ORIG!NAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 19

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 192

Witness

Judge Fionan Lynch,
"Minore",
Orwell Park, Rathgar, Dublin.
Identity

Captain, 1st Battn. Irish Volunteers
. 1916.

Subject

Gaelic activities, Dublin, prior to.
1916 Rising.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil.

File No. . . S. 495.

Form B.S.M. 2.

OR GINA Parried Dubli to take up a leaching appointment, and I trak up flower the Swan " 3 Remarker no no no sacreal, 44 Moventing threat. Iwas preceded to Bublin and to zeranan nu is Zaesed by Gearand O'Julliva - he arrived only a few days before me, gut we had already arranged by letter that we should stay at 44. It will be Remembered that this longe afterwards became historie as the digo of Michael alling Junes 19th the Inice. The house was owned by my dunk Miss Melasthy, and it became possibly the most Raided house in Dublin in the Jears 1920 + 1921. I had already been 9 number of the Gaelie Gaelie League before Joming to Dublin - I had taught in Lacue Swansea, S. Wales for a few years, god while there a fur fuo fromes a Saelie league Branch in which Sacked as teacher to the other members. It was natural trepre That Should soin the Saelic peague on Joning & Dublin - and it was also ratural that bearoud o'pllina good myself should showse The Keeting Branch go this was the Branch that goonsoved Munder drich. I doubt have said perhaps that Gearoid Ofulliva gus supelf has been fellow. Studento in St. Vatrick's Training College for Leachers from 1909 to 1911, and that while There we hat become very close friends - a priend hip only severes by the death of Geroud last backer. 30 ndeanfrod Die treovaire der. When we joined the Keating Branch, the lake Catal Briga was chairman and amongst the forominent numbers were

I de Rasas Beadai to Toley family from Cabra Road (including Pisteres on "friera Elzese", Mices (ofthe Toles type writing Company), Nora who subsoquety married hopeson taiz O'Donohue (Joina) la Well-Known Inich boet answriker, gut Bright who be. came Mrs Masten. Sein Mr Demot, who was Ex. ecuted after the Rising, was a frequent visitor to the Branch with Con Collino, a P. Office office and a native fl. [inerick _ but Sea west assured to all the Poranches a foot deal in the Fourse of his work as organises of the S. R. B. Ite, however, same to no to relat, and I thenk he liked the general atmosphere of the (Raob our Cestinis of these days . Bests (II okelly), Colm O'Muscaisa and a number of other ontargety velis promiser, were also members, summer of sum Public Works and a boyhood friend of Seasoud's joined to Keating Branch with us. The three of no subsequently became members of the Committee of the Branch, and our services were fequisitioned for teaching classes both adult and Juvenile almost from the day we joined. During 1913 Piaras Beadai with the assistance Muh-Disaores of a groups of as from the Keating Branch founded
" Muh. Aistorie - a Dramatic Society on the production of plays in the Such Carguage. This is still in suichence under the name of " Command ORandiocto or was with quite Recently. on Collins (Sean McSernoto freend), Sernot o Negarly Ø Sparoed ofulliva and mpelf were amongst the present while proved who did the forinapal male parts, while Maire no Consull (now tates tetter a of the Presentation Convert Killarney) Maire Dixon nows a nun in him till

Registras U.C.D.) Brigo Dison, sicher of Maire and Carolin De bull (Woulfe) played the female all the male members of Mu h- Sisterier gunt the Dixon girlo took part in the Rising of 1916indeed there were very for numbers of the Keating Branch (certainly of hose under 35 at to time) who did not take part in the Mains. Juning the years 1914 and 7915 poe poroduces Summer of 1914 we did a tour for a week of Cont and theme producing plays in deflerent towns each night gut wirding up with playing two or three nights of the areastas in Killarnag. In 1915 we were Commissioner to produce to plays again at the Onexities which was that Year hold in Dundalk, let that Geachter Gerins and myself were elected to the Coisda India of the Gastic peagul. It was during our town in 1814 that the fun Juning إدور took place at Storth, so that we missen that Listorie occasion. Our tour had already been advertised and arranges before the time of the larving at South became Known, and Lear McSomot insided on our going on with our arrangements to produce drich plays in the worth. Srish Demot o Stegarty, Gearoid ofullivan ompself went together to the neeting of the Potunda Pick on the founding of the Volunteers at the ond of 1913. It was in may wap a heetic meeting the hig Iran ways tricke was still fresh in the mendo of the people in Dubling and Labour was very oute against amphory who has been apported to them in that strike. Labour was often man to

at the neeting though I fait Remember now who was the Jahris Spokeama; but come in the book of the hall resented Estain people being on the platform - as far as I can Remember much of the opposition was to Mr farry Kettle owing to some Cabour trouble at his brothis farm in North Country Dabli . The disturbes were evertually satisfies and twentually the Volunteers were declared established amind very pear enthusian bening My friends and myself gave in our names as of those present at the neeting the North City were summone of to our first drill at, I think, 41 Yarnell Square (the Love ofers Hall) We Continued for some months to have weekly or bi weekly drillo, and at a early stage Iwas picker ont by the instructor to take some of the oquads for drilling to this day I don't Know by what process the instructor picked his men, but he parks to put a man back to the parks so unsuitable Formation Sometime in the Summer of 1914 - about May or June I think - the was the first election of Volunteer officers, and the particular group to which I belonged became "7" 6; Battalions were formed later, and we became 7 6. 1st Battalion. Piaras Beaslai was Elected Capotain four Sompans. Sean Shouldice, a livil Servant 1st fiend In Iwas Electer In Jient When the Baltalion were formed shortly afterward. Ned Daly who was laptain of to Co. became con de of To 72 Butt. as Praras Beaslai became Vice. and! This created a vacancy i to Captained of -7-6. and as Sean Shouldice Contain accept

3 the Taptaires owing to his position in the livil Service I became Captain, and I held that position (Incept for a short interval to which I hall later Nefer) up to and during the Rising at Easter 1816.

Skink it was some time after I had been Elected Captain of the Company that Sea Mc Semot asked me to become a member of the S.R.B. While I had no definite Knowledge of the Freshere of that organisation prior to my joining it, I had a very chrew tidea that the was some body of the Kins behind to whole over of the Volunteer; Soutsequetly four out that nearly all the offers of the Notunteers were already numbers of the S. P. B. before they were elected oficers, and I think the J. P.B. Supreme Corrail interested tempelves i seeing hat members of the J. R. B. should affice the Voluntar organisation . The fact that Iwas already a W. close friend of Sea MeDernoto presumably Cahaper Rank the Supreme Corncil that my Election to the Special Rank the Supreme Cornail that my Election to the Special tenthe Could be let go without any opposition. Be that as it may, I had no hesitation in accepting the invitation of Sea Medernet to become a number and he the grothere administered the S. R. B. oath to me I kink this took place about to Josing of 1915, and I was attacked to the "Circle" which red in Gardier Street with Bulmer Hopson as "Centre Dramuis o Hegarty, Gearried Ofullivan Con Collinso lenne of allaghan were amongot the menters of that well as they well as they were all member of the Keating Branch of the Saelie league. Beyond Laving to attend a northly neeting of the Circle, I fait say that my activities were in any was Georard O'fellwar was Lesping Sea Medernot in

getting out - drish treedon which on previous to I. R. B. I gattered was the organ of that body. I should say that I never held any affice in the J. R. B. at any time, and, indeed, I fail lementer attending any neetings of the "Circle after the Thising - though I may be wrong in that les for as I can now lementer, the full dirent of our Grele was about theirty. Having been so Closely in touch with Se a Medernot, I know tal to S. R. B. were drong opposed to allowing in John Redmonds rominees to the Volunteer Enecutive, Though some very famest gus self eacrificing numbers of the Executive (including, I think some members of the S. R. B.) disagreed with that policy for instance supported to admission of tednosto nominees - and I have a King of notion that Bulmer Hoposon also favoured that policy. I have Reason especially to Know as events attitude on the matter. He lake John Dalf of Simerick, the Vatera Denian and uncle of Cond Ved Daly and of Mrs Tom flacke the to Sant! Gearoid ofulliva and supelf on more than one occasion went out to pass an guering with him and to play Bridge One evening when we arrive I at the house asement was there before us, and he left shortly after we arrived blu Dale in his great booming theired turned Sea Westermot whe the down has closed on Casement and in his great booming Voice

Sais: "Damn for, Me Domot for Came at the word, "time - Iwas Just Soing to portate into him."
It was a week on so after the Vote of the Volunter Executive for admitted Redmonds nominees to to Volunteer Enecutive. Daly was, however a freat Realist and he wasted no time on Regrets but told Sea Wat Le and his frows Sould try to Keep as much Jontrol as possible through the Companies. The ont break of the Europea War in August 1914 and the pro- recruiting altitude of Mr Redmond and his lasty made it inevitable that to hominees of that Party Gorld not be places in the Executive and the Split in the Volunteers duly followers. Proposed I kink that it was in September 1514 that the Mension British Prime Minister came to Dubli to speak House with Redmond and others at a big peculing meeting in the Dublin Mansion House. While Stail say definitely who it was that originated the idea of occupying the Monsion Sonce with Volunteers to prevent the Meeting, I am almost pertain that it much have been the S. R. B. _ in Jonjunction with fames Connolly of the drich Citizen Grong after wards (a dignatory of the Such took Proclamation to Fonecules following to Riving. at any pake a pricked body of men were cecrefly nobilises at 41 Pamell Lquare à feur nights prior to the date of the beguith meeting Pufles and ammunition were Landed ont back man, and we were informed as to what was intended: I thought the - and still think - that it was a mad scheme, and that if we has brought it of or even nade to attempt the Volenteero

would have been wiped ont in what would have bee little more than a street rist. Sean Milamot however, was strongly for it, but Sam partai that many others besides myself of tose poresent felt like I did Indead I know that I'm Ishe did, for Iwas in his Company in the hall for a food part of to time we were There - so did Sections " of allivar Demot o Hegarty grs Lan MeDernoto "alter egs" (on Collins Unpor, scorto Reported that to Marsion House was already occupied by a Company of Mighland Light Infanty the fully equipped with lewis Suns and the project was abandoned. Subsequently I had frequent arguments with See Wedernot grown the proposal for that right, and he stubbornly Kept to his view that it would Leven jokes with him when we were in the Richmond Barrocks awaiting trial after the Misers, and lompared to glorious week we had jud been trough with going down in a Street brawl but he still held to his view of the affair! at any rake following to Enatement of that night in 41 tarnell Square, things werk along in humdrum fashion for a year or more - but our liver in those days were very full indeed what with our duties as Volunteers, teaching Jackie league Classes and Pelearsing and paroducing plays in Sreps especially to Seawed Ofullwin De not offered of myself I should have mentioned that after Iwas elected aplain of F.Co., Domot Obegarty was Elected to

Shouldice and himself Continued as Leuts.

of the Company up to sent including the Rising.

Sometime dwain 1815; Battalion founcils were in-Council stituted - Certainly in the Dublin area. The ourcil Jonsister of the Condh. Vice Condh. Bjutans and Quarter Master of the Battolin together with the appains of the Comparies in the Batt. I have abready mentioned that New Daly became finds of the 7st Batt. with Pearas Beaslai as his Via lond. Seumes Ofallivie / who onto ofeently marins aiter of New Dalys and how person a linewill) was adjutant of 5 Gamon Morka Charles muster as for as I can Remember the late famon Duggan became asjutant and Gamon Workan Quarter master The Battalio Coincil net weekly and I law only Commende that Frank Jahl Card. "C" Co. (now - 5 Capt of B' 6. who subsequently married a sicher of Ned Daly and Bot Monketh Captain of Strenk 15. 6. were amongst the Company Captains who used to attend. I have now only a vague recollection of the business transacted of the neetings of the Both. Guncil, but Sknow we arranged parades and manseworks for the Bath and were Constantly growing at the Whole most of the men succeeded in equipping temselves fairly well in the Respect. The Battalion nanoeuvores were Carries ont mostly in the North Courty - Swords, Inglas re. but shortly before the Rising, in January or barly February 1816, we had very important Preheastal

in the heart of the lity - actually one the grown which to Battelian occupied in Eastwheek. Sean Heuston was in phange of one help of the Battalian as I was in charge of the lotter Lalf with the Battalian Staff acting as referees. These particular manoeuvres were preferred to later Sunderstand by the Dekerves who fave Svidence before to Commission presides over by Low Hardinge which enquired into the Mising. Sometime towards the ont of January or the beginning of February of 1916, the Manager of the school in which I taught lame to see me of the school bearing with him a Gommunication from the Commissioners of National Education informing him that I was an officer in the druch Volunteers and instructing him that he should inform me that unless I severed my Connection with the Volunteers my salary would be with drawn" I told the Marager that it was Juite true that Iwas a member and that when I had possulted my superior offices I should let him Know what I should do Law afraid this attitude was rather a shock to the good Manager, but after a little bluster he left matters stard. Hat Evening I Reported to Sean Mysermon Joho Enforced sent me in to Som Wednagh who discussed Kesignahor the position with me. Its eventually ordered Voluntees. formally my Connection with the Volunteers go There on our hand. on our hands. let the rent meeting of I Company, Supported to them all that transperies, and my orders to see and resign for the time being from the Company, and I told

them that when there would be "ey thing doing they would find me back to lead them From the up to the Rising I did not parade with the company, but at the Request of several persons whose positions made it impossible to be openly associated with the Volunteers, I or ganised a funday norming squad training artie at 25 Parnell Square, the Gaelie kague I feel still that we did very useful work during that privo up to the Kising at these funday norming neetings, and frain Sycher, now Colonel fram broker, Arsh- Chief of telf helper greatly in that work. It is a B. inciderce hat as far as NKww only three teachers in the whole of dreland were ordered out of the Volunteers and that hose Tree were Kerrymen. Som She who tought at Corduft, Just get his notice a fur days after I got mine, and Diarmine of Journall of Calorcineen who then taught at Toilmore N'I near Calorcineen for his whice about by Volunter, W. Dame time. Hey were ordered like upself to lie low and accept the situation for the time being but both were back in their place proaster Week - You Ashe at Ashbourne; and hearming oformell bringht his men into Irelee to be Ready for I order there.

Os far as I can remember I continued during this period to attent to meetings of to Batt Gencil. at any pate, I know Iwas present a week or so before to Rising for all that meeting, Iwas give to area to be occupied by my Company and told by the Condo to survey to ground for medical

12. on barricades, poento of vantage to be occupied and so an in good time before sando burdas. I thent it much have been at this meeting that we were formally told about the intended Rising -Kongh it was in the air for some time before that and four of us can have had little doubt that a Rising was imminent. at any Nate Comid Daly the ordered all the Company officers present at that last meeting of the Ball . Courcil to go over the ground to be occupied by their respective comparies, and he gave us all Explicit instructions as to the area to be occupied by On Joly Thursday right, I went to the weekly parade of I'm Go and took over sommans again. I reminded the me of what I had told them a few months before when Besumed. Cleaving them - that when there would be any thing doing" I would be back to lead ten. then said - "Well, I am back"; "and I will Ever Remember with pride the Cheers with which that announcement was greated indeed, the most precions memory of me whole life is my association with the grand found men who formed I Go. and I am sent naturally proved that they Elected me their Coplain. During the lash three or four days before the Kining to Encilement was at fiven height, and purrouts were rife as to a general found up by the British and so on . Somewhere about that time or perhaps Earlier in Holy Week, most of to leader changed their addresses in order to stay i houses where there were a number of armed Volunteero, who Could resist any attempt at arrest.

13. Sean Missemon Jame to 44 Mourpoy treet with us. in addition to Gearoid ofulliva and myself the were also staying in 44 at that time Mush O'bruell, blesd of the Dail, Fronta (Flore) O'Doherty and Con Steating all member of my Company. Teating was a wiseless operator, and he was drowned when the Car in which he was travelling to Caherciveen went into The Caune at Bally Kissine Qual on Easter Saturday 1516. Low blacke took up his abode with the Ofinors of therrard threat apolich family to father and in my Company and is now the well- Known Dubli Solicitor, Joh I oformor. Pearse dayed at home at Mathfanhan but had come Volunteers staying on the premises about J'A.M. on Easte Jahurday morning thre was a terrifice Plate a tat- tat of our door in Moustjoy Street, and we all drew our funo in Expectation of a Paid. He man at the door however was Sean Conrolly, Killer on Monday following, during to allack on the Castle, and he brought a dispatch to Sea Westernot with Regard to fasements arrest. On leave order Gearved and supelf at once praged a taxi and drove out to It Enda's with orders to inform Rasse that he should gone at once in the taxi with us to Sberty Hall. We reached It End as about 6An and when Pearse had dressed we brought him to therty Hall, where confisences went on thought Swas fiven the duly of posters a relan of gele scorts from the Vice- legal lodge to that Wall.

14. Indeed I Co. was five a number of dukes of that Kind owing to Jean Medernoh Knowing us so well, and I cay it with pushpable pride, Laving the freaked Confidence in us. a most impleasant duty impossed on me at the time was to place a ghand over my own J. R. B. Cartre, Bulmer Hotson, who was days point to the Rising. My instructions were that he was to be peleased when the Rising had started. As far as I know the only Reason for Hotson's arrest was that he agreed with McNeill that a Kising was impossible with. on Jaman aid; and therefore when the "Clud". failed to land any substantial share of arms Le was opposed to the Rising Joing che ad at all at that time. 1 On Easter Sunday noming, the funday paper parries som McNeillo Bucellation of to "monoeuvres for that day; we gearwell Trypelf were at an Early Mass gos we brought back to paper with us to Sea Me Somot . It was to first and valy time, that I saw Sean Peally le und I tento myself that I be and the other, who insisted on parying on with the Resing, have taken Misail more into their Jorphderce there would have been no make proclamation from Me Neill While he was titular head of the Voldock about many kings. However this order of MeNeillo near another day of neetings, and the signatures of the

proclamation met all day long with intervalo br neals, in the premises of to Keating Branch of the Gaelie league! It must have been about mid night an bester king night that they finished, and we then left the premises for various digs as 44 had been visited by the Police that day on Jury about for Realing on whose body to Police much have found that cadress. Gearoud Hullwan whom Sea Me Demot appointed his aide de Campo, went with sear to thenings Hotel, Swent with Diarmino O Hegasty to his digs in It Peters Road, Philistoro' and Those O'Doberty wer with Mick Collins to Rathdown Road, N.C.R. Most ofonnell stayed in 44, and as nothing happened by way of a paid during to night he has gone well ahear with getting our rifles out of their cache in the Ceiling of 44 by the time we reaches the place on Easta Monday morning. the first Battalion notilised that morning in Blackhall Place - I proget now what hall it was but it was the neeting place of at least one of the Companies of the Battalin The battalion was amewhat attended so one night Enpect after The Countermanning order. Condt. Saly addressed the new and after up on a little whele we were ordered to take bositions in the areas already allotted to us. All the Grap any officers were present and with to Exception of one officer carries ont to order of the Goods. This officer said that the whole thing was lunacy, and he left the hall and werk home. It's nanewas Ithink allright and he had been Captain of -8-6.

should have mentioned that a good triday accomparies by Sean Shouldice, & freit and Diarmuich o Hegarly, Ino heart, I went wer the grown to be occup. jed by my Company. We laid all our planofor barricades for the occupation of Outre houses within the area for poor oupply and for every other eventually that finds be preseen by us Hence we had no difficulty toke we got the order to more on basher Monday - back of wo took up the possition we had already decaded on, we set up our barrica des que acapier houses and vantage points as we had elready The was little fighting in our area with the Wednesday but from that an until the Durrender on Sounday brening the fighting was interse. I do not wish to boad about the valour of my men - I dall nevely say that it was a freak honour for any man to be their appain. as to how they funght, the words of our onenies at the time are the peaked tribute we Tould ex for- Trongh they did not me a to pay us a tribule Incedit our This tribule was paid to no when a defenent was read at the inquest on new names Heals and thereman Bealen livilians who were murdered by the British in the basement of 174 N. King their The determent was by way of France for the nichtant Encesses in that area a preprint of the inquestional Ealler "Sim Ten Rebellion Handbook" at Page 211 and on loge 212 there is a datement made to the

Daily Mail by General Sir John Maswell Johne he says: "He allegations of brutality seem almost "Enclusively Concernes with the fighting in N. King Street. ares With the one exception of the place "at Ballsbridge where the Therwood Foresters were am. busher, this was by far the worsh fighting that occurred in the whole of Dubli. At first the troops, Coming from one ent of the street were repulsed, and it was only when we made an attack from both Ends that we succeeded after twenty. but hours fighting in Capturing the direct. The Casualties were very heavy during this fighting ... In Combination with Colonel Lagloro description of the fighting is our company area with his John Maxwellis statement, is to prest tribute tat lined be paid to my men. <u>~~</u>* I. G. occupied the area from 1. Kip Ried dong Church Street to Way lane where we were joined to C Company who held the Town ourlo. On Saharday beening, worn ont from fighting Four louds and very shortly afterwards te order Came produssendes Frona / mel 10th October 1948 How we 3 When Re edus: BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21 BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1943-29 No. W.S. 192

W.S.192. ORIGINAL

STATEMENT BY JUDGE FIONAN LYNCH, "MINORE".

ORWELL	PARK,	RATHGAR,	DUBI	BUREAU OF MILITARY MUTGRY RT 200				
		*			RO	STAIRE	MILEATA 1	

In April 1912 I arrived in Dublin to take up a teaching appointment and I went to reside at "Grianan na nGaedheal", 44, Mountjoy St. I was preceded to Dublin and to "Grianan na nGaedheal" by Gearoid O'Sullivan - he arrived only a few days before me, and we had already arranged by letter that we should stay at 44. It will be remembered that this house afterwards became historic as the "digs" of Michael Collins during the period from his release from Frongoch at Kmas 1916 up to the Truce. The house was owned by my aunt, the late Miss McCarthy, and it became possibly the most raided house in Dublin in the years 1920 and 1921.

GAELIC LEAGUE.

I had already been a member of the Gaelic League before coming to Dublin. I had taught in Swansea, S. Wales, for a few years, and while there a few of us formed a Gaelic League Branch in which I acted as teacher to the other members. It was natural, therefore, that I should join the Gaelic League on coming to Dublin - and it was also natural that Gearoid O'Sullivan and myself should choose the Keating Branch as this was the Branch that sponsored Munster Irish. I should have said perhaps that Gearoid O'Sullivan and myself had been fellow students in St. Patrick's Training College for Teachers from 1909 to 1911, and that while there we had become very close friends - a friendship only severed by the death of Gearoid last Easter. Go ndeanfaidh Dia trôcaire air.

When we joined the Keating Branch, the late Cathal Brugha was Chairman and amongst the prominent members were Piaras Beaslai, the Foley family from Cabra Road (including Risteard or "Fiachra Eilgeach' Micheal (of the Foley Typewriting Company), Nora, who subsequently married Professor Tadhg O'Donohue (Torna), the well known Irish Poet and Writer, and Brigid, who became Mrs. Martin; Sean McDermott, who was executed after the Rising, was a frequent visitor to the Branch with Con Collins, a Post Office official, and a native of W.Limerick

but Sean went around to all the Branches a good deal in the course of his work as organiser of the I.R.B. He, however, came to us to relax, and I think he liked the general atmosphere of Craobh an Chéitinigh of those days. Sgeilg (J.J. O'Kelly), Colm Ó Murchadha and a number of others, subsequently very prominent, were also members.

Diarmuid O'Hegarty, mow Commissioner of Public Works, and a boyhood friend of Gearoid's, joined the Keating Branch with us. The three of us subsequently became members of the Committee of the Branch, and our services were requisitioned for teaching classes both adult and juvenile almost from the day we joined.

NA hAISTEOIRI.

During 1913 Pearas Beaslai, with the assistance of a group of us from the Keating Branch, founded Na hAisteoiri - a Dramatic Society for the production of plays in the Irish Language. This is still in existence under the name of "Comhar Dramuiochta" or was until quite recently. Con Collins (Sean McDermott's friend), Dermot O'Hegarty, Gearoid O'Sullivam and myself were amongst the persons who did the principal male parts, while Maire Ni Chonaill (now of the Presentation Convent, Killarney), Maire Dixon (now a num in Sion Hill), Treasa Ni Mhuirthile (now wife of Professor J.J.Nolan, Registrar, U.C.D.), Brigid Dixon, sister of Maire, and Caitlin de Bhulbh (Woulfe) played the female parts.

All the male members of Na hAisteoiri and the Dixon girls took part in the Rising of 1916 - indeed there were very few members of the Keating Branch (certainly of those under 35 at the time) who did not take part in the Rising.

During the years 1914 and 1915 we produced Irish plays at intervals in Dublin, and in the Summer of 1914 we did a tour for a week of Cork and Kerry, producing plays in different towns each night and winding up with playing two or three nights at the Oireachtas in Killarney.

In 1915 we were commissioned to produce the plays again at the

Oireachtas which was that year held in Dundalk. At that Oireachtas Gearoid and myself were elected to the Coisde Gnotha of the Gaelic League. It was during our tour of 1914 that the gun-running took place at Howth, so that we missed that historic occasion. Our tour had already been advertised and arranged before the time of the landing at Howth became known, and Sean McDermott insisted on our going on with our arrangements to produce Irish plays in the south. IRISH VOLUNTEERS.

Dermot O'Hegarty, Gearoid O'Sullivan and myself went together to the meeting at the Rotunda Rink for the founding of the Volunteers at the end of 1913. It was in many ways a hectic meeting - the big Tramways strike was still fresh in the minds of the people in Dublin, and Labour was very sore against anybody who had been opposed to them in that strike. Labour was, of course, represented at the meeting # though I can't remember who was the Labour spokesman; but some in the body of the hall resented certain people being on the platform - as far as I can remember, most of the opposition was to Mr. Larry Kettle owing to some labour trouble at his brother's farm in North Co.Dublin The disturbers were eventually satisfied, the Volunteers were declare duly established amidst very great enthusiasm.

JOINING THE VOLUNTEERS.

My friends and myself gave in our names as members immediately after the meeting, as did most of those present.

Within a week or two, all of us from that area of the North cit; were summoned to our first drill at, I think, 41 Parnell Square (the Foresters' Hall). We continued for some months to have weekly or bi-weekly drills, and at an early stage, I was picked out by the instructor to take some of the squads for drilling - to this day I don't know by what process the instructor picked his men, but he rarely had to put a man back to the ranks as unsuitable.

FORMATION OF COMPANIES & ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Sometime in the Summer of 1914 - about May or June, I think there was the first election of Volunteer officers, and the particula group to which I belonged became F/Coy. Battalions were formed later and we became F/Coy. 1st Battm. Plaras Beaslai was elected Capt. of our Company, Sean Shouldice, a civil servant, 1st Lieut. and I was elected 2nd Lieut.

FORMATION OF BATTALIONS.

When the Battalions were formed shortly afterwards Ned Daly, who was Captain of A/Coy. became Comdt. of the 1st Em. and Piaras Beaslai became Vice Comdt. This created a vacancy in the Captaincy of F/Coy. and, as Sean Shouldice couldn't accept the Captaincy owing to his position in the Civil Service, I became Captain, and I held that position (except for a short interval to which I shall later refer) up to and during the Rising at Easter 1916.

JOINING THE I.R.B.

I think it was some time after I had been elected Captain of the Company that Sean McDermott asked me to become a member of the I.R.B. While I had no definite knowledge of the existence of that organisation prior to my joining it, I had a very shrewd idea that there was some body of the kind behind the whole origin of the Volunteers; I aubsequently found out that nearly all the officers of the Volunteer were already members of the I.R.B. before they were elected officers and I think the I.R.B. Supreme Council interested themselves in seeing that members of the I.R.B. should officer the Volunteers organisation. The fact that I was already a close friend of Sean McDermott's presumably satisfied the Supreme Council that my election to the officer's rank could be let go without any opposition. Be that as it may, I had no hesitation in accepting the invitation of Sean McDermott to become a member, and he then and there administered the I.R.B. oath to me. I think this took place about the Spring of 1915, and I was attached to the "Circle" which met in Gardiner St. with Bulmer Hobson as "Centre". Diarmuid O'Hegarty, Gearoid O'Sullivan, Con Collins and Denny O'Callaghan were amongst the members of that Circle - I remember these well, as they were all members of the Keating Branch of the Gaelic League. Beyond having to attend a monthly meeting of the Circle, I can't say that my activitie were in any way altered through joining the I.R.B. - I already, with Gearoid O'Sullivan, was helping Sean McDermott in getting out "Irish Freedom" which, on joining the I.R.B., I gathered was the organ of that body.

I should say that I never held any office in the I.R.B. at any time, and, indeed, I can't remember attending any meetings of the Circle after the Rising - though I may be wrong in that. As far as I can remember now, the full strength of our Circle was about thirty

Having been so closely in touch with Sean McDermott, I know that the I.R.B. were strongly opposed to allowing in John Redmond's nominees to the Volunteer Executive, though some very earnest and self-sacrificing members of the Executive (including, I think, some members of the I.R.B.) disagreed with that policy.

The O'Rahilly and Sir Roger Casement, for instance, supported the admission of Redmond's mominees - and I have a kind of notion that Bulmer Hobson also favoured that policy. I have reason especially to know Casement's attitude on the matter. John Daly of Limerick, the veteran Fenian and uncle of Comdt. Ned Daly and of Mrs. Tom Clarke, every Summer about that time used to come up to Sandycove for a few weeks' change, and Sean McDermott, Gearoid O'Sullivan and myself, on more than one occasion, went out to pass an evening with him and to play bridge. One evening when we arrived at the house, Casement was there before us, and he left shortly after we arrived. John Daly turned to Sean McDermott when the door had closed on Casement and, in his great booming voice, said "Damn you, McDermott, you came at the wrong time. I was just going to pitch into him". It was a week or so after the vote admitting Redmond's nominee's to the Volunteer Executive. Daly was, however, a great realist, and he wasted no time on regrets, but told Sean that he and his crowd should try to keep as much control as possible through the companies.

The outbreak of the European War in August 1914, and the prorecruiting attitude of Mr. Redmond and his Party made it inevitable that the mominees of that Party could not be retained in the Executive, and the split in the Volunteer's duly followed.

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PROPOSED MANSION HOUSE RAID.

I think it was in September 1914, that the British Prime
Minister came to Dublin to speak with Redmond and others at a big
recruiting meeting in the Dublin Manaion House. While I can't say
definitely who it was that originated the idea of occupying the
Manaion House with Volunteers to prevent the meeting, I am almost
certain that it must have been the I.R.B. in conjunction with James
Connolly of the Irish Citizen Army (a signatory of the Easter Week
Proclamation, executed following the Rising).

At any rate, a picked body of men were secretly mobilised at 41 Parnell Square a few nights prior to the date of the Asquith meeting. Rifles and ammunition were handed out to each man, and we were informed as to what was intended. I thought then - and still think - that it was a mad acheme, and that if we had brought it off or even made the attempt, the Volunteers would have been wiped out in what would have been little more than a street riot. Sean McDermott, however, was strongly for it, but I am certain that many others, besides myself of those present, felt like I did. Indeed, I know that Tom Ashe did, for I was in his Company in the hall for a good part of the time we were there - so did Gearoid O'Sullivan, Dermot O'Hegarty and Sean McDermott's "alter ego" Con Collins.

Anyhow, scouts reported that the Mansion House was already occupied by a company of Highland Light Infantry, fully equipped wit Lewis Guns, and the project was abandoned.

Subsequently I had frequent arguments with Sean McDermott about the proposal for that night, and he stubbornly kept to his view that it would have been the right thing to do, if it had been possible; I even joked with him about it when we were in the Richmond Barracks awaiting trial after the Rising and I compared the glorious week we had just been through with going down in a street brawl, but he still held to his view of the affair!

At any rate, following the excitement of that night in 41 Parnel Square, things went along in humdrum fashion for a year or more -

but our lives in those days were very full indeed what with our duties as Wolunteers, teaching Gaelic League classes and rehearsing and producing plays in Irish with na hAisteoiri; when I say our lives I refer specially to Gearoid O'Sullivan, Dermet O'Hegarty, Piaras Beaslai and myself.

I should have mentioned that after I was elected Captain of F/Coy., Dermot O'Hegarty was elected to be second Lieut. in my place, and both Sean Shouldice and himself continued as Lieutenants of the Coy. up to and including the Rising.

BATTALION COUNCIL.

Sometime during 1915, Battalion Councils were instituted certainly in the Dublin area. The Council consisted of the Comdt.,
Vice Comdt., Adjutant and Quartermaster of the Battalion together
with the Captains of the companies in the Battalion. I have already
mentioned that Ned Daly became Comdt. of the let Battn. with Piaras
Beaslai as his Vice-Comdt. As far as I can remember, the late
Eamon Duggan became Adjutant and Eamon Morkan Quartermaster. The
Battalion Council met weekly and I can only now remember that Frank
Fahy, Captain C/Coy. (now Ceann Comhairle of the Dail), Seamus
O'Sullivan, Captain of B/Coy., who subsequently married a sister of
Ned Daly, and Bob Monteith, Captain of, I think, A/Coy. and Sean
Heuston were amongst the Coy. Captains who used to attend.

I have now only a wague recollection of the business transacted at the meetings of the Battn. Council, but I know we arranged parades and manoeuvres for the Battn. and were constantly grousing at the dearth of rifles and ammunition - though, on the whole, most of the men succeeded in equipping themselves fairly well in this respect.

The Battalion manoeuvres were carried out mostly in the North County - Swords, Finglas, etc., but shortly before the Rising, in January or early February 1916, we had a very important rehearsal in the heart of the city, actually over the ground which the Battn. occupied in Raster Week. Sean Heuston was in charge of one half of the Battn. and I was in charge of the other half with the Battalion

Staff acting as referees. These particular manoeuvres were referred to later, I understand, by the detectives who gave evidence before the Commission presided over by Lord Hardinge, which inquired into the Rising.

Sometime towards the end of January or the beginning of Feby. of 1916, the manager of the school in which I taught came to see me at the school, bearing with him a communication from the Commissioners of National Education, informing him that I was an officer in the Irish Volunteers and instructing him that he should inform me that, unless I severed my connection with the Volunteers, my "salary would be withdrawn". I told the Manager that it was quite true I was a member and that when I had consulted my superior officers I should let him know what I should do. I am afraid this attitude was rather a shock to the good manager, but after a little bluster he left matters stand.

TEMPORARY RESIGNATION FROM VOLUNTEERS,

That evening I reported to Sean McDermott, who sent me on to Tom McDonagh, who discussed the position with me. He eventually ordered me to "lie low" for the time being - to sever formally my connection with the Volunteers as there were already crowds of refugees from England on our hands.

At the next meeting of F/Coy. I reported to them all that transpired, and my orders to resign for the time being from the Coy when and I told them that/there would be "anything doing" they would fin me back to lead them.

From then up to the Rising I did not parade with the Company, but at the request of several persons whose positions made it impossible for them to be openly associated with the Volunteers, I, organised a Sunday morning squad training centre at 25 Parnell Sqr. the Gaelic League Headquarters. I feel still that we did very useful work during that period up to the Rising at those Sunday morning meetings, and Liam Archer, now Colonel Liam Archer, Asst. Chief of Staff, helped greatly in that work.

It is a coincidence that, as far as I know, only three teacher, in the whole of Ireland were ordered out of the Volunteers, and that those three were Kerrymen. Tom Ashe, who taught at Corduff, Lusk, got his notice a few days after I got mime, and Diarmuid O'Connell of Caherciveen, who then taught at Foilmore N.S. near Caherciveen, got his notice about the same time. They were ordered like myself by Volunteer H.Q., to "lie low" and accept the situation for the time being, but both were back in their places for Easter Week - Tom Ashe at Ashbourne and Diarmuid O'Connell brought his men into Tralee to be ready for orders there.

As far as I cen remember, I continued during this period to attend the meetings of the Battn. Council. At any rate, I know I was present a week or so before the Rising, for at that meeting I was given the area to be occupied by my company and told by the Comdt. to survey the ground for material for barricades, points of vantage to be occupied, and so on, in good time before Easter Sunda.

I think it must have been at this meeting that we were formall told about the intended Rising, though it was 'in the air' for some time before that and few of us can have had little doubt that a Rising was imminent. At any rate rate Comdt. Daly ordered all the Company officers present at that last meeting of the Battn.Council to go over the ground to be occupied by their respective companies, and he gave us all explicit instructions as to the area to be occupied by us.

LEADERSHIP OF F/COY. RESUMED:

Om Holy Thursday night, I went to the weekly parade of F/Coy. and took over command again. I reminded the men of what I had told them a few months before when leaving them - that when there would be "anything doing" I would be back to lead them. I then said "Well, I am back" and I will ever remember with pride the cheers with which that announcement was greeted. Indeed the most precious memory of my whole life is my association with the grand young men who formed F/Coy. and I am very naturally proud that they elected metheir captain.

During the last three or four days before the Rising the excitement was at fever-height, and rumours were rife as to a general round-up by the British, and so on. Somewhere about that time, or perhaps earlier in Holy Week, most of the leaders changed their addresses in order to stay in houses where there were a number of armed volunteers who could resist any attempt at arrest. Sean McDermott came to 44 Mountjoy St. with us; in addition to Gearoid O'Sullivan and myself there were also staying in 44 at that time Mort O'Connell, Clerk of the Dail, Fionan (Floss) O'Doherty and Con Keating, all members of my company. Keating was a wireless operator, and he was drowned when the car in which he was travelling to Ceherciveen went into the Laune at BallyRissane Quay on Easter Saturday 1916.

Tom Clarke took up his abode with the O'Conmors of Sherrard St. of which family the father and three sons were Volunteers - John was a Sergeant in my Coy. and is now the wellknown Dublin Solicitor, John S. O'Connor.

Pearse stayed at home at Rathfarnham, but had some Volunteers staying on the premises.

About 5 a.m. on Easter Saturday morning there was a terrific rat-a-tat-tat at our door in Mountjoy St. and we all draw our gums im expectation of a raid. The man at the door, however, was Sean Connolly, killed on the Monday following during the attack on the Castle, and he brought a dispatch to Sean McDermott with regard to Casement's arrest. On Sean's orders Gearoid and myself at once foraged a taxi and drove out to St. Enda's with orders to inform. Pearse that he should come at once in the taxi with us to Liberty Hall. We reached St. Enda's about 6 a.m. and, when Pearse had dressed, we brought him to Liberty Hall where conferences went om throughout the day.

I was given the duty of posting a relay of cycle scouts from the Vice-Regal Lodge to Liberty Hall. Indeed, F/Coy. was given a number of duties of that kind owing to Sean McDermott knowing us so well,

and, I say it with justifiable pride, having the greatest confidence in us.

A most unpleasant duty imposed on me at the time was to place a guard over my own I.R.B. Centre, Bulmer Hobson, who was detained by order of the Supreme Council for some days prior to the Rising. My instructions were that he was to be released when the Rising had started. As far as I know, the only reason for Hobson's arrest was that he agreed with MacNeill that a Rising was impossible without German aid and, therefore, when the "Aud" failed to land any substantial share of arms he was opposed to the Rising going shead at all at that time.

On Easter Sunday morning the Sunday paper carried Ecin Mac Neill's cancellation of the "manoeuvres" for that day. Gearoid and myself were at early Mass and we brought back the paper with us to Sean McDermott. It was the first and only time that I saw Sean really angry and upset. I think, myself, that if he and the others, who insisted on carrying on with the Rising, had taken MacNeill more into their confidence, there would have been no such proclamation from MacNeill. While he was titular head of the Volunteers, he was undoubtedly being kept in the dark about many things.

However, this order of MacNeill's meant another day of meetings and the signatories of the Proclamation met all day long, with intervals for meals, in the premises of the Keating Branch of the Gaelic League.

It must have been about midnight on Easter Sunday night that they finished, and we then left the premises for various "digs" as 44 had been visited by the police that day inquiring about Com Keating on whose body the police must have found that address. Gearoid O'Sulkivan, whom Sean McDermott appointed his aide-de-camp, went with Sean to Fleming's Hotel. I went with Diarmuid O'Hegarty to his "digs" in St. Peter's Road, Phibsboro, and Floss O'Doherty went with Mick Collins to Rathdown Road, N.C.R. Mort O'Connell stayed in 44, and as nothing happened by way of a raid during the



the night, he had gone well ahead with getting our rifles out of their "cache" in the ceiling of "44" by the time we reached the place on Easter Monday morning.

The first Battalion mobilised that morning in Blackhall Place, I forget now what hall it was, but it was the meeting place of at least one of the companies of the Battalion. The Battalion was some what attenuated as one might expect after the countermanding order. Comdt. Daly addressed the men, and after a little while we were ordered to take up our positions in the areas already allotted to us All the company officers were present and, with the exception of one officer, carried out the orders of the Commandant. This officer said that the whole thing was lumacy, and he left the hall and went home. His name was, I think, Allright, and he had been captain of G/Coy.

I should have mentioned that on Good Friday, accompanied by Sean Shouldice, lst Lieut. and Diarmuid O'Hegarty, 2nd Lieut. I went over the ground to be occupied by my Coy. We laid all our plans for barricades for the occupation of certain houses within the area, for food supply and for every other eventuality that could be foreseen by us. Hence, we had no difficulty when we got the order to move on Easter Monday. Each of us took up the position we had already decided on; we set up our barricades and occupied houses and vantage points as we had already settled.

There was little fighting in our area until the Wednesday, but from that on until the surrender on Saturday evening the fighting was intense. I do not wish to boast about the valour of my men - I shall merely say that it was a great honour for any man to be their Captair

As to how they fought, the words of our enemies at the time are the greatest tribute we could ask for - though they did not mean to pay us a tribute, I needn't say. This tribute was paid to us when a statement by Lieut.Colonel H. Taylor, O/C. 2nd/6th South Staffords was read at the inquest on men named Healy and Bealen, civilians who were murdered by the British in the basement of 177 North King St. The statement was by way of excuse for the military excesses in that



the "Weekly Irish Times" called "Sinn Fein Rebellion Handbook" at page 211 and on page 212 there is a statement made to the "Daily Mail" by General Sir John Maxwell where he says "The allegations of brutality seem almost exclusively concerned with the fighting in North King St. With the one exception of the place at Ballsbridge, where the Sherwood Foresters were ambushed, this was by far the worst fighting that occurred in the whole of Dublin. At first the troops, coming from one end of the street, were repulsed, and it was only when we made an attack from both ends that we succeeded, after twenty four hours' fighting, in capturing the street. The casualties were very heavy during this fighting

In combination with Colonel Taylor's description of the fighting in our company area, Sir John Maxwell's statement is the finest tribute that could be paid to my men.

F/Coy. occupied the area from N. King St. along Church St. to May Lane where we were joined to C/Coy. who held the Four Courts.

On Saturday evening, worn out from fighting incessantly for three days, we fell back on the Four Courts and very shortly afterwards the order came for surrender.

Sigmed:	Fi.nan Lynch				
Date:	1				

Witness: 10th October, 1948.

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