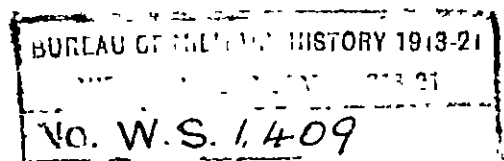


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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1409.

Witness

Commandant Thomas Duffy,  
138 Botanic Avenue,  
Glasnevin,  
Dublin.

Identity.

Volunteer, E. Company, 2nd Battalion, Dublin Brigade,  
I.R.A.

Subject.

Execution of British Intelligence Officer,  
Upper Mount Street, Dublin,  
21st November, 1920.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness

Nil.

File No . S. 2763.

Form B S M 2

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BUREAU OF STATE PAPERS 1913-21
No. 1409

STATEMENT BY COMMANDANT THOMAS DUFFY

138 Botanic Avenue. Glasnevin. Dublin.

Execution of British Intelligence Officer

Upper Mount Street. 21st November. 1920.

On Saturday night, 20th November 1920, I was detailed by my brother, Lieutenant M. Duffy, to be at Westland Row at 8.30 a.m. on the following morning, Sunday 21st November 1920. Armed with a revolver and 12 rounds of .45 ammunition I joined a party of about eight Volunteers - members of "E" Company, 2nd Battalion, Dublin Brigade. We were instructed to proceed to a house at Upper Mount Street and, on arriving, Commandant T. Ennis directed us to enter. One man, Volunteer Michael Lawless, took up duty on the steps outside the front door. Three men were detailed to remain in the hall, three other men went to the front room.

Commandant Ennis told me to follow him. We proceeded to a return room at the back of the house, which we entered, and I was ordered to cover with my revolver a young man who was in bed. Commandant T. Ennis questioned the man and asked him who he was. He replied: "I am a British officer". When asked if he was armed he said "No". Commandant Ennis then put his hand under the pillow on the bed and took out a .445 Colt automatic fully loaded and a pouch containing about 50 rounds of ammunition. He put the pistol in his pocket and gave the pouch of ammunition to me. Two Volunteers then brought the other British Intelligence officer to the return room and the two I.Os. were placed standing upon the bed and executed.

The Volunteer who was on duty outside the house captured a British soldier in uniform, with a motor cycle, and brought

him (the soldier) into the house where he was questioned and locked into a room. This soldier later swore at the trial of Volunteer Moran, that Moran was the man who made him a prisoner. Volunteer P. Moran was not in Upper Mount Street that morning.

As all our section lived on the north side of the city we made directly to the South Quays and commandeered a rowing boat normally used for running ropes from ships to the quay wall. The boat was equipped with oars and rowlocks. We rowed the boat across the river to the ferry steps at Commons Street, where an old friend - Mr. J. Scally of No. 10 Commons Street, and the Silloth and Isle of Man Shipping Company, helped us ~~to row~~ <sup>BY ROWING TO</sup> the boat back to its normal mooring at the South Quay, and ~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> walked back home via Butt Bridge.

I was later informed that Commandant T. Ennis should not have been in Mount Street on 21st November 1920. Officially, Commandant V. Byrne was in charge of the operation.

Signed: *Thomas Duggan Commandant*

Date: *27<sup>th</sup> April 1956*

Witness: *M. Ryan Commandant*

