

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRA MILITARIA 1913-21
No. W.S. 165

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 165

Witness

Luke Kennedy

Identity

Member of I.V. Executive 1916, and Supreme Council, I.R.B.

Subject

- (a) The I.R.B. from 1898
- (b) The I.V. 1913-1916.
- (c) Howth and Kilcool gun-running.
- (d) Fenit, Co. Kerry. 1916.
- (e) O'Connell St. area 1916.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil

File No. ...S.258.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

ORIGINAL

STATEMENT OF LUKE KENNEDY,
58 GT. CHARLES ST., DUBLIN.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

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NO. W.S. 165

I am 81 years of age last 15th June. I was born in New York and came to Dublin very young and was reared by my grandmother in Kentstown, Co. Meath. I came to Dublin when 9 years of age and have lived here ever since. I was at first a mechanical engineer and afterwards became an electrician. I remember the Invincibles and saw the bodies of Burke and Cavendish after they had been killed in the Phoenix Park in 1882. There was an Athletic Club in Henrietta Lane of which I was a member. This Club was called the Nally Club and was run by members of the Fenian Brotherhood. They used to drill there and had arms which they used to steal or buy from the British Military.

I knew Jim Mullet of the Invincibles, Billie Mulrooney, Jim Fitzharris (known as Skin the Goat). Mullet was sentenced to 20 years for his part in the Phoenix Park murders and he gave me a letter when he came out which was sent to his wife by the Governor of Portland Prison when a son of his died. I knew Brady who was executed.

I then became a member of the Amnesty Association which was formed to agitate for the release of the political prisoners. This Association held their meetings in York St. All the members of this Association that I knew were Fenians. In 1898 I joined the I.R.B. At the time I joined there were two brothers Reddy, a man named Moore, a man named Gargan. The reason I joined was that I knew all these to be members and I felt that the organisation was going to do things for the country. I was sworn in at 41 Rutland Square before John O'Hanlon, who was the Centre. I attended the Circle meetings regularly. The Circle was called The Brothers Sheares Circle. I wasn't long there until the Circle was broken up as there were too many in it. No Circle would consist of more than a 100 members and after that number a new Circle was formed. When the Brothers Sheares Circle was broken up I was transferred to a new Circle which was called the

Edward Walsh Literary & Debating Society. The first Centre of the Circle was Major Sean McBride. This Circle used meet at 41 Rutland Square. At the next election in this Circle I was elected Centre for the Circle. This was done by submitting my name before a meeting of the Circle and the members working on it. I remained Centre until the I.R.B. were broken up in 1921 or 1922. I knew James Stephens and John O'Leary to whom I was introduced by Michael Lambert. Michael Lambert was a Lieutenant under Stephens or O'Leary (I forget which) and was "out" in 1867. Lambert was the man who made the key which opened O'Leary's cell in Harold's X Jail when he escaped in 1865. I attended James Stephens' funeral.

I first met Tom Clarke the night he arrived in Dublin from jail. He was accompanied by Michael Lambert. The I.R.B. had an Arms Fund to which any member could subscribe any amount he wished and the Treasurer of each Circle used hold this money. The ordinary subscriptions went to the Central Fund after the rent of the room had been paid for.

At meetings of the I.R.B. Circle the usual procedure was - The **roll** was called by the Secretary first; then the Chairman (who was the Centre) declared the meeting open and the Treasurer took the subscriptions. The Secretary recorded these as well as the Chairman. The usual questions then came up for discussion - arms procurement, and so on. In the case of absentees, the Section Master had to give an explanation which was recorded by the Chairman. Then any other matters bearing on the work of the organisation was brought up and discussed.

Each Centre had then to attend a meeting of the Central Board (the Centres of each Circle) with some member of the Supreme Council present. All organisation matters were discussed there - chronic absentees, transfers or expulsions were decided on.

I did not know anything about the 'split' in the I.R.B.

except that P.T. Daly was expelled.

I remember the meeting in the Rotunda in 1913 when it was decided to form the Irish Volunteers. I was at this meeting and recruited about 125 members for the Volunteers that night. I went among the crowd along with others inviting men to join. I took the names of those willing and entered them in a book. There was no other kind of enrolment. At this time it was decided by the Supreme Council of the I.R. B. that all members of the I.R.B. were automatically members of the Irish Volunteers. All the members of any Circle thus became Irish Volunteers and used to drill at 41 Rutland Square about once a week. One of my men, a man named Reddy, used drill them. I was Chairman of Lord Roberts Own Miniature Rifle Club which had a range in Father Mathew Park in Fairview. All the members of this Club were I.R.B. men and used to practise there with rifles fitted with Morris tubes. I remember one Sunday morning in July 1914 when we were practising there, Peadar Kearney and myself were given instructions (by whom, I cannot remember) to go to Howth and get a row boat and prevent the coastguards from interfering with the landings of arms which was to take place that day. Peadar Kearney and myself went to Howth. I tried to get a boat but no boatman would go out as the day was a stormy one. There were two fishing boats to go out and tranship the arms from the "Asgard" (a white yacht), but they refused to go too. We went down to the lighthouse on the pier. There were a number of Volunteers there and Tom Clarke introduced me to Darrel Figgis who loaned me his field glasses through which I saw the "Asgard" out to sea off Rockabill Lighthouse making bad weather. The main body of Volunteers were then on the road out from Dublin. The question arose would these men arrive in time to meet the "Asgard". A man was sent immediately to hurry them up. He was Micheal Slater, a brother of Tom Slater. Tom Clarke ordered him to go saying "Will you be able to do it, Michael", and he replied "I'll do it or die". The intention was to make the

body of Volunteers double into Howth. The "Asgard" came along in full sail into a berth in the harbour. Myself, Kearney and a number of other men went aboard. The cabin of the ship was packed with arms and ammunition. The coastguards who were stationed at the other side of the harbour came across in a boat to within 2 or 3 boats' length of the yacht. I ordered them back. They still came on, so Kearney and myself produced revolvers and ordered them again to get back. They went back and on arrival at the far side they sent up rockets. All the arms were then taken ashore and when all were taken off, the volunteers marched back to Dublin. Erskine Childers and Mrs. Childers were presented with two clubs before the Volunteers left. These clubs were made as weapons to use against the R.I.C. or coastguards if they interfered. A big number of the Vols. were armed with these clubs. Each Volunteer had a rifle, and scout cars carried the ammunition. Four R.I.C. men from Howth accompanied the Volunteers on the journey from Howth and when the body of Volunteers reached Malahide Road a halt came and I saw two lines of soldiers drawn up across the road at the "ready". A number of D.M.P. were standing on the footpath. When I arrived at the head of the column I saw a man being carried back from the line of soldiers by some of our men. He was bleeding. We formed a line of single men across the road. Kearney stood beside me in the line. The remainder of the Volunteers started to scatter and get away with the arms, and the whole march was broken up. After this incident, things settled down to normal again. All the arms were kept by individual members and the usual drills were continued.

KILCOOLE

The next matter of consequence was a further landing of arms at Kilcoole. We travelled on a number of lorries one Sunday morning and got as far as the Vale of Clara where we were overtaken by a cyclist on a motor cycle and sidecar. Sean McDermott was seated in the sidecar and I think it was Seamus

O'Sullivan who was driving the cycle. Sean McDermott told us that there would be no landing that day as the ship had been chased in the channel and that we could get back to town and take the evening off. This we did.

After a number of days had elapsed (I am unable to say how many) we were told to get the lorries again and assemble at Gt. Brunswick St. I was beside the driver in the first lorry. Before we moved off the motor cycle and sidecar came along and one of the men on it ordered me to go down to Howth at once and on my way to pick up, in Hopkins & Hopkins, Jerry O'Leary who was an I.R.B. man and worked there. I called and O'Leary promised to follow me out to Howth, but he did not do so. I was, on my arrival at Howth, to go aboard a fishing boat which was already engaged for the job and proceed to sea to contact a yacht which was bringing in arms and ammunition. I got to Howth and I remember it was dark. I went aboard the boat and proceeded out to sea. We sailed with no lights. A big steamer crossed our bows going north and made very vigorous protests at us having no lights. Somewhere off Bray we contacted an open boat which was occupied by the Bray Centre and some men of his Circle. There was no further incident until we got down off Kilcoole. We then saw something dark in the distance. This turned out to be the arms ship and we then put a line aboard her and towed her in towards the shore. The yacht's engines had broken down and we got her in as near as we could to the shore. Then a number of small boats came out from the shore and the arms were transferred to them. It was still dark. I remained on board the fishing boat and when all the arms had been taken ashore we took the yacht in tow and brought her into Dunlaoghaire Harbour. The only people of note I remember seeing among those who took in the arms were Darrell and Mrs. Figgis. I was surprised to see a woman pulling an oar and their boat was heavily laden with very little freeboard. I think that is why I remember that particular boat and it came so near me that I recognised Darrell Figgis even

though it was not daylight. I went back to Howth with the fishing boat and I remember it was either 4 or 4.30 when we got into Howth.

As far as I can remember after that we went back to our routine of meetings, drills and so on. I continued as Centre of The Edward Walsh Literary & Debating Society. This Circle consisted of a number of men who became very prominent afterwards, but I do not wish to give their names unless I had their permission to do so. I remember a big meeting was to take place in the Mansion House by the Redmondites and we were planning to break up the meeting. I am unable to give the date of this meeting, but my job was to disconnect the electric cables supplying the Mansion House district with lighting. I was to do this by means of a key to a section pillar at St. Stephen's Green which was to be given me. The key, however, never turned up and I then planned to smash the section pillar with a sledge, but when I got to Stephen's Green there were a force of Lancers on the street which made it impossible for me to get near the section pillar and I had to abandon the plan. I had a number of men with me and there was an attack anticipated on our headquarters at Kildare St. We proceeded there and spent the remainder of the night there. I remember seeing Sean Milroy both at 41 Rutland Square and at Kildare St. that night and he was armed "cap a pied". Nothing happened during the night and I am unable to give any information as to what happened at the Mansion House.

Some time previous to Holy Thursday ¹⁹¹⁶ I got instructions ~~to~~ at a meeting of the Central Board of the I.R.B. to survey the Four Courts, North Dublin Union, Hardwicke, Richmond & Whitworth Hospitals and Richmond Lunatic Asylum with a view to their occupation in the event of it being necessary to occupy these buildings. At this time I was aware that a Rising was contemplated. I cannot say now how I became aware of this but somebody told me during Holy Week to be ready. I carried out the survey and reported on it verbally to Piaras Beaslai and Comdt. Edward Daly at some place in Abbey St.

The next thing of note that I remember, apart from our usual activities, was Holy Thursday of Easter Week 1916. I had been

told me by someone whom I cannot remember to bring automatic revolvers and some ammunition from a house in Sherrard St. to Liberty Hall and deliver them to Sean Connolly. He was not there and I think the man to whom I handed the guns was a man named White. He was someone in authority, but it was not Captain.

On Good Friday I was in the office of "Freedom" in D'Olier St. (I cannot remember the number, but it was two or three doors down from Fleet St.) where I remember seeing Arthur Griffith in his office. I was sent out to St. Enda's several times during that day with officers of the Volunteers who had come up from the country. I remember seeing Seamus O'Sullivan on one of these trips leaving St. Enda's on a motor cycle. Sean McDermott was on duty in the "Freedom" offices in D'Olier St. all that day.

On Easter Saturday I was stationed at a house in Hardwicke St. from about 8 a.m. waiting for orders. About midday Seamus O'Sullivan came in with his motor cycle disabled. As there were no bicycle shops around open to do the necessary repairs, I took the broken parts of the bicycle which had been bent through a fall home to repair them. Whilst I was working at them a messenger came and told me to report back at once to Hardwicke St. On reporting back I got instructions (from whom I cannot remember) that I was to prepare to go to Fenit, Co. Kerry, to discharge the cargo of the "Aud" and to distribute it. I knew at the time that an arms ship was due to come from Germany and I knew the name of the ship to be the "Aud", but I cannot remember now how I got to know. The instructions I got were to proceed that night to Fenit Harbour. Arrangements had been made for two lorries to be at my disposal in Thompson's garage in Pearse St. On receiving these instructions I went home and secured some arms which I had in my possession and distributed them among some of my men who had no arms. I kept my own revolver. I had asked for a second man to come with me so that one of us could travel on each lorry. This

man's name was Kevin McCabe. I went to Pearse St. to pick up the lorries. The man i/c of the garage office, Willie Cullen, knew all about the arrangements, but on my arrival he informed me there was only one lorry, as the military had taken the magneto out of the other. The driver was sent for and meanwhile Kevin McCabe turned up, but as there was no second lorry I sent him back to Hardwicke St. for further instructions. He returned to say he had been told to go with me. The lorry was prepared for the journey and at about 11 p.m. we left the city, proceeding to Phibsboro Church where I was to stop and await further instructions. Whilst waiting I sent McCabe back to say I was at the appointed place and to ask for any further instructions. He returned accompanied by a man whom I was to take to about 20 miles outside Limerick. McCabe informed me that this man was a Volunteer Officer who had been up in Dublin for instructions and we were to take him back. I never knew his name. We started our journey and we arrived in Limerick about 11.30 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning. Before we reached Limerick we dropped off the Volunteer Officer. I had been instructed to put the lorry into a garage where somebody was to meet me to proceed to John Daly's. When I got to this garage there was no one to meet me and the garage was shut. I left the lorry on the side of the road and, leaving McCabe and the driver with it, I proceeded to John Daly's. There were a big number of people in the dining-room there and I reported to somebody who came forward to meet me. I did not know this person. I explained who I was and the position about the lorry and a man was sent with me to take the lorry to the yard of a bakery in the city. This we did and I returned to Daly's with the driver and McCabe. There was a lot of people coming and going and drilling was going on in the yard at the back of the house. The only man whom I knew among those in the house that day was Sean Ó Murthuile. Sometime after 12 o'clock Mass which we went to after our arrival, I was told to go across to the Clare side and scout around with the lorry.

This I did and some distance on the Clare side we met a party of Volunteers who were marching east. There were about four R.I.C. men marching along with them. On seeing them I returned to Limerick and reported back to John Daly's. We waited on there for some time and then all the Volunteers who had been assembled in the yard of John Daly's marched out into the street accompanied by a lorry containing ammunition. Some man of importance, whom I did not know, then told me to go to a railway bridge outside the city with the lorry and wait there for instructions. I cannot give any idea of the time it was then, but I went to this bridge and waited. Finally a motor cyclist came up and told me that the whole thing was off and to get back to Dublin as quick as I could. I did not know the cyclist, but he had a dispatch which he handed to me. I do not know who signed this dispatch and I never kept it, but I recognised the cyclist as a man whom I had seen that day in Daly's.

I started for Dublin and arrived at College Green at 6.30 on Easter Monday morning. McCabe and myself left the lorry there and proceeded home. About half past eight that morning a messenger arrived at my house to tell me to proceed to Hardwicke St. McCabe and myself went there and waited for a long time but nothing happened. We heard firing going on towards the centre of the city and eventually we decided to make for the G.P.O. We got there via O'Connell St. and got into the Post Office about 2 p.m. I was dressed in civilian clothes. I reported to Tom Clarke. He was dressed in his ordinary clothes and was in charge of the armoury. Clarke told me to remain and I started to give a hand in the armoury overhauling guns and helping to construct grenades. Later on that evening when it was dark I was instructed (by whom I cannot remember) to go across to Reis's Wireless Station at the corner of Abbey St. to see if I could do anything with the wireless as the people there could not get the plant to work. At this time, the wireless mast and aerial were in position on the roof.

I went across and succeeded in getting the plant to work. As soon as the plant was fixed the Easter Week Proclamation was sent out on the air in Morse.

During this time I assisted in erecting the barricade across the street from Reis's to the Bank with reels of paper taken from the standby plant of the Irish Times and other material taken from Kelly for Bikes which was next door to the Irish Times plant in Abbey St. After this, I was between Reis's and the D.B.C. until about Wednesday, when the aerial was removed to the G.P.O. with a view to being used there. I returned to the G.P.O. and that day Volunteers were called to go to Boileau & Boyd, Bride St. for chemicals to enable us to continue making hand grenades. J.J. Walsh volunteered to come with me on this job and we proceeded there in a car which belonged to a Judge Smith who had been arrested along with his chauffeur earlier in the week and was kept a prisoner in the G.P.O. Judge Smith's chauffeur drove this car. We proceeded up O'Connell St., Grafton St. and were fired on passing Trinity College. When we got to Stephen's Green we found a barricade erected from the College of Surgeons to the railings on the Green. This barred our way and we decided to return to the G.P.O. People started to shout at us from the Green and I went over to investigate. I saw a man crawling along the grass and he told me that British snipers had worked their way from the Shelbourne Hotel down to the United Services Club and were pinning down the garrison in the Green and that I was to tell them in the G.P.O. of their position and to see if any help could come to them. I said things were bad enough at the G.P.O. and that help from there could hardly be expected. I returned to the taxi and was fired on, but the driver succeeded in getting into Grafton St. where we were under cover and we got back safely to the G.P.O. although we were fired on again from Trinity College as we passed through College Green.

Some evening during that week I told Tom Clarke in the G.P.O. that the water would possibly be cut off and that something should be done to have water available. I cannot remember what evening this was, but it must have been early in the week. Clarke brought me to Padraig Pearse who was walking about in full uniform in the headquarters room, to whom I explained the situation as I saw it. Pearse said he believed that would not happen. I then said that if I were outside on the opposing side I would smash up his sewerage, gas, water and electricity. Pearse then turned to Clarke and told him to let me do what I thought necessary about it. I knew the Dairy Engineering Co. in Bachelors Walk had a large stock of dairy churns and I got permission to go, take two lorries and a guard, and seize these churns. A Lieutenant in uniform was put in charge of the men who were to load and guard the lorries and the two lorries were got in the yard of the G.P.O. We got to the back of the Dairy Engineering premises via Abbey St. and broke into the warehouse and brought back a large number of these churns, also a number of slash-hooks for shotgun men who had no bayonets in the event of the G.P.O. being stormed. The churns were all filled with water and left in the yard of the G.P.O. Before leaving the premises of the Dairy Engineering Co. I made out an order to the value of £60, got the Lieut. in charge to sign it, and left it on the counter.

After that, I got back to ^{Reis's} ~~Reece's~~. I cannot say exactly when this was. Some time later, probably Thursday, an order came to evacuate the premises and leave no one behind. We all got out into Abbey St., proceeded in single file along the houses into Marlboro St. and as far as Cathedral Place, at the corner of which a man of my Circle, who was too old to be "out" was standing. He called on me to know where we were going and I told him we were getting back to the G.P.O. He told me for God's sake not to go any further as the military had machine guns at the corner of Parnell St. and Marlboro St. I went forward to contact the man leading us. (I don't know who he was, but he

had an English accent), but he had disappeared in the crowd and I could not find him. I concluded that one of us should get through to the G.P.O. to explain the situation as it was going to be difficult to get all the men across. The men returned back into North Earl St. and went into Nobletts and other houses there whilst I dashed across and succeeded in getting into Henry St. As I was not in uniform I was not recognised by the G.P.O. garrison and I put up my hands and was taken in a prisoner through one of the smashed windows of the G.P.O.

As I was being brought along to headquarters, on the way we met Sean McDermott who told me I was just the man he was looking for and that he wanted me to take a party across to ~~Reece's~~ ^{Reis's}. I told him we were after being ordered out of there and that I would not go until it was explained why we had been ordered to evacuate ~~Reece's~~ ^{Reis's}. I had this order which was in writing, but I cannot recollect how I got it. Sean went off and appointed another man to take charge. They went out through the Prince's St. gate and I followed. They went across down Earl St. and I dashed across O'Connell St. direct to Sackville Place where I waited until the remainder of the men came up. We then proceeded along Marlboro St. and into Abbey St. where I saw the Fire Brigade ambulance with a Red Cross flag which I since believe were waving us back. We dashed across and got into ~~Reece's~~ ^{Reis's} and, as I dashed across, I saw four of the men shot down and one man badly wounded. I helped this man whom I did not know as far as the barricade and put him sitting on a reel of paper. The Fire Brigade ambulance must have picked up this man, as when I looked out of a window in ~~Reece's~~ ^{Reis's} after getting in there, there was no sign of the man. I did not know any of the other men who were shot.

We remained on in ~~Reece's~~ ^{Reis's} and when it got dark I decided to try and get to the G.P.O. and look for reinforcements and as

all the men in ~~Reece's~~^{Reis's} were asleep on their feet I got across and got in through the door in Prince's St. I was taken up to the headquarters room and I explained the situation to Pearse who was sitting on the floor with his hands clasped around his knees. He gave instructions to someone who was standing by to get me reinforcements. I succeeded in getting two men who had only just arrived in the G.P.O. and they came back to ~~Reece's~~^{Reis's} with me. I did not know these men, and we remained there until the building began to be demolished by the guns, from Trinity and the "Helga". Some time on Friday morning the premises were becoming untenable and I decided to try and get the men to the G.P.O. By this time all the men had retreated to the basement and I was afraid that another two or three shots would seal up the basement. I pointed out this danger to the men and suggested to them that we try and get back to the G.P.O. The men decided to make the attempt and we crossed O'Connell St. safely and got into the G.P.O. by the Prince's St. door. The Red Cross people met us as we ran across to Prince's St. and helped one of the men who got shot in the knee whilst crossing to get into the G.P.O. I got slightly wounded during the crossing being hit on the right hip, right jaw and forehead, but the bullets merely grazed me.

When we got in the G.P.O. conditions were very bad there. All the upper portion of the building was on fire and we assisted with fire hoses in trying to control the fire, but we made little or no progress with this, and the incendiaries merely floated on the water. Some time during that evening preparations were made to repel stormers and a barricade of bags of coal were put up some distance from the front windows. I assisted in this. Preparations were then made to evacuate and retire on Williams & Woods in Parnell St. The men formed up two deep in the big room of the G.P.O. and marched out through the door in Henry Street. I think it was coming dark by this time. We got into Cole's Lane and as far as Moore Lane. But machine guns were stationed at the Rotunda entrance which made it almost impossible for us to cross

Moore Lane. Tom Clarke, who was at the head of the column, called out for Volunteers to try and get across and he led across three of us making four in all. When we got across we broke into a house at the corner of Moore Lane and Moore St. We then started to break through from house to house, one of our objects being to get as far as a druggist's shop further down Moore St. in order to get dressings for wounded men. We got as far as this shop alright, but this took a long time and we remained in these houses until Saturday morning. Some time on the Saturday we got to know that we were to surrender, and I remember looking for Tom Clarke who was wanted for a meeting to discuss the surrender. We were instructed to march out and form up in Moore St. with all our arms and equipment. We marched up Moore St. into Henry St. down O'Connell St. on the left hand side and then marched across to the right hand side where we were lined along the edge of the footpath in single file. We were then ordered by the British to take three paces forward and lay down our arms on the street. We were then marched to the Rotunda Gardens where we spent the remainder of the night. The following day we were marched to Richmond Barracks and I was kept there for court-martial for about a month or more until I was deported to Knutsford Jail and then to Wormwood Scrubbs; from there to Frongoch and from Frongoch to Wandsworth and back to Frongoch.

I was released about a month before the General Release and on the Sunday of my arrival home in Dublin I resumed my duties in the I.R.B. At the first meeting of my own Circle after my release I was elected Centre again and remained Centre until the dissolution in 1922. I was sent to the West with a view to reorganising the I.R.B. and Volunteers, and to Belfast on the same work.

Some time later I was elected to the Supreme Council at a meeting held at 41 Rutland Square. I cannot remember who was there, except that the whole Central Board was there. I attended

meetings of the Supreme Council after that and remained on it until the dissolution in 1922.

Some time after 1916 there was an Arms Committee formed the object of which was to provide arms. This Committee was formed at a meeting held at my home, 58 Great Charles Street. I was elected Chairman and Michael Collins was Treasurer. I cannot remember who was Secretary. There was about half a dozen members on this Committee and we procured quite a large number of arms by purchasing them from British military. A lot of British soldiers used frequent Phil Shanahan's public-house and it was there most of the contacts were made.

About the Autumn of 1919 I was detailed for special duty on what was known as the Labour Board in Dublin, by orders of the Army Council. Our duty was to use our influence in our various Trade Unions, and in the Labour Movement generally on behalf of the Republic; to get hold of men in important positions such as Power Stations, Railways and Transport Dock workers, etc.; and, most important of all, to undermine the Amalgamated or Cross Channel Unions, and, where possible, to organise a breakaway from these Unions, and establish purely Irish unions instead; manned and controlled by men with Republican and National tendencies. In other words we were Republican Agents within the Labour Movement. This was regarded as very important work both by the Army Council and the Dail at the time. We were in direct communication with the late Michael Collins both as Minister of Finance and Chief Intelligence Officer of the Army, and on different occasions were supplied with financial assistance by him to carry on the work. We were ordered to cease our I.R.A. activities and devote our whole time to this work, and our Company Officers were instructed to excuse us from ordinary parades, while still retaining us on the Roll of the Company, and were thus liable for mobilisation at any time.

Signed: *Luke Keenan*Date: *22nd November 1948.*Witness: *M. J. Keenan*