

W. A. 1,094

**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STAIRÉ MILITÁIRÉ 1913-21  
No. W.S. 1094

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,094.....

Witness

Edward Kelly,  
16 Lower Mount Street,  
Dublin.

Identity.

Member of 'Hibernian Rifles'  
A.O.H. Dublin, 1913 - .

Subject.

The 'Hibernian Rifles' A.O.H.  
Dublin, 1913-1916.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S.2414.....

Form B.S.M. 2

# ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BUREAU STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21  
NO. W.S. 1094

STATEMENT BY MR. EDWARD KELLY

16 Ir. Mount Street, Dublin

I will endeavour hereunder to give to the best of my memory after all these years some information about the Hibernian Rifles.

About 1913 or 1914 there originated in this city a body known as the A.O.H., I.A.A., to which was attached a militant body known as the "Hibernian Rifles". This was first formed in Skipper's Alley and we were armed with a number of rifles taken from the National Volunteers (Redmond's Volunteers). These rifles were of a very obsolete type (Italian Garibaldi) and were of little use except for drill purposes, as there was no ammunition for them; however, they suited our purpose, drill.

Now I will try to give you a composition of the above force. We had a commanding officer, Breslin (I forget his first name); two other officers, one of whom was Pat Garrett - a more efficient officer it would be hard to find (even now) - (he died some 12 months ago). If you want any information about this man I refer you to General Sean McKeown, Minister for Defence. What this man did not know about drill and the use of arms was not worth knowing (at the time).

At this time we were established in a fine premises in 28 North Frederick St. There we were drilled and taught all that was possible at the time about the use and handling of arms. The composition of the Hibernian Rifles was about fifty at this time. We were equipped with rifles (of a sort), arms of any sort that we could buy, and a uniform which differed from the Volunteers insofar as we had blue facings on the cuffs and collars and slacks. We drilled and learned all we could.

About a month or so before 1916 we decided to join forces with the Irish Volunteers; hence our participation in Easter Week.

Of the men who took part I can only give you a few, as follows: ... Breslin; J.J. Scollan; P. Garland; ... Doyle; E. Donaghy; E. Walsh (killed in action); C. Walsh; Sean Milroy; J.J. Walsh; C. Keeling; F. McPartland; ...  
... Kavanagh; ;... Fox, and your humble servant. Of the above, nearly all are dead.

Now I think this is as much as I can do in the matter. I hope you will forgive me for such a poor effort, but at this stage of my life it is hard to remember all that I would like.

Signed: *E. Kelly*  
(E. Kelly)  
Date: 15/2/55  
15/2/55

Witness: *Sean Brennan Lieut.-col.*  
(Sean Brennan) Lieut.-Col.  
Investigator

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