

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21
NO. W.S. 245

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COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S.245.....

Witness

Rev. Fr. T. Burbage, P.P.
Mointeachmilic,
Laoighse.
Identity

Chairman of Ballykinlar
Commission of Inquiry 1921.

Subject

Reference to articles written by him on
"British Treatment of Irish Prisoners"
and published in the "Catholic Bulletin"
April and May 1923.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil

File No. .S.138.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

NO. W.S. 245

2 OCT. 1946

The Irish Republic

Laoghaire.

2. 2/10/46

circular

ORIGINAL

I see from today's Irish Press that the Department of Defence intends to collect material dealing with the Irish military activities during 1916-1921. I don't know whether or not it may interest you to know that a Commission of Enquiry was set up in 1921 to take evidence on oath regarding the treatment of prisoners by the British military during that period. I was chairman of that Enquiry held in Ballyknish. More than 120 prisoners were examined on oath. 26 Counties were covered in

The depositions. These depositions
were preserved up to the time of
release. I had not custody of
them and cannot say what happened
to them. But when the inquiry
was completed, I wrote a Preface
to it that was practically a
Summary of the incidents recorded.
This was published in the Catholic
Bulletin of April and May of
1923, and I am sure it can
still be found at W. H. Gies, Son & Co.
50 Upper O'Connell Street. It is
much more interesting reading
for Irishmen than the present story
of Nuremberg. Very truly,
Yours,
Do csh

Z. H. Bishop. PP

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Mointrasmittic,
Laogre.

8. X. '46

A. C. S. del

I have called your

attention to a Commission of Inquiry

into the treatment of Irish prisoners

by the British that was held in

Camp. v. Ballykinlar in 1921

It should be of interest to know

that this summary of evidence

published in the Catholic Bulletin

for April and May, 1923, and contained in

Vol. 13. of the Bulletin, was

examined line by line and agreed to

by the members of the Commission

I believe that it gives a good

idea of the story given on oath
by men from every part of Ireland

It would make the work of the
Commission more interesting if
the Separate original statements
made and signed at the inquiry
could be got. I have asked
P. Gorm, J.D. to see if a request
for information made at the
Ald. Fen. to the officials some of
whom may have been at Ballykinlar
would bring these documents to light.

I intended that this summary
or preface to a report of the
findings of the Commission and
a full account of the proceedings
should be published after leaving the day
Unfortunately, the conditions that arose
after the release did not favour any public
release of such information.