BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1813-21 BURO STAIRE MILITATE 19:3-21

No. W.S. 107

ROINN COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,071

Witness

George Chester Duggan, Eversley, Military Road, Killiney, Co. Dublin.

Identity.

Ass't. to Under-Sec. for Ireland, 1919-1922;

Comptroller and Auditor-General for Northern Ireland, 1945-'49.

Subject.

An incident during Easter Week 1916 in which his father was concerned.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S. 2252

Form B.S.M. 2

EVERSLEY,

MILITARY ROAD,

KILLINEY,

CO. DUBLIN.

3rd Nov. 1954.

Dear Sir,

Referring to my talk a short time ago with Mr. McDunphy & yourself, in which you expressed a wish for a note of the "Provincial Bank incident" in which my father was concerned, I now enclose it, written out to the best of my recollection.

Yours truly,

(Sd.) Q.C. DUGGAN.

The Secretary,
Bureau of Military History.

BURG STAIRE MILESTA 1913-21.

NO. W.S. 1071

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILITATA 1913-21
No. W.S. //07/

An Incident during the 1916 Rising

&

A Note about Martin Fitzgerald.

My father, George Duggan, was Manager of the Provincial Bank of Ireland's Head Office at 5 College Street, Dublin, at the time of the 1916 Rising. He retired in 1922. He also owned a house at Greystones, Co. Wicklow, to which he and my mother usually went for week-ends and holidays.

At Easter, 1916, he and my mother had gone to Greystones, and the usual practice was followed of one member of the Bank staff sleeping in the Bank House during his absence.

On Easter Monday he heard at Greystones that the Rising had broken out and he regarded it as his duty to get back to the Bank. This he did, late on Monday, and sent the clerk (who was at the Bank during his absence) home. He had, however, a Bank Inspector to keep him company. The Inspector had arrived in Dublin on Monday, been caught by the Rising and was unable to get to his home. There was also a Resident Porter and his wife on the premises but their quarters were separate from the Bank House.

My father and the Bank Inspector obtained meals by crossing College Street and being admitted into Trinity College by the side gate, opposite the Bank, where the College mace-bearer had his house.

Trinity was apparently well-provisioned. Apart from this, he only left the Bank House to go up to the corner of Westmoreland Street to see what was going on there.

On Wednesday morning, the Bank Inspector and a second Inspector, who had turned up on Tuesday, got through the skylight on the top of the Bank House on to the roof, from which they had a commanding view of all the adjacent streets. On descending, they left the skylight open and went off to have a look about the city.

· On Wednesday afternoon, there was a ring at the Bank House door in College Street. My father opened it, and a very young subaltern, a Sergeant (the worse for drink) and a number of British soldiers entered and began to search the house, insisting that sniping was going on from the building. My father denied that any such thing was happening. When they reached the top floor and noticed the skylight open, their suspicions, despite my father's explanation, seemed to be confirmed. The Sergeant became truculent, threatened that he would shoot my father out of hand as being in league with the rebels, and ordered him down to the basement (the house has four stories and a basement, and at that time had no lift) where he proposed that the shooting would take place. On the way down, my father appealed to the subaltern to exercize his authority and not allow an innocent person to be The subaltern at last began to realize that shot.

he and not the Sergeant was in charge of the party. When they reached the second floor, my father took him into the drawing-room and showed him the photographs of my two brothers in uniform, one a Captain in the Royal Irish Fusiliers, the other a Lieutenant in the Royal Irish Regiment, who were killed in August, 1915, at Suvla Bay in Gallipoli, fighting with the 10th (Irish) Division. This convinced the subaltern of the truth of my father's asertions and he ordered the party to leave the Bank.

On the following day (Thursday), my eldest brother, Rev. C.C. W. Duggan, at that time Rector of Tallaght, Co. Dublin, succeeded in getting to the Bank and was able to let my mother know that my father was all right.

At that time, I was myself working at the Admiralty in London, and it was only on a visit to Dublin later on in 1916 that I heard from my father of these happenings. I am not absolutely certain whether the incident took place on Wednesday or Thursday.

A Bank porter (not the resident one) who lived in the suburbs of Dublin - an old soldier - visited the Bank during the week and insisted on returning to his home nightly as he had an invalid wife. On his way home one evening, he was killed by a stray bullet.

During this period and the troubles after it, my father was a friend of Martin Fitzgerald of

the firm of Fitzgerald & Co., wholesale merchants:
Fitzgerald was very much in the councils of Sinn Féin
(he controlled, I think, the "Irish Independent") and
was interned by the British Government in Mountjoy
Prison in or about 1920. My father's friendship
with him grew out of the fact that Fitzgerald kept
his account with the Provincial Bank. My father on
various occasions visited him in Mountjoy Prison in
order to take his directions about various matters
connected with his Bank account, and his various
business interests.

(Sd.) **E.**C. DUGGAN

2nd November, 1954.

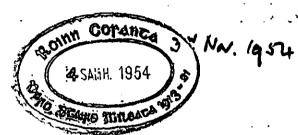
Eversley,

Military Road,

Killiney,

Co. Dublin.

BURE FU GE IMEST FOR CIDTODY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILESTA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 1071



Den Sur

Referring trong talk a short time ago
who has the Dunfley + yourself, in whit has
expersed a wish for a note y ten Provinced
bout viciolal" in which may faller was
concerned I now helve it written out
the hest of my recollection
your triby
bus Sevolty
Ausen of hilsty Herboy & Cheggen

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

No. W.S. 1.071

ORIGINATE note about traver detypeald by father, George Duffgan was tronger of her Provincial Bruh y Geland's Head Office at 5 College Street; Dublin, at the time of the 1916 Rising I He also owned a house at Everystones, Co brillion, broket he + my motter usually who for week - nets and holidays. At Easte 1916 he a my mother had gone & heystone of the usual providice was followed of one much menter glie Bouch staff sleeping in the Back House during his On Easter Hunday he heard at Graystones that the Rising had broken unt a he regarded it is his duty bright back the North. This he did late in rendeng & set the Clark was at his bowh during his abstract home. He had hower a Bonh Inhester to keep him contrary. He dishecter arrived in Dublin a tranday had fleen caught in Dublin by the rising and had fleen caught in Dublin by the rising and vos mable to get this home. The vos also a Residul. Porter + his isfe on the poluses but ther quarter were separate for the Book House. my falter & the Bowh dispector obtained needs by coming College St- 4 being admitted into Smity College of the side gate of porte by Buch where the College mace base had his house. Trivily un appointly well-provisioned aparl for the

he only left the Bruk House to good the corner of bestmarched St be such at was going on thre. On bedreving morning the Bruh dispertor & a Second despertor who had turned up as Trusday get lingh bu shylight on the top whi Bouch House on the roof probable they had a commending view all his adjacint streets. In descending they left the shiplinght Then of went My to have a look about the City. City. In bediesday after own the was a ring at the Buch House down in College St. huy father officed it of aver young Subaltern, a Sergeout (the worse bu down) & a number of British bolders letted at began to seach the house insisting that Sniping was going on from the building. hy father denied that any such they was happening. When they reached the top floor + noticed the shylight. The, there hopeans debite my faller below alter seemed the confund. The Singent became truculat, Micatried that he would Thort my fatter out of hand aspir league with the rebels & ordered him down the basement (the house has a stories to basement of at-that time had no lift.) where he proposed that the shorting would toheplace. On the way down my father appealed Vhu Subaltern to Survise his authority & not allow on innocut from the that the Subalteen

at last began to realize that he & not the Segent was in 13 charge of the party when they reached the second flow , my falter took him inthis drawing - worm & Showed him the photographs of my two brothers in uneform, one a Captain in the Royal dishers, the other a Lientral in the Royal dril Regiment; who were kelled in august 1915 at Swela Bay in Sallipoli fryktry iste tu 10h (drit) Drivin. Mis Commied the Subaltern y the truth of my fallers assetions & he asked the party to leave the Bank. On the following day (Murrday) my eldet-brother, Ro. C.C. W. Duggar, at tal time Rector of Fullaght Co Dublin succeeded in getting the Buch was all able to let my mother know that my faller was all next. ngW. at that time I was myself working at the armilty in Ludan, a il. was only on after your visil. b Dublin later on in 1916 that Thead from my falter of the happenings. I am not absolutely esteen whiter the incidell- took place on hierarray on thursday. I was lived in a brown forter (not the readul one) was lived in the Sububs of Dublin - an old soldie - Visited the brown during the week + insisted on returning this home nightly of he had on invaled rife. In his vay have one evening he was kelled by a Stay bullet. During the besid and the trubles after it; my falter was a fried of broten Filigeald, of.

often from of Affeld obs wholesale meshouts: . Titzgrald was very much in the councils of Sim Fix · (he controlled I think the Link holepudel-") of was interned by the Bouted Sweemond in Huntyay Prosin in a about 1900. They father friedship with him gran ant your fact that stygisld Kept his account who he downical Bruh by father as vorious occasions visited him in truntjing mom in orde to take his disclines about verious malter connected with his Bruh account; or his vorious business intests of Columna 24. Novehila sy.

· Everley Fulty Road Killing. Co Doblin

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

No. W.S. 1.07/