

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MÍLEATA 1913-21

No. W.S.

95



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ROINN COSANTA.

BURO STAIRÉ MÍLEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21),

26 RAEDH NA NIARTHARACH,
(26 Westland Row),

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.
(Dublin).

DOCUMENT W.S. 95

Statement by: Thomas Roche,
Tullylease,
Charleville,
Co. Cork.

Dated: 28th January, 1948.

On: Tullylease I.V.,
1914-1916

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NO. W.S. 95.

STATEMENT OF THOMAS ROCHE, TULLYLEASE,
CHARLEVILLE, CO. CORK.

PERIOD: JULY, 1914, TO EASTER, 1916.

UNIT: TULLYLEASE COMPANY, I.V.

The Tullylease Company of Irish Volunteers was formed at a meeting held in Tullylease in July, 1914. The meeting was called by Patrick Murphy and John Linehan, both of whom are now dead. Linehan was a Creamery Sub-Manager for Seán Noonan, and was in touch with Volunteer Headquarters in Dublin.

Nine men attended the meeting and all became members of the Company. Efforts were made to recruit additional members, and seven others had joined the Company before Easter, 1916, bringing its strength up to sixteen. All of them had become members before the end of December, 1914.

The Officers were elected soon after the formation of the Company. They continued to hold office, and there was no change up to Easter, 1916. They were:-

Patrick Murphy,	Captain.
John Linehan,	1st Lieutenant.

There were no other Officers in the Company.

Parades were held three times a week, at which instruction was given in close order drill, arms drill and field work. In August, 1914, the Company had six shot guns and three revolvers. By Easter, 1916, thirteen shot guns and three revolvers were available. The shot guns were got from local farmers. There was one ex-serviceman in the Company. He continued with the Company and gave training instruction.

The split in the Volunteer organisation did not affect the Company at all. The whole Company continued to give its allegiance to the Irish Volunteers.

On Easter Saturday, 1916, written orders were received by the Company Captain from Headquarters to the effect that the Company was to parade at Barley Hill, North of Newmarket, on Easter Sunday, with all arms and ammunition, full equipment and three days' rations. Everybody was mobilised and all sixteen paraded at Tullylease on Easter Sunday morning. It is not now possible to make an accurate list of the names of men who paraded, but they undoubtedly included Patrick Murphy, John Linehan and Seán Noonan.

The Company marched to Barley Hill and was met there by Daithi Barry from Cork. Companies from Boherbue and Kanturk were at Barley Hill also, and Barry took charge of the parade. Some exercises were carried out. No further orders were received, and about 2 p.m. Daithi Barry told the Company Captain, Patrick Murphy, that the exercises were cancelled and that the Companies were to return to their own areas. No information was available at Barley Hill as to what was happening in other areas, and it was not known definitely that this was anything more than an ordinary Sunday parade. There was, however, an air of tension and expectancy at the time. The Company were ordered to remain on the alert and to be available for a further call at short notice.

The Company marched back to Tullylease on Sunday night, and dismissed. On Tuesday the men were re-mobilised and remained available during the week, but no further orders were received.

No ^{orders} ~~orders~~ were surrendered in the Company area after Easter and there were no arrests.

SIGNED: Thomas Roche P.C.

DATE: 28/1/48.

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WITNESS: Florence Donoghue.