

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BUREAU STAIRS MILITARY HISTORY
No. W.S. 164

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 165 4.....

Witness

Charles Wall

Identity

Battn. Comdt. West Limerick I.V. 1913-16.

Subject

I.V. West Limerick area up to 1916.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil

File No.S.1112....

Form B.S.M. 2.

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Irish Volunteer Organization 1913-1916
Co LimerickI Charles Wall Battalion Commander
Volunteers West Limerick 1916 give the following
facts re the above organization

A Corp of the Irish Volunteers was formed in
Kinnoullogher in November 1916. It was the second
place in Ireland outside of Dublin. Athlone
was the first. Fr J Wall, cc. Kinnoullogher at the
time, instigated the movement. An 4 British
soldiers taught Company drill and about 40 members
were enrolled their number continued up to the
split in the volunteers in August 1914. The
National Volunteers was formed and this
caused a split in our ranks. Still we continued.
Though reduced to 12 members we organized an
army fund & purchased 12 Lee Enfield Magazine
rifles and 4 revolvers. 32. I was sent to an
officers training camp at Heavers Court Cork
in 1915. Under Capt O'Connell of Headquarters Staff
I spent 9 fortnights there and on my return I
re-organized the Corp and our membership again
rose to about 24 members. Return and Company
drill. Night manoeuvres and extended lock drill
was carried out on nights weekly and on Sundays.
We purchased a .12 rifle for target purposes.
Capt Monteth who was at that time 1915 attached
to the Limerick City Corp came on several occasions
and gave us rifle and Bayonet Exercises.

On the Tuesday prior to Easter Sunday 1916
I was drilling a section of men in the Hall. When
I was summoned to the local Hotel to meet
two # 20 officers who happened to be Capt James

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Mr Emery of Finnerich and Capt Comberford
of Dublin. I was sworn after which the
details and general orders regarding the
Rising were revealed to us. I was then appointed
Battalion of the West Finnerich with orders to mobilize
the different Coys for Easter Sunday. I was not
to develop any plans, only to get orders for three
days rations to be brought by each volunteer and
full equipment any volunteers not provided with
a Rifle was ordered to bring a Short Gun. We had
also a number of Ochs similar to the 98 Ochs
destroyed. I returned to the Hall and issued
orders for the carrying out of above plans. The
mobilization was to start at Glenquin Castle
at 3 P.M. How the routes to be followed was
explained to us by Capt Mr Emery.

When the volunteers arrived at Glenquin
they were to be informed of the Rising. They were
to be given the option any volunteer not prepared
to continue was to remain in the hills for the night
the remainder to march to Barnagh Railway
Station about three miles distant and
board the Ames train from Kerry which was
expected there about 5 P.M. + remain with the
train to Finnerich. Father walked the late
Father Hoysice - Newcastlewest was in attendance
to give the volunteers spiritual attendance before they
went off from Glenquin. All went well with
the mobilization about 150 volunteers arrived
and a supplementary supply of food in a motor van.
About 3 o'clock a Currier arrived from Finnerich
with Gen Mr Keith's Countermanding order
as there were two members of the R.G.C. in
attendance we carried out local manoeuvres.

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to put them off the scent, and then disbanded
we organized a patrol of volunteers for the
week expecting further orders from Dublin
but none arrived. On the Tuesday following
Easter week two ~~volunteers~~ volunteers and
myself, Master George Gustin, Ginnoleigh
and Thomas O'Conor. The castles were
arrested a fourth, the late Mr O'Collins
Winnings was also arrested and we were
lodged in Fermish County Gaol. After about
a weeks detention we were released. Unfortunately
we were had to be surrendered.

Signed

Charles Wall

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