CRIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21 BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. Y4-1

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 841

Witness

Patrick Sarsfield (P.S.) O'Hegarty,
Highfield House,
Highfield Road,
Rathgar,
Dublin.

Identity.

Member of Supreme Council of I.R.B.;

Member of Advisory Committee attached to Bureau.

Subject.

The I.R.B. and events immediately prior to the Rising of 1916.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S.49

Form B.S.M. 2

DOCUMENT C

FURTHER NOTES ON THE PERIOD 23RD APRIL, 1953.

This document is in the handwriting of the author, Patrick Sarsfield O'Hegarty, and is signed by himself.

Explanatory Note:

The articles by Pierce Beaslaoi referred to in the opening sentence were a series published over that writer's name in the Irish daily "Independent" under the collective title "Nation in Revolt."

There were twenty-five of these articles and they appeared in successive issues of that newspaper, excluding Saturdays, from Monday 5th January, 1953, to Friday 6th February, 1953, inclusive.

A complete set of the relevant cuttings from these issues is filed in the Bureau - Reg. No. P. C. 10.

De Bealers record arbite on the Period BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-27 BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21 NO. W.S. 941

No. W.S. 941

The Diene Bealers record arbite on the Interpretate of the Manual of the Interpretate of the Int better to lear it until I could inght a few additional mothers f he Brueau nather than the the from and elimit (1) Reaslati commente a le Rossi milion Commentes Kenny comments. We effect that it was never to be worked and bed multing consultes. When in may 1515 for mandernow held me of an silvahir to said "he put up a Small committee to get out plans. The hyme by four that for Plunkett The plans prepared, on which he has been worked for a long hime, and they alophed their practices without alteration, and the Suprementation, and the Suprementation." The debuted her places home, and they seem to he name the asher places as post who operation, even to he name of her be occupied. It is carled that The plans were complete in may 1915 and that The Plunkett in their sole author, It's aunut forme , has Demost never referre the Committee in melitary. Out he was a made you and of heling as wille y the facts on he want to I am he spoke drift in hul a log des to leave me under 12 impression Undthe Committee, once it has recommended polars, had comed to function and that the Suprime Comme they was in charge.

(2) Beorlaori gustes briebill as Say the me in Started the Sim ten Daig in a capital of a quarter of melion founds. "This is an error. higher started melion founds." the Sum Fei dais , against the admir of all his countries, on something in the neighbor hard y \$5000. The has order fresher ! 10000 ~ EL0000, 9 humi, but he went about any way, buy at he have other with he when

that S.F. must have a daily.

(3) Ne made a represent somewhen to the Come Jewels.

The Core Junes were stolen by a Col. Sorges, a mulitary advertion of the hope has "families. Forge aftervails contacted the has both tolenhers at families. Forge aftervails contacted the has both the sound distable the of sounding here sent to his inst the parapheroalia.

(4) Mu Convey Tadappup.

Me or Soull of fow representation is the Supreme Comme, and I become - corpted member. He unusual on the Committee make Un Rising, as loca In College as motantam have been me but he was my the stranged advocate of a Rising. The was, I am sur, very ment in Man Demoth confidence, and it our Chi 7 whi is he Spring of 1515 - after hearing that wonderned had bee formed himing in London -I her from to call in at helpfore to me, which he ded in may, 1515. I dea hat the Commercy home until 1922, as I then when his about rains matters, as he said, almi James Cruvely, West To box make a part will maller a Markeing that of my y he there in anoted, a disappeare, he other his interest call out the Citypin army, as that Some hime taken Connormy ded discappear of a week end, has demote at Ton Clarke Longe knew chut the part, a lay wome malle and Markiering that if they called out to Colye any Sean and Ton thought when int all not the rolumes hel. My and denouse the more. Therenge there was home as boundy returned. Then, take in, he wer ruduappe as held mulie to has fallen in with

The DR B awayements. It's echained untilly that Conniver (3 shong i 1922. I descure this rundly cutt. Denis Hyvelog, who was at this him Chairman y the)RB., as he componed about the Past as the first disappearance and the whim taken of these Darmet and Clarker. Pout he never heard of the later Kritsupping and does not believe it hoppened. He argue that he, or thousand, hald have been wed about it. Phil, as I pointed out t him aw on he has strated from earlier, his prix news about the Rising was to receive instructions a few days presing to mobilize his men on Easter Sunday ? and , on the Sunday begon late, he huming had been in Duten, evering & impromation, a har head by Tom Clarke that he did not Tourn , and that had been to and more demant, when he bailed for bund, and less Dublin their in the Dark. So hat he fait hat he die not bear about the teningting more nothing, especial as no meeting y he Suprime Council was held after the me Hut my heed late in Dec. a early Jan., when it was land down that them some be no ring water as until anther meeting of the SC was held aw sanctined it [This was state from by With In Tanken Mr well I the his impression have lad to Companier. Cretiain (1404) Bill) Othis remembers Convolly says after his return that he has been "in Itell". This, born mind, cloud points to be first voluntary disappearance. Out every new thing I wan about he Rising comprises me in 12 belief that it was argument of Man Demott, Pluntall, and Peaus, and that ever Tom Clarke was not had both everything - Them to find allege to have found that

he has compared his jailers - where some point to the (4

(5) a point that stands out for some chin is, when and why was the Riving made an all heland one.

hoppet to question of mine in May, 1515, May Dennith

Shell pute categorises Must it was the touched mining

Solely, and Most the country would not be founded. He also

said by upon to be ready in faplanter, as her last

this I said this was " heef, have it early in faplanter,

because her fetting married some how that mouth

- Two askery married of fapl 1515.

Everything points to a late as humed desire. The shows that the country can not regard to a rising, a that it was called out on some subser thenchial denimin. M'Tarton + M'queloft tenen noting what he Rising until mederes of the week ementially present Easter: of home, in Duelinging, seven willing whaterer, nom eren hand y a projected Riving while Earler Sunday evening when a belated untimetri reacher him C'ment a Column som that morning som miles has y Bullin Egg, when he was. He set out, t find in mondy that the evenin has omented and , Indig no intructions, has dismolared: mantered: Machining and MacCutain, et appeare afternoon, were both is the Marrow are un! Easter freedy, but they never contacted him, no ded they appeneally contact anyling els. Long may 1516 Many monthing united me at beland in the ing i Trouped to see Teny. I said then " Sung Teny was not in farm y that Rising". She said "Indeed he was not : aw I was not. It did his best to the old his best to the old his and he and compressed is now not to be the little Dublic men down. Can specient on to

Soy that in the treet prevery the Rising they had how termen (5 defend to do 9, what to do. I know, y course, that what she sand - hot endence, she can not in Teny's confidence, but it show the back from . On ythe despueles about establishing he bould about something we have see land though is that people well point in thinking that they appropried problem alfains in 1916 with the Right patrolic entremen ad palnohin at determination that denlips afternants. to deliverer. . . Mus clarker, printerer, coste a letter to In funday Independent, apropos of a reference of mine, to say that markement in spring authorized & the hopems that the former what they und doing. But this is not so. The Dennett came in reporce t my manye thin James Dua Country. Desimued Lynd, who was a member of the Commende whe 1916 in white to me to say that mes Clarke at the time, will be me to say that mes Clarke Los in ever, that the Council ded not found her demost nor authorie hei 490. In fact, of cours, I was then a member of the Comme and entitled to be wed what was up. Squel wilw. cleans up another point. It said that I remained visit of the Dermotts. Some time in the framewo y 1915 the regular clashin of all others hora place, and Two not corpled. naturally, the coopie on people the cer in favore of the Rising, a I had definitely about the remobed as against of.

\$5074guity

23 apr 513

BOREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-2 BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 841

Further Notes on the Period. BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21 BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No.

In Pierce Beaslaoi's recent articles in the Independent, there were a few matters I wanted to comment upon, but I thought it better to leave it until I could write a few additional notes for the Bureau rather than write to the Press and elicit hearsay comments.

Beaslaoi commented on Le Roux's Military Committee to the effect that it was never to his knowledge called When in May, 1915, Sean a Military Committee. MacDermott told me of the situation he said -

> "We put up a small committee to get out plans. When they met they found that Joe Plunkett had plans prepared, on which he had been working for a long time, and they adopted them practically without alteration, and the Supreme Council accepted their recommendation."

He detailed the plans to me, and they were the actual plans as put into operation, even to the names of the buildings to be occupied. It is certain that the plans were complete in May, 1915, and that Joe In his account to me, Plunkett was their sole author. MacDermott never referred to the Committee as military. But he was a master of the art of telling as little of the facts as he wanted to, and he spoke in such a way as to leave me under the impression that the Committee, once it had recommended plans, had ceased to function and that the Supreme Council itself was in charge.

Beaslaoi quotes Griffith as saying "when we started the Sinn Féin Daily on a capital of a quarter of a million pounds...." This is an error. Griffith started the Sinn Fein daily, against the advice of all his colleagues, on something in the neighbourhood of He had asked for either £10,000 or £20,000, I £5,000. think, but he went ahead anyway, being at the time

obsessed with the idea that S.F. must have a daily.

Crown Jewels. The Crown Jewels were stolen by a Colonel Gorges, a military adventurer of one of the "Anglo Irish" families. Gorges afterwards contacted the Irish Volunteers and gave all the facts about the jewels to Bulmer Hobson, who is the only person alive who now knows about them. The last time I saw him I urged him to get these facts down, and I think he would dictate them if somebody were sent to him with the paraphernalia.

(4) The Connolly Kidnapping.

When I left London in 1913 Dick Connolly succeeded me as South of England representative on the Supreme Council, and I became a coopted member. remained on the Council until the Rising, and both McCullagh and McCartan have told me that he was one of the strongest advocates of a Rising. He was, I am sure, very much in MacDermott's confidence, and it was to him I wrote in the Spring of 1915 - after hearing that MacDermott had been several times in London - to tell Sean to call in at Welshpool to me, which he did in I did not see Connolly however until 1922, May, 1915. and I then asked him about various matters, and he said, about James Connolly, that he had made a pact with Mallon and Markievicz that if any of the three was arrested, or disappeared, the other two would call out the Citizen Army, and that some time later Connolly MacDermott and Tom did disappear for a week-end. Clarke, however, knew about the pact, and they warned Mallon and Markievicz that if they called out the Citizen Army Sean and Tom not alone would not call out

the Volunteers but they would denounce the move. Whereupon there was no move and Connolly returned. Then, later on, he was kidnapped and held until he had fallen in with the I.R.B. arrangements. It is extremely unlikely that Dick Comnolly would have invented this story, but anyway this was his story in 1922. discussed this recently with Denis McCullough, who was at this time Chairman of the I.R.B., and he confirmed about the 'Pact' and the first disappearance and the But he never action taken by MacDermott and Clarke. heard of the later kidnapping and does not believe it He argues that he, as Chairman, would have happened. But, as I pointed out to him and been told about it. as he had stated to me earlier, his first news about the Rising was to receive instructions a few days previously to mobilize his men on Easter Sunday, and, on the Sunday before Easter, he himself had been in Dublin, looking for information, and had been told by Tom Clarke that he did not know, and that he'd have to ask MacDermott, whom he failed to find, and left Dublin still in the dark. So that the fact that he did not hear about the kidnapping proves nothing, especially as no meeting of the Supreme Council was held after the one that was held late in December or early January, when it was laid down that there should be no rising unless and until another meeting of the S.C. was held and sanctioned (This was stated to me by both McCartan and The two disappearances have led to McCullough). confusion. William (Hoppy Bill) O'Brien remembers Connolly saying after his return that he had been "in This, to my mind, clearly points to the first Hell". But every new thing I hear voluntary disappearance. about the Rising confirms me in the belief that it was

engineered by MacDermott, Plunkett and Pearse, and that even Tom Clarke was not told everything. Then Connolly is alleged to have said that he had conquered his jailers - which would point to the kidnapping business.

(5) A point that stands out for examination is, when and why was the Rising made an All Ireland one?

In reply to a question of mine in May, 1915,
MacDermott stated quite categorically that it was to be
a Dublin rising solely, and that the country would not
be touched. He also said they hoped to be ready in

September, and the last thing I said to him was "Well,
have it early in September, because I'm getting married
some time that month" - I was actually married on 7th
September, 1915.

Everything points to a late and hurried decision. It is obvious that the country was not organised for a rising, and that it was called out on some sudden theoretical decision. McCartan and McCullough knew nothing about the Rising until midweek of the week immediately preceding Easter: my brother, in Ballingeary, knew nothing whatever, never even heard of a projected Rising until Easter Sunday evening when a belated instruction reached him to meet a column that morning some miles west of Ballingeary, where he was. He set out, to find on Monday that the column had assembled and, finding no instructions, had dissolved. MacSwiney and MgcCurtain, it appeared afterwards, were both in the Macroom area on Easter Sunday, but they never contacted him, nor did they apparently contact anybody else. early May, 1916, Mary MacSwiney visited me at Welshpool I said to her on the way to Frongoch to see Terry. "Surely Terry was not in favour of that Rising". said "Indeed he was not: and I was not. He did his best

to stop it and he only cooperated in order not to let the Dublin men down". And she went on to say that in the week preceding the Rising they had had seven different messages in Cork from Dublin, and didn't know what to do. I know, of course, that what she said is not evidence, she was not in Terry's confidence, but it shows the One of the difficulties about establishing background. the truth about something we have all lived through is that people will persist in thinking that they approached public affairs in 1916 with the high patriotic enthusiasm and patriotism and determination that developed afterwards, and even people who might be supposed to know are subject Mrs. Clarke, for instance, wrote a letter to delusions. to the Sunday Independent, apropos of a reference of mine, to say that MacDermott was specially authorised by the Supreme Council to call on me in Welshpool and disclose what they were doing. But this is not so. MacDermott came in response to my message to him through Dick Connolly. Diarmuid Lynch, who was a member of the Council until 1916, wrote to me to say that Mrs. Clarke was in error, that the Council did not send MacDermott nor authorise him to go. In fact, of course, I was then a member of the Council and entitled to be told what Lynch also cleared up another point. He said was up. that I remained a coopted member of the Council until after that visit of MacDermotts. Some time in the summer. of 1915 the regular election of all officers took place, and I was not coopted. Naturally, they coopted only people who were in favour of the Rising, and I had definitely asked to be recorded as against it.

(Sd.) P. S. O'Hegarty,

23rd April, 1953

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1918 BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

10. W.S. 841