

**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21  
No. W.S. 769

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 769

Witness

Sean Price,  
12 Church Avenue,  
Drumcondra,  
Dublin.

Identity.

Member of 'B' Company 1st Battalion,  
Dublin Brigade, 1915 - ;

Member of I.R.B. Dublin, 1915 - .

Subject.

Phibsborough-Drumcondra area, Dublin,  
Easter Week, 1916.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. ....S. 2099.....

Form B.S.M. 2

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## STATEMENT BY SEÁN PRICE

12 Church Avenue, Drumcondra, Dublin.

I joined "B" Company, 1st Battalion, Dublin Brigade, in 1915. The company captain was Jim O'Sullivan, while the lieutenants were Paddy Whelan and Frank Daly. The C.Q.M.S. was "Mockie" Comerford. Jim Tobin was the adjutant; the company quartermaster was Jimmy Tyrrell and the section leaders were P.J. Corless, P.J. Stynes, J. Faulkner and Paddy Scullin. The company paraded on Monday nights at 41, Parnell Square. The company manoeuvres were held one Sunday every month. The first manoeuvres were held in Swords against the Fingal Brigade; the next was against the 2nd Battalion at Coolock. Battalion manoeuvres were at Lower Finglas. We had brigade manoeuvres from Rathfarnham to Stepside. We had night manoeuvres in the Phoenix Park and night manoeuvres in the north city at King Street, Stoneybatter. These last mentioned manoeuvres were held between St. Patrick's Day and the Rising of 1916. The area covered by these manoeuvres included part of the area which the battalion occupied during Easter Week. On St. Patrick's Day that year there was a "March Past" at College Green.

Shortly before Easter Week 1916, a Mass was celebrated in St. Michael's and John's Church which was attended by the 1st Battalion. There was a guard of honour in the sanctuary and there was an "Arms Present" at the Consecration.

There were two aeridheachta at St. Enda's, Rathfarnham, at which there were drill competitions. They were won by the Citizen Army. In the Father Mathew Park the 1st Battalion had a camp which started about the end of June 1915. There was a miniature rifle range in the Father Mathew Park which was used by the 1st and 2nd Battalions. Some time in 1915, 100 rifles were seized by the Brigade at the North Wall and brought to the Father Mathew Park.

I was present on several occasions at Frank Daly's house, Cluny, Dollymount, and assisted at the making of tin can bombs which were used in the G.P.O. in 1916.

At the company parade held on the Monday of Holy Week we were instructed to parade the following Sunday (Easter Sunday) at 12 noon at Blackhall Place, and carry all arms and ammunition and 24 hours' rations.

About six months after I joined the Volunteers, I became a member of the I.R.B. I was sworn in by Sean MacDermott. He (Sean MacDermott) was the Centre.

On Holy Thursday I was told to report to John Tobin's house, Hardwicke St., which I did that evening, to assist in the removal of ammunition. While there, I learned that the Rising was to take place on Easter Sunday, but I cannot recall who told me.

Not being at work on Easter Saturday, I dropped in to Dominick St. Church for confession; it was before noon. While there, two men went to the altar rails and spoke to an altar boy who brought Father Ryan to them. They spoke together for a while, the taller man arguing something. Father Ryan turned, went into the sacristy and brought the Chalice and served the men with Holy Communion. The men were Padraig and Willie Pearse, as I knew them. Their mother, Mrs. Pearse, verified this in 1917.

At about 9 o'clock on Easter Sunday morning Sergeant Corless called to my house and instructed me to call to the men on my mobilisation list and tell them that the parade for Easter Sunday was cancelled, but they were to 'stand-to' for further orders.

Late on Easter Sunday evening Corless instructed Richard Cogan and myself to accompany him to Liberty Hall where we remained all night. Meetings or conferences were in progress upstairs and we were on the ground floor. The Countess

Markievicz was there practically all the time.

At about 5 o'clock on Easter Monday morning, Corless instructed me to mobilise my men to parade at 12 noon at Blackhall Place and to bring rifles and equipment, etc. and 24 hours' rations. When I had finished mobilising the section I returned home, collected my rifles, etc. and reported at Blackhall Place shortly before noon. The 1st Battalion had been instructed to report there. We paraded in the Gaelic League Hall and at 12 noon the battalion commandant Ned Daly, addressed us. After he read the Proclamation of the Republic he delivered a short address to us. "B" Company then fell in under Captain O'Sullivan. They were about twenty three strong. We then got the command to "Fix bayonets". As we had only one officer, Sergeant Corless was promoted lieutenant and the company was divided in two sections. The captain led the first section and Lieut. Corless led the second section. We marched up Phibsboro Road, two-deep. At Doyle's Corner we missed the Cavalry on their way into the city from Marlborough Barracks. No. 2 Section, of which I was a member, occupied the railway bridge at the Cabra Road and built a barricade of carts on the county side of the bridge. Only pedestrians were allowed to pass in and out to the city. The strength of No. 2 Section was about ten men. Extra men reported on Tuesday and we strengthened the barricades. Late that night a motor car with headlights was halted outside the barricade; the driver and passenger were brought forward; the passenger was Larry Ginnell, M.P., who was too overcome to speak. He embraced us all and a man named Dessie O'Reilly was instructed to escort him to the G.P.O.

After midday on Wednesday, the British opened the attack with shrapnel shells. Later that evening we were told to evacuate towards Finglas and report to Thomas Ashe. Our section, under Lieut. Corless, crossed Glasnevin cemetery on to the Finglas road. When we got to Finglas, we discovered

that Commandant Ashe had gone to Swords. We were not able to contact him that night, so I slept in a hayshed in Finglas.

On Thursday some of the men went towards Swords. We came back to Glasnevin, left our uniforms and rifles in a house with the intention of getting down town. Cross-guns and Drumcondra bridges were held by the British. We got across the Jones's Road bridge. We got along by Mountjoy Square, Parnell Square, down Cole's Lane and Abbey Street and into the G.P.O. at Prince's Street. We were sent to the top floor with a rifle and twenty rounds of ammunition.

Early on Friday morning British military opened fire. After some time the roof was ablaze. We were brought down out of the instrument room. The next floor was on fire now. One could see the liquid from the shells running down the wall, ablaze, so we were brought to the ground floor where we were lined up for evacuation. Connolly was lying on a stretcher on the floor. Dr. Jim Ryan asked for Volunteers to take the stretcher. R. Gogan of the 1st, Paddy Ryan of the 2nd, and myself took the stretcher across Henry Street into Henry Place. There was heavy machine gun fire into Henry Place from Moore Lane where the British were established behind barricades. When we reached the Mineral Water factory, we were stopped by Sean MacDermott, as the barricade which the Volunteers were putting across the end of Moore Lane, to afford some protection to the Volunteers passing towards Moore St., was not completed. We lowered Connolly to the ground, who turned on the stretcher and told the men to keep to the wall and burst open the factory gate on the left. Just then a Volunteer in uniform was shot in the breast and fell over the handles of the stretcher. Connolly, seeing the uniform, and thinking it was Plunkett, got very excited. He tried hard to get off the stretcher, shouting to get Plunkett into the factory at once. Just then, Plunkett came strolling up from the G.P.O. and

pacified Connolly. Liam Cullen then came back with word from MacDermott to bring Connolly forward to the foot of the barricade. MacDermott told us to rush across at the first lull in the firing. We darted forward towards Moore Street, turned into the hallway of a grocer's shop at the corner of Henry Place and Moore St. The first man Connolly saw was a D.M.P. man sheltering. Connolly let a roar to throw him out to hell. We put Connolly in a bed in a small room. Later, we took him to a bedroom over a chandler's shop in Moore St. He was in pain in this removal as he had to be carried in a blanket through the opening that had been burst from house to house. I fell asleep in a corner of the room.

Some time on Saturday morning when I awoke all the leaders were there. Pearse sat at Connolly's head on the right, a nurse on his left, Plunkett beside her. MacDermott was beside Pearse, Clarke and Sean McGarry were at the foot. Pearse was talking and, wanting to make a sketch, he took a picture from the wall, burst the back and made a sketch on it of Moore St. area. I then collected my rifles and went to the forward post. I did not see Connolly after that.

On the surrender we marched back through Henry Street to O'Connell St. We were lined up in single file with our backs on the Gresham Hotel where we grounded arms. After some time a small body of men from the Four Courts garrison under Commandant Ned Daly entered O'Connell St. from Parnell Street marched down and faced us across the street. The British General roared: "Who is in charge of this party?" Two heels clicked. Ned Daly took two paces forward and said in a loud voice: "I am". We were then marched into the plot of ground opposite the Rotunda and remained in the open all night.

On Sunday morning we were marched to Richmond Barracks and, after a meal of dog biscuits and bully beef, we were marched to the boat that night. We were taken to Stafford

Prison. After some time I was transferred to Frongoch and released at Christmas 1916.

The following members of B/Company, 1st Battalion, were on active service during Easter Week in the areas indicated:

Tom Clarke	G.P.O.	Executed after Easter Week.
Sean MacDermott	do.	do.
Major McBride	Jacob's $\frac{2}{4}$	do.
Sean T. Kelly	G.P.O.	
Dr. J. Ryan	G.P.O.	
J.K.O'Reilly (Sen.)	G.P.O. and Cabra	(deceased)
S. O'Reilly	do.	do.
D. O'Reilly	do.	do.
T. O'Reilly ?	do.	do.
J. Price	do.	do.
F. Daly	Connaught St., Church St.,	Ashbourne
S. O'Moore	Church St.	
T. Bardin ?	Reported at Church St.	
P. Scullion	Cabra and Tyrrell's Pass	
P. Meagher ?	G.P.O. ?	
P. Doyle	Connaught St. and G.P.O.	
W.P. Ryan	Connaught St. and Church St.	
P. Power	Boland's ?	
T. Byrne	Maynooth and G.P.O.	
S. Shortall?	St. John's Convent, Brunswick St.	
P. Blanchfield	Cabra. Ashbourne.	
T. Blanchfield	do. do.	
J. Bent	do.	
.. Jackson	Boland's ?	
J. Henry	Boland's	
W. Ross	Cabra and G.P.O.	
T. Hannigan	Cabra	
P.J. Corless	Cabra and G.P.O.	
J. O'Sullivan	do. do.	

Dr. F. Murray	G.P.O.
Dr. P. Murray	G.P.O.
Dr. J. Madden	G.P.O. ?
Sean Howard	Church St. Deceased.
J. O'Reilly	City Hall
T. O'Reilly	do. Deceased
P.J. Murray	G.P.O.
B. O'Donoghue ?	
M. Ryan	Cabra Deceased
J. Tyrrell ?	
J. Morgan	Church St.
J. Hendrick	Cabra
V. Gogan	Cabra
R. Gogan	Cabra and G.P.O.
J. Dunne	G.P.O.
T. Dunne	G.P.O.
J. Dempsey	Cabra
P. Green	Church St.
J. McCormack	Church St.
C. McCormack	do.
C. Carrigan	G.P.O.
Jerry Golden	Cabra and Ashbourne
... Hunt ?	
M. Mullally	City Hall
M. Gahan	Church St.
D. Fitzpatrick	
P.J. Cassidy	G.P.O.
J. Stritch	G.P.O.
P. Maher	Boland's
J. Murray	G.P.O.
J. Cathlin	Four Courts
J. Kennedy	Church St.
M. Flanagan	G.P.O.
P.J. Hogan	Church St.
P. Moore	G.P.O.



M. Brennan	N.C.Road.	
E. Dore	G.P.O.	
J. Faulkner	Cabra	
G. Levins	Mendicity	
P. McLoughlin		(Deceased)
J. Larkin	G.P.O. ?	
M. Delahunt	Galway	
F. Mason	Church St.	
G. Mason	Church St.	Deceased
M. Duggan ?		
M. Stynes		
... Mulcahy		
J. Tallon	G.P.O. ?	
J. Fogarty	Cabra	
P. Fogarty	Cabra	Deceased.
M. Comerford	Jacob's	
V. Cleary		
... Kissane ?		
B. Gilgunn ?		
J. Gilgunn ?		
M. Blanchfield		

Signed: Sean Price  
(Sean Price)

Date: 17.12.52.  
17.12.52

Witness: Sean Brennan Comdt.  
(Sean Brennan), Comd't.

