

**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILIT. 1913-21

No. **W.S. 253**

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. **W.S. 253**.....

**Witness**

Sergeant A.M. Sullivan, K.C.,  
Royal Munster Yacht Club,  
Crosshaven,

Co. Cork.

**Identity**

Defended Roger Casement  
at his trial in 1916.

**Subject**

Casement's trial.

**Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness**

Nil

File No. **S.1289**.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA, 1913-21
No. W.S. 253

Royal Munster Yacht Club,  
Crosshaven,

The Bureau of Military History 1913-21  
26, Westland Row,  
DUBLIN.



Dear Sir,

I am sorry for the delay in answering your letter of the 10th. inst., but I cannot write myself and am dependent on finding someone to write for me.

I fear that I can add very little to what is on public record concerning my own experience of the defence of Casement. It was a very great strain from which I suffered for a considerable time. I saw and spoke to Casement only on two occasions, on the two matters about which he was worried in connection with the trial.

First, he wished that it should be known that from the moment of his landing, he was striving, in every way, to prevent the occurrences of Easter Week. The matter had been planned on the assurances of the Germans that it would be supported at whatever risk, by the landing of a large German force in Ireland. When this assurance was revoked, Casement considered that the Irish participants in the scheme had been duped by the Germans for German ends, and he wished it to be understood that he did his best to stop the scheme going any further.

The second matter that troubled him was the fear that the prosecution would introduce, in the trial, the deplorable entries in his Diary. In fact, the Attorney General sent me a number of messages asking me to inspect the Diary and wired me that the Home Office would be open to me, day and night, up to the moment of the trial.

Sir Travers Humphreys, by direction of the Attorney General, handed me a full copy of the Diary on the morning of the trial. I did not read it but passed it to one of my juniors. I formed a very definite opinion that it was the desire of the Government to assist in the establishment of a defence of insanity. It was impossible that they could put the Diary in evidence, but though never formed in plain language, it was clear to me that they were anxious to persuade me, by the Diary, to make that defence.

23rd. May, 1949.

Bureau of Military History 1913-21.

I did not even discuss it with Casement, beyond assuring him that the Diary would not be alluded to during the trial. He was very nervous about it, and, in spite of my efforts to avoid the subject, he intruded the observation that the matters recorded in the Diary were inseparable from the manifestation of distinguished genius.

He meant, no doubt, that if the matter did appear at the trial, this theory should be put forward, coupled with the notorious historical proofs. Beyond this strange occurrence there is I think nothing that is not better known to the public and to myself in connection with the trial.

Yours truly,

A. M. Sullivan.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRA MILITA 1913-21
No. W.S. 253

C O P Y/

S. 1289.

10th May, 1949.

A Chara,

The enclosed leaflet will explain why I am writing to you.

In view of your intimate association with the trial of the late Roger Casement, the Director would be glad if you could see your way to set down on record for the Bureau the full account of your experiences during that trial and of any conversations which you may have had with Casement at that time.

The story which you have to tell can be told in any manner you choose, and can take the form of a single statement or any number of statements. The essential thing is that whatever you set down should be a record of the facts as they are known to you. It should be told with as much detail as you can remember, including dates, persons, places, etc., as incidents which appear to be of minor importance may, in the view of historians, have a real significance.

Statements, when received in the Bureau, are carefully covered and bound to ensure their preservation and protection as historic documents, and for that reason it would be appreciated if you could arrange, when drawing up your statement, to use one side of the paper only, and to leave a margin of about one inch on the left, so that none of the text may be obscured in the binding.

As explained in the accompanying leaflet, any statement entrusted to the Bureau will be treated as strictly confidential and its contents will not be revealed to anyone outside the Bureau without the consent of the owner.

If there is any aspect of the matter on which you would like further information I shall be only too pleased to help you.

Should you come to Dublin at any time in the near future, the Director would be very pleased to meet you in the Bureau or at any other convenient venue.

Mise, le meas,

(Signed) P.J. BRENNAN.

RÚNAÍ.

Mr. Serjeant Sullivan, K.C.,  
4, King's Bench Walk,  
London, E.C. 4.

