

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 553

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 553

Witness

Micheal P. Cowley,
"Dun Mhuire",
45 Whitehall Road,
Terenure,
Dublin.

Identity.

Centre of Teeling Circle, I.R.B., 1908 -1912;
Member of 'E' Company Irish Volunteers,
Rathfarnham, 1914 - .

Subject.

His association with the I.R.B. and
Irish Volunteer Organisations.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No.S.202.....

Form B.S.M. 2

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1 st 13-21
BURO STÁIRE MILEATA 1913-1
NO. W.S. 553

S.202.

20, Deireadh Fomhair, 1947.

A Chara,

The enclosed leaflet will explain why I am writing to you.

In the course of a recent conversation, Mr. Bulmer Hobson mentioned to the Director that he was associated with you in the I.R.B., when you were the Centre of the Teeling Circle in 1908.

The history of the I.R.B. and its association with the formation and development of the Irish Volunteers and allied organisations, is one of the matters in which the Bureau is interested, and the Director would be glad to have your co-operation in this work, by way of a statement of your own experiences and contacts with prominent men in the various movements, and the presentation or loan of documents or otherwise.

If there is any aspect of the matter which you would like to discuss, I shall be only too pleased to meet your convenience.

Mise, le meas,

(sgd) P.J. BRENNAN.
RÚNAÍ.

Mr. Micheál Cowley,
"Carnalea",
70 Terenure Road, East,
DUBLIN.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 553

ORIGINAL

"Carnalea",

70, Terenure Road East,

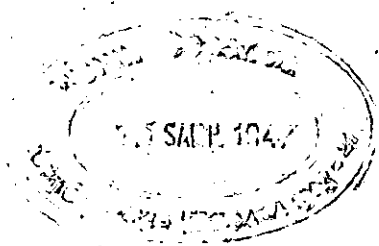
TERENURE,

Dublin.

10th November, 1947.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL:

P. J. Brennan, Esq.,
Runai,
Buro Staire Mileata 1913-1921,
26, Raedh na nIartharach,
BAILE ATHA CLIATH.



A Chara,

With further reference to your letter of 20th ultimo, I have read carefully the Leaflet (enclosed with your letter) issued by the Bureau.

I. R. B.

Briefly, my association with the I. R. B. commenced in 1900 and terminated in 1912. It is true that during the period covered by these years, I came in contact with most of the then Leaders and prominent members of that Organisation. I resigned my membership thereof in 1912, but as a statement of my reasons for doing so would necessitate bringing in the names of some of my esteemed colleagues, long since dead, but whose families are still living, I do not feel myself at liberty to discuss the matters involved. In my opinion this would serve no useful purpose.

I. V.

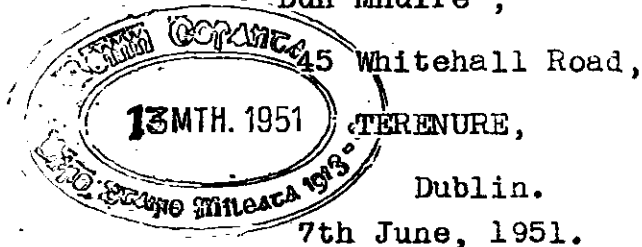
As regards the Irish Volunteers, when 'E Company' was formed in 1914 at Rathfarnham, where I then resided, I became a member, fought with Commandant Pearse in the Post Office in 1916, was deported, first to Stafford Jail and subsequently to Frongoch, was released in due course and continued my membership of the Irish Volunteers up to the Civil War.

In the circumstances stated, I regret that, having given the matter very careful consideration, I am not in a position to supply your Bureau with more satisfactory information relative to my connection with these two Organisations.

Mise, le meas,
Micheal P. Cowley
Micheal P. Cowley.

ORIGINAL

"Dun Mhuire",



Whitehall Road,

TERENCE,

Dublin.

7th June, 1951.

Runai,
 Buro Staire Mileata 1913-1921,
 26 Raedh na nIartharach,
BAILE ATHA CLIATH.

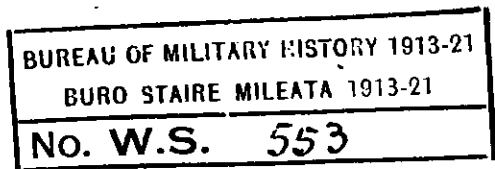
A Chara,

Following my recent interview with Commdt. J. Kearns, your Representative, I wish to state that I have again very carefully reviewed my associations with the Irish Republican Brotherhood and Irish Volunteer Organisations.

I would refer you to my letter of 10th November 1947 (copy enclosed) relative to these matters. I am very sorry that I cannot conscientiously add anything further to the information conveyed in that letter.

Mise le meas,

Micheal MacAmhalghaidh.





AN ROINN COSANTA
BURO STAIRE MÍLEATA 1913-21
26 RAEDH NA NIARTHARACH
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21
26 WESTLAND ROW
DUBLIN.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-1921.

The Bureau of Military History, 1913-21, was set up by the Minister for Defence on the 1st January, 1947, with the following terms of reference:—

“To assemble and co-ordinate material to form the basis for the compilation of the history of the movement for Independence from the formation of the Irish Volunteers on 25th November, 1913, to the 11th July, 1921.”

The Bureau is composed as follows:—

Director—Michael McDunphy, *Barrister-at-Law.*

Members—Colonel Dan Bryan.

John McCoy.

Major Florence O'Donoghue.

Seamus Robinson.

Associated with the Bureau is an Advisory Committee of persons experienced in historical study and research, viz.:—

Chairman—Richard Hayes, L.R.C.S.I., L.R.C.P.I.,
D.Litt.

Members—James Carty, M.A., National Library.

Robert Dudley Edwards, M.A.,
Ph.D., D.Litt., Professor of Modern Irish
History, U.C.D.

R. J. Hayes, LL.D., Director, National
Library.

James Hogan, D.Litt., Professor of
History, U.C.C.

Shiela G. Kennedy, M.A., H.Dip Ed.
Lecturer in History through Irish, U.C.G.

G. A. Hayes McCoy, M.A., Ph.D.,
National Library.

Theodore W. Moody, Ph.D., Professor of
Modern History, T.C.D.

It is not the function of the Bureau to write the Military History of the period; its purpose is to assemble and collate in an objective manner the material from which

that history can be written, to ensure that that material is as accurate and comprehensive as possible, and, as part of that task, to collect and preserve what remains of original documents associated with the armed struggle for Independence.

To do its work effectively, the Bureau needs the fullest co-operation, particularly from those who, by reason of their position or personal contact with the events or personalities of the period, are in a position to give information on the many unrecorded aspects of the struggle.

Because of the circumstances of the time, and of the conditions under which the military organisations operated, the amount of original documentary material was of necessity very restricted, and, unfortunately, some of it has since been lost, through destruction, deterioration, or other causes.

The location, assembly, recording and preservation of such original documents as now remain are, therefore, matters of great importance. No original document, which relates to the struggle should be destroyed or allowed to deteriorate, even if it appears to be of trivial or purely local interest. The Bureau will gladly accept all such original documents presented to it, and will take steps for their safe custody and preservation for the nation. If the donor wishes to have copies made for him the Bureau will supply them.

Where a person having custody of original documents does not wish to present them to the Bureau, the Bureau would appreciate information as to their nature and contents, and would like to have permission to have them copied by photographic or other processes. Where documents are of such a nature that, while their preservation is historically important, the owner feels it desirable to impose conditions as to access to their contents, whether by way of time limit or otherwise, the Bureau will readily undertake compliance with any such conditions, and will arrange for the confidential custody of the documents accordingly.

If, in any case, the owner would prefer that certain documents should not pass for a specified time from his personal custody, or from the custody of persons nominated by him, but intends ultimately to make them available to the nation, it would be appreciated if the Bureau could be given a general indication of their nature or contents, and of the owner's intentions regarding them, so that a record may be made of their existence, and of their present and ultimate location.

It is realised, of course, that in many cases the available documents do not represent a complete picture of the events to which they relate, and for that reason much of the work of the Bureau will, of necessity, be concerned with the assembling of evidence, oral or written, from persons or bodies having first hand information of any phase or aspect of the conflict, whether in Ireland or abroad. The Bureau will welcome communications in writing from those who feel that they can assist in this way, and would ask them to give an indication of the areas, periods or phases upon which they are in a position to give information.

At the moment the Bureau is concentrating on the events which led to the formation of the Irish Volunteers and of associated organisations, and to subsequent developments up to the Rising of Easter Week, 1916, and it is to persons with a special knowledge of that period that this initial appeal for co-operation is being made. The Bureau will be grateful, of course, for assistance on any phase of its work, but would like to deal first with the earlier period mentioned. Later it will welcome co-operation in connection with the Rising itself and with the events of 1917-21.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:—

1. Preserve and safeguard any original documents you have.
2. Inform the Bureau of the nature and quantity of these documents, stating whether you are willing:—
 - (a) to present them to the Bureau.
 - (b) to loan them for copying, or
 - (c) otherwise to make them available to the nation.
3. If you are aware of the existence of original documents which are not under your control, give what information you can to the Bureau.
4. If you are in possession of unrecorded knowledge of any phase, aspect or incident, will you please—
 - (a) put your information in writing and send it to the Bureau, or
 - (b) write indicating briefly the nature of the information you have, and the manner in which you would like to have it recorded.

The Bureau will be glad to assist you in every way possible.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY,
26 WESTLAND ROW,
DUBLIN.

Phone No. 61018.

1st May, 1947.