

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 352

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 352.....

Witness

Mr. William Murphy,
301 Clontarf Road,
Dublin.

Identity

Storekeeper, South Dublin Union,
Easter Week 1916.

Subject

- (a) Occupation of South Dublin Union by
Irish Volunteers, Easter Week 1916;
- (b) Supply of provisions to I.V.'s. in
S.D.U. Easter Week 1916.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil

File No. S.1410.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

ORIGINAL

STATEMENT BY WILLIAM MURPHY,
301, CLONTARF ROAD,
DUBLIN.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
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During Easter Week 1916, I held the position of Storekeeper in the South Dublin Union. I remember Easter Monday 1916. At about 12 noon I saw a group of Volunteers enter the grounds by the front gate under Commandant Ceannt and Liam Cosgrave. Ceannt asked me for supplies. He first asked me if I had any corned beef or bacon. I told him I had not, but could give him supplies of anything else he required, such as tea, sugar, condensed milk, butter, etc. He handed me a written order for these provisions. I asked Cosgrave what was it all about. He said all the Volunteers were out today in arms against the British.

Ceannt took up his headquarters in a building called the Orchard shed adjacent to Basin Lane. It was a wooden structure. Later in the day he changed his headquarters to the Nurses' Home. Before this the Volunteers erected barricades in front of the main gate on the inside and they dismantled the telephone.

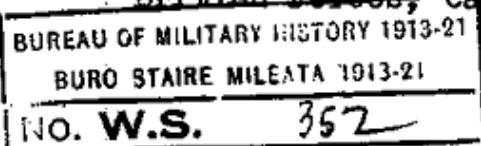
On Monday afternoon sometime after the British Military entering by the back gate at Kilmainham, I had occasion to take supplies by horse van to various departments of the institution, having obtained permission to do so from the Volunteers. At the time, crossfire was taking place between the Volunteers and the British. As I had to pass through this fire in my tour of duty, I wore a white coat and carried a white flag on a broom for identification purposes. The lady who is now my wife accompanied me. We got through without being fired on and delivered the supplies to the departments concerned. I may mention that this was not part of my normal duty, but, seeing that there was no one else available, I had to do it. On my tour I saw that British forces were in

occupation of the canal wall and the back gate at Kilmainham. On that same evening (Monday) as I was making another journey with supplies, my wife, who was to accompany me, went to the Nurses' Home and informed Mr. Cosgrave what we were about to do. He said that it would be all right, but warned us not to give any information. Ceannt gave my wife a written message to take to the Commanding Officer of the British Forces within the Union asking for a cease fire for twenty minutes while they, the Volunteers, were collecting the dead and wounded. My wife delivered this note to the British Officer in command and his reply was "No, they have shot our Major (Ramsay) and we will give them no quarter". He tore up the note. My wife reported back to Ceannt and told him what the British Officer had said. The Volunteers cheered when they heard the news. By late on Monday night the British had occupied all buildings at the back of the institution while the Volunteers held all the buildings at the front overlooking James's St. until the surrender.

Tuesday morning, as the breakfast bell tolled at 7, a British soldier who was on his own was taking cover from the fire of the Volunteers from the Clerks' office; he fell mortally wounded. He was later taken away by the British.

Throughout the week I kept on supplying, on my own behalf, provisions to the Volunteers. As I had to employ a man (Tallin by name) to deliver the supplies, I could not say then whether they were ever delivered or not. In later years Mr. Cosgrave confirmed that they were. I was not present when the surrender took place as I was engaged at the Stores.

(NOTE:- Mrs. Murphy was present while this statement was being taken and she corroborated her husband's reference to the note taken by her to the Commanding Officer of the British Forces, calling for a temporary "Cease Fire".



Signed: William Murphy

Date: 13th February 1950

Witness: W. Jimmy Bond