

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

CURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1772

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1772

Witness

Mr John K. Cotter,
Blackwater Bridge, Killarney,
Co. Kerry.

Identity.

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Subject.

Howth Gun-running, July, 1914.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No Nil.

Form B.S.M. 2

(1)

Blackwater Bridge Kellarnoy

for Búro Staire Mileata July 22nd 1961

Records

The Secretary *Bharréonóm*

Committee on Ashgard

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A Case

Having seen about the Committee on the Sunday Irish Press. I felt I should tell them that my motor fishing dinghy Gabriel 5991 was the only vessel or boat that was at the east pier of Howth on the Sunday morning in 1914 when the "Ashgard" came to it-

The Gabriel and her crew of seven men were from Cape Clear Island in the County Cork and was herring fishing from Howth that morning after Mass and breakfast we saw the yacht becalmed off the pier head we went there when she was closing in and a man in her stern shouted to us he knew us and was our friend when we were fishing from Killybegs in 1913 himself Paddy Mac Ginley and Cahill the crew were from Gola Island Donegal

(2)

Paddy mac Finley had a line in his hands and made some attempts to reach the Pier with it - I caught the end of the line and we pulled the Ashgard around the Pier head and along the Gabriel beyond where we moored her.

at that time there was not a soul on the pier but before she was moored it was thronged with people. We then went helping Paddy and Cahill to put the boxes on deck from the hold break up some of them and hand out the guns to the men on the pier. While this was doing a small boat rowed by two Coastguards came towards us from the west pier Cahill Brugha stepped on board the Gabriel which was nearest to them and my brother Denis went with him he shouted to the Coastguards. get away from here get back quickly one of them said right O and they turned around and went back Denis told me that Cahill Brugha was excited and that he had his hand in his great coat pocket with something in it which must be a gun

(3)

Brugh asked Denis for a drink and Denis went into the cabin and got a mug of tea from the kettle and gave it to him. our way of making tea was to mix condensed milk and sugar with it in the kettle

There were only two others in the yacht at that time with mac Ginly and Duggan my crew were arguing afterwards whether one of them was a man or woman as she had mens clothes When the guns were landed we pulled her out around the pier head some people from the crowd were hoisting the mainsail and it got caught in the open hatch and got a big tare

Duggan from Gola Island is now dead and Paddy mac Ginly is in Chicago with a large family There are only three of us Cape Clear people now living one on the Island one in Berehaven and me here near Killarney

Mise Le mess

John Kieran Cottar

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