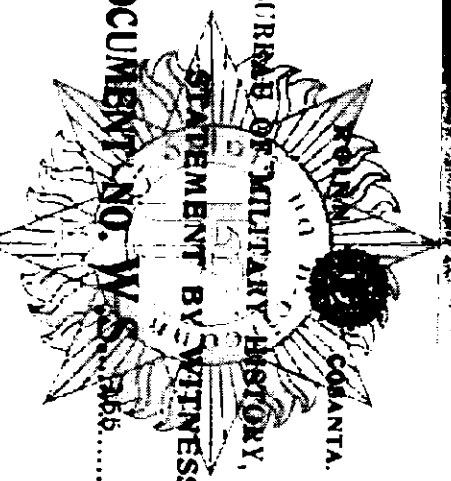


NO. W.S. 1365



BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1365

Witness

Alderman P.S. Doyle, T.D.,
Avondale,
Tyrconnell Road,
Enochore, Dublin.
Identity

Quartermaster of South Dublin Union Garrison,
Easter Week, 1916;

Lord Mayor of Dublin 1941-1943; 1945-1946.

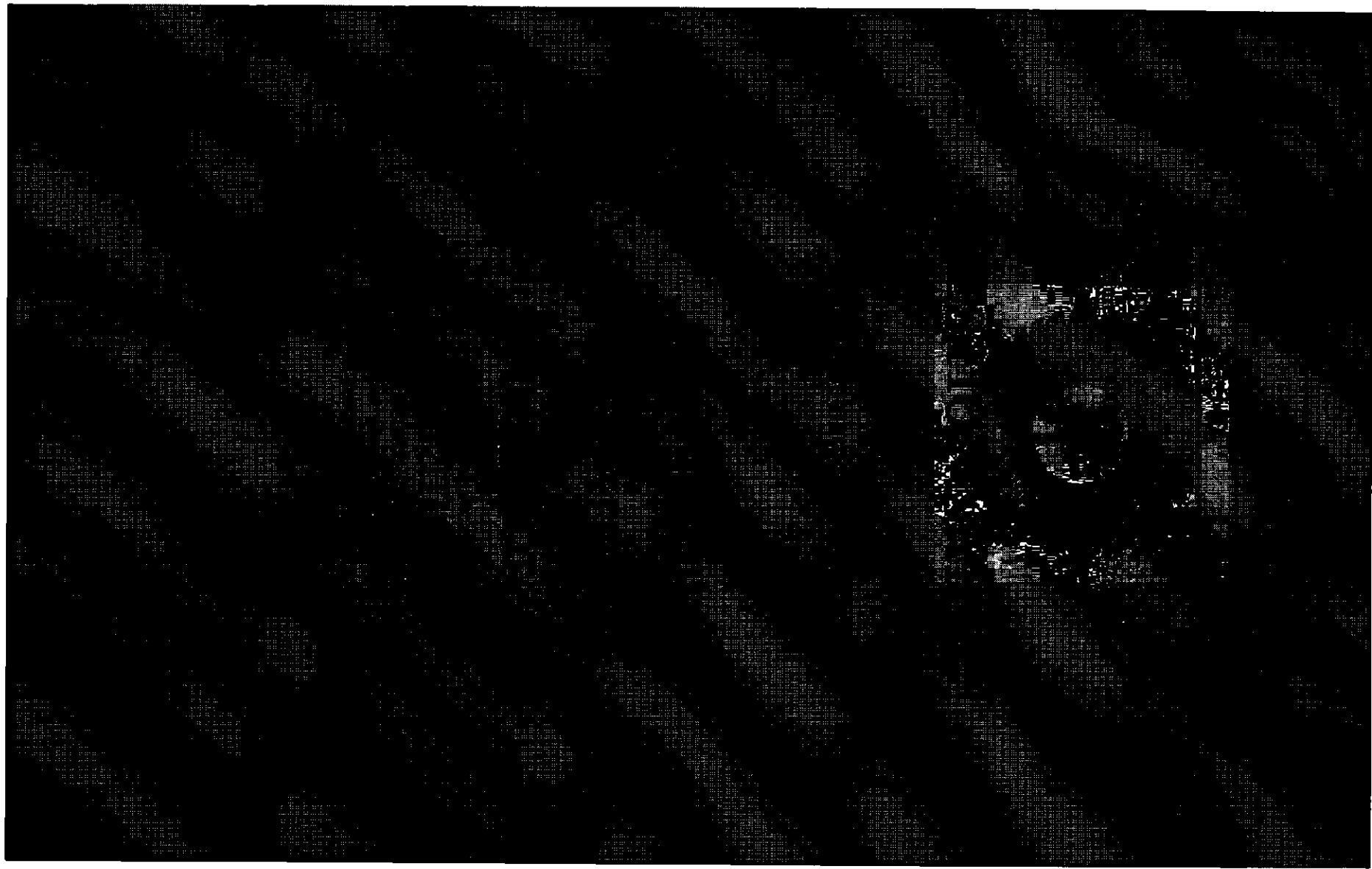
Subject

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File No. B.274

Form B.S.M. 2.



A. PERSONAL FACTORS.

1. At the commencement of the Rising, were you a member of any of the five divisions which took part, viz.

- The 1st Division *yes*
- Irish Citizen Army
- Finnian
- Hibernian
- Connacht or Midson

2. Were you a member of the Executive, H.Q. staff, etc.?

No

3. To what corp, e.g., Brigade, Battalion, Company, etc. were you attached?

as Co. BYRIGHT BATT.

Military Archives

5. Defence Forces *yes*

Ireland *yes. by not in full.*

6. What was your rank or office at the commencement of the Rising?

Br. OR. Major.

7. When and by whom were you appointed?

was appointed as sergeant by Capt. Con O'Leary on formation of Coy F. 19

8. Was your rank altered during the Rising?

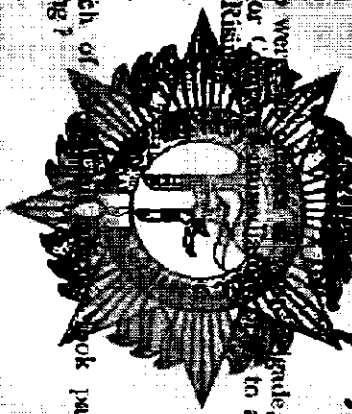
yes.

In what circumstances and by whom? On 1st April by Capt. Con O'Leary on 1st Monday. I was ordered to go as Sgt. orderly to Condl's Guard. I remained at Enniscorthy for 10 days. I was later appointed Br. OR. & Foreman. Sent under Liaison.

9. What posts or offices did you hold previously?

Sas Muller platoon

Who were you appointed to replace those who did not turn out, and by whose authority?



10. What part in the Rising did you take?

11. How were you appointed to replace those who did not turn out, and by whose authority?

12. Did you take part in the Rising were you a member of the I.R.B.?

No

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13.

14. What was your position in the Defence Forces?

In what circle?

Where did it take place?

Who was its centre?

How many members were there?

Can you give names?

1918
1919
1920
1921

B. THE VOLUNTEERS PRIOR TO THE BANNING.

1. To what extent and in what way were the I.R.B. responsible for—
 - (a) the formation of the Volunteers, and
 - (b) the development of the Volunteers?
2. What were the influences which it exercised on the Volunteers?
3. What members of the I.R.B. held key posts in the Volunteers, and how was that arranged?
4. Did the circumstances leading to the expulsion of Mr. John Redmond's nominees from the Executive of the Irish Volunteers on 24th September, 1914, have any bearing on the holding of the First Annual Convention on 27th September, 1914? How?



Mr. Redmond was expelled from the Executive of the Irish Volunteers on 24th September, 1914, because of his support of the Government in the matter of the Home Rule Bill. The First Annual Convention was held on 27th September, 1914, and it was at this convention that the Volunteers were reformed as the Irish Volunteers.

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Irish Defence Forces

5. Did the First Convention clarify or develop the stated policy of the Volunteers in any way?
6. How many delegates at that Convention were members of the I.R.B.?
7. How many were supporters of the Irish Party?
8. How many were supporters of Sinn Féin, i.e. Arthur Griffith's policy?
9. How many had no affiliation with any political party?
10. Can you give names?

Did the First Convention clarify or develop the stated policy of the Volunteers in any way? It led to the formation of the Irish Defence Forces. It was a turning point in the history of the Volunteers.

8. Between the First Annual Convention on 25th October, 1914, and the Second on 31st October, 1915, how often did the General Council meet?

to know

Are the minutes of the meetings available?

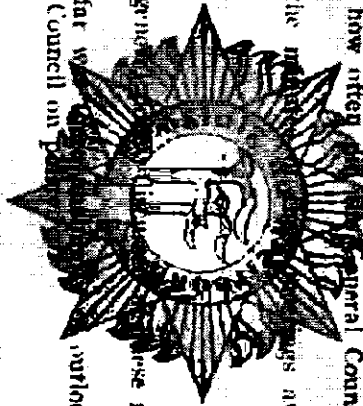
—

9. Was general correspondence held at these meetings?

—

How far were the Council members present at the Council on 31st October, 1915?

—



10. Did the Second Annual Convention on 31st October, 1915, consider policy, or clarify it or develop it in any way?

None

Can you give particulars?

—

Who led the discussions?

—

What decisions were made?

—

Military Archives

Several G.H.O. posts are mentioned in the report of the Second Annual Convention of the Volunteers of 31st October, 1915. According to information received from the G.H.O. office, the following posts were held at that time:—
1. Chief of Staff—**Ireland**
2. Director of Arms—The O'Rahilly.
3. Director of Training—Thomas McDonagh.
4. Director of Military Organisation—P. H. Pearse.
5. Quartermaster—Michael Staines.
6. Director of Military Operations—
7. Director of Communications—

C.D. 91

The policy of physical force had been preached for centuries in Ireland. Great and courageous efforts were made from time to time and many great Irish leaders - Paine and the United Irishmen, Fintan Lalor and Young Irelanders, John Kebley, etc., advocated it, but it was only after the Boer War that William Nationalists created an impression that there was little or no hope of Ireland gaining her freedom unless they armed themselves.

No physical force movement properly so called existed in Ireland in the 20th Century until the foundation of the Ulster Volunteers in the year 1912. That movement was unique inasmuch as it was founded to oppose and not to achieve National Independence. It was also different from other physical force movements in Ireland in that it was to a great extent open instead of secret. On account of its apparent open character it was regarded at the time, and is even at this date regarded as theatrical rather than real. Whether or not it was ever intended to be a real movement of physical force is a question to-day. Its founders and those prominently associated with it during its period of activity were people who in any case of circumstances, would be vindicated in their own minds and those of the British

Whitney Archives

Crown for the purpose of forcing the British Government to release its hold in this country.

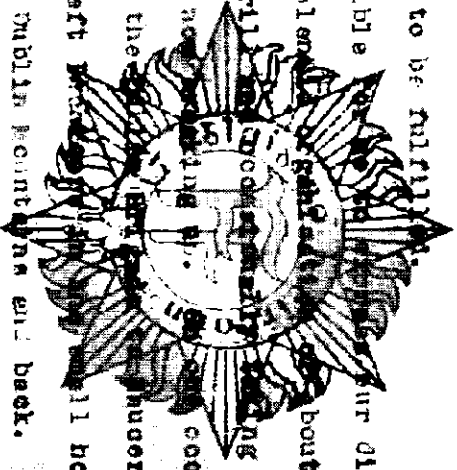
Defence Forces

movement were playing a political game in the interests of their own ascendancy in Ireland and Ireland of the British political party, with which they were associated. It is also probably true that the rank and file of the movement knew in their hearts that they would never be called upon to oppose the Crown forces, that the mere fact of their organizing would achieve the political objects of the leaders, and that incidentally they would be left with a powerful organization for the domination of those of their fellow-countrymen who differed from them in their political faith.

These objects were in fact achieved in full by the Ulster Volunteers but only because the ruling party in England were weakened and lukewarm in their avowed policy of extending a very modified and attenuated form of self-government to Ireland. If that ruling

Member for Patrick O'Garraill, was appointed as on that particular night several important financial transactions, deferred from the previous week, had to be fulfilled.

It is not possible to estimate the amount of our disgust and indignation in seeing such a splendid and patriotic band of about 1,000 men assembling twice weekly for Drill and instruction. On the 27th of the month a marching party in route marching and field marching was held at the Drill Hall. About 500 men marched and took part with the 1st Battalion, 1st Division, 1st Brigade, 1st Battalion, 1st Division, 1st Brigade, 1st Battalion, 1st Division, 1st Brigade, and on another occasion left the Drill Hall at 11 o'clock on a Sunday morning and marched to the Dublin Mountains and back. The feeling of most of those taking part was that we were to obtain rifles and there was much disappointment that the rumour was not true. Such was the enthusiasm



But as I have stated the "split" came with all its still effects. The decision that a majority of the Committee of the Inshore Volunteers had decided to stand by the Executive Council was generally known the next day, and night after night the numbers attending drill-courade were showing a considerable falling off. Some 49 members remained and on the approach of the time of the Emmet Hall

Military Archives

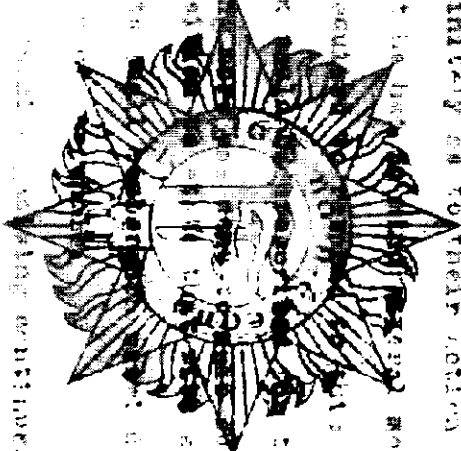
It was not until the fall of 1914 that a minority of the members, purged from Imperialism, again emerged and proceeded to prepare in

Defence Forces of Ireland

aid "what come sooner or later" as the authorities were becoming more vigilant coupled with the general opinion, and in some places a hostile feeling against the Volunteers, the work of organization which had to commence again and on a very definite understanding became very difficult. There were many stirring and exciting events at this and other Volunteer quarters that tested the sincerity of those who had remained staunch and there are many stories to be told, but I will be content to refer to the remarkable courage and daring of Captain Gon Colbert, who was in full charge of the F. Coy., IV Batt. throughout the whole period. Lecturing one night in Farnet Hall he warned those present who numbered about 30, that if there was anyone in their Company who was afraid to die they should make up their minds by the coming week as to their future intentions.

He did not intend wasting his own time and theirs unless they made up their minds definitely as to their action when "the day came".

He pointed out that in the early days of the Company's mobilisation she would not be required to do any work there. May I say here but that other work would be required. I had provision and I am glad to be in a position to do a couple of operations with the Company with the most intense and consistently thorough training.



Training continued unabated throughout 1914, 1915 and up till Easter 1916. The members were trained in the art of war. Arms were obtained whenever and wherever possible. The progress of events brought us until Easter Monday, 1916, dawned, which was the day and once more in our battling with the invaders for our freedom.

On Friday, 17th March, 1916, the Jubilee Battalions of the Irish Volunteers held a grand display.

processions paraded at the various City Churches and later the whole force assembled in the Phoenix Park for a grand display and a march past. About 2,000 Volunteers took part and the display was a magnificent one.

Military Archives Defence Forces Ireland

It is the natural right of every national to have control of their own national affairs and any body of the people is entitled to assert that right in the name of the people. This extract from a handbill distributed that day explained itself.

Deportation Orders were issued later against certain leaders of the Volunteer including Ernest Wylshie and Liam Hillman and a largely attended meeting of protest was held in the Mansion House, provided over by the late Alderman Patrick Corrigan. Similar meetings were held throughout the country and incidentally requisitioning meetings were the cause of street disturbances and counter-protest

propaganda of the Irish Volunteers. Considered afterwards by

president Le Galiste calling on the British government to take

decisive action to quell the forces of the Volunteers and

at the same time to encourage the recruiting for the

British Army were made. It is to be noted that the effect that

the activities of the Volunteers were having on the attention.

It would be impossible to say how many interesting

incidents of this period were like the present.

On Good Friday night, there was a special mobilization order

for parade at the Quarry 3rd Lock. It was dark but fine and we

the members of the Company made their way to the meeting place

there was great surprise to find that there was a policeman on

duty at this particular place. However, having passed through the

entrance without comment, we were next confronted with an Irish

Terrier, who was fortunately chained up. The dog's job was playing

a guard on the parade ground. The dog was a small black and

a distribution of several hundred copies of the book. Quite

recently one of the men who spoke to me on Friday reminded

me of his own experience. He said "I don't

know but whoever outlines the next couple of weeks will have something

to be proud of."

Within an hour the Company dispersed and all looked forward to a later

Sunday evening for the **Ureland**

No detailed history of the rising has yet been written and it is

not my intention to deal with the wider issues of such a history.

Apart from the spectacular side and the gossip by the world

which it was motivated, the rising was a small affair staged by a

handful of determined men among a not too friendly population against

the forces of an Empire in arms.

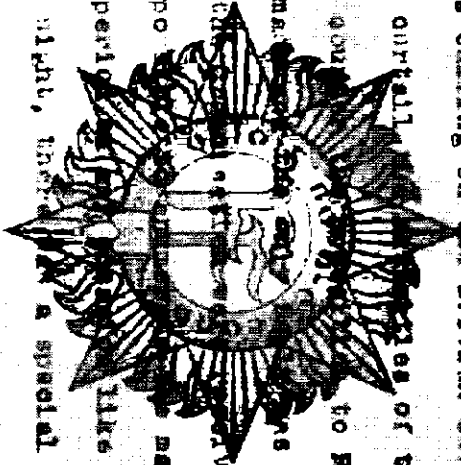
Historians may dispute as to the nature wisdom or otherwise of

that demonstration but none can deny the splendid courage of those

who staged the demonstration of the Republic, of those who organized

the various localities which were occupied and finally of those who

for a week stubbornly held the British Empire at bay.



Copy to the

Military Archives

Defence Forces

Ireland



THE
FEDERAL
BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Ireland

Commandant Oesemt fixed a large tricolor flag to the top window of the west wing, which seemed to set an a challenge to the Crown Forces. A machine gun was placed on the roof of the Royal Hospital and it played on our men and quarters from dawn to dusk.

Towards evening the machine gun was removed and our men started to break through the 13th Brigade's wire in communication with the main building. The work was a considerable job but it was soon completed. The protection for the attendant in bringing food to the hospital was entirely to the mental wards was attended to with many exciting incidents. When the day was coming to a close fresh outposts were selected for duty and it was not without its alarms.

My companion in a large room facing out on to the square had just taken on "watch". It was very dark, so I rested on the opposite side of the room. He got into trouble with his Rough Rifle by a cartridge getting jammed. However, all I can remember is the flare and the noise for it accidentally exploded and alarmed the "camp". On the following day, Thursday, a determined attack was made

From the main Military Archives to the barracks towards the door of our headquarters. The attack was repulsed and several soldiers were killed. So quick was the fire from the Crown Forces that several were shot dead and the others made their retreat.

There was one small connection with this attack. One very tall soldier got into the Carpenters' shop which was at that time near the front gate, and as he knew from an occasional shot that he was "covered" he remained there until taken out in a coffin. I happened to meet this soldier afterwards in Richmond barracks and he himself drew up the conversation and enjoyed it immensely. He further admitted that the authorities were of opinion that there were at least 500 men defending the Union and had they known there were only 50 he said "none of us would have ever left alive."

It was while keeping watch that Volunteer Frank Burke, son of Governor's step-brother was shot, the bullet passing through his throat.



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On the following morning, I went to the top room of the building where he lay to see him and were it not for Liam O'Flaherty who shouted "lie down" I would have met the same fate as there was a continuous snoring in the room. I was taken from the Royal Hospital. I was on my hands and knees when a bullet passed through both sides of the wooden partition of the room about 4" over my body. I said a prayer for Sandy Barry, Liam O'Flaherty and myself.

The control of the garrison had up to this stage been exercised by a post was allotted to me on the Tuesday evening. Of food we had full and plenty and frequently small parcels of cooked food were thrown over the wall and messages of a friendly nature gave us the impression that there was a change of opinion in our favour in the City.

Wednesday was the day of calm before the storm. On Thursday some of our men had just partaken, and others were disturbed from their midday meal, by the fall of "Spenny Attack - to your guns".

Conserve raised the **Copyright** the group in charge of Captain Murphy at the front building which was surrounded on all sides by **Military Archives**

This was my first venture to reach the other party of our men as there were always a **Defence Forces** of soldiers in my way as instructed, **Ireland** our men had been removed from door and it was just a coincidence that a group of soldiers were in the material, who were making their way towards this entrance were noticed in time. When they saw they were under observation they decamped. Had these soldiers made their way through the door in question, our two forces would have been separated and the results of the day's fighting would have been quite different.

I discussed this point with Simon O'Connell the following day. Although I insisted that I had passed through this particular door and that it was my contention that the inmates were responsible, still he insisted that the barloaders had not been removed. But he was satisfied that if the military had got through we would have had a different story to tell.

However, having delivered the message to Captain Murray, I made my return, seeing Laddery, etc. and then about to enter the Division which I had left 15 minutes before. I had seen Redlynna pointing towards and informed me that he was wounded. We climbed on to an outhouse, got on the roof and fired a wall on to the main building. This was done by me and I both of us lay on our back on the roof of the building. I saw five men from the Royal Hospital and a sniper from the 1st Battalion, South Gloucester Regt.



With reference to the 1st Battalion, the tenant of the house referred to informed me a couple of days afterwards that two officers of the British Army were about expressing him on a charge of abetting to men on the roof of the Dublin Union and that they believed because they were under the impression that the two men referred to had been shot.

It was close on 11.30 p.m. when we heard O'Connell and Donaghy whistling. God save Ireland's name. I was on the roof and I was then only that we were on the roof. On our return to the Headquarters we realized the damage that had been done. Although we were on the roof of a building together with ourselves would have been blown sky-high.

British
Defence Forces
 of
Ireland

Detail of the British Defence Forces of Ireland. It is estimated that the military forces of Ireland are concentrated on the division from which the votes came. The entire force was taken for his removal to the Infantry and on Friday 14th April, C.D.C., arranged for his removal to a City Hospital. They I avail of this opportunity of being taken to this kindly patient and to the other patients who ministered to our spiritual needs during the week.

The attack on this occasion was the most severe and lasted of the week and the greatest possible credit is due to the defenders who courageously held the position. The attack commenced about 3 p.m. and continued for close on four hours and it was estimated that at least 600 military took part.

the building consisted of six sections, Gathel Brugha, took charge of one, Lomou Casent the other upstairs, and Liam V. Cosgrave the ground floor.

The severity of the shelling was not to be judged from the damage done. There was little or no damage done on the walls of the rooms, furniture was broken and it was only the wooden panelling and stone walls that could withstand the machine gun fire. Several attempts were made to unnerve the buildings by shelling.



On Friday there was a total stoppage of communications and on Saturday morning the surrender of the Volunteers was contemplated because on Friday a petrol shell struck the roof of the G.P.O., and the whole building burst into flames. Pearse gave the order to remove the wounded and evacuate the Post Office and he himself was the last to leave the blazing headquarters. New headquarters were then established in Moore Street. The Post Office collapsed in a roar and it looked as if all Dublin was in flames.

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Deposited carrying a copyright notice on Friday was not reassuring. In the provinces all was quiet. Contrary to expectations the Military Archives in their way: they were in a frenzy and had stopped at nothing; their determination was to

Defence Forces

Pearse accordingly summed up the position as follows - "I desire now, lest I may not have an opportunity, to pay homage to the gallantry of the soldiers of Irish freedom who have during the week been fighting with fire and steel the most glorious chapter in the later history of Ireland."

Ireland

The headquarters staff decided that enough had been done and that it was time to arrest the slaughter of the civil population by British shells and bullets. Dublin had been redeemed from many shames and made her name splendid among the names of cities and as I heard Pearse say one night in Drumavon Street "Dublin has one great shame to wipe out and that is that no man risked his life to save Robert Emmet." Dublin had wiped out that shame.

On Saturday, it was decided to capitulate and on Sunday morning a message to that effect received from Dublin which addressed to Commandant Deunt and I left for the Union at 10 o'clock accompanied by Father and Mrs. Deunt. The whole group attended officially. Commandant Deunt then addressed the whole group of men and informed them of the conditions of the capitulation. His actions were made that all should surrender, no military guard, I was one of those to make the surrender on the grounds that he had stood together all through the fight and ought to stand together to the end. This was agreed to but nevertheless several broke away. The call to parade in the square at the Union was no humiliation. He marched along to the gate to be met with marked enthusiasm by a great crowd of people. All along the route to St. Patrick's place we were greeted with great jubilation particularly in the poorer areas.

Copyright in Military formation

The surrender took place in the ground, Major Armstrong, who was in charge of the Military Archives officers as to their names and addresses and was a demand for the surrender of all arms. We then marched to Richmond Barracks and the military escort and packed the arms to stand.

The following members of the F. Coy. IV Batt. were on active service during this Easter week. That is all out of 49. (See List.)

Ireland

The journey from St. Patrick's place to Richmond Barracks was not so free and easy as the journey from the Union. The presence of the Military escort somewhat discouraged those who had no sympathy with the Volunteers and I well recollect our hearing many uncomplimentary remarks when we passed the street crossings at Kilmalsham and at Richmond Barracks Gate. Certain people at the latter place very definitely informed the Military Guard when we were passing through that they were not Sinn Féiners. Some years later when the English had left it was actually to hear their voices



breeches, with the broad arrow prominently displayed all over in zig-zag form, black and red stockings and black shoes. The Reverend T. O'Loughlin, the Prison Chaplain, paid us an early visit and gave us some consolation.

For the first month we were in confinement making racks in our cells. Portland Prison was locked up as the principal prison in England for discipline and confinement of the warders were very strict and some of our men were frequently punished by being confined to the "Clink" and cell and water for the trivial offences, such as talking.

The governor was a very critical man and never lost an opportunity of abusing any prisoners who were brought before him. There are many strange stories regarding him.

However, as I have stated the fullest discipline and regulations were enforced. The whole 57 Irishmen were stationed in one wing of the Prison. Our daily exercise consisted of half an hour after breakfast and half an hour after nightfall. The latter were subject to censorship month and in lieu of a walk.

and an enquiry was made of the prisoners who were questioned as to their views on the Revolution and Mary Dwyer. One answered that they were very old soldiers and that they had very large families.

A surprise order met with general resentment and protest. All hands were paraded but in the morning Wilson took the form of a "surprise search". Everything and I left his cell he was searched and on the day chosen for the "Dry Bath" every article in the cell was thrown about and there was very little time given for tidying again.

Coming near Christmas the demands of our friends at home were beginning to bear fruit. After seven months imprisonment and Dartmoor the whole 125 prisoners were removed to Lewes Prison. Here there was general rejoicing as many of those who had been actively engaged during the fasting had not an opportunity until now of comparing notes. The authorities however disapproved to prevent association, talking, etc., but in this they failed, especially.

A Committee was formed consisting of John MacNeill, Thomas de Valere, E. Duggan and Thomas Ashe who prepared

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Ireland



a programme for an appeal to the Governor and through him to the Government for political treatment.

It was decided that -

1. We were to refuse to work, except for our own comfort and cleanliness.
2. We were to refuse to associate with criminals or associate with them except at Church.
3. Our hair was not to be shaved.
4. The abolition of certain rules.

The presenting of those proposals in the course of a few months was decided on and every prisoner was made fully acquainted as to what was expected of him. When hostilities commenced it was pointed out that there was very little hope of the Government Home Office yielding to our request and that all kinds of punishments would be imposed and if necessary very drastic measures would be taken insisting on the observance of the Prison Rules and that small groups would be transferred to different English Prisons and forced to associate with criminals. The whole group was then divided up in various working parties and at the conclusion of exercise the prisoners would file up in the respective parties, Laundry, Workshop, Garden, Sweeping, Cooking Etc., ~~Word was in circulation in the H.O. to complain.~~

On the first part of the day at 11 AM a few of us were ordered to the ground floor for a hair cut. Just as the Barber, was

operating, the Governor, whom I must here state was a human, "decent man," observed that ~~xx~~ I was ~~remonstrating with~~ the barber and he inquired

the cause. I told him that the machine was pulling the hair out instead of cutting it and later that night he called to my cell and inquired if I was the man who had his whiskers pulled. I replied that I was and he said he was very sorry but that it was his fault.

One day the strabout was exceptionally thin and 50 applied for cards for the H.O. Willie Corrigan was about third to get as far as the doctor's room. He was asked what was wrong and when he made his complaint the Doctor replied that "he would see into it". Corrigan answered by saying "Well Sir, if you do, you'll see the bottom."

There was one of the party who for some reason or other used to reserve all the day's food, breakfast, and dinner until the ran

hour. The Sweeping Gang which consisted of R. Brennan H. Boland and two others, raided this man's cell one day and eat all his potatoes, leaving him only the skins.

The Governor at Lewis wanted his house decorated. A painting job had already been done by our painters and Decorators "Thornton and Co.," and he was so pleased with the work that they were approached and promised to do a good job. The Governor's house was some distance from the Prison. After thinking the matter over, the work was started on an estimate supplied by the Engineer. The work was a few weeks in hand when the Engineer queried the cost and the job showing no signs of completion although there was a general approval of the workmanship. However, a strike was declared and the work was only resumed on conditions that there would not be any further interference. When it was finished the Governor brought his friends to see it and it was some time before anyone realised that the doors and panels etc., had been painted green, white and orange. Before the walls were painted one of the gang selected to keep the Warder in charge engaged talking on the political situation in Ireland, and relating all kinds of stories and tales, while the painters were in the meantime busy painting the "Warders' houses" decorated by the Irish Prisoners of War, 1917." before putting on the wall paper.

Bill Partridge was in very poor health and was given an open air job at the Prison on the same day. The Warders derived an opportunity

of talking and they always availed of it. Having complained that he usually got very sick crossing the Irish Channel as it was very rough the Warder queried as to why he did not come all the way in the train - wasn't there an Irish Hall and a "connection" with England. "There is" says Partridge "but not by rail."

The occasion of the Longford Election was one of general enthusiasm when the news came through that Joe McGuinness had been elected, he was chaired through the grounds.

The different religious festivals were fully observed on all elaborate scale and our songsters, Gerald Crofts, Seamus Hughes, and T. Revan etc., ably contributed at the special services at Xmas and Easter, together with the Prison Choir.

The publication of a Journal which was named

*Mr. Bickard's
"Lawson's History"
"The Range"*

events that would take place and orders had been given in advance to meet every situation. .

It was arranged that after tea each evening prisoners could if they so desired, indulge in a singing, but it should cease at 8 p.m. This routine was followed throughout the week and all were in solitary confinement. However, a note was given to the cooks to pass round when serving meals which was to the effect that when any number of the prisoners left their cells on Saturday or Sunday morning for Church, they were to place books in their doors and bang them on their return. The note was intercepted and we were not permitted to leave our cells for Mass on Sunday. Mass was said in the Main Hall.

However, on Sunday evening as arranged, singing continued as usual until 8 p.m. and we afterwards learned that a great crowd of residents gathered each evening outside the prison to listen to the singing and that our Chaplain, Dr. O'Loughlin, was often addressed as the Slim Fein Priest.

Sharp at the striking of the bell for the song "God save Ireland" and all joined in. As prescribed, at the finish of the song, a General cheer was given by every prisoner breaking one pane of glass in his cell. It was not possible for me to

describe this incident. It was a song not to be forgotten. I happened to be in a gate cell on the ground floor and I have no

hesitation in saying that I sympathised with the Governor as he ordered the Hall bearrheaded. The noise and turmoil of a few moments ago was now "dead" and complete silence prevailed. The next morning

the warders called and took an inventory of the damage done in each cellcell. This breaking up of material in the cells continued on a greater scale than was anticipated. In one case a man named O'Brien took all the screws from his cell and when the warden ordered it that morning it fell asunder - this was certainly an engineering feat. Rumours then spread that certain prisoners were being transferred elsewhere and the uproar continued to such an extent that there was nothing left unbroken that could possibly be broken. Pandemonium continued and on Wednesday of that week the first couple of newly constituted parties were despatched in full prison regalia

handcuffed and in chains. On Thursday Paul Galligan and I were handcuffed together and with four others, Robert Brennan, the two Bevans and Faulkner, were linked together with a brace chain when on the public road. Immediately any of these groups left the Prison there was continued singing of national songs which had the warders who were in charge, in a state of frenzy. Our destination this time was Parkhurst and the journey from Lewes was a long one.

At Brighton Station, nine of us were put sitting in a waiting room. Sitting right opposite I saw a very familiar face, in the person of Michael Staines, now Sergeant Staines. Being a little Irish, I spoke loudly to a couple of my companions, who were a couple of yards away from me, and I got a reply in return which brought a smile to Michael's face. Later on when we were in our compartments on the train, Staines approached, with a view to entering the compartment as an ordinary passenger, but he was told that he could not get accommodation. The warder, turning to Paul Galligan and myself, inquired who was the intruder. I replied that he was possibly a Pressman and that he should not be let into our carriage as we did not want him. Taking a Prayer Book from my pocket, I tore the blank leaf from the end of it and a version of what was taking place, together with the names of those travelling, was then written on it. Galligan folded this slip of paper up in the form of a ball and as the train moved off, Staines on the alert on the platform, the paper was shot to him and he held it under his foot, until the train left.

On the following morning the "Independent" fully reported the removal etc., from which the following is an extract

IRISH PRISONERS AT LEWES REMOVED TO OTHER JAILS.

(passed by Censor.)

"The authorities, it is understood, intend (says our London correspondent) to transfer nearly all the 117 Irish prisoners who were incarcerated at Lewes Prison to other Prisons. So far about 30 prisoners have been transferred; Professor De Valera and Mr. Thomas Hunter to Maidstone and the following amongst others to the number it is believed of 20 - Robert Brennan, Eniscorthy, Thomas and Charles Egan, Peter Doyle, J. Faulkner, George Plunkett (all of Dublin), Joe Burke (Oranmore) and Peter Galligan (Cavan) to Parkhurst Prison

Leaving my cell which was on the fourth storey, I saw a party of Prisoners of all shades on the ground floor. When I reached the end of the stairs a man with three red bars on his coat, equalling three years, beckoned to me. I went over to him and stood in the file beside him. He shook my hand saying "I am an Irishman too" - "Do you know so and so." I said "Yes, He is O.K.". "Keep your heart up" he said "do not mind these fellows here they are the scum of England and if you want to do the same here as you did in Ireland we will be with you."

We got the order to march and when we arrived at the Church we found that all our companions had got together. Boss over we anticipated trouble and it came. Marching to the exercise ground Brennan whispered when I give the word "One step to the rear" be on the alert. In a few moments we got the "Halt." then "stand at ease." Brennan then gave his order which was responded to and the excitement commenced. The result was that we were again ordered to separate cells. We had only reached our cells when we heard glass breaking and it transpired afterwards that a Scotchman thinking that there was another revolt had joined in the "scrap".

I was confined to bed sick on Monday night the Doctor entered the cell the first question he asked was "Is this another Irishman" and when the Warder replied "Yes" he said "There is nothing to do with him that I see."

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We were again brought before the Governor on Monday to explain our conduct in Church. In reply to the queries of the Governor I remarked that we would refuse to give any undertaking regarding our future conduct in Church and that we in Ireland have no how to conduct themselves. "Well" he said "you will not get to Church again until you promise." Further requests were made to us to exercise and offers of unlimited time were of no avail.

Frank Lawless who had not been barbered for some weeks was set upon by four warders and in attempt made to cut his hair with the result that two bunches of his hair were pulled out in the struggle.

The next important move was when the Orderly on my landing shouted through the door "Ave Paddy you are going to be released - Bonar Law said so in the House last night." Coming ~~events~~ cast their shadows before.

About three o'clock on that Saturday we were all assembled

in the main Hall of the Prison. The Governor, like those under whose charge we had recently served, expressed his pleasure at our departure. Canon Conway P.F., and His Curate a Father O'Lehane from Cork made a fervent appeal to us - they highly appreciated our manliness, our honest of purpose, but as his possibility was not a rosy one, he felt that he would have to bear the burden which would result if we made any demonstration on our departure which would disturb the other inmates of the prison. He sought our favour of us, that we leave the prison without display and he offered prayers for our safe return home.

Half an hour later we again traversed and the gates were opened. We formed up in military formation and marched about a quarter of a mile to the Gate but no man spoke. Passing the prison proper we could see the other prisoners at their cell windows. Cries of "Up Ireland" could be heard from all quarters. At the main gate there was a verandah on which a large number of residents, the elite of the district, had assembled and we were more than surprised by the hearty send-off we received from them. Having hoarded our train for London, we were met at different junctions by the other remnants of our group who like ourselves had a couple of rough weeks. When we reached London some time after Midnight, there was a number of military **Military Archives** I should have mentioned that we were still wearing prison dress so that we were most conspicuous.

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I cannot recollect whether the brake in which I was seated was the first to leave the Railway Station, but just as it left the Building, a woman appeared under an Electric Light and shouted "There's the prisoners " and threw a stone which broke the plate glass window behind where I sat. The broken glass injured the eye of one of our men - a Kilkenny man.

It was after 1 a.m. when we reached Pentonville Prison where we took up our lodgings for the night and some, if not all, will never forget that night. The cells were far from clean and it seemed that the cells allotted to us had not been inhabited for a long time. Knowing that Sir Roger Casement had been imprisoned here we felt for him and the next day there was an invasion of the burial ground and we paid a visit of his grave.

On Sunday morning we were all astir early. Father Carey who

ministered to Sir Roger, had not been informed of our arrival and he felt it very much. However, he provided a special Mass for us at which two Warders assisted. On our return to our cells the usual morning rations were extended but of prison fare we had quite sufficient and we were all overjoyed.

The Pentonville staff was augmented by warders from Dartmoor and Portland Prisons. Some, or should I say most of them, were not unfriendly but those of this class were disciplinary. We fully appreciated their position which as our best reasonably imagined was not fully understood and fifteen months afterwards I saw a type other than criminal prisoners, left a great impression on them.

There were a few who went out of their way to make our position unbearable if they could do so - there was one of this type at Portland named Kent. It was often thought that he overdone his job and he was mainly responsible for all the bread and water punishments which our men received at Portland.

To-day we were at a "loose end" free and easy, chatting and passing the time while we were being fitted out in ready-made. Kent was the only man in Pentonville that day whom nobody spoke and he certainly felt his position very keenly. We learned later that he was dismissed the following day for bringing a letter for a prisoner.

While I was waiting by turn for a suit, I went as directed to the Hospital for a tonic and picked up the farwarded by about six warders who questioned me as to the Irish situation.

No. 1 enquired what the Chairmanship of the Mansion House Convention - Why not put the fellow in the job who was creating all the trouble "Mr. Sinn Fein?" When I explained No. 1 was subjected to a good deal of banter.

What a change, we were not trying to identify one another in our new ready-mades and as we passed from the Tailors shop we paid a visit to the Prison Department of Finance and any man who had brought money into prison with him in the first instance ~~had~~ it refunded in full and those who had none on arrival received 5/-!

Our Departure was kept very quiet. Vehicles had been provided and we started for Euston Station. Having crossed the road towards the entrance to the station, we were urged to hasten our steps and the whistle of the engine also warned us that there was no time to

lose. A lady dressed in Green informed us that the train was a special one, and that it was leaving an hour before the usual time and that there was great disappointment among the Irish in London as they had 124 hampers provided for the prisoners but it was not impossible to have them delivered in time. Post Offices were closed and no telegrams could be sent.

We boarded our train and at the first stop raided the station restaurant. The waiters informed us that the train was unexpected and advised us to wire to Chatham to have beer ready. This was done and at Chatham we thoroughly enjoyed the repeat. We reached Holyhead in good time. Here a few minutes were devoted to drill and military formation which was repeated on board the Royal Mail Steamer.

We had a pleasant crossing and reached Dublin on scheduled time to the chorus of "Ireland we bid you the top of the morning."

It was the story of a very simple, earnest doings, but it was the beginning of an achievement by the people of this country for their country that few of us dared to try and foresee. When I see all that has been accomplished since and I cannot enumerate it, I ask myself what manner of men brought this about. They were simple-

minded, unpretentious, talking in bluster or self-assertiveness. They came from all parts of Ireland, and yet they had not one of them who

could not associate on the easiest possible terms, and discuss in the readiest possible way their objectives in any other person in the Movement. Tom Clarke, who had grown old in English

Goals as a punishment for his role in Ireland, could associate and work and be the confidant of young Sean McDermott, and Seamus Connolly, the

foremost figure in the Labour Movement, could be the friend and confidant of Tomas MacDonagh, who was a professor in the National University. Padraig Pearse, one of the foremost figures in the language and educational Movements in the country, could associate and work and plan with the most ordinary worker on the Dublin quays. There were Soccer and foot-ball and Rugby men. They came from the staff of the Abbey Theatre, as well as from the ranks of the Trades Union. There was not one of them in their own way, and in the isolation of their work, who felt his insignificance as I did when I stood in Emerald Square to take my little part in the Rising - and saw no-one but a big policeman in front of me - but they all knew in these moments that the rest were there, and

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even though they did not see them, they knew it and they felt the call
"Come In!"

We have to work in the same spirit to-day, because however isolated individual workers may feel from time to time - the rest are there. Each of them is doing his own bit of work, and the call is "Come In!"

If we do not falter to-day in the work that we are doing, the spirit that guided over the work of 1916 and brought from it the great fruits, will watch over our work to-day and bring no lesser fruits.

Leader J. P. Doyle.
Dr. Mts. J. W. Keenan.
IV Babin.
Dublin.

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