Ballylathin, Carnew

Co. Wicklow

May 1948

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 127

I joined B. Coy IV Battalion Dublin Brigade Irish Volunteers about October 1914 at 41 York Street Dublin. About two months before the rising of Easter Week 1916 I was sworn into the I. R. B. by Ben Bolbert at the home of Joseph Bullen 16 Waltham Place Drumcondra Dublin.

It was Bullen who was responsible for having me sworn in. Bullen was at that time a member of the Junna Círeann. He was a compositor by trade, and in later years, after the rising he worked on the printing of an *Éogíach* for the I. R. A. He was serving as a commandant in our army of to day, up to the time of his death about two years ago. I am not able to recall the name of the circle, as I only attended two meetings of it before the rising, and after the rising I was transferred to another circle with Martin Murphy as the Centre. The first meeting that I attended was held at 41 Parnell Square, and the last one, a very short time before the rising was held at No 2 Dawson Street. This was the Head Quarters of the Irish Volunteers, most of the time of this last meeting was taken up with checking the boys of the Irish Volunteers, or other forces that each member of the circle was serving with. Ben Bolbert inquired of me, as to what unit I was attached to. I informed him that it was B. IV Irish Volunteers. He then referred to a list which he had and instructed me to report as soon as possible

Statement by James Doyle Com^{td}
to Lieut Siram Donnelly of my boy, and to
inform him, that I was in his circle. This order
I carried out. After the rising I went back to my
old boy to II and was made Quarter Master, and later
1st Lieut and Captain. About April 1921 I joined the
A. S. Unit of the Dublin Brigade, and served in it under
the Cote Captain Glanavan.

Easter Week

On Easter Sunday 1916 I paraded with my boy
at the Drill ground of the III Battalion Bandmen Row
about 11 A.M. and after some time we were dismissed
but told on no account to leave the City.

At about 9.30 A.M. on Easter Monday I was mobilised
at my home, and told to be at Earlefort Terrace at 11 A.M.
with full equipment and three days rations. I was
at Earlefort Terrace at 11 o'clock. The Officers of my boy
on parade were Lieut S. Donnelly and Lieut Michael
Malone. We moved off at about 11.30 A.M. My Section
(the cyclists) under Lieut Malone, on reaching Mount St.
Bridge I was ordered by Section Commander Reynolds in-
to Blinwellan House.

In the book "War by the Irish" by J. McBurn T. D.
He has an article on Blinwellan House. The material
for same was supplied to him by three of the survivors
Thomas and James Walsh, also myself, and it is quite
correct in every way. The fourth survivor William
Ronan, has been in a Mental Home for a long
number of years, and he was not able to give his
account.

Note! As our Captain (Edward Byrne) was not
with us. Lieut S. Donnelly was promoted to
Captain by Commandant De Valera.

The Battle of Mount Street Bridge

As regards the above battle, it was fought from four positions

POST I 25 Northumberland Road

POST II Poochal Hall Northumberland Road

POST III Blauvillan House Blauvillan Place

POST IV Roberts Yard Blauvillan Place
Corner of Grand Canal Street

Post I was held by Lieut Michael Malone and Section Commander James Grace. Lieut Malone was the Officer in Charge of Outposts in the Area. He was killed at this post and his body was buried in the back garden by British Forces. After the rising it was taken up by the Corporation Authorities and re-buried in Glasnevin Grave Yard. James Grace was captured.

POST # II This post was held by Section Commander Patrick Doyle (in charge), Joseph Clarke, Mr. Grath and Christian.

POST III was held by Section Commander George Reynolds (in charge), Richard Murphy, Patrick Doyle, Thomas Walsh, James Walsh, William Ronan, James Doyle. Section Commanders Reynolds, Richard Murphy, and Patrick Doyle were killed, and only portions of one body was ever found in the burnt out ruins.

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The Battle of Mount St Bridge Court

POST III was held by Lieut Commander Denis Donoghue, James Bannough, Robert Cooper, James Doyle.

Note/ Patrick Doyle killed in Blunwillam House is not to be confused with Patrick Doyle who was in charge of the Perceval Hall and James Doyle Roberts yard is not to be confused with James Doyle Blunwillam House. None of the above Doyles were in any way related

Blunwillam House was taken over on the Monday by five men of B. Coy. Section Commander George Reynolds (in charge) William Rowan, James Doyle, Daniel Maher, and a new recruit by the name of Byrne. Maher left the house about 6.00 that evening (Monday) leaving his rifle and equipment behind. The recruit Byrne was sent by Reynolds on the Tuesday to Bolands Mills with instructions to see J. Donnelly and to inform him that we could do with a few more men. Donnelly sent the recruit elsewhere with dispatches, and sent the following men to Blunwillam House. Patrick Doyle, Richard Murphy, Thomas Walsh, James Walsh.

Note/ The recruit Byrne had at no time any Fine Arm. The garrison was numbered Seven

Arms and Ammunition Consisted of -
Four Lee-Enfield rifles, Two Martini rifles,
Two Mausers (Hawth's guns) Two 38's Revolvers
Two 45's Revolvers one 38's Automatic Revolver and
about 2,000 rounds of ammunition

The following is a list of names of the men of B. Coy
 D Battalion who turned out Easter Week 1916, about three
 more would complete the list, but I am not able to remember
 the names now.

	occupations	
Lieut Simon Donnelly	Plumber & Contractor	Dublin man
Lieut Michael Malone	carpenter	Dublin man
Ser Lt Col George Reynolds	Silver Smith	Dublin - man
Patrick Flanagan	carpenter	Galway - man
Joseph O'Connor	Shop Assistant	Wicklow - man
Samuel Irwin	Electrical Engineer	Dublin - man
Michael Kavanaugh	black	Dublin - man
Liam Kavanaugh	black	Dublin - man
Peter Kavanaugh	Commercial Traveller	Dublin - man
James Kavanaugh	Factory worker	Dublin - man
Joseph Clarke	Van - man	Dublin - man
Patrick Rowe	Labourer	Dublin - man
Edward Byrne	black	Dublin - man
- Byrne	corporation employee	
Robert Cooper	Factory worker	Dublin - man
Joseph Molloy	Ship Yard worker	Dublin - man
John Dunn	Dray - man	
Augustus Hayes	Tailor	
Christopher Murphy	Barber	Dublin man
Denis Donoghue	black	Wexford - man
Michael Healey	black	Dublin - man
- Green	Shop Assistant	North of Ireland
James Brown	H. Painter	Dublin - man
Patrick McDowell	House Painter	Dublin - man
Patrick Doyle	Ship rigger	
James Doyle	Shop Assistant	Wicklow - man
James H. Doyle	Tin Smith	Dublin - man
Joseph Martin	Brace worker	Dublin - man

Cont'd L. Coy II Batt men who turned out Easter 1916

Edward Brennan	Factory worker	Dublin - man
- Peelo		
- Byrne who was a recruit		

Men of L. Coy who were not mobilised by the Coy
~~the Coy~~, but who turned out and fought in other areas
in the City

Gerald Brophy	Merchant (also Singer)	
Martin Murphy	Provision Merchant	Wexford - man
Nicholas Alexander	Weaver (Silk)	Dublin - man
Thomas Venables	Silk Weaver	Dublin - man
- Nugent	Tailor	

Members of L. Coy II Batt Killed and wounded
Easter Week 1916

Michael Malone (Lieut)	Killed at 25 Northumberland Road
Sect Commander G. Reynolds	Killed at Lanwiler House
Robert Cooper	wounded at Bolands Mills
Christopher Murphy	wounded on the Railway Bolands Mills
- Green	wounded at Grand Canal Street
James Brown	wounded at Bolands Mills
- Byrne	corporation employee. It was this man who carried the white flag at the surrender of Bolands Mills garrison

Signed
James Doyle

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About 1917-1918 Mr John Reynolds wrote a number of articles for the "Catholic Bulletin" (published Messrs Gille O'Connell Street Dublin) about the fighting in Easter week. The following are some of his articles. The fight at the 2th Dublin Union, The fight at the Four Courts and Area, Bolands Mills and Mount Street Bridge, etc. Jacobs Factory

I know that Mr Reynolds took great pains in interviewing a lot of the Volunteers who had taken part in the fighting and chipping up on all the particulars. His articles should be very reliable to any historian in time to come.

He also collected a lot of particulars about the shootings, or murders of civilians in the North King's Street Area during Easter week. It consisted of statements made to him, by residences and relatives of the murdered men. It was published in pamphlet form, and Arthur Griffiths or some other of the Leaders had it translated into several languages and sent all over the world.

I do not know if a copy of it is to be had to day.

Mr Reynolds at that time 1918 was Curator of the Municipal Art Gallery, Harcourt Street. He was also author of the "Foot Prints of Emmett" and brother of George Reynolds killed in command of Blawellam House Easter week 1916.

Mr Reynolds died in 1947

Custom House Action: May 25th 1921

This action was carried out by some men from almost all boys of the Dublin Brigade I. R. A.

While serving with the A. S. Unit I was captured at same, and I can still recall the names of I. R. A. prisoners captured with me, and imprisoned first in Artow Hill Barracks, and later Kilmurrah jail.

The following is the list which I think must be almost complete.

Thomas Beogh	G. H. Squad
Francie Bolter	" " "
James Conway	" " "
John Dwyer	" " "
L. Finnegan	" " "
Patrick Lawson	" " "
Jerry Robson	" " "

James Giblin	Adjutant A. S. Unit.
James Harper	" " "
George Gray	" " "
James Heeney	" " "
J. Muldowney	" " "
Peter Rattiffe	" " "
Joseph Quillworthy	" " "
Patrick Evans	" " "
Christy Fitzsimons	" " "
Jack Fry	" " "
William Duff	" " "
James Duff	" " "

Boston House prisoners Contd

Joseph Griffin H. Quarter Intelligence Officer

Frank Brennan

Thomas Bates

T. Brennan

John Callinan

George Dowdall

Michael Duggan

Liam Dineen

Bill Daly

Walter Dwyer

Richard Dwyer

John Doyle

Doyle or O'Neill. Capt in I or II Battalion

Thomas Flanagan

Edward Fogarty

Tommy Flynn

Daniel Galloway

Michael Fleming

Patrick Fleming

Philip Flynn

Jack Gail

James Grogan

Robert Halpin

Patrick Harold

Tom Hickey

Edward Lane

Michael Lane

Michael Love

J. Mulcahy

Thomas Murphy

— Murphy

Patrick Moore

Patrick Swamy

Custom House prisoners list

- Jack Nolan
- Seid O'Malley
- Charles Ryan
- Thomas McCabe
- Shanley McCabe
- Patrick McCourt
- T. McKenna
- Richard McGee
- Shanley
- Richard Levitt
- Francis Barbary
- Leo Waldron
- Hugh Fitzgerald

Some other prisoners captured at Custom House
 were imprisoned in Mountjoy Jail, I think about
 12 including Tom Flood and Patrick Brennan A. S. U.

Signed
 James Doyle
 May 1948

A large number of civilians were also taken prisoners
 at the Custom House, and only released after some
 time

Members of Active Services Unit Dublin Brigade

A meeting of old members of the Unit was called about the year 1934 (no pensims) and this list was made out. I am not able to say if it is correct or complete.

Patrick Flanagan Officer in charge.

James Gibbins Adjutant

Michael White.

James Brown

Patrick Brunton

Sean Bourdon

William Doyle

James Doyle

Patrick Evans

Thomas M. Graft

Patrick Hennessey

Owen Barton

Patrick Keegan

Sean O'Flanagan M.O. To the Unit

Tom Lillie

Simon Mc Inerney

Alex O. Trole

Patrick Mullins

Sean Bourke

B. Ryan

J. Mc Gue

Mich Sweeney

Philip Quinn

Michael Dunn

William Philippe

Joseph Carroll

- Collins

- Cahill

Members of A. S. U. Court

Joseph Dolan

John Dunn

Christopher Fitzgerald

— Bourgan

Joseph Gilhooly

J. Muldowney

James Mc Guinness

George Nolan

Patrick O'Connor

L. O' Malley

— Quinn

Peter Rathcliff

Michael Stephenan

John Wilson

George Gray

James Heenan

Thomas Bryan (excused)

Paddy Doyle "

Francis Flood "

L. Ryan "

— Murphy (killed)

Tom Flood

— O'Connor

The following premises were used by the Section of A. S. W who operated in the centre of the City

Office 17, Eustace Street

Barraacks at 17 Temple Bar

This was a provision shop, it was run by James Brown, who was also a member of the Unit

Barraacks at 17 Great Strand Street

This was a large stone, with room for three or four motor cars, on the ground floor, and two large lofts over head.

Note / All premises had the same No - 17

The complete Unit met at 17 Strand Street on the morning of the 25th May 1921 before moving off to the burning of Custom House.

17 Great Strand Street was raided by British forces about a week after burning of Custom House, and one member of the Unit (Michael Stephenson) who was on the premises was captured.

All ranks of the Unit were paid at the rate of £4 = 10s. 0 per week

Signed

James Doyle

15th May 1948

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