

ORIGINAL

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 587.....

Witness

Dr. Nancy Wyse-Power,
3 Wellington Place,
Dublin.

Identity.

Member of Executive, and Secretary of
Cumann na mBan.

Subject.

National Aid Association, and Cumann na mBan
1916-1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S.222.....

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STATEMENT OF MISS NANCY WYSE-POWER,
3, Wellington Place, Dublin.

S E C O N D I N S T A L M E N T .

In the first instalment of my statement I said I could not remember the purpose of my mother's visit to Paris about the beginning of the century. Since then I have further considered the matter and the following were the circumstances, as I recall them.

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About 1901 she went with a party of Nationalists to Paris. The expedition had been arranged by the then Miss Maud Gonne and the object was to present an address from Inghinidh na h-Éireann to President Kruger. As well as my mother, Miss Mary Quinn (later Mrs. Dudley Digges) went. At the same time Arthur Griffith ^{Henry Dalton} and some of Miss Gonne's other Dublin associates went.

Young as I was I recall the discussions as to the outward format of the address. Anything in the nature of the usual "illuminated address" was barred and in the end the message was inscribed on vellum which was then slipped into a cover of green poplin - made like a blotter with four corners. The whole thing was then rolled up and tied round the middle with ribbons of the Boer colours. I remember it so clearly as the cover was made at home by my mother.

In 1917 or early in 1918 Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington succeeded in making her way to the United States. She had set her heart on going after she had been successful in breaking through the conspiracy of silence surrounding

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her husband's murder and bringing the facts to public notice. I am uncertain as to whether she managed to get a passport or went surreptitiously. She undertook to present to President Wilson a memorial prepared by Cumann na mBan, in regard to Ireland's case and with her usual persistence did interview the President of the United States and hand him the memorial. She was the only one of the numerous Irish emissaries who achieved personal contact with the man who was then regarded as the saviour of the world.

I am under the impression that she brought her son with her. If so, he may have some recollection of the matter although at the time he was only about 7 or 8 years of age.

During the summer of 1916 there was little Cumann na mBan activity outside the work of the National Aid Association which was established within a few weeks of the suppression of the Rising. The Dublin members of Cumann na mBan carried out all the relief distribution. The city was divided into areas corresponding to the Volunteer Battalion areas and a committee of girls and women operated in each of these areas, securing information as to persons who had been arrested - which curiously was by no means easy - investigating their circumstances, making recommendations to the Executive as to financial arrangements and distributing the money allocated.

Efforts were made in the beginning by some prominent people who were assisting the Association to have the work done on a parish basis with the assistance of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, but this was ruled out as savouring of charity whereas the essence of the Association's efforts was to maintain the national aspect.

After the work had been launched an unfortunate diversion occurred by the publication of an appeal from a rival organisation called the Volunteers' Dependants' Fund headed by Mrs. Tom Clarke who was in possession of funds left by her husband with her as a nucleus of the relief which would be required after the Rising and she appealed for more money to augment it. The National Aid Association had been formed on a very broad basis and Mrs. Clarke objected to the admission to it of persons who had not been friendly to the Volunteer movement before the Rising. Further, her fund was intended solely for the dependants of members of the Volunteers while the National Aid Association were prepared to help all who had been arrested, even if they had not been concerned in the Rising. Many months of tedious negotiation were necessary before the two societies could be welded into one, but when the Volunteer Aid funds ran out this was achieved.

In the summer a representative of the Clan na Gael arrived bringing a sum of, I think, £5,000. He was Mr. John Murphy of Buffalo and he set himself to endeavour to heal the breach. It was agreed that the sum at his disposal should be devoted to the immediate needs of the families of those who had died or been sentenced to terms of penal servitude and a small committee consisting of two members from each side with Mr. Murphy arranged the allocation. The members for the National Aid Association were Dr. Michael Davitt and my mother, and for the Volunteer Dependants' Association Mrs. K. O'Doherty and Miss S. MacMahon, now Mrs. Rogers. Mr. Murphy insisted on my taking part as I had done the preliminary work of preparing lists and compiling such information as could be found about the circumstances of the various people.

This was surprisingly difficult. Many who had died were unknown outside their immediate circle and their families were slow in coming forward. It was only at the following Christmas or thereabouts that the National Aid Association were in a position to issue a printed card with the names of those who had died, and even then it was incomplete. Dr. Davitt had gone personally to Galway to get in touch with the people who had been concerned with Liam Mellows' efforts there. Only that he did so, it would not have been possible to secure any information as people were afraid to trust the mails.

During that summer I attended the courtmartial of Austin Stack and Con Collins. Their trial took place considerably after the Rising at a time when courtmartials had been dropped generally except in the cases of those against whom specific charges could be brought. The witnesses were those who testified in Roger Casement's trial. There were three whom I remember - there may have been more. One was a fisherman named McCarthy, who explained being out in the small hours of the morning by saying that he was making the rounds at a holy well; the second was a servant girl named O'Gorman. Both of these were, I am satisfied, spies of the R.I.C. The third was a boy of 12 or 13 who informed the local sergeant that he had noticed Casement tearing up a paper when about to be arrested. He led the police to the spot where the torn scraps were found. If this trio was in any way typical of the population around Banna Strand, Casement's chances were poorer than he thought.

I was also present at the trial of Captain Bowen-Colthurst for the murder of Frank Sheehy-Skeffington and at the enquiry into this and other related murders held subsequently and presided over by Sir John Simon.

Colthurst had in the meantime been reprieved on grounds of insanity and I was interested when comparing the proceedings at the two inquiries to notice how he had been protected by the authorities for so long as he was in any jeopardy. At the courtmartial a witness named Lieutenant Wilson was called. When he appeared the prosecutor explained that there were two second Lieutenants of the same name in the regiment but that he understood that the one now produced was the right one. The witness had really nothing to contribute except that he had seen Skeffington taken out as a hostage to Portobello Bridge with his hands tied. At the Simon Inquiry, the other Lieutenant Wilson was called and it was evident that it was his testimony which would have been significant at the trial. He described how a colleague - both were boys of 18 - realised that Skeffington had not been killed by the rifle fire and sent Wilson for a senior officer. Colthurst came back with him and finished off the three men with a revolver.

When the summer had passed, the reorganisation of the national organisations began. I had taken a post in Belfast and assisted in getting Cumann na mBan going there again. Shortly before Christmas a small convention was held in 6 Harcourt Street where I represented Belfast. There were only 15 or 20 people present, mostly from Dublin. Miss Louise Gavan Duffy presided and the Countess Markievicz was chosen as President. The Honorary Secretaries selected were Miss P. Plunkett and Miss Min Ryan.

My close connection with Cumann na mBan organisation began in 1917 when I had returned to Dublin. In the autumn I was co-opted to the Executive of the Organisation and became one of the Honorary Secretaries, the other

being Miss Plunkett. Our office was at 6 Harcourt Street for the first year of my office. Before 1916 there were only a few branches of the organisation here and there throughout the country. Now with increasing Volunteer activity they grew like mushrooms and by 1918 their number had passed 500. While the primary object was to render all necessary assistance to the fighting men, the organisation remained at all times independent and we at headquarters insisted that members should take orders only from their own officers as the situation would have become impossible if individual members were dealing direct with Volunteer officers. Apart from work of a semi-military nature - first aid, preparation of field dressings, dispatch carrying etc. - members took part also in political work, particularly in the period of the bye-elections at which the first Sinn Féin members were returned. The policy throughout was to keep the organisation an open one, as it was felt that open activity on the part of women would help to maintain public morale. I recall an argument on this point at the height of the Black and Tan activity in the early part of 1921, when the Hon. Mary Spring-Rice pleaded that it would be preferable to have in each district a few reliable girls or women who could be counted on to carry out all necessary work and orders and to drop general activities of a semi-public nature. Pressure was so intense at the time that there was much to be said for her argument but the general opinion was that to follow such a policy would amount to a confession of defeat. Besides, it was evident that the Government did not wish to make large scale arrests of women. A very small number in fact were ever made. Presumably, the government felt that the results would be troublesome.

In the early stages organising was a difficulty for a society with very limited funds. The problem was met to some extent by arranging that Dublin members when on holiday outside the city should meet local branches and help them with any difficulties. At a later stage each member of the Executive undertook the organisation of some particular county and by paying occasional visits to it helped to maintain and strengthen its organisation.

Meanwhile Dublin had been fully organised in such a way that there was a branch, sometimes two, attached to each battalion area. In addition to the two branches existing before the Rising (Central and Inghinidh na h-Éireann) new branches were formed in Ranelagh, Drumcondra, Fairview, Blackhall Place and James's Street. A number of students of U.C.D. were anxious to have a branch of their own, pleading that those of them who lived in hostels had difficulty in attending evening meetings. For a number of reasons the Executive was opposed to this, one being that these girls would be absent from Dublin for long periods and would leave a gap. A compromise was reached eventually by which they were organised as a separate section of the Inghinidh na h-Éireann branch which was the Branch attached to the ^{Third} Second Battalion, the Battalion operating in the area where the University was situated. In this way the gaps could be filled from the parent branch in an emergency.

A District Council, consisting of representatives of all branches, was then formed and met weekly. This type of organisation was later extended to the country as a whole but not until 1920 or thereabouts did it become universal. The Executive was composed of Dublin residents elected at the Annual Convention and two representatives from each of the provinces. The latter could not attend

weekly meetings but were usually present at quarterly meetings where matters of general policy were determined. Needless to say everyone paid her own expenses, whether they were country members visiting Dublin or vice versa.

It became apparent after some time that the services of a whole-time organiser were essential and Miss Alice Cashel agreed to act. She took up work early in 1918. It was fortunate that she did so because the Conscription threat in the spring and early summer of that year caused a sudden and somewhat unmanageable increase in the number of branches which grew to 700.

A number of well-meaning ladies, including Mrs. Stopford Green, Mrs. Helen Curran and Miss Agnes O'Farrelly conceived the idea of a "Women's Day" to show the strength of the opposition to Conscription. They had gathered a committee of odds and ends and the Executive of Cumann na mBan feared that the demonstration might conceivably prove inadequate. We had been invited to send a representative and it fell to me to be present and explain that Cumann na mBan proposed to take over the project and run it themselves. Mrs. Green was in the chair and while the original organisers must have felt some irritation at seeing their idea snatched from them they made little opposition as I pointed out that with our wide-spread organisation we were in a position to arrange a nation-wide demonstration. The "Day" was a great success as in every parish throughout the country the women paraded to the churches and signed the anti-Conscription pledge. Cumann na mBan branches marched in uniform and in most places took charge of the arrangements. In Dublin the women marched from each parish to the City Hall where they signed.

About this time the Dublin Brigade were sorely in need of funds for the purchase of arms, so we ran a

flag-day with "No Conscription" flags. The whole thing was arranged in a few days and we were able to hand over a sum of £300. Flag-selling was an easy way of raising funds but it became risky later when the Government made a regulation that it could not be done without a permit, and a good many members in Dublin and elsewhere were arrested and given short terms of imprisonment for contravening the regulation.

In July 1918 Cumann na mBan/^{was} proclaimed "an illegal organisation". The news was brought to me by a reporter from the Freeman's Journal. It happened that I was in bed with an attack of influenza so my mother went to Count Plunkett's house to collect Miss Plunkett. Together they went to the office in Harcourt Street and removed all papers of importance. For a day or two it looked as if it would have to go underground but, having issued the proclamation, the Government took no further steps.

When the German Plot arrests were imminent the members of the Sinn Féin Standing Committee each appointed a substitute to act for him or her. For some reason known to herself the Countess Markievicz nominated me to act for her. We were of course closely associated through the fact that she was President of Cumann na mBan and I was Secretary and we had also worked together in some of the by-election campaigns. The arrangements were made at very short notice and became the subject of much criticism from people who - no doubt with reason - felt themselves better entitled to act in place of the arrested leaders than the unfortunate substitutes who in each case represented a purely personal choice. In addition to the Standing Committee who met weekly there existed a larger body, the Ard Chomhairle elected by the

annual Árd Fheis and it was the members of the Árd Chomhairle who chiefly objected to government by substitutes. Within a week a meeting was called at the Pavillion in Croke Park. Father O'Flanagan presided and those present included Sean T. Ó Ceallaigh who was acting as Honorary Secretary, Henry Dixon, Alderman Kelly, James O'Mara and Eoin MacNeill. Mrs. T. Clarke, who was a member of the Árd Chomhairle but not of the Standing Committee, was present and argued that she had a prior right to act on the governing body of the organisation to people who had never been elected by popular vote. Father O'Flanagan was, however, firm and laid down that membership of the Árd Chomhairle did not confer a right to membership of the Standing Committee and that the appointment of substitutes had been agreed to by all the members who had been present on the last occasion when the elected members had met. Surprise was occasioned by the sudden appearance of Harry Boland and Michael Collins, who had evaded arrest by not returning to their homes on the night when the Committee had met prior to the arrest of its members. They had presumably agreed to the appointment of substitutes and had appointed their own, but they now threw their influence on the side of Mrs. Clarke. They were possibly uneasy lest the I.R.B. influence in the Standing Committee might be diminished under the substitute regime. [Considerable ill-feeling had been occasioned when the first Convention of the newly-constituted Sinn Féin organisation was held in 1917 by an attempt to rush a ticket election on the part of Collins] Things were becoming very heated when Eoin MacNeill rose and said that when he was entering the grounds the Volunteer picket told him that the entire area was surrounded by the police. This caused the withdrawal of Messrs. Collins and Boland, who were staying in the house attached to the adjoining distillery. Some other members also decided to

leave and after a short time the meeting terminated. MacNeill no doubt had invented the story on the spur of the moment to put an end to the contention, but Mrs. Clarke had been followed and was arrested early next morning. About a month later a convention was called to elect a Committee to act pending the release of the majority of the members and with that the substitutes issue was closed.

In the interval between the General Election and the beginning of the functioning of Dáil Éireann I had a further interesting contact with Sinn Féin. During the election period I had taken on the job of finding speakers and allocating them to country meetings. When the election was over a committee for foreign affairs was set up. A sum of £1,000 was at its disposal, having been contributed by two people, one of whom was Mr. James O'Mara. Eoin MacNeill suggested me as a member. Others whom I remember were Michael Collins, George Gavan Duffy and Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington. President Wilson was to visit London and Collins decided to go over to explore the possibility of reaching Wilson. I think Eamonn Duggan went with him.

When he came back there was no mention of Wilson or his entourage but Collins proposed that the first essential foreign contact would be in London, that he had spoken to Art O'Brien who was willing to act but that if he were to give up his ordinary work he should have a minimum salary guaranteed for two or three years. He suggested that the Committee's funds should be devoted to this purpose. No one objected and that was the end of the committee. In any event the Departments of Dáil Éireann, including one for Foreign Affairs, were organised shortly afterwards.

In the autumn of 1918 when General Election activity was increasing the Sinn Féin organisation found itself unable to allow Cumann na mBan to continue in occupation

of the house in 6 Harcourt Street which had been our headquarters. We moved accordingly to 44 Parnell Square, a house with a peculiar history. It had been purchased in the period before 1916, by the National Volunteers (Redmond's). The National Volunteer organisation had fallen into abeyance after the Rising and some of the Trustees, including Colonel Moore and Mr. T.J. Cullen, had decided to hand it over to the Irish Volunteers. In spite of resistance by their colleagues they persisted in their intention but the house had never been occupied openly, although used occasionally by the Dublin Brigade. The Volunteer Dependants' Fund, distinct from Cumann na mBan, but closely connected also set itself up at No. 44. We remained there until the house was closed by the police authorities. I have mislaid the notice which was served on me ordering that the premises be closed as a Police Inspector had sworn an information before a magistrate to the effect that the premises were being used for illegal purposes.

After the General Election it became increasingly difficult to maintain contact with the country, regular meetings and orderly transaction of business. Miss Leslie Price (now Mrs. Tom Barry) decided to abandon her teaching work and become a whole-time organiser. As already explained, a certain amount of organising activity was being done by Executive members and by Dublin members on holiday but the maintenance of the organisation throughout the country was due largely to Mrs. Barry's untiring activity. Miss Cashel had not remained with us very long. We were constantly being asked for her services on loan by Sinn Féin and ultimately she transferred herself to a department of Dáil Éireann. One of the first pieces of work ^{Leslie Price} she undertook was to organise lines of communications from Dublin to provincial centres for use in the event of the postal service becoming closed. The arrangement was

M.P.

on the following lines: - A letter would be brought from Dublin to, say, Bray, where a person appointed for this work would make her way by train, cycle, car or any other method to Rathdrum where another courier took over as far as Arklow, from there to Gorey and so on.

Meanwhile the office work had become too much for anyone working on a purely voluntary basis and Miss Lily O'Brennan had been appointed at a small salary to assist the Honorary Secretaries. I was still one of these, the second being Mrs. Mulcahy.

We had been in occupation of 44 Parnell Square for less than a year when the police moved in and this time we decided to look for neutral premises. Through the kindness of Mr. Paddy Little we secured a room over a milliner's in Dawson Street and there the organisation remained for a couple of years. The Convention in the autumn of 1919 had been called for the Supper Room of the Mansion House as the organisation had reached such dimensions that the delegates could not be accommodated in a small hall. Shortly before the hour when it was due to begin, the D.M.P. surrounded the Mansion House. Arrangements for such a contingency had, however, been made and scouts had been posted to identify the delegates and tell them to make their way to the Gaelic League Hall at 25 Parnell Square. I was actually watching the arrival of the police from our office which had not yet been spotted. I just packed up my papers and took a tram to Parnell Square where we were able to start with a very short delay. This was our biggest Convention and the proceedings lasted two days. An 'Independent' photographer got wind of it and took a photograph. To his disappointment it could not be published owing to the illegal character of the organisation. He gave me the negative and an enlarged print but these have unfortunately been lost.

7 DP.
A copy has been presented to the Bureau by Miss Sheila Humphreys and I have supplied the names of the Committee to the best of my recollection.

They were probably destroyed in 1920 when our house was being raided almost daily.

The Dawson Street office had a long run. It was caught finally after Eileen McGrane was arrested shortly after the Christmas of 1920. She was a member of the Executive and lived immediately opposite, so she was constantly running in and out. When her flat was raided it was a short step to the house opposite.

Towards the end of 1919, the Volunteer Headquarters was located in an attic room in our Henry St. house. They remained there for about 6 months, during which time Dick Mulcahy and Gearoid O'Sullivan were there daily. Even when the house was raided for the first time at Easter, 1920, nothing was discovered as they took away their papers every night. As a hide-out it was safer than one might imagine as there was an open door to a restaurant in a very busy street and people coming and going were less noticeable than they would be in a quiet street. When they left us they got an office in Eustace Street where Gearoid O'Sullivan posed as George P. Doyle, General Importer. Years afterwards Gearoid told me that it was in the Henry St. attic he had sworn Kevin O'Higgins into the I.R.B. I had heard through Min Mulcahy that they were in a desperate state for a room which could be used as an office and I offered this empty room. When I came home I found that my mother had just arranged to take in Paddy Fleming who was so much 'on the run' that he frequently had no bed. Fortunately, it was possible to fix up another room for him.

I had met Paddy Fleming in the early part of the year on the evening of the day when he and a number of others had escaped from Mountjoy. Mrs. Gavan Duffy had sent me a message asking me to call that evening to her house at Mespil Road. When I got there I found Fleming who had been

brought to Mespil Road to lie low. After a while Michael Collins arrived and Mrs. Gavan Duffy outlined to him a proposal she had in mind. Some time previously, when the Solohead ambush took place a child had been taken into custody by the R.I.C. It was evidently considered that he had seen something and he was being held incommunicado and his parents could not discover his whereabouts although he was only about 12 years of age. The Chief Secretary of the period was Ian MacPherson and he possessed an infant child. Mrs. Gavan Duffy suggested that if this child could be kidnapped she would take charge of it and bring it with her to County Donegal where she owned a cottage. She pointed out that such a young child would not suffer at all, as long as it was well looked after, but that its parents would - which she considered fitting. Collins, however, vetoed the project absolutely, thinking apparently that it would be too unpopular.

With 1920 it became increasingly difficult to hold the organisation to fixed lines of activity, although the membership continued to grow. In the fighting areas, such as West Cork where Cumann na mBan was particularly well organised, the members worked in direct contact with the flying columns, providing shelter, catering, carrying messages, hiding arms, doing most of the work of the Volunteer Dependents' Association and so on, but in general the branches devoted themselves to whatever activity seemed most suitable to the needs of the particular area in which they were situated. Strict supervision or control from headquarters was impossible, although, far from resenting it, the country branches clamoured for visits from organisers and executive members. Disputes and rows were fortunately rare, with the exception of a lamentable disagreement on a matter of no importance in Cork City. Feeling between two factions there ran so high that, after

numerous efforts to adjust matters, the Executive had no alternative but to allow the two groups to form two separate branches so that the members need not mix.

In Dublin the members continued to work in the most public manner possible, while at the same time assisting the Battalions in various ways. It seems strange at this distance to realise that this double life was possible; one can only conclude that the Castle authorities were not disposed to pay any attention to women, unless caught red-handed in the commission of some offence. For example, I was the Honorary Secretary of Cumann na mBan and was known as such, which is proved by the police notice served on me personally ordering me to close 44 Parnell Square; my mother was a member of the Executive and Honorary Treasurer of Sinn Féin. Yet it was possible for the Adjutant-General of the I.R.A. to have his office in our house for over six months, attending there daily.

Headquarters was still there in the spring of 1920 when the big hunger strike developed in Mountjoy. Others had ^{or} described the scenes in Dublin when the Labour Party decreed a General Strike until the prisoners should be released. Feeling had been mounting before this move and I can remember a visit from Commandant Kennedy, who was in command of all the Dublin Cumann na mBan branches. She was planning a big protest march but did not wish to take any steps which might conceivably interfere with any other plans. I told her I would get in touch with the Adjutant-General, if she would come back in an hour. When she had left I went upstairs to Gearóid O'Sullivan. He fully approved the idea and with his notorious flippancy remarked: "Don't be uneasy about it; if they fire it is always the unorganised public that gets hit".

When work in the city stopped, the situation outside Mountjoy became impossible as the whole population streamed up to the prison to stand outside. No effort was made by the police to maintain order and after the first day Cumann na mBan took over, forming cordons to keep back the crowds, keeping passages to make it possible for the relatives who had been sent for to reach the gates and so on. When the prisoners were finally carried out members went to the various hospitals with each ambulance so that the whereabouts of each prisoner would be known. The confusion inside and outside the prison was incredible. Visitors were being admitted without much examination of bona fides - I got in myself, right upstairs to a cell where a warder locked me in with the prisoner! The Governor had disappeared leaving only a deputy who was quite unable to cope, although I saw him being quite firm with the relatives of a prisoner who although an ordinary criminal - strictly non-political - had joined the hunger-strike on the offchance of cashing in. The Lord Mayor was rushing back and forward between the Viceregal Lodge and the prison; a large number of doctors were standing at the gates to offer their services, and as there were no newspapers published rumour was supreme. Only for the strenuous efforts of the Cumann na mBan pickets to maintain decorum the disorder would have been much worse.

When the prisoners were finally released the Government resorted to a piece of legislation known as the Cat-and-Mouse Act which had been enacted at the time of the suffragette agitation. Under this Act the prisoners were liable to re-arrest as soon as their health had been restored by a period in hospital. This meant that none of the prisoners could return to their homes and a whole new group of men on the run was thrown on the hands of Cumann

na mBan to be provided with refuge.

As the autumn approached it became clear that it would be even harder than in the previous year to hold the annual convention. Travelling was no longer easy as passengers were noted by the police both on departure and arrival; letters sent through the post were liable to be opened and no meeting place could be notified by that method; to find a hall large enough which was not already under observation was not easy. In the end we got permission through Commandant Kennedy from the Carmelite Prior, Whitefriar Street, to hold the convention in a small chapel used for meetings of sodalities. The number of delegates was less than in the previous year and we kept them on the Church premises all day. Until they reached Dublin none knew where the convention was to be held and all were urged not to disclose the meeting place subsequently, even to their branch members.

On the following day the newly-elected Executive met at Mrs. S. T. O'Kelly's house in Ranelagh Road. As I was about to leave Dublin for a while I retired from the Secretaryship and Phyllis Ryan was appointed to succeed me.

I returned to Dublin in February, 1921, and resumed work on the Executive. Things had changed so much that the organisation had no regular office and Executive meetings were held in the members' houses. Micheál Ó Foghludha who had a typewriter business in College Green had hired a room on the opposite side of the street to house reserve typing machines so that he would not be put out of business if his regular machines were confiscated. The room was the headquarters of an English insurance company and was a good cover. Mr. Ó Foghludha allowed Cumann na mBan to use the room during the day. In the evening all correspondence etc. was put in a despatch

case and deposited in a sweet shop in George's St. (Gordon Stewart's) where a Cumann na mBan girl, Máire Deegan, was employed. In April I went abroad again and when I came back in June the office had been shifted to the Cúig Cúigi Branch of the Gaelic League in Ely Place, where it remained until the Truce.

Signed: *Henry Deegan*

Date: *28/9/51*

Witness:

Sinead Ki Curran

