

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

W.S. 191

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 191

Witness

Mr. Joseph Reynolds,
47, Donnellan Avenue,
Mount Brown,
Dublin.

Identity

Member of Fianna Eireann 1916;
Later Adj. General.

Subject

- (a) Fianna Eireann 1915.
- (b) Easter 1916; 1st Battn. area.
- (c) Post Rising re-organisation of
Fianna Eireann.
- (d) Co-ordination of Fianna Eireann
and Irish Volunteers.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil.

File No. S.113

Form B.S.M. 2.

ORIGINAL

Statement by

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 191

Joseph Reynolds, 47 Donnellan Avenue, Mount Brown.

I joined "F" Sluagh na Fianna about January 1915 on its formation. Seán McLoughlin was O/C., Liam Staines, Secretary. I was Treasurer. I was elected at the first meeting of the Sluagh which was held in the Columcille Hall, Blackhall Street. I was then 15 years old.

Each boy on joining the Fianna had to make the following declaration :-

"I promise to work for the independence of Ireland, never to join England's Army, Navy or Police Forces, and to obey my superior officers".

This pledge was in operation until the Convention of 1919 when it was changed to the following :-

"I pledge my allegiance to the Irish Republic and promise to do all in my power to protect her from all enemies, whether foreign or domestic, and not to relax my efforts until the Irish Republic is universally recognised. I also promise to obey my superior officers".

The object of Fianna Éireann was the re-establishment of the independence of Ireland. The means to carry out its object were as follows :-

The training of the youth of Ireland, mentally and physically, by teaching scouting and military exercises, Irish history and the Irish language.

The Flag of the Fianna was sky-blue with the "Sunburst" and the words "Fianna Éireann" inscribed on it.

We had numerous classes, viz. signalling, first aid, musketry, scouting, language classes, map reading, field sketching, etc.

About the end of 1915 Liam Staines came to me and told me that he was speaking to Barney Mellows at a meeting of the Fianna Dublin District Council. He told me that Barney wished to meet me as he had an important job for me to do, and which he believed I could do. A few days later Liam Staines introduced me to Barney (that was the first time I had met Barney). Barney said to me "I believe you have access to the Marlboro Barracks (now McKee Barracks) and the Royal Barracks (now Collins Barracks), that you can go in and out any time". My father was working in the Corporation Abattoir at the time and I used to bring in feeding for the officers' dogs from there to the Marlboro Barracks and the Royal Barracks. I think it was a Major Parker or Major O'Hara was one of the officers to whom I used bring in this stuff, and I had practically the run of the Barracks while I was in them. But I never saw the officers; I always left the parcel with the officers' orderlies.

Barney asked me when would I be able to go in again. I said I could go any time. I generally went in two or three times a week but particularly on a Thursday. So Barney asked me would I concentrate on the Marlboro Barracks and get as much information as possible regarding the entrances, exits, and all military stores appertaining to the Barracks. From time to time I supplied Barney with various details regarding the Barracks. I continued doing this up to the Rising.

At a meeting of the Ard Coisde held in August 1915 the following appointments were made :-

Chief of Fianna	..	Pádraig Ó Riain
Chief of Staff	..	Bulmer Hobson
Adjutant General	..	A. P. Reynolds
Director of Training	..	Seán Heuston
Director of Organisation	..	Eamon Martin
Director of Equipment	..	Leo Henderson
D/Director of Equipment	..	Garry Holohan
Director of Finance	..	Barney Mellows

These held office until Easter 1916.

Also in August 1915 the Dublin Fianna was organised into a Battalion of nine Companies. The following officers were appointed and held office up to the 1916 Rising.

a. Battalion Staff.

Commandant	..	Eamon Martin	(also Director of Organisation, G. H. Q.).
Vice-Comdt.	..	Seán Heuston	(also Director of Training, G. H. Q.).
Adjutant	..	P. Cassidy	(also O/C., No.1 Coy.).
Quartermaster	..	Seumas Pouch	

b. Company Commanders.

No. 1 Coy. (Camden Street)	..	P. Cassidy.
No. 2 Coy. (Dolphins Barn)	..	Barney Mellows (also Director of Finance).
No. 3 Coy. (Inchicore)	..	Ernie Murray.
No. 4 Coy. (Ranelagh)	..	Niall MacNeill.
No. 5 Coy. (Merchants Quay)	..	Garry Holohan (also D/Director of Equipment)
No. 6 Coy. (N. Frederick St.)	..	Seán Heuston (also Vice-Comdt. Battalion; also Director of Training).
No. 7 Coy. (Blackhall Street)	..	Seán McLoughlin.
No. 8 Coy. (Fairview)	..	Leo Henderson (also Director of Equipment.
No. 9 Coy. (Dollymount)	..	Pádraig Ó Dálaigh.
Battalion Band	..	M. Callender (killed in France, 1915).

We continued attending parades and special classes at the Columcille Hall twice weekly.

I was present at Liberty Hall on Palm Sunday, 1916. The Tricolour Flag was raised by Molly Reilly. I believe this was the first occasion on which the Tricolour was flown over Liberty Hall. I heard Connolly say something to the effect :-

"We hoisted the flag today, but before long the flag of a free Ireland will be flying on buildings not far from here".

The flag, as far as I can remember, was the same as the national flag - green next the pole, then white and orange on the outside.

A Sluagh meeting was held in the Columcille Hall on Monday of Holy Week. Arrangements for the Fianna Camp for Easter week-end were discussed. Amongst those present were, Seán McLoughlin and Liam Staines. I heard afterwards that the object of the Camp was to get the younger members of the Fianna out of danger during the Rising.

On Spy Wednesday Seán McLoughlin told me not to go to the Camp, that I was required to take part in the manoeuvres which the Volunteers were holding on Easter Sunday. On Good Friday evening he told me that I was to see Liam Staines tomorrow (Saturday). I saw Liam who told me to go to the Marlboro Barracks on Easter Sunday morning and watch the movements of the British troops in and around the Barracks and to remain on duty until I was relieved. Early on Easter Sunday morning I went to the railway bridge at Blackhorse Lane from where I could observe all movements in the Barracks. I noticed nothing unusual. I was relieved later on by Jim Staines, I would say about 12 noon. He told me he would take over and that I would see Liam Staines that evening. I saw him that night and he told me to go home and stay there and be prepared for an immediate mobilisation.

Early on Easter Monday morning Jim Staines came to my house. He told me to repeat what I had done on the previous day, namely, to take up a position near Marlboro Barracks from which I could observe any unusual activity which might indicate that troops were preparing to leave the Barracks to prevent the Volunteers from marching, and if so, to report the matter immediately to Commandant Daly in the Columcille Hall. I noticed no unusual activity and at 12.30 I proceeded to the Columcille Hall to report to Commandant Daly. When I arrived at Blackhall Street a large crowd of people were gathered

outside the Hall. I enquired of a few people whom I knew what was wrong. They told me that the Volunteers had taken over the Four Courts and the Mendicity Institute and that more Volunteers were over in North King Street. Believing that the Volunteers were on street manoeuvres I set out to find Commandant Daly and I found him in North Brunswick Street, superintending the erection of barricades. He was dressed in full uniform and wore equipment. I told him that I definitely had been at the Marlboro Barracks and that Liam Staines told me to report to him. He asked me how things were. I said I saw no sign of activity. He asked me to go back again and if I saw any movement of British troops to report to him immediately and that I would find him somewhere in the area. He was with Commandant Eamon Duggan who was Adjutant of the 1st Battalion. I went up Brunswick Street through Manor Street and when I got to Kirwan Street I saw British troops marching down Aughrim Street towards the Quays. I rushed back and discovered Commandant Daly in Church Street. I reported to him that British troops were marching down Aughrim Street and he asked me what was their strength. I replied that I did not know, that I had not waited to find out, and that immediately I had seen them I rushed back to tell him they were coming.

He immediately asked me did I know Captain Frank Daly. I told him I did. "You'll find him in Greek Street and I'll remain here until you return with him". I brought Captain Daly to Commandant Daly who told me to repeat to Captain Daly what I had told him. I told him that the British troops were coming down Aughrim Street and that I did not know their strength. Captain Daly said: "Well, I suppose we better strengthen the barricade on this side (Smithfield Manor Street side)". Commandant Daly and Captain Daly then had a chat and Commandant Daly gave me a note to bring to the General Post Office. The place was barricaded when I arrived. I got in through a shop in Henry Street and worked my way from

shop to shop and eventually got into the Post Office. The first man I saw there was Captain Michael Staines who brought me to Pearse. I delivered the dispatch to Pearse who on reading it said "good". Pearse gave me a dispatch for Commandant Daly and Michael Staines told Commandant General Pearse not to dismiss me until he came back as he had some ammunition to give me. Then I brought the dispatch back to Commandant Daly who was in Church Street. I did not know what was in either of the dispatches.

From that day on I was dispatch carrying, reconnoitring and doing general activities and the work of a scout in the area. I had been several times in the Post Office, several times in the Four Courts building, and on one occasion I brought a special message from Commandant Daly to Barney Mellows who was in the Four Courts. At the beginning Commandant Daly's Headquarters were in the St. John's Convent, North Brunswick Street. On Tuesday or Wednesday he changed his Headquarters from the Convent to the Father Matthew Hall, Church Street.

On Thursday evening I was sitting on the stairs in the Father Matthew Hall with Vinny Staines. Commandant Daly was in conversation with Lieutenant Dinny O'Callaghan. Lieutenant O'Callaghan said to me: "Come on, Reynolds, I want you". Commandant Daly said: "No, I want him". Vinny Staines went away with Dinny O'Callaghan and the Commandant sent me to the G.P.O. to deliver a dispatch to Pearse. I delivered the dispatch and returned to the Father Matthew Hall.

Later on Thursday evening the British began to erect barricades and cordon off the city. Commandant Daly instructed me to reconnoitre the area and find out the location of the barricades, etc. as he wanted to send a dispatch to Pearse. I reconnoitred the area and returned and told Commandant Daly that I thought I could get through the cordon. He handed me a dispatch for Pearse and told me to do my best

to get through with it as it was most important. I do not know what was in the dispatch.

I succeeded in getting through the cordon and got down to the G.P.O. and saw Pearse and gave him the dispatch and the information I had regarding the disposition of the British troops in the area and informed him that I was after breaking through the cordon, which by the way took me between 1½ to 2 hours to get from Church Street to the G.P.O. On that occasion I informed Michael Staines that his brother Liam had been seriously wounded the previous day in the Mendicity Institute.

I went back to the Father Matthew Hall and remained there until Friday evening when Father Albert, O.F.M. Cap. came up to the Hall and saw me, and nice and politely brought me down to the Chapel House and told me I would have to stay there for the present - I could not get round as heavy fighting was on and the area was completely isolated - there was nothing more I could do, my place was there. I remained in the Chapel House until Sunday. Father Albert informed me on Sunday that the surrender had taken place.

I did not return home as my place was being watched by the police. I worked my way across the city to Mercer Street where my grandmother lived and stayed with her. After about a fortnight Vinny Staines got in touch with me. I chanced going home.

Vinny Staines came to me and asked me would I get the Sluagh started again, that they were all prepared to start again, that it was Liam's wish (this refers to Liam Staines who was wounded in the Mendicity Institute and was in George V. Hospital), and that I would be O/C. of the Sluagh until he would get well. I got the Sluagh re-organised about the middle of May. We met in a room over Chequetts, Druggists, in Queen Street. We met every Saturday night.

Before the Insurrection there were eight Sluaighte in Dublin, under the control of the Dublin District Council and this Council governed the affairs of the Dublin Fianna until the Insurrection. Several of the officers were in touch with the Military Council of the Irish Volunteers which was undertaking the responsibility of the forthcoming Insurrection.

On Easter Monday, 1916, officers of the Fianna were given command of important sections of the operations.

A party commanded by a Fianna Officer, and manned almost entirely by Fianna rushed the Magazine Fort, Phoenix Park, disarmed the guard, and made an almost successful attempt to detonate the explosives stored therein. This was to be the signal for the Rising. From the Fort they retreated to the Four Courts area, participating in the attack on Broadstone Railway Station, (in which Éamon Martin, Officer Commanding the Dublin Battalion of the Fianna, was severely wounded), also participating in the capture of Linen Hall Barracks, as well as in the desperate duel which preceded the surrender in North King Street, when the enemy forces were separated from the defenders only by the width of a street.

Another Fianna Officer, Captain Seán Heuston, Director of Training, G.H.Q., and Vice-Commandant of the Dublin Battalion of the Fianna, was in charge of the Mendicity Institution, on Usher's Island, opposite the Royal Barracks. With his small garrison he held out for three days, and directed the defence with coolness and ability during the attacks. He was promoted on the field to the rank of Commandant. Liam Staines, a member of "F" Sluagh, was severely wounded during the attack.

An ex Fianna Officer, Con Colbert, was second in command of the Marrowbone Lane Distillery and took over command at the surrender.

The Fianna Chief, Madame Markievicz, held the College of Surgeons, some Fianna boys fighting under her leadership.

Fianna officers and boys also fought in the other Posts, and boys took on the dangerous work of despatch carrying, scouting and reconnoitring.

Seán Heuston and Con Colbert were murdered by the defender of Small Nations on the 8th May, 1916.

About the end of May, 1916, Father Albert, O.F.M. Cap., sent for me and gave me a letter to deliver to Mrs. Mellows and bring him a reply, which I did. When I brought him the reply he told me the letter I had delivered to Mrs. Mellows was from her son Liam, who at that time was "on the run". He did not tell me how he got Liam's letter.

Immediately after the Insurrection in May, 1916, a meeting of all officers who had participated in the Rising and who were at liberty, was held in An Chead Sluagh Hall, Camden Street. The meeting was called in order to set up a Committee to control the organisation in Dublin until the senior officers would be released. This Committee was called "The Provisional Committee of Control". The following were appointed :-

Chairman - Eamon Martin; Seumas Pouch;
Liam Staines, Theo Fitzgerald and myself.

In point of fact, Eamon Martin although nominally Chairman, was suffering from severe wounds sustained in the Rising and was only able to afford indirect assistance and advice. No Battalion staff was appointed, the Provisional Committee of Control acting in this capacity, in addition to supervising the work of the country Sluaighte. That Committee continued to function until January 1917, when it handed over to the senior officers who had been released at Christmas from internment.

In January, 1917, the Headquarters staff of the Fianna was reconstituted as follows :-

Chief of the Fianna	..	Madame Markievicz
Chief of Staff	..	Eamon Martin
Adjutant General	..	H. C. (Barney) Mellows
Asst. Adjutant General	..	P. J. Stephenson
Quartermaster General	..	Garry Holohan
Asst. Quartermaster General	..	A. White
Director of Training	..	Seán McLoughlin

Eamon Martin was in the U.S.A. at this time and

Seán McLoughlin acted as Chief of Staff during his absence.

Barney Mellows was arrested by the British about February 1917, and the Assistant Adjutant General, P.J. Stephenson, performed the duties of Adjutant General.

The following were appointed to the Battalion staff :-

Commandant	..	Barney Mellows
Vice-Commandant	..	Bob Holland
Adjutant	..	P. Cassidy
Quartermaster	..	Seumas Pouch

This staff functioned up to June 1917. Following Barney Mellows' arrest in February, 1917, Garry Holohan then took over as O/C. of the Battalion, in addition to his appointment as Q.M.G. and Brigade Commandant.

Following the reconstitution of the Headquarters Staff and the Dublin Battalion Staff in January, 1917, an intensive re-organising and recruiting drive was set in motion in Dublin and throughout the country. This campaign was a tremendous success. Recruits came in in large numbers and new Squadrons were formed in various parts of the city and county.

In June, 1917, the Dublin Battalion had become so strong that it was formed into a Brigade of two Battalions: 1st Battalion (South Dublin), 2nd Battalion (North Dublin). The 1st Battalion area was Dublin city and county south of the Liffey, and the 2nd Battalion area, Dublin city and county north of the Liffey. The following were appointed to the Brigade staff :-

Brigade Commandant	..	Garry Holohan
Brigade Adjutant	..	P. J. Stephenson

I was appointed Brigade Quartermaster.

The following were appointed to the Battalion Staffs :-

1st Battalion (South Dublin).

Battalion Commandant	..	Barney Mellows
Battalion Adjutant	..	Hugo McNeill (now Major-General)
Battalion Quartermaster	..	Derry McNeill

2nd Battalion (North Dublin).

Battalion Commandant	..	Theo Fitzgerald
Battalion Adjutant	..	Roddy Connolly
Battalion Quartermaster	..	P. Byrne

Theo Fitzgerald held this appointment until January, 1918, when he was replaced by Liam Langley. The first public parade of the re-organised Brigade was held on the occasion of the funeral of Thomas Ashe in September, 1917.

A Convention was held in August, 1917, at 41 York Street. The principal matter discussed was organisation. It was at this Convention that Commandant Eamon De Valera was unanimously elected Chief of the Fianna. He was proposed for this position by Madame Markievicz.

Conventions were held annually. All the pre-1916 Conventions were held in the Mansion House, Dublin. The 1918 Convention was held at St. Enda's, Rathfarnham, at which Madame Markievicz was elected Chief of the Fianna. She was re-elected at each subsequent Convention.

The 1919 Convention was held in the Mansion House, Dublin. It was at this Convention following the establishment of An Dáil Éireann earlier that year, that the Fianna Declaration was changed to - "I pledge my allegiance to the Irish Republic, etc."

The Brigade Commandant for practically the whole period up to the Truce was Garry Holohan who held that rank up to Christmas 1920 when he was arrested. He held that rank again from April 1921 up to the Truce. Liam Langley acted as

Brigade O/C. while Garry Holohan was in jail. In June, 1917, P. Stephenson was appointed Brigade Adjutant and he held that rank up to January, 1918, when Seumas Pouch took over. I was Brigade Quartermaster from June 1917 to July 1918.

From January, 1918, to July 1918, as well as being Brigade Quartermaster, I was Adjutant of the 2nd (North Dublin) Battalion. From July 1918, to November 1918, I was attached to the Galway Brigade staff of the Irish Volunteers and in charge of the Galway Brigade of the Fianna.

From November, 1918, to January 1919, I became Adjutant again of the 2nd Battalion, and as well as being Adjutant of the Battalion I was Brigade Adjutant.

From November, 1918, to the Truce, I was the Brigade Adjutant of the Dublin Fianna. Also from January, 1919, to March, 1919, as well as being Brigade Adjutant, I was Commandant of the 1st (South Dublin) Battalion. At the Convention held in August, 1918, I was elected member of the Executive Council of the Fianna and at each subsequent Convention was elected annually up to the Truce. I was Assistant to the Adjutant-General, Barney Mellows, who was also Director of Intelligence. I was also Brigade Intelligence Officer.

About the beginning of 1918 I was asked by Garry Holohan to join the Fianna Circle of the I.R.B. I was sworn in as a member. Garry Holohan was Centre; Liam Langley was Secretary, and Tom Donohoe (now Rev. Fr. Donohoe) was Treasurer. The meetings were held at 46 Parnell Square. The principal matters discussed at the meetings were the recruitment of new members and the suitability of those proposed for membership. Prior to 1916 an Active Service Unit comprising officers and older boys was organised under the title "Fianna Commando".

In 1918 when the English Government threatened to impose conscription on the nation, the Dublin Brigade Commando was

reformed. This unit comprised picked members of the Brigade, whose duty it was to co-operate with the Irish Volunteers in the event of conscription being enforced in Ireland. These boys were attached to the Volunteer Battalions under the control of a Fianna Officer. The duties allotted to the Fianna were signalling and the use of small arms.

The Fianna along with other military and national organisations, was declared by the British Military Governor to be an "illegal organisation". In an address he referred to the Fianna as "poisonous insects and should be stamped out". Following this, enemy attacks on the Fianna greatly increased; drill halls were raided, parades were attacked by police and military and boys were arrested for wearing the Fianna uniform; but yet they did not daunt the spirit of the boys, and the result was an increase in membership of the Brigade. This period saw the formation of the "Fianna Post". This activity related to the collection and delivery of letters in the Dublin Area, on the lines of the system operating in the Post Office. Circulars were sent to sympathisers intimating to them that they could leave their correspondence in certain call offices when they would be collected at certain periods and delivered at charges obtaining in the Post Office.

Classes were also established throughout the Brigade, signalling, first aid, scouting, etc., as well as Gaelic and history classes. Transfers from the Fianna to the Irish Volunteers commenced at this period.

The Executive and Headquarters Staff elected at the 1919 Convention undertook full responsibility for the activities of the organisation throughout the country. Simultaneously the activities of the Dublin Brigade increased. The Fianna took an active part in all the major operations of the Anglo-Irish War, and provided a valuable stream of recruits for the I.R.A. The I.R.A. Officers were always glad to receive transfers from the Fianna as they knew from experience they were getting boys

who were fully disciplined and well trained in the art of war. The Fianna received a good training in signalling, intelligence, musketry, first aid, scouting and field exercises. The Fianna acted as scouts and outposts for the Volunteers while the latter were on parade or carrying out field exercises, and other operations, such as ambushes and attacks on enemy barracks.

About September, 1920, special squads from "A" and "F" Companies 1st Battalion of the Fianna, took over the area of "E" Company, 4th Battalion I.R.A., and carried out a general raid for arms in the area; this was carried out nightly and occupied about a week. A large number of shot-guns, etc. were captured. This operation was carried out on a special order received from the Officer Commanding, Dublin Brigade I.R.A. About this time also special squads from "A" and "F" Companies of the Fianna recovered arms and explosives lost by No. 4 Company, 5th Battalion Engineers, at Kilmashogue, who had been surprised by the auxiliaries while carrying out demolition tests, etc.

About the autumn of 1920 it was found that as regards raids for arms there was considerable overlapping and consequent danger to both Volunteers and Fianna. In a few cases where raids for arms were carried out by Fianna, the Volunteers later raided the same places. In one or two cases the police were actually on the spot investigating the Fianna raid when the Volunteers arrived to raid the same place. It was found necessary, so as to avoid danger, to have closer co-operation between the two organisations. Negotiations were opened up between the Department of Defence and Fianna Headquarters Staff which resulted in the following agreement :-

MEMORANDUM NO. 1,
 FIANNA ÉIREANN,
 G. H. QRS.,
 DUBLIN, 1921.

To Each Fianna Officer.

A Chara,

As a result of conversations between the Ministry of Defence, and Fianna General H.Q. Staff, the Fianna has now been recognised as one of the Units at the disposal of the Republican Government. This means that the Fianna will assist the I.V. in every manner possible under our own Officers, and though acting in co-operation with the I.V. will remain in most respects a separate Organisation. The connecting link between the I.V. and Fianna will be the Liaison Officer. The following will explain how the scheme affects Sluaighte or Companies :-

1. The Fianna shall assist when required, the Army of Ireland in operations. Each Company or Unit will work under its own Officer who will be responsible to the I.V. Officer in charge of operations.
2. Fianna Battalion Areas will correspond with those of the I.V. Each Battalion will have its Battalion Comdt. who will give instructions to the various Companies. The Fianna Battalion Comdt. will be responsible for the carrying out of certain operations to the I.V. Battalion Comdt. (or Brigade Comdt.) and to Fianna G.H.Q. only. This means that all instructions from I.V. to Fianna come from I.V. Brigade Comdt. or Battalion Comdt. to Fianna Battalion Comdt. who will transmit them to units in his command.
3. The Fianna Battalion Comdt. will keep constantly in touch with Battalion H.Q. of I.V. and will be summoned when necessary to I.V. Brigade or Battalion Council Meetings. In other words he will be the connecting link, or Liaison Officer,

between Fianna and I.V. In cases where there is no Fianna Battalion Comdt. the Senior Fianna Officer will act as Liaison Officer, until such time as Battalion strength will have been reached.

4. Where the Fianna Organisation is incomplete the I.V. will organise Companies of Fianna, placing a Section Leader of I.V. in charge until such time as the Company may be sufficiently organised to elect their own Officer.

5. On attaining the age of 18 a Boy, unless his services are necessary for the successful management of the Company, will be transferred to the I.V. Such transfers must be made in writing and countersigned by the Fianna Battalion Comdt. These transfers which are of the greatest importance must be made regularly, and a record must be kept in each Company of such transfers.

TRAINING.

Arrangements are being made whereby selected members of the Fianna (Officers and Boys) shall attend I.V. Officers' and Section Commanders' Classes. Circulars on Training in special branches will be issued by G.H.Q. in due course.

In the meantime each O/C. will immediately train the Boys in Despatch carrying (including correctly delivering verbal messages).

Morse Signalling and Reconnaissance. Specially selected Boys of good Physique can be trained where opportunities are available in Bombing, Rifle Exercises, etc. The Fianna must supply Trained men to Ireland's Army. Intelligence work may be also included in the Programme of training. This must be done carefully and with the sanction of the I.V. Battalion Comdt.

OPERATIONS.

The Fianna must not carry out operations without having previously obtained (through the Fianna Battalion Comdt.) sanction from I.V. Battalion Comdt. This will prevent overlapping and extra work.

REPORTS.

Regular Monthly Reports must be sent by each O/C. They can, until regular Battalion Areas are defined, be sent direct to G.H.Qrs.

COMMUNICATIONS.

As the British Post is unsatisfactory and dangerous, arrangements are being made with I.V. G.H.Qrs. to make use of the I.V. lines of communications. Care should be taken that no frivolous correspondence is sent through these lines. Only urgent and necessary communications should be forwarded in this manner. Interview the Battalion Comdt. I.V. on this matter.

GENERAL.

The intention of G.H.Qrs. Fianna is to make the Fianna a live Organisation. G.H.Q. has been recognised and will give you every assistance possible. We must supply the trained man-power for Ireland's fight. Officers will thus realise the importance of enforcing discipline, and organising and training their Boys. Let us work for Ireland.

ON FOR FREEDOM, FIANNA ÉIREANN.

(Signed) BARNEY MELLOWS,
Adjt.-General.

(I have the copy of the above document which was sent to me by the Adjutant-General while I was Brigade Adjutant. I will lend it to the Bureau of Military History to have a photographic copy made of it.

The above agreement was carried out very harmoniously between both organisations with a marvellous spirit of co-operation and loyalty, and our activities helped in a large measure in forcing England's Prime Minister to call for a Truce, which was called on 11th July, 1921.

As a result of this agreement a composite council was set up comprising three G.H.Q. Officers of the Fianna - Éamon Martin, Chief of Staff; Barney Mellows, Adjutant-General; Garry Holohan, Q.M.G. and O/C. Brigade, or Liam Langley, Director of Organisation: (Éamon Martin can confirm this); and three G.H.Q. Officers of the Irish Volunteers. The officers representing the Volunteers on this composite council were: Dermot O'Hegarty, Gearóid O'Sullivan, and I think, Bob Price. The meetings of the composite council were presided over by a nominee of the Minister for Defence.

Early in 1921 Éamon Martin was sent to America on Dáil Éireann business. During his absence Liam Langley acted as Chief of Staff until April 1921 when he handed over to Garry Holohan.

Also as a result of this agreement the Fianna received a monthly grant from the Department of Defence (I do not know the amount Fianna received) and the Adjutant-General who had given up his civilian employment, was paid a salary also by the Department of Defence. This co-operation continued right up to the Truce.

It was also decided to bring the Fianna into much closer liaison with the Volunteers and to utilise the organisation as an official training corps for the Volunteer Force, in addition to its intelligence and communications duties, etc. Further, the Dublin Brigade Fianna was re-organised to correspond to the Volunteer Organisation, and the existing two Battalions were expanded into five Battalions as follows:-

1st ...	North West Dublin ...	Comdt. A. Colley
2nd ...	North East Dublin ...	Comdt. Seán Harling
3rd ...	South East Dublin ...	Comdt. P. Byrne
4th ...	South West Dublin ...	Comdt. Willie Rowe
6th ...	South County Dublin ...	Comdt. Nicholas Kelly

Battalion V, Dublin Brigade I.V., was, of course, an Engineer Battalion, and Battalion VI. was the South County Battalion. The Fianna had no Engineer Battalion and they designated their South County Battalion VI. to correspond to the Volunteer nomenclature.

The following was the Headquarters Staff on the 11th July, 1921 :-

Chief of the Fianna	Madame Markievicz
Chief of Staff	Garry Holohan
Adjutant-General	Barney Mellows
Asst. Adjutant-General	Joseph Reynolds
Quartermaster-General	Garry Holohan
Asst. Quartermaster-General	A. White
Director of Organisation	Eamon Martin

.....

SIGNED

Joseph Reynolds

DATE

31st January 1949

WITNESS

Seán Brennan. Comdt.

DATE

31st January 1949

