

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILC. TA 1913-21

No. W.S. 306

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 306.....

Witness

Mr. Michael McDunphy,
25 St. Lawrence Rd.,
Clontarf, Dublin.
Identity

Director of Bureau of Military History
and Secretary to the President of Ireland.

Subject

- (a) Report of conversation between him and the late Archdeacon MacMahon on 27th July 1949 re. Countess Markievicz' reception into the Catholic Church.
- (b) Press report of death of the Archdeacon.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil

File No. ...S.1419.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

LEACÁN MIONNAIRISCE.

m.s.b.

CASAIRC S.1419.

Director's conversation with
the Archdeacon, 27th July 1949.

On the 27th July last I had a conversation with Archdeacon MacMahon in my home at 25 St. Laurence Road, Clontarf, Dublin, where he was a guest at my daughter's wedding.

He confirmed that he had received Countess Markievicz into the Catholic Church, and that he would be prepared to give the Bureau a factual statement on this matter.

I said I would send a representative of the Bureau to him at his convenience, but we agreed to postpone action for the present as there was no urgency.

The Archdeacon, however, died on 14th October 1949. There is consequently no statement from him on record.

W.S. Murphy
DIRECTOR.

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17 Deire Foir, 1949.

CASAIRÉ

Extract from Irish Independent
page 3, Col 5, 15/10/49.

VEN. ARCHDEACON M^r S. MacMAHON

Ven. Archdeacon Matthew S. MacMahon, P.P., V.F., whose death has occurred at the Parochial House, Clontarf, had a long and distinguished career in the sacred ministry. Aged 75, he had been parish priest of Clontarf since 1937.

Born in Portlaw, Co. Waterford, he was educated at Rockwell, Blackrock, and Clonliffe Colleges, and was ordained in 1904. He was appointed Dean of Clonliffe College soon afterwards, a position he retained for 19 years.

After a period as Vice-President, he was appointed President in 1927, and held this position for ten years before being appointed parish priest of Clontarf.

STUDY OF LITURGY

A priest who had wide interests as an educationist, and who had made a life-long study of liturgical subjects, he was Professor of Liturgy in Clonliffe during the 33 years in which he filled the successive positions of Dean, Vice-President and President. He was appointed Vicar Forane in 1938, and became Archdeacon of Glendalough in 1941. Archdeacon MacMahon was author



The late Ven. Archdeacon
MacMahon.

of a number of devotional works. His principal publication was the Liturgical Catechism, which is the textbook for liturgy in practically all Catholic schools. Other works included "Nazareth," a prayer book for the married, and "Holy Childhood," a prayer book for children.

In his earlier years he was a noted preacher and lecturer, being Jan authority on the subject of Lourdes and the life of the Little Flower. He acted on the tribunal for the Father John Sullivan Beatification Process.

Known to hundreds of Irish political prisoners during the years in which he acted as Chaplain at Mountjoy, Archdeacon MacMahon was the friend of many Irish leaders, and it was he who received Countess Markievicz into the Church.

He was Master of Ceremonies at the liturgical ceremonies of the Eucharistic Congress in 1932. During the war he was Vice-Chairman of the Dublin Red Cross branch.

He was brother of Very Rev. J. MacMahon, P.P., Lusk, and Very Rev. B. MacMahon, P.P., Chapelizod.