

W.S. 1,071

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILITARA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1071

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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

ORIGINAL

W. S. 1,071

EVERSLEY,
MILITARY ROAD,
KILLINEY,
CO. DUBLIN.

3rd Nov. 1954.

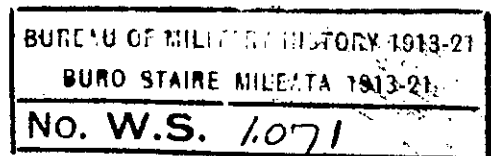
Dear Sir,

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.) G.C. DUGGAN.

The Secretary,
Bureau of Military History.



ORIGINAL

W. S. 1,071

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BUREAU STAIRÉ MILITAIRE 1913-21

No. W.S. 1,071

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 exercise his authority and not allow an innocent person to be shot. The subaltern at last began to realize that

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 assertions 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

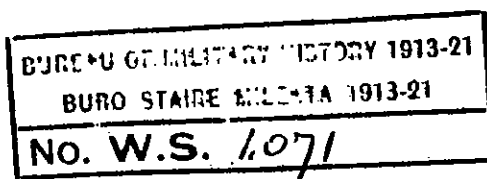
the firm of Fitzgerald & Co., wholesale merchants: Fitzgerald was very much in the councils of Sinn Féin (he controlled, I think, the "Irish Independent") and was interned by the British Government in Mountjoy Prison in or about 1920. My father's friendship with him grew out of the fact that Fitzgerald 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.



ORIGINAL



3rd Nov. 1954

Dear Sir

Referring to my talk a short time ago
with Mr. Mc Donnelly + yourself, in which you
expressed a wish for a note of the "Provincial
Bank incident" in which my father was
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Yours truly

The Secretary

Bureau of Military History

[Signature]

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 7071

ORIGINAL

an incident during the 1916 Rising
& a note about Frank J. Gould
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
& my mother usually went for week-ends and holidays.

At Easter 1916 he & my mother had gone to Greystones
& 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 & he regarded it as his duty
to get back to the Bank. This he did late on
Monday & sent the Clerk (who was at the Bank
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Bank Inspector to keep him company. The Inspector
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was unable to get to his home. There was also
a Resident Porter & his wife on the premises but
their quarters were separate from the Bank House.

My father & the Bank Inspector obtained meals by
crossing College St & 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

he only left the Bank House to go up the corner of Westward
St. to see what was going on there. (2)

On Wednesday morning the Bank Inspector & a second
Inspector who had turned up on Tuesday got through the
skylight on the top of the Bank House on the roof
for which they had a commanding view of all the
adjacent streets. On descending they left the
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shoot my father out of hand ^{being} ~~as~~ league with
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house has 4 stories & a basement) at that time had
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At that time I was myself working at the Admiralty in London, & it was only on ~~my~~ 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 usual one) who lived in the suburbs of Dublin - an old soldier - visited the Bank during the week & 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 Austin Fitzgerald, J.P.

of the firm of Fitzgerald & Co wholesale merchants: ⁽⁴⁾

Fitzgerald was very much in the councils of Sir John
(he controlled I think the "Irish Independent") & 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 decisions about various matters
connected with his Bank account, & his
various business interests

Wesley
Military Road
Kilkeny
Co Dublin

J C Duggan
27 November 1954.

