

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 74



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 W.S.74

Statement by: Paud O'Donoghue,
Lakefield, Coachford,
Co. Cork.

Dated: 17th December, 1947.

On: Carriganima Coy. I.V.
1915-1916.

3 pp. typescript - foolscap

File No. S.477

Lansford.

Brushford.

17. 12. 47.

ORIGINAL

Dear Tommie.

I enclose statement signed.

The addresses you require are as follows.

Bernardin W. Baker Lemington

Do.

Backbush.

James Gates

Do.

W. O. K. W. K.

W. O. K. W. K.

Both Bernardin W. Bakers lived in Lemington W. way he distinguished as W. J. and W. P.

As that photograph of June 1916 Officer. you could send it to his son and Mrs. O. D. Smith could give it to me if the brushford clerk's for me.

Best wishes for a happy New Year

Sincerely yours
Gard O. D. Smith

ORIGINAL

STATEMENT OF PAUD O'DONOGHUE, LAKEFIELD
COACHFORD, CO. CORK.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-2
BUNO STAIRÉ MILEATA, 1913-21

PERIOD: SEPTEMBER, 1915 to MAY, 1916

NO. W.S. 74

UNIT: CARRIGANIMMA COMPANY, I.V.

A Company of National Volunteers, started by the local A.O.H. Branch, existed in the Carriganimma-Clondrohid district in 1914. It was about 100 strong. The Company ceased to exist shortly after the outbreak of the European war. I was the only member of that Company who joined Carriganimma Company of the Irish Volunteers. A few joined Clondrohid Company.

I took the initiative in calling the first meeting for the formation of a Company of Irish Volunteers in September, 1915. That was as a result of communication with Seán Nolan of the Cork City Battalion, whose acquaintance I made in the Cork City Gaelic League a few years earlier.

In August, 1915, an Aeridheacht was held at Millstreet under the auspices of the Gaelic League and an address was delivered by Padraig Pearse. A number of Volunteers from Cork City attended the Aeridheacht in uniform, travelling by train to Macroom and cycling from there through Carriganimma. The presence of uniformed Volunteers in this remote village naturally attracted a good deal of attention.

The party on their return in the evening were accompanied by Pearse, who travelled in a waggonette. They stopped at Carriganimma and approached a number of local young men, asking them to join the movement. Seán Nolan and I interviewed the local Curate, the late Revd. John Casey, brother to the late Bishop Casey of Ross. He agreed to support the movement and arrangements were made for a public meeting after Mass on the first Sunday in September.

At Mass on that Sunday Father Casey appealed strongly to the young men to join. The meeting was held. There was no Chairman. Seán Nolan addressed it, and about 25 men joined afterwards. Seán Nolan was subsequently charged at Macroom with having made statements likely to prejudice British recruiting at this meeting, but the charge was dismissed.

Soon after the start the following Officers were elected, and there was no change of Officers down to Easter, 1916:-

Captain: Paud O'Donoghue.

1st Lieutenant: Redmond Walsh.

There were no other Officers. The area of the Company was the North West half of the parish of Clondrohid.

Every Sunday an Officer from Cork City visited Carriganimma and drilled the Company. Parades were also held on two nights each week. The usual training was close order foot drill, arms drill, extended order drill, target practice and manoeuvres. Terence MacSwiney and Daithi Barry, who were Volunteer organisers, occasionally attended the week night parades.

The Company attended a parade in Millstreet addressed by Terence MacSwiney. About 35 men from the Company attended the Manchester Martyrs' Commemoration in Cork in November, 1915, where addresses were delivered by Seán McDermott and Herbert Pim. About the same number attended the St. Patrick's Day parade in Cork in 1916.

I attended the training course under J.J. O'Connell in Sheares' Street, Cork, in January, 1916.

The strength of the Company at the end of 1915 was about 35 men. At Easter, 1916, it was about 40.

I think it was about the end of March, 1916, that Terence MacSwiney came to me and asked my opinion as to what I thought of the Company - how many of them would turn out in a serious emergency. I expressed the opinion that about 70% of the Company would turn out. He asked me what support we would be likely to get outside the Company, that is, from the people generally, and I said I thought not very much as we were not then taken very seriously. I questioned him about the Citizen Army, as I had a feeling they would strike on their own and that public reaction to such action on their part would be bad. He told me they would not act on their own.

I was going to the Presentation College, Cork, in 1910. James Connolly held a series of meetings in Cork at that time. I heard him speak at Emmett Place. His policy did not appeal to me. I know he gave a lecture in An Dún but I was not present at it. Seamus Meade told me that the Gaelic League gave an undertaking afterwards that Connolly would not be allowed to speak there again.

Orders were received to assemble at Macroom on Easter Sunday, 1916. These orders were written and, I think, were signed by Pat Higgins. Verbal instructions were later given, I think, by Dan Corkery to parade at Carriganimma. We mobilised everybody, and the following paraded:-

Paud O'Donoghue
Redmond Walsh
Edmond Walsh
Dan Kelleher
Patrick Kelleher
James Cotter
Patrick Cotter
James Cotter
Jerome Cotter
James Roche
Stephen Roche
John O'Shea
John Sweeney
Denis Carroll
Patrick Kelleher
Cornelius Kelleher
James Walsh
William O'Connell
Daniel Corcoran
Patrick O'Shea
Timothy O'Shea
Cornelius Dennehy
Patrick Dennehy
Cornelius Dennehy
Cornelius Murphy
Jeremiah Kelleher
Cornelius Kelleher
Hugh Twomey

The arms which we had were:-

One .22 rifle, with plenty of ammunition.
Fourteen shot guns, with 60 rounds.
Four .32 revolvers, with 12 rounds.
2 lbs. gelignite.

Some of the shot guns were the property of members of the Company, others had been loaned by local farmers. The revolvers had been in the area since the time of the Redmond-O'Brien conflicts. They were given to us on request.

Companies from Macroom, Kilnamartyra, Ballinagree and Clondrohid also assembled at Carriganimma. All Companies remained there during the day and some exercises were carried out. Sean Nolan arrived in the evening and spoke to Dan Corkery, but I do not know if he brought any message. Miceal Lynch of Ballyfeard arrived about 8 p.m. with instructions that the exercises were cancelled.

We had no information of what was happening in other areas. All the men were dismissed that night. Miceal Lynch stayed the night with me and returned to Cork next day.

We received no order to stand to during the week, but the Company was mobilised on Thursday night. Macroom was contacted and we were advised to disperse and await further orders. I think this area was a Battalion before Easter, 1916. Several meetings of representatives of Macroom, Kilnamartyra, Carriganimma, Clondrohid, Ballinagree and Kilmurray Companies were held in the Hall in School Lane, Macroom. Terence MacSwiney attended a few of these meetings, and we had others at which he was not present.

I have the impression that some ten days or so before Easter we were advised to resist arrest if any attempt was made to arrest us.

No order regarding arms was received during Easter Week. No arms were lost or surrendered in the Company area.

There were no arrests, but I was raided for by police and military on several occasions and was on the run for some months.

I was sworn into the I.R.B. by Sean O'Sullivan, Cork, in October, 1915, and appointed centre. I took on four members of the Company before Easter, 1916. That was the total strength of the local circle at Easter.

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

SIGNED: Paul O'Sullivan

DATE: 17th Dec. 1947.

WITNESS: Florence Donoghue

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