

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21
COURT STAIRS BLDG. IV
No. W.S. 134

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 154

Witness

Thomas J. Meldon

Identity

Lieut. H.Q. Coy. I.V. 1913-1916.

Subject

Reply to questionnaire on
Easter Week, 1916.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

File No. S. 916.

Form B.S.M. 2.

ORIGINAL

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W.S.
134

Thos. J. Meldon, July 1948

A. I. I.V. from 1913.

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3 e II later GH2. training staff for Musketry and organizer of armourers class

4 Yes

5 yes.

6 Lieut.

7 By Commnd Lt. Col. Mc Lough Gaxitted in Irish Volunteers 18 Sept 1915

8 Placed in charge of defence by Commnd Lt. Col. Mc Lough with place on council (Jacobs)

9 Organizer & trainer of musketry. Organizer of armou...

A - 10. Commr. Tho McLaugh

11

12.

13. I.R.B. from mid 1915
till Feb 22

14. section mobilizer [A
section being a number
of members about six
for whose attendance
mobilizer was responsible

15. Early in 1915

Keating Branch
Parnell Sq

Demot. Stigarty I think

About 20 usual attendance

A - 15. McGurke
 Dermott Hegarty
 Pierce Beasley
 Michael Foley
 Eamon Duggan
 Rich^o Mulcahy
 Con Collins
 Dinny O'Callaghan etc
 Introduced by Richard
 Mulcahy: sworn in to the
 best of my knowledge by
 Dermott Hegarty

B 1. To my knowledge the I.R.B.
 was not the only nor the
 most important part of
 the formation. The Gaelic
 League, The Fianna, built
 up by the Countess, and our
 unpreparedness to take action
 during the Boer War

The main function
 of the I.R.B. to get control
 of men taking up key positions
 by inducing them to join
 the Brotherhood.

2. By joining Co^s and inducing
 members to join the Brother-
 hood.

B

3/ My duties as organized and trainer of Musketry left me little time to get information on this point as my work in this branch of the I.V. commenced with the out-break of the 1914-1918 war.

4 The growth of the Volunteer apparently decided the parliamentary party to get control by securing a number of their nominees on the governing body this side tracking its original purpose on the discovery of this it was put to a vote of the Co. those wishing to retain their allegiance to the original purpose remaining in the hall the remainder leaving so there was no question of expulsion. I might mention that many of these returned rejoined again both before and after the rising.

- B
- 5 I have no definite knowledge
- 6 The policy of The I.V. was definite from the start Nov 1913.
- 7 - 8 - 9 - 10. No definite knowledge
11. 12. 13 no definite knowledge - except that Michael O'Harrahan was Brig. G.M.

- C
- 1 a. Shortly before the St Patrick day parade.
- b. About two weeks before the Easter when Michael O'Harrahan told me of my staff appointment and asked me to hand in my long lee enfield and my converted martini, both was personal property
2. 3. 4. 5. Orders were issued for full equipment and 3 days rations for the Easter manuevers were issued through

- C. The companies which was accepted by the majority as the rising. Previous to this an examination of the officers each given a post with a base to report on these problems foreshadowing the occupation of the city.
6. A national rising was planned but the countermanding order upset it.
7. 8. 9. No definite knowledge.
10. As a precaution against arrest the leaders slept from home. Commnder Jimmy Donagh and his brother stayed at mine. When the countermanding order was issued, the mobilization was cancelled with instructions to remain at home and await further orders. Several meetings of the leaders were then held in Liberty Hall, with constant coming and going of couriers. After the Monday morning meeting

C

10. Comm^{ndr} Tho^s McDonagh returned and informed me that positions would be occupied at 12. noon. I then told my brother to re-mobilize outside Liberty Hall and march to Stephen's Green. The Comm^{ndr} then remarked not to worry. one hundred good men would do our job.

11. 12. The mobilization applied to all Citizen army, Volunteers and kindred bodies

13. 14. United action had been fixed some time previous. In fact the Irish Volunteers and Cumann na mBann were kindred bodies. The Abernethy Rifles dissolved after the U.I.R. episode.

15. In the second and third Batt., area and I presume, also the first and fourth an operational order each, of all the C^o Officers was

C

15. carried out in which
out posts, lines of retreat and
protection were reviewed
stores & transport notes and
a precautions against attack

16. 17. Nothing definite

18. Leading H.Q. one evening
Commnd Jno M. G. mentioned
the subject of discussion that
evening by the council.

Arms.

Whether they should
accept Military aid from
Germany or only arms and
ammunition and asked
my opinion. I said arms
and ammunition only as by
acceptation of Military aid
we should be exchanging
one master for another,
he agreed, and said that
was the decision arrived
at.

19. No definite information

20. 21. 22. Further than the
information supplied. re Easter
Sunday & Monday. none

C 23. to 30. none. Egan
 McNeill opinion re rising was
 a doubtful factor his interest
 been mainly cultural.

- D
- 1 There was.
 2. 3. 4 no knowledge except
 that the line of the Shannon
 was to be held. and the arms
 from the Quod were mainly
 for the south. The north
 was partly organized but the
 countermanding order
 defeated. It was expected if
 we could hold Dublin long
 enough the country would
 rise.
 - 5 As far as lies within my
 knowledge the plan was
 followed with modifications
 due to lack of full mobilization.
 6. - 7 Details were given
 to Batt. Commandant
 and can be re-constructed
 by Senior Batt., Officer
 - 8 The occupation of buildings

D

8 and street fighting was
an essential factor

9 Yes. They were made
by the Batt. Commandant and
in my opinion were subject
to his judgement

10 In a number of cases
yes.

11 Lectures on street fighting
were given by Commr ~~the~~
Connolly and as far as
practically possible carried
out by units.

12

13 During all organization
acted in unison

14 A common objective

15 Owing to disorganization
modification of plans lay
to the discretion of Command.

16 17 1st Batt.

D

2nd Bath Jacobs front top.
of Camden St. to Dolphin
Barn. — line of S.E. Road.

3 Bath. Bolands Mills and
district 4 Bath. South
Dublin Union and district

18 None. to my knowledge

19 - 20 - 21 not after the rising

22 yes.

23 24 25 From 1913
my plan was if one man
went out I hoped to be with
him

26 Out of all the men mobilised
only one to my knowledge left
and at the surrender practically
all marched out. ^{Jacobs}
Garrison

27 The writings of the leaders
and common sense orders
this question

28 Between 2 or 3000

29 30 31 Bad. mainly shot guns

E. F. All agencies were used to further the object of the rising which was to give Ireland a place at the Peace conference.

G. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. As these questions have been dealt with under previous headings

6 About 200.

7 2nd Batt, mostly

8 - 9 10 - 17. By order of Comm^{dr} McDonagh on occupation put in state of defence. Communications were maintained by courier till isolation of post about Tuesday

H. Mainly with service rifles, got. God knows how short rifles and shot guns for which Bayonets were made, also a miscellaneous lot of pistols and Revolvers

Hand grenades made in barkfield of cocoa similar, tins $\frac{1}{2}$ filled with scrap metal + $\frac{1}{2}$ with explosive detonated by percussion

- H. 6 All available arms were brought out.
- 7 At some posts, in the 3 Batt. arms and ammunition were needed to advance the line of attack.
- 8 - 9. SP Arms and some ammunition were found in the College o Surgeons - see report of Jacobs -
- 10 no definite knowledge
- 11 Dealt with in Spender book
- 12. Mainly West and South-West
- 13. Possibly a general rising

Wireless Broadcast of the rising to the outside world a most important ITEM

Engineers classes were held and tools for the purpose were provided

Comm^{rs} Connollys lectures on Street fighting
 See report of Jacobs where the Flag was flying after the surrender

CAPAINC

Flags

See James Stephens Book
"Six days of the Rising"

Food

Three days rations carried
Commandeered from
depots marked in recon-
nae previous to the
rising. In Jacobs the
ovens were being got ready
for baking when the order
to surrender came.

Clergy

Priest from Church St.
came to hear confessions
a priest from Meath St
to Jacobs to advise location
of position under threat
of excommunication

Casualties

A sortie from Jacobs
was sent out to delay
military action on Boland
on returning one of the
party was fatally injured

hosting

Special Frames Staff with
equipment in each part
Action seriously hampered
by this

V

See short report of week
in Jacobs in enclosed
manuscript.

Any cases of misspelling
blame Basic engines
and hurried work

Comdr. W. M. ...

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BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
(Bureau of Military History 1913-21)

QUESTIONNAIRE

on

The Rising of Easter Week 1916
and Associated Events



To *Mr Thomas Meldow*

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Dublin

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