

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 36



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Telefón 61018.

ROINN COSANTA.

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21),

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(Dublin).

DOCUMENT W.S. 36

Statement by

James Walsh,
Knockea,
Lyre,
Clonakilty,
Co. Cork.

Dated: 23rd October, 1947.

On: Lyre, Co. Cork, Coy. I.V.
1914-1916

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STATEMENT OF JAMES WALSH, KNOCKEA, LYRE,
CLONAKILTY, CO. CORK.

PERIOD: SEPTEMBER, 1914 TO MAY, 1915. ? 1916

UNIT: LYRE COMPANY, I.V.

A few of us heard that a parade of the Clogough Company of Irish Volunteers would come off in Aiohill on the following Sunday. We settled on going there. This was in mid September, 1914. Three or four of us from around Lyre went. After some time the Clogough Company came on in marching order - about 20 men carrying pikes and shot guns. Two cyclists arrived a short time before them and they stopped and were talking to the locals; the cyclists were Terry MacSwiney and a comrade from Cork. After some drill Terry MacSwiney addressed the whole crowd at some length and a number of new men fell in and were put through some drill.

After a chat with Terry MacSwiney we said we would form a Company at Lyre, which we did right away. Our Company numbered about 30 and we used to meet for drill once a week, go on a route march every Sunday and tried to start more Companies. A number would fall in for drill in most places, but some places would not go beyond that.

The Lyre Company was going fairly well and we went to Cork city for the Manchester Martyrs' parade in November, 1915. Our arms consisted of a dozen shot guns, a dozen pikes and a couple of small rifles. We had about 20 rounds for each shot gun and about 100 rounds for the two small rifles. We attended the St. Patrick's Day parade in Cork city in 1916. We had about 30 men. I went through the course of training for Officers at Sheares Street, Cork.

The Company took part in a route march to Aiohill where there was a parade with the Clogough, Ballinadee and local Companies. They went to Ballygurteen for a parade with Kilmeen and Dunmanway Companies. They had recruiting marches to Bealad, Sam's Cross, Lisivard, Ardfield and Barryroe. In most cases there was a speech, explaining the object of the Volunteers, and ending up in getting the locals to go through some drill.

Terry MacSwiney called here before Easter Week. He was accompanied by Tadhg O'Shea. He told me that the Volunteers were to turn out on Easter Sunday, that they would be attacked themselves and that they would have the first of it. He said the Cork Volunteers and the Volunteers round Bandon would move towards Macroom and we could go on North Ballineen way and join them North along, or we could go to Dunmanway and meet with the Dunmanway Company. We decided on the latter course. He said to take all the arms and ammunition we had, and overcoats. I am not sure if he mentioned blankets, but at Inchigeela he reminded me that we had not overcoats or blankets. Our Company had a meeting on Saturday evening arranging for Sunday and one question was asked but not answered; would we come back from this march? We made arrangements and the following morning, starting at 5 o'clock, we made our way to Dunmanway by car and on foot. I think our number was

nineteen, and Dunmanway Company had about the same, so I suggested that the two Companies should fall in as one, with Con Aherne in command. We marched on to Inchigeela and we were not long there when Terry MacSwiney and Bob Hales came on. Terry MacSwiney told us the parade was called off and we should return home again. After some drill in the village we had refreshments and turned our faces back for Dunmanway.

Tomás MacCurtain came down by appointment to Ballinacarriga before the Battalion Areas were defined. A man or two from all the Companies around attended and he divided the district into two Battalion areas - Clonakilty and Dunmanway.

The names of the men who paraded on Easter Sunday were:-

Charles Cullinane.
John Cullinane.
John Cahalane.
Jerry Donovan.
John Carey.
Arthur O'Leary.
Tim Crowley.
James Meade.
William Meade.
Dan Bennett.
Dan Leary.
Jim Leary.
John Donovan.
Ned Sullivan.
Maurice McCarthy.
Bill Sutton.
John Jones.

We got a despatch from Ballinadee side in a couple of days, telling us to keep ready, that we would be called on to make a move soon. We carried on as usual and arranged for a parade on the next Sunday; which we went through, consisting of drill and field work. However, in a few days we heard of the arrests of the Hales and Terry MacSwiney and we concluded it was no use for us to be holding on any longer so we planked our arms and ammunition and waited developments. The military and police came around on the 4th of May and arrested Jim Leary, Tim and John Crowley, James and William Meade, John O'Keefe; John Donovan, Ned Sullivan, Peter Donovan, Maurice McCarthy and myself.

Jim Leary of Kilnelogue, the first name on the list of arrests, had a good Company drilling in Kilmeen soon after our Company started but they were not affiliated until later on.

SIGNED:

James Walsh

DATE:

23rd Oct '47

WITNESS:

Florence Donoghue

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