

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 102

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 102

Witness

James Barry

Identity

Member of I.V. Cork, 1916.

Subject

Recollections of Lecture by James Connolly
in Cork, 1915 or 1916.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

File No. S.605

Form B.S.M. 2.

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No. W.S. 102

STATEMENT OF JAMES BARRY, WASHINGTON STREET,
CORK.

LECTURE BY JAMES CONNOLLY IN CORK.

I have a clear recollection of being present at a lecture given by James Connolly in the Grinán, Queen Street, Cork, either at the end of 1915 or early in 1916. The lecture took place on a Sunday evening about 4 o'clock. There was only a small attendance - possibly about 30. Connolly did not speak from the platform, but ~~stood~~ stood behind a table in the Hall with his back to the platform.

The subject of his lecture was street fighting. He went into considerable detail in explaining the tactics to be employed in the seizure, occupation and defence of strategic buildings and blocks of buildings, and in the use, erection and defence of barricades in city streets.

I remember that he stressed the importance of occupying corner houses, and of boring through from one building to another so as to make a block of buildings a complete unit, capable of being defended from all sides. He spoke of the necessity for laying in food supplies, and particularly of the need of ensuring fresh water. "A wounded man", he said, "will cry for water".

In regard to street barricades he said that they should be constructed from whatever materials were available on the spot, carts and cars of all kinds, or any heavy materials that would make an effective block and provide cover. I do not remember if he said anything about the manning and defence of barricades.

After Easter Week it struck me at once that Connolly must have had a considerable influence on the tactics which were adopted in the Rising, because the ideas put into operation in Dublin were similar to those expounded by him at this lecture in Cork.

I do not know who organised the lecture. I have no recollection of Tomás MacCurtain or Terence MacSwiney being present at it, but Sean O'Sullivan and a number of the Officers of the City Companies were present.

SIGNED: James BarryDATE: 2/3/48WITNESS: Flavence Dowling