

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 33



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BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21),

26 RAEDH NA NIARTHARACH,
(26 Westland Row),

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.
(Dublin).

DOCUMENT W.S.33.

Statement by

Daniel Hegarty,
Fair Street,
Mallow, MALLOW,
Co. Cork.

Dated: 28th October, 1947

On: Mallow, Co. Cork, Coy. I.V.
1913-1916.

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STATEMENT OF DANIEL HEGARTY, FAIR STREET, MALLOW,
CO. CORK.

PERIOD: DECEMBER, 1913, TO MAY, 1916.

UNIT: MALLOW COMPANY, I.V.

A small Company of Volunteers, consisting of fourteen members, was organised by Christopher O'Connell and Jeremiah Hanley, Beecher Street, Mallow, at the end of 1913. Practically all of them lived in Beecher Street and the organisation did not spread to the town generally at that time.

In August, 1914, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, at which Canon Corbett presided, for the purpose of organising a Corps of Volunteers. This meeting was attended by many of the prominent townspeople and by a number of well known local Protestants, including R.F. Longfield, Deputy Lieutenant for the County. A Company was formed and about 80 members joined. The original Company merged with it a short time afterwards. Christopher O'Connell became Company Captain and continued in that position until early 1916. A chapel gate collection was made, which realised £65. 0. 0. About the same time a chapel gate collection for Belgian Refugee children made about £80. 0. 0.

When the Split came a number fell out, but the majority supported the Provisional Committee of the Volunteers; the dissentients discontinued attendance at parades, and the Company carried on as before. The issue in dispute was never formally put to the Company for a decision. The town was strongly O'Brienite in political sympathy, and the majority of the Volunteers were O'Brienites.

We had a drill instructor, ex-Sergeant Ives of the British Army. He gave us training in Infantry Drill and in Arms Drill with wooden rifles. We did a few route marches to outlying districts. We continued training during 1915. Parades were held once a week and frequently on Sundays also. Some of the Sunday parades were to Buttevant, Kilavullen and Castletownroche. Members of the Company attended the Manchester Martyrs' procession in Cork in November, 1915, and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Cork in 1916. We were in Limerick also at the parade on Whit Sunday, 1915.

I am unable to say what the strength of the Company was at the end of 1915, but immediately before Easter, 1916, we had about 25 men. There were then two ex-servicemen in the Company. There had been six in August, 1914.

I attended the course of training given by J.J. O'Connell at the Hall in Sheares' Street, Cork, in January, 1916. On my return from the course I was appointed Company Captain, Christopher O'Connell was appointed Secretary and Michael Conroy, Treasurer. These Officers continued in office until after Easter, 1916.

The men paid 2d or 3d a week into a Company fund for equipment. By Easter, 1916, all were equipped with haversacks, belts,

bandoliers and caps. There were no uniforms in the Company.

A few days before Easter Sunday, 1916, Tomás MacCurtain sent me £10. 0. 0. for the purchase of shot gun ammunition, with instructions to purchase as much as possible. I bought 2,000 rounds locally. 1,000 rounds of this went to Mourne Abbey Company, the remainder was retained in Mallow Company.

The orders for Easter Sunday, 1916, came to me from Tomás MacCurtain some time in the previous week, I think on Good Friday. They were in writing but I do not remember who brought them. They were to the effect that the Company was to parade at Bweeing Cross on Easter Sunday, at some fixed time which I do not now remember, with all available arms and ammunition, and rations for three days. We had no information that this was to be anything more than an ordinary exercise.

On Easter Saturday I went into Cork by train. On the platform at Mallow Railway Station I saw a tall, very erect, striking looking man in the custody of four R.I.C. men with carbines. At first I thought he was a German prisoner, but when one of the police spoke to him he smiled and his face lit up in the most remarkable way. ~~* He was walking up and down the platform and I don't think he was handcuffed.~~ When the Cork-Dublin train came in the police directed him towards it. He moved as if to cross the tracks, but they directed him over the footbridge and that was the last I saw of him. Afterwards I learned it was Casement, and that he had just come off the train from Tralee with his escort while waiting for the Cork-Dublin train.

* *Casement was standing and one or two of his escort were seated* (6)

In Cork I went to the Volunteer Hall in Sheares' Street and had some discussion with Tomás MacCurtain about the defence of the building. I had made some grenades with gelignite, and I suggested to him that some of them would be useful for defending the Hall. He agreed. I was provided with gelignite, fuse, and broken metal and made three grenades. They were contained in cocoa tins. While I was making them Seán Jennings was at the same table counting a lot of gold sovereigns.

I returned to Mallow on Saturday night. The whole Company was notified of the parade for next day.

On Easter Sunday morning the following paraded:- (6)

Daniel Hegarty.
Christopher O'Connell.
Michael Heavey. *HEAVY.* (6)
Thomas Quinn.
Dan Forde.
Michael Sweeney.

I think the others had seen McNeill's countermanding order in the "Sunday Independent" that morning, at least they gave it as an excuse for not parading? Nine men from the Castletownroche Company joined us at Mallow, marched to Bweeing with us and returned with us that night.

The arms in Mallow Company at Easter, 1916, were:-

Three .22 rifles. No ammunition.
Twenty-five shot guns, with 1,000 rounds ammo.
Two .32 revolvers with about 20 rounds.

Four .22 revolvers with about 30 rounds.
Six bayonets.
Twenty grenades.
Twenty pounds of gelignite.

Twenty of the shot guns had been purchased locally out of Company funds. Three of the .22 revolvers and two bayonets had been commandeered locally. The grenades were of the canister type and had been made by me. None of the shot gun ammunition had been loaded with slug.

The arms actually taken to Bweeing on Easter Sunday were:-

*3 Revolvers — 1 .32 & 2 .22.
1 .22 Rifle
6 Shot Guns
1000 Rounds shot gun ammunition
1 doz. Hand grenades.*
Daniel Hegarty

Christopher O'Connell cycled to Bweeing. The other five of us from the Company and the nine Castletownroche men marched. On arrival at Bweeing Cross we found that Companies from Mourne Abbey, Whitechurch, Kilmona, Courtbrack and Donoughmore had also assembled there. Two R.I.C. men from Mallow were there when we arrived. Some exercises were carried out under Michael Lynch, and late in the afternoon we were about a mile on the Mallow side of the main body of Volunteers. Word was sent to us there that the exercises were over and that we were to proceed home as quietly as possible. I believe Tomás MacCurtain and Terence MacSwiney came to Bweeing but I did not see them or hear Tomás speak. We had no information of where other mobilisations had taken place or of what was happening in other areas.

With the Castletownroche men we marched back to Mallow, and the Castletownroche men went on to their own area. They marched over 30 miles that day.

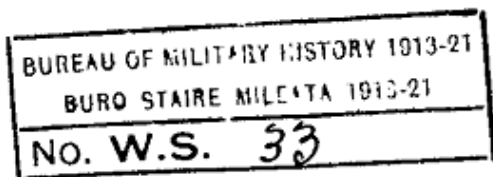
No orders came to the Company during Easter week. On 4th May Christopher O'Connell and I were arrested and taken to Cork Jail. We arrived at the Jail at the same time as Terence MacSwiney and the Hales. We had very little exercise during the time we were in Cork Jail. In the early morning of May 9th we were told to get ready. We were put in fours and handcuffed in pairs. I was handcuffed to Mark Wickham. There was a soldier with fixed bayonet for each one of us, about 67 I think. We were marched to Glanmire Railway Station with soldiers on each side of us, where we were put on a special train. At Mallow Station the canteen ladies offered tea to the soldiers escorting us, but none of us was invited. At Buttevant the train was stopped and sent back to Mallow to pick up the Kerry prisoners. We then went to Limerick where more prisoners were taken on. We arrived in Dublin about 6.30 p.m. and were marched to Richmond Barracks. The conditions there were terrible. We were crowded into barrack rooms without a bit of furniture. Each man got two army blankets, one to put on the floor to lie on and one to put over him. We used our

boots as pillows. We got only about an hour's exercise while we were there. On *May 10th or 11th* we were marched to a cattle boat at the North Wall and taken to England. After a term in Wakefield Jail we were sent to an internment camp at Frongoch.

About six shot guns, the property of Mallow Company, were surrendered after Easter Week, 1916. No other arms were lost or taken in raids.

There were no Fianna Eireann or Cuman-na-mBhan organisations in the Company area before 1916.

SIGNED: Daniel Hegarty
DATE: Oct 28th 1947



WITNESS: Florence O'Donoghue

P.S. I am not quite sure of the date on which the meeting was held at which Canon Corbett presided. Or the date on which the collection for the Volunteers was held. Particulars of the meeting would probably be found in the Press.
Daniel Hegarty
28/10/47

Witness: Florence O'Donoghue

28/10/47

