

W.S. 1,126
ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1,126

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,126.....

Witness

Michael Francis Kelly-Mor,
St. Grellan's,
Loughrea,
Co. Galway.

Identity.

Friend Of Irish Volunteers,
Galway, 1920 - .

Subject.

Conversation with ex Black and Tan who was
connected with the murder of Fr. Griffin.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S.2430.....

Form B.S.M. 2

ORIGINAL

W. S. 1. 126

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL FRANCIS KELLY-MOR,
St. Grellan's, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

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I was born on the 16th April, 1871, and was educated at Danesfort National School, Loughrea, Co. Galway. I joined the Ordnance Survey at Ennis, Co. Clare, when I was nineteen years of age and worked as temporary civil assistant for about one year. Then I passed my examination as a Surveyor and, as such, joined the Royal Engineers. I joined the School of Military Engineering at Chatham and, on passing my examinations which were severe enough, I got transferred to the Head Office of the Ordnance Survey at Southampton. At the end of World War I, I was transferred to Ordnance Survey Office, Phoenix Park, Dublin, where I spent five years. I then took on the job of copying the ancient manuscripts of Ireland for the Manuscripts Commission and served in that capacity until my retirement at the age of sixty-five.

One day during the Eucharistic Congress year, or the previous year, (I cannot be certain) when working in the Draughtsman Department of the Valuation Office in Ely Place, Dublin, with my colleagues, Messrs. Reilly, Carty and Morris, I referred, in the course of a conversation, to the brutal murder of Rev. Fr. Griffin in Galway. Mr. Morris spoke up and said, "That bastard got what he deserved, and there was another man there too we were looking for, and he'd have got the same if we found him". As soon as Mr. Morris left the room, I spoke to Messrs. Reilly and Carty as to what he had said in

reference to the late Fr. Griffin, and asked them if they would join me in giving a joint statement on the matter to the authorities. Mr. Reilly refused outright. Mr. Carty said he had received a poor reward for his services in the I.R.A., his wife and children being left to starve during his imprisonment and that it had taken a very long time before he had been reinstated in his position. For those reasons, he would take no action in the matter. He was a native of Castleknock, Dublin, as far as I can remember. I think Mr. Reilly was a native of Co. Sligo. He would have now retired on age.

A few days after the conversation referred to above, I met Mr. Morris at St. Stephen's Green and offered him a ten-pound note if he would give me a detailed description of the capture and death of Fr. Griffin. He paused for a moment, blushed and said, "The offer is very tempting and I'll consider it". He went away rather quickly, and neither he nor I referred to the matter afterwards. It was generally known that Mr. Morris was in the Black and Tans or Auxiliaries. Indeed, he himself never denied it. He was only about thirty years of age at that time. He was very much addicted to drink and was once suspended for a week, or a fortnight, on that account.

About two years ago, I met a former colleague from the Valuation Office, Dublin. I inquired about the staff that was there in my time. He said that they were all gone except himself and a Mr. Sweeney. From that, I concluded that Mr. Morris had left the Valuation Office. I never had any personal

grudge against Mr. Morris. I found him a decent enough fellow in my dealings with him officially. I report this incident out of a sense of duty and for no other reason whatever. I would be very glad to have it treated in strict confidence, and I do not wish to get a copy of it.

SIGNED: Michael F. Kelly-Mor
(Michael F. Kelly-Mor)
DATE: 16th March 195⁵ *M.F.K.*

WITNESS: Con Moynihan
(Con Moynihan)

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