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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 187

Witness

Mrs. Annie Fanning,
17, Emmet St.,
Birr,
Offaly.

ldentity

Subject

Escape of Liam Mellows from Ireland.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil

Form B.S.M. 2.

CRIGINAL 17 Emet st.
Bir offaly Mo. W.S. 187 Dear Sir; I'm some time, in fact aince I got a Copy of the Bureau of military History " I have been intending Drinte Drome of the members be of interest byon. If you find it so well I good if not there is no harm dine. Some years ago to late Im Sheety -Streffington a an american had a Controserry In one of the Inish- american papers with beforence of the escape of Learn mellows Hom Theland. I unto Dhom Electry - Skeffington at the time telling her thay were lotte wrong & that if She unti to Ker to. Coorse P.P. Corofin Collace he would give her the Cornect stony. Wor Sheffinglan unti he & Said She would lo so, but she herer did. The full clitails of the locape are hur

known time les becefy what I do know is as follows team mellows was at & Coowes Twees at Ruan Collare & from there he went, dressed as a men to Cook. along with him went to Crowe, Bluebell Howell as a novice, a another fil from Falway where mame & have forgotten, dremed (take Training in nums clothing they went blice Caltidad where to Come bok away mellows! In tale years I met Liam melleres at a hanguet in his honor in Jullamore talsen he Confirmed this a was very much put out when that that Bluebell Powelling sisti) was dead, be then said that the Salway fire was also Clead Attest people who helped him always for into browth in chied, these leve her his words but committing hear you might think the matter of sufficient interest to warrant you unting to for Crowe, he is still at Corofin Cut like all of us who took even a small part in those clays, he is getting on in years. However he both me if anyone inquired he would be happy to give all details. I have bried b keys this letter as short as sweeth as 9 world her wish sweste your time particular y the matter should appear byon as thisial y the matter should appear byons sincered with the matter should appear byons sincered with the matter should appear byons sincered with the sound of the should appear of the service of the should be successful to the service of the serv

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COPY/

17, Emmet St., Birr, Offaly.

Jany. 29 - '49.

R. Dudley Edwards, Esq., M.A., Ph.D., D. Litt., University College, Dublin.

Dear Sir:

For some time, in fact since I got a copy of the "Bureau of Military History", I have been intending to write to some of the members of the Committee about a matter which may be of interest to you. If you find it so, well & good; if not, there is no harm done.

Some years ago the late Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington & an American had a controversy in one of the Irish-American papers, with reference to the escape of Liam Mellows from Ireland. I wrote to Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington at the time, telling her they were both wrong & that if . she wrote to Rev. M. Crowe, P.P., Corofin, Co. Clare, he would give her the correct story. Mrs. Skeffington wrote me & said she would do so, but she never did. The full details of the escape are not known to me, but briefly what I do know is as follows: Liam Mellows was at Fr. Crowe's house at Ruan, Co. Clare, & from there he went, dressed as a nun, to Cork. Along with him went Fr. Crowe, Bluebell Powell, as a novice, & another girl from Galway, whose name I have forgotten, dressed (like Liam) in nun's clothing. They went to the Cathedral where Fr. Crowe took away Mellows.

In later years, I met Liam Mellows at a banquet in

his honour in Tullamore, when he confirmed this & was very much put out when told that Bluebell Powell (my sister) was dead; he then said that the Galway girl was also dead, & that people who helped him always got into trouble or died: these are not his words, but something near. You might think the matter of sufficient interest to warrant you writing to Fr. Crowe; he is still at Corofin but, like all of us who took even a small part in those days, he is getting on in years. However, he told me if anyone inquired, he would be happy to give all details. I have tried to keep this letter as short as possible, as I would not wish to waste your time, particularly if the matter should appear to you as trivial.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) ANNIE FANNING.

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