

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 514

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 514

Witness

Richard Mullally,
St. Camillus,
Tallaght,
Co. Dublin.

Identity.

Member of Tallaght (Co. Dublin) Company
Irish Volunteers 1917 - ;

Captain 'A' Company 7th Battalion
Dublin Brigade 1921.

Subject.

National activities 1917-1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S. 1359

Form B.S.M. 2

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STATEMENT BY RICHARD MULLALLY,

St. Camillus, Tallaght, Co. Dublin.

In 1917 with a few others I formed a company of the Irish Volunteers in the Tallaght area. The total strength was about fourteen or fifteen. We took an active part in the General Election of 1918 in support of the Sinn Féin candidates. The Volunteers canvassed the electors, manned the polling booths and helped to transport voters to the poll.

Our activities included raids for arms, cutting the telephone wires to Tallaght Aerodrome and felling trees across the roads.

In 1920 the Tallaght Company became attached to "E" Company (Rathfarnham), 4th Battalion.

I was arrested on the 8th or 10th of January, 1921. About ten days later I was tried by courtmartial at Kilmainham Jail on the charge of being in possession of ammunition. I refused to recognise the Court. I was acquitted and released on the 3rd or 4th February, 1921. About a week after my release I was elected Captain of the Company and continued in charge of the Company until the first week of April when I handed over.

command to William Coombs. In March, 1921, the 7th Battalion was formed and we became "A" Company (Tallaght), 7th Battalion. The Battalion officers were :

O/C.	Gerald Boland (later Minister of State)
Vice O/C.	Paddy Kavanagh
Adjutant	Conn O'Donovan.

There is one incident that stands out in my career. I was coming home from Dublin one evening early in April, 1921, to Tallaght, and on the Crumlin road near the Half Way House there is a crossroads here, and the British soldiers were searching everyone that passed.

I was within two hundred yards of the crossroads when I saw the soldiers. I turned back and they opened fire on me. I heard four or five bullets whizz past me. I felt one strike my bicycle but I got away back through Crumlin village and across Wellington Lane on to the Terenure - Blessington road at Spawell. When I got some distance up the road I got off my bicycle. I noticed a dint in the back mudguard about three inches from the carrier. I had a parcel tied on the carrier which contained one pound of gellignite. Well, if that bullet had struck the gellignite I don't think I would be here to tell this tale. By the way, the Halfway House was burned to the ground that night by the Black and Tans.

3.

I was again arrested on the 25th May, 1921, and brought to Mountjoy Prison. The following day I was transferred to Arbour Hill Military Prison. I was kept there for a month and was then sent to Collinstown. I remained there until the first week of August when I was sent to Kilmainham. I was released on 8th December, 1921.

SIGNED

Richard Mullally

DATE

13th May 1951

WITNESS

Sean Brennan. Comdt.

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