

W. S. 1, 274  
**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURU STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1,274

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,274.....

Witness

Patrick FitzPatrick,  
16 St. John's Villas,  
Enniscorthy,  
Co. Wexford.

Identity,

Military Secretary

Irish Brigade, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, 1912 - .

Subject.

The Irish Brigade,  
Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, 1912-1916.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S. 2586.....

Form B.S.M. 2

# ORIGINAL

15. 8. 1. 274  
BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BUREAU STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21

No. W.S. 1274

STATEMENT BY MR. PATRICK FITZPATRICK,

16, St. John's Villas, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

It was in the year 1912 that Thomas Doyle (now proprietor of the Astor Cinema, Enniscorthy) discussed with Richard King, William Murphy and myself the idea of forming an organisation to work for the complete independence of Ireland. We agreed to form such an organisation and decided that it should be called The Irish Brigade. We had a set of rules drafted and had them printed on the membership cards. The following is a copy of the rules governing

The Irish Brigade:

- (1) That the organisation shall be known as "The Irish Brigade".
- (2) That it shall be confined to members who believe in the COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE of Ireland and who are of Irish birth or descent.
- (3) That all members coming into the Brigade shall take the following declaration:
- (4) I, A.B., do solemnly promise to work for the COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE of Ireland and that I will never join England's armed forces, either army navy or police.
- (5) That the object of the organisation will be to further in every way the cause of Ireland's independence.
- (6) That the members abstain from all political activity, except at the express wish and instructions of the committee, when decided by at least a three-fourths majority.
- (7) The organisation shall be governed by a council consisting of a Captain, two Lieutenants, a Treasurer, a Military Secretary and a committee of five.
- (8) The orders of the council shall be final, and all commands must be carried out on strict military principle; any refusal to carry out an order to be punished with instant dismissal.
- (9) The working of the organisation shall be as may be determined by the council, and shall consist of at least part of the recognised military work, such as, drill, signalling, marching, scout work, mapping, first-aid, knowledge of the country and general discipline.

- (10) Dates and hours of work as well as character of work to be decided by the council, and due notice given to the Brigade.
- (11) The Military Secretary shall be an Executive Officer through whom all commands shall issue in the absence of the council.
- (12) The Brigade shall be staffed in military precedence on the instructions of the council.
- (13) All members must attend meetings on the night appointed.
- (14) Any member missing three nights in succession shall be fined twopence, and if he misses five alternate meetings will be expelled.
- (15) All subscriptions to be paid to the Treasurer on meeting nights. Subscription, 2d a week, which may be changed at the option of the council.
- (16) All members are requested to keep strict order while in Brigade quarters.

We now set about recruiting and in a short time we had about twenty-six members. Each member, in accordance with the rule, made the solemn promise that he would work for the complete independence of Ireland and would never join England's armed forces, army, navy or police. It is worth recording that with only one exception the members loyally kept that promise.

The officers of the Brigade were:

Captain - Thomas Doyle.

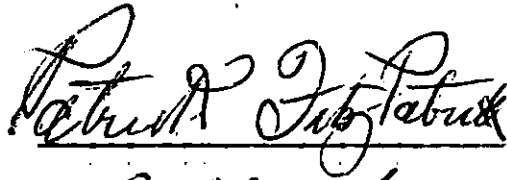
Treasurer - William Murphy.

Military Secretary - Patrick Fitzpatrick (myself)

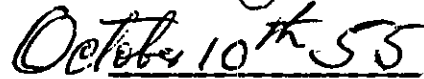
Meetings of the Brigade were held weekly. The members were drilled and taught signalling, mapping, first-aid. Discipline was always insisted on. We also went on many trips so as to improve our knowledge of the country. This training continued until the inauguration of the Volunteers. With the rest of the members of the Brigade I joined the Volunteers and took part in the 1916 Rising in Enniscorthy. After the surrender I was arrested and deported.

One of our members, Richard King, was tried by Field General Courtmartial for his part in the Rising and sentenced to death. The sentence was later commuted to five years' penal servitude. I was released at the general amnesty.

Signed:



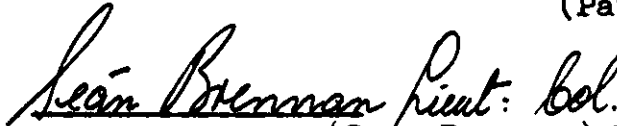
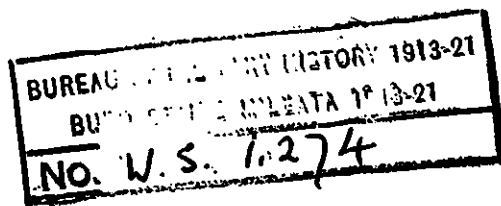
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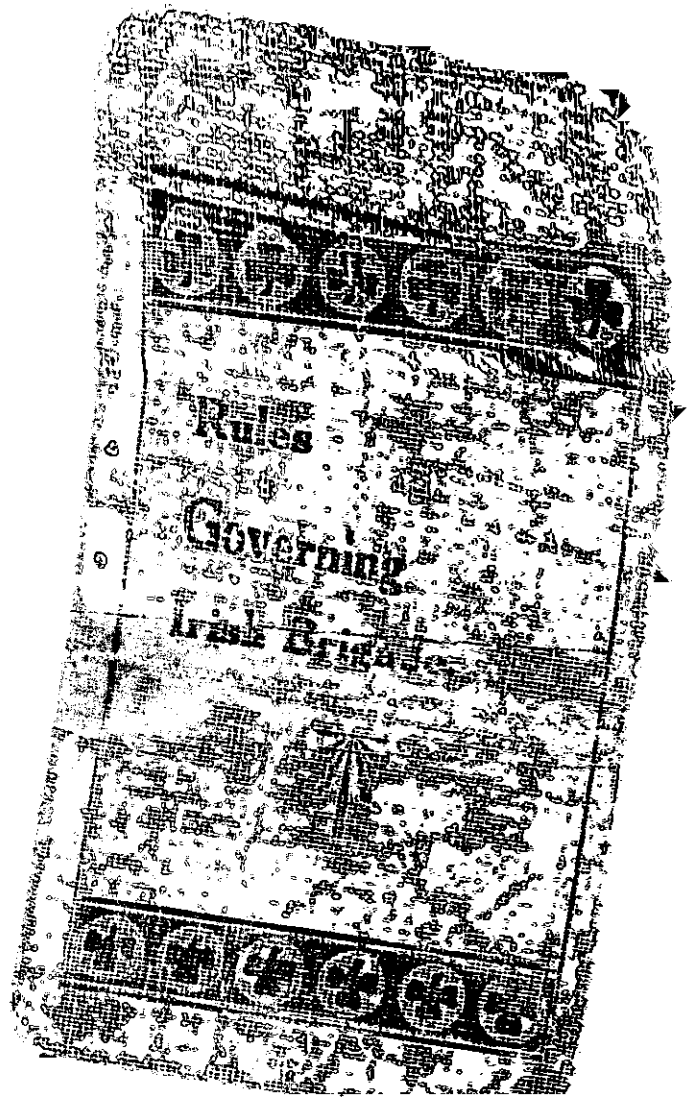


(Patrick FitzPatrick)

October 10th '55.

Witness:


(Sean Brennan) Lieut.-Col.  
(Investigator)



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2. That it shall be confined to members who believe in the "COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE" of Ireland, and who are of Irish birth or descent.

3. That all members coming into the Brigade shall take the following declaration—

I, A B, do solemnly promise to work for the COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE of Ireland, and that I will never join England's armed forces, either Army, Navy, or Police.

5. That the object of the Organisation will be to further in every way the cause of Ireland's Independence.

6. That the members abstain from all political activity, except at the express wish and instructions of the Committee, when decided by at least a three-fourths majority.

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