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**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MIL' TA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 1010



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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,010

**Witness**

Laurence Redmond,  
Castle Annesley,  
Kilmuckridge,  
Co. Wexford.

**Identity.**

Member of I.R.B., Enniscorthy, 1912 - ;  
Captain Kilmuckridge Coy. 3rd Batt'n.  
North Wexford Brigade, 1917 - .

**Subject.**

Irish Volunteers, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford,  
1914-1921.

**Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.**

Nil

File No. S. 2334

Form B S M 2

ORIGINAL

W. S. 1, 010

STATEMENT OF MR. LAURENCE (LAR) REDMOND,  
Castle Annesley, Kilmuckridge, Co. Wexford.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
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I was always interested in national affairs. Father Michael Murphy, the renowned priest of '98, was related to me on my mother's side.

About 1911 or 1912 Larry de Lacey of Enniscorthy asked me to join the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He explained to me the aims and objects of the organisation. I agreed to become a member. I took the oath in Seamus Rafter's house in Enniscorthy. It was administered by Larry de Lacey who at that time was Centre of the Enniscorthy Circle. The principal members were Seamus Roice and T.D. Sinnott. I attended all meetings when called on. The meetings were held regularly. The principal matter discussed at the meetings was how we could best advance the cause of Irish freedom. Our activities included posting up propaganda handbills. We also on occasions hoisted the tricolour from the tree tops and other inaccessible places.

I joined the Enniscorthy Company of the Volunteers when they were formed early in 1914. All the younger members of the I.R.B. also joined. As far as I can remember, Seamus Rafter was in charge of the Company, and Seamus Doyle was 1st Lieutenant. Parades were held weekly and each Volunteer subscribed to an arms fund. There was no one else from this district (Kilmuckridge) in the Volunteers at that time except Jim Brien of Morriscastle. He was killed at Rathdrum during the Black and Tan war.

Some short time before Easter Week, 1916, Jim Brien, who was also an I.R.B. man, told me that a rising had been decided on, but that the date had not been fixed. He did not say who told him, and at that time we never asked questions.

I did not get a mobilisation order for Easter Sunday. On Wednesday morning of Easter Week I heard that a rising had started in Dublin. That evening I went on my bicycle to Enniscorthy. I brought my shotgun and between thirty and forty buckshot cartridges with me. On Thursday I met Seán Etchingham, he told me to go to the Athenaeum. Among those in the Athenaeum were Seamus Doyle, T.D. Sinnot and Seamus Rafter. On Friday I was sent on outpost duty on the Oulart-Enniscorthy road with four or five others, whom I did not know. We were armed and our instructions were to fire on any enemy forces - police or military. We were relieved after being on the post for about half a day. On Saturday I was again on outpost duty. On neither day did any enemy force come our way. The town of Enniscorthy was completely held by the Volunteers, except the R.I.C. barracks in which the police remained and made no attempt to come out. That night (Saturday) we heard rumours that the Volunteers in Dublin had surrendered. Our officers refused to believe this. They would not surrender unless they got orders from Pearse to do so. After consultation with the Officer Commanding the British forces, it was agreed that some of our officers should go to Dublin in a British army car and see Pearse and get instructions from him. On Sunday morning Seamus Doyle and Seán Etchingham went to Dublin in a British army car and accompanied by British officers. They returned to Enniscorthy that night with

an order in writing from Pearse to surrender.

I did not remain for the surrender, but went, taking my gun and ammunition with me, to my aunt's house in Ballyellan, Davidstown, about four miles from Enniscorthy. On Tuesday I returned to Enniscorthy to see what was happening. I heard that a large number of the Volunteers had been arrested. I returned to Ballyellan and next day I went to Enniscorthy again. On Thursday I went home to Castleannesley. Towards the end of the week the R.I.C. arrested Jim Brien; as they did not come to my house, I remained at home.

Following the general release of the prisoners, we organised a Company of the Irish Volunteers in Kilmuckridge. We had about twenty members. I was elected Company Captain.

At the conscription crisis, early in 1918, large numbers came into the Volunteers. When the threat passed away, the numbers declined until the Company dropped to its original strength.

We carried out raids for arms. We got about twenty shotguns altogether.

When the Volunteers were completely organised in the County, our Company became Kilmuckridge Company, 3rd Battalion, North Wexford Brigade.

We took an active part in the 1918 general election on behalf of the Sinn Féin candidate, Roger Sweetman. We canvassed the voters, posted up bills, distributed literature and organised public meetings. On polling day our members acted as personation agents in the booths, supplied transport and helped to bring the voters to the poll. Mr. Sweetman won the election, but he resigned

from the Dáil early in 1921.

I took an active part in collecting subscriptions to the Dáil Éireann Loan. In January, 1920, my home was raided and searched by the R.I.C. They found a receipt for a subscription to the Dáil Loan. My sister was the only one at home when the raid took place. I met the police on the road after the raid. They questioned me about the receipt. I said it was my property and no one else had any call to it. My home was again raided on the 16th March, 1920. I was arrested and brought to Kilmuckridge R.I.C. barracks. After a few hours I was brought to Oulart R.I.C. barracks. From there I was marched, under a heavy guard of about ten R.I.C. men with rifles and bayonets, to Oulart Courthouse and tried under the Defence of the Realm Act, commonly called DORA, for collecting subscriptions for the Dáil Loan. I was found guilty and sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour: After the trial I was brought to Gorey R.I.C. barracks for a few hours. At about eight o'clock that night I was brought by motor car to Waterford Jail. I was escorted by District Inspector Wilson and two constables. When we were about to start, Inspector Wilson threatened me that, if the car was attacked, they (the escort) would shoot me. I served the sentence in Waterford Jail and was released on 1st June.

While I was in jail, I was nominated to contest the election for membership of the Gorey Rural District Council on behalf of Sinn Féin. The election was held on the 1st June (the day of my release), and I was elected at the head of the poll.

My election to the Gorey Rural District Council imposed further duties on me, in addition to my other activities, and I felt that I was not able to devote sufficient attention to the Company. I resigned as Company Captain, and I proposed that Joe Quinsay, who was

1st Lieutenant, be elected Captain. This was agreed to; and I was elected second-in-command. Joe and I had always worked very well together; in fact, we never did anything without consulting each other; and this continued up to the Truce.

In August, 1920, the R.I.C. evacuated Kilmuckridge barracks. We got orders from Battalion Headquarters to destroy the building. On the 14th August Joe Quinsay, who was in charge, myself and five or six others at about midnight forced an entry into the barracks. We spread hay and anything that would burn and sprinkled it with paraffin oil, and then set fire to it. The barrack was completely destroyed.

We continued to harass the enemy in every way we could, especially by felling trees and digging trenches on the roads, cutting telegraph and telephone wires, etc.

During the first few days of July, 1921, the Battalion O/C, Myles Breen, visited Kilmuckridge Company and gave instructions to burn Morriscastle Coastguard Station, and to co-operate with the Ballygarrett Company to carry out the job. It was decided to do the job on the night of the 6th July, 1921. The station was occupied by one officer and five coastguards and their families. Patrick McCreavy, Captain of Ballygarrett, took charge of the men from that Company. Joe Quinsay was in charge of the men from Kilmuckridge Company. There were about fifteen men from both Companies. We cut the telephone wires. We knocked on the doors. Some of the occupants did not answer. It was necessary to fire a few shots in the air to let them know we were determined they should come out. When they were assembled outside, they were told we were going to burn the station. They were given half an

hour to take out any private property they might have. We collected a quantity of gun-cotton, detonators and rocket Verey lights. We then put the coastguards and their families in the Rocket House, which we considered was a safe distance from the main building. We obtained a quantity of hay from an adjoining field, spread it on the floors, sprinkled it with paraffin oil and then set it alight. The station was completely destroyed. The following day a gun boat came to take the coastguards and their families away. I went down to see the last of them.

SIGNED: L. Redmond

(L. Redmond)

DATE: 14 - 9 - 1954

14.9.1954

WITNESS: Sean Brennan Lt.-Col.

(Sean Brennan) Lt.-Col.

