

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 11



Éire
Telefón 61018.

ROINN COSANTA.

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21),

26 RAEDH NA NIARTHARACH,
(26 Westland Row),

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.
(Dublin).

Document S. 11

Statement by.

George Lyons

Member of I.R.B. 1913

dated 10th July, 1947

on Proposed appeal by Laurence O'Neill

Lord Mayor of Dublin

for

Cessation of Street Ambushes

March, 1921

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S. 106

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On 16th March 1921. old Tom Kelly's brother, David was crossing the road ~~at~~ outside his house 134 Pease St. when he walked into an ambush from the I.R.A. upon the British force & was killed. There was a grave-digger strike on in Jesuevin cemetery and I assisted with other volunteers in preparing his grave next day. at the funeral subsequently Road Mayor Lawrence O'Neill attended and mentioned to me that these street ambushes were a cause of great concern to him as so frequently non-combatants among the citizens became victims.

at the monthly meeting of the convention held on the following Monday afternoon, the Road Mayor came forward with a speech appealing for a cessation of these street ambushes in which

22
So many of our unarmed citizens were
being killed or injured. He showed me
the typescript in a corridor of the mansion
House before the opening of the Convention
and asked for my private opinion. The
speech was couched in the graceful and
diplomatic manner usual with his hand
I asked him why he would not submit it
to some of the recognized leaders of Sinn Féin.
He replied that he did not wish to antagonize
them but he would be guided by my opinion
as one of the leaders of Sinn Féin in the
Convention (I was then a councillor) I replied
that such a speech would hardly meet with the
approval of the real leaders ^{of Sinn Féin} but would most
certainly meet with the approval of the
Common enemies would be avoided of

3/ by the weakened section of the populace
who would seize upon any excuse to desert
the volunteers. The Lord Mayor then clasped
his hand to his head & declared he was
placed in a position in which he did not
know what to do. "In that event" I replied
your lordship had ^{best} do nothing.
You may be assured that the leaders of the
movement are as much concerned about
the similar casualties in this Grenada war
as you can be and at present can
see no other reply to the Black-and-Tan
invasion."

The meeting of Corporation
was then announced by the "Officers of Cinemas"
Mr Cahill - and during the progress of
of the meeting the Lord Mayor extracted the
typescript of his speech from his pocket several

times and looked questioningly at me
 as I sat near the chair. On each
 occasion I vigorously shook my
 head in meaning dissent and the
 speech was never delivered.

Signed

George A. Jones et al.

10. 7. 47.

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21 Belgrave Sq
Rothmans

2 R. B. Dutton 1913