

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21  
No. W.S. 1558

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1558.

Witness

Frank McGrath,  
Idrone,  
Nenagh,  
Co. Tipperary.

Identity.

Commandant, Tipperary No. I (North Tipperary)  
Brigade.

Subject.

Irish Volunteer activities, North Tipperary;  
Prison experiences, 1918-1919;  
The Borrisokane Barrack Attack, June, 1920.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

File No S.2884.

Form B.S.M. 2

1558

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21  
No. W.S. / 558

STATEMENT BY MR. FRANK McGRATH

"Idrone", Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

formerly of

Tipperary No. 1 (North Tipperary)  
Brigade.

---

I was born in Youghalarra, Co. Tipperary, in October 1885. My people were farmers and I was educated in the local National School at Youghalarra. In 1903, I was apprenticed to the grocery, seed and spirit business in the premises which I now own in Pearse St., Nenagh.

After a lapse of so many years it is now difficult to pinpoint how I first became interested in Irish national affairs. There was, I might say, a strong national tradition in our family and an uncle of mine on my father's side had to make his escape to Australia to avoid being arrested for his part in the Fenian Rising of 1867. Then again, from my school years, I was a member of the Gaelic League and the Gaelic Athletic Association. I was a member of the Toomevara Hurling Team during their years of fame and, from 1912 to 1916, I was selected as a member of the Tipperary county team. I also played football with a Nenagh team and, in later years, my acquaintances of the playing pitches played a major part in assisting me in the work of organising the Irish Volunteers in North Tipperary.

I joined the Irish Volunteers in Nenagh in May 1914, when a branch of that movement was first formed in the town. Some months later when the split in the movement took place, I found myself one of a very small minority who refused to follow the majority into the late John Redmond's National Volunteers. It then fell to my lot to take charge of this minority who continued as an Irish Volunteer unit. We drilled

and did some target practice with a miniature rifle in an old hall in Sarsfield St. We gradually increased our numbers, mainly by recruiting new members from hurling clubs in the outlying districts, until our strength was something between 20 and 30 men. To procure arms was one of our biggest problems, but I remember being able to purchase some from two members of the British army who were home on leave from France. I also recall purchasing at an auction a Mauser rifle which had been brought home from the Boer War by a Captain Finch and for which I obtained some 7 m.m. ammunition in Dublin.

During 1915, in my spare time on half holidays and Sundays, I visited various areas in North Tipperary and as far as Birr in Co. Offaly in efforts to organise Irish Volunteer units. In this work I received valuable assistance from "Wedger" Meagher of Toomevara (now of New York), the O'Brien brothers of Silvermines, and Sean Ga'nor, Liam Hoolan and Edward O'Leary of Nenagh. We met with some success especially from the players of G.A.A. Clubs with whom I had some influence. Whilst I am not positive, I am almost certain that it was some time in that year - 1915 - that I was sworn into the Irish Republican Brotherhood by Mr. James Kennedy of Thurles. At that time, too, I was in close contact with the Volunteer leaders in Dublin including Thomas J. Clarke and Michael O'Hanrahan, but principally with The O'Rahilly and Cathal Brugha. The O'Rahilly's chief mission at the time appeared to be that of obtaining arms for the Volunteers. Cathal Brugha was then a commercial traveller representing Messrs. Lalor Ltd., Candle Manufacturers, Ormond Quay, Dublin. I met him frequently and I remember securing for him, through an employee of Harty's of Nenagh, a supply of ammunition which suited his (Brugha's) German pistol and which he afterwards used during the Rising of Easter Week, 1916.

Another incident in which I was concerned occurred about that time when Harty's hardware store in Nenagh was put up for sale. The firm with which I was employed had charge of the sale and were in possession of the keys of Harty's premises. Before the auction of the other goods, the R.I.C. authorities purchased the contents of the firm's magazine which included shotguns, ammunition and explosives. About 5 a.m. on the morning following the sale to the R.I.C., I took the keys and went to Harty's premises. I packed the contents of the magazine into five large casks, and a Volunteer named Paddy Doyle conveyed the casks, one at a time, to Miss Skehan's house in Summerhill from where Edward O'Leary later transported the lot to his father's place in Beechwood. Before leaving Harty's, I took the precaution of breaking the locks on the magazine door and on the outer gate, and on my return I replaced the keys where I had got them. Later on during the day, when the police went to collect their purchase, there was some consternation, followed by intensive police activity which lasted for some weeks and during which I was questioned by the R.I.C. who, however, failed to recover the material.

In January 1916, I received a serious injury when playing a hurling match in Cork which necessitated my going to St. John's Hospital in Limerick for treatment. I spent several months in the hospital and was still a patient there when the Rising took place. As far as I am aware, no orders were received by the Volunteers in Nenagh as to what action they should take, but I later learned that Paddy Gleeson (of Gleeson's, Drapers, O'Connell St. Dublin) arrived there on Easter Sunday conveying Eoin MacNeill's countermanding order. The R.I.C. raided for me in Nenagh after the Rising, but on being informed that I was in hospital, they apparently took no further action.

It was, I am sure, towards the end of 1916 that I again met Cathal Brugha - this time by appointment at Limerick railway station. He had only been released from King George V Hospital (now St. Brigid's) and was still on crutches as a result of the wounds he had received during the Rising. He was on his way to Spanish Point. We discussed at some length the question of the re-organisation of the Volunteers. In December of that year I attended the Volunteer Convention which was held in Fleming's Hotel, Gardiner's Place, Dublin, and at which I was elected to the Volunteer Executive, and afterwards I attended a meeting of the Executive which was held in Luke O'Toole's house in Croke Park. As was to be expected, the main business of both the Convention and the Executive meeting concerned re-organisation. After my return to Nenagh, I kept in constant touch with Michael Collins, M.W. O'Reilly and Tom Cullen. On my visits to Dublin I usually found Collins at an office in Bachelor's Walk.

During the Springtime and Summer of 1917, steady progress was made with the re-organisation work. In North Tipperary Irish Volunteer Companies were formed in Nenagh, Toomevara, Roscrea, Lorrha, Borrisokane, Newport, Templederry, Silvermines, Ballina, Portroe, Youghalarra and Cloughjordan. Initially, all the companies comprised a battalion with the following officers: Battalion O/C. - Frank McGrath (myself); Battalion Vice O/C. - Liam Hoolan; Battalion Adjutant - Sean Gaynor; Battalion Q.M. - Frank Flannery.

As, however, the organisation progressed and new companies were formed in other districts, North Tipperary was set out into seven battalion areas and the seven battalions were formed into Tipperary No. 1 Brigade. The four officers whom I have just mentioned moved up to brigade rank and became the first staff of the brigade. To raise funds for the purchase of arms,

concerts, dances and hurling tournaments were held. In the reorganisation work we had the assistance of Sean McLoughlin, an organiser from G.H.Q.

In October 1917, I was arrested in Nenagh by members of the R.I.C. and was taken to Cork Prison. In Cork I was tried by courtmartial on a charge of illegal drilling and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment which was commuted to six months. There were a good number of political prisoners in Cork Prison at the time amongst them being Bob Brennan of Wexford, who in later years was Irish Minister in Washington. In an effort to secure either our release or political prisoners' treatment, we went on hunger-strike. After a few days, a batch of 14 or 15 of the hunger-strikers, of which I was one, were transferred to Dundalk Prison. Frank Thornton (now a Director of the New Ireland Assurance Company) was the sole political prisoner in Dundalk Prison when we arrived there, and he too was on hunger strike. We decided to continue the strike and, at the end of November or early in December, we were released under what was then known as the Cat and Mouse Act. As the Bureau of Military History is interested in the collection of documents relating to the period 1913 to 1921, I attach to this statement as appendices:

- "A" - Photostat copy of notice which hung outside my cell door in Cork Prison.
- "B" - Photostat copy of my charge sheet and of the Summary of Evidence.
- "C" - Photostat copy of document handed to me by the Governor of Dundalk Prison at the time of my release.

I might say that I spent the greater portion of the years 1918, 1919 and the early portion of 1920 within various prison walls. I was re-arrested in Nenagh early in 1918 and taken to Templemore military barracks and from there to Belfast Prison. I spent six months in Belfast Prison and, during that

period I took part with the other political prisoners in the first break-up of the prison. On my release I was re-arrested outside the prison gates in Belfast, served with a deportation order and, after a brief sojourn in Arbour Hill Prison, Dublin, I was conveyed to Durham Prison in England. For the trip across the Irish Sea, the British authorities had requisitioned a cattle boat and the journey was not without incident. We were only a short time out to sea when the ship was suddenly put on a zig-zag course and all on board were issued with lifebelts. It soon became common property that there was a German submarine in the vicinity. If such was the case, we were not interfered with, but I might mention that within a week the "Leinster" was sunk outside Dunlaoghaire.

In Durham Prison I had twelve companions, all deportees from Ireland. They were: Eamon O'Duibhir of Ballagh, Seumas O'Neill - then a Professor in Rockwell College; Michael Travers, or Trayers, of Galway; the brothers Frank and Edward Bulfin, Darrel Figgis, Michael Spillane, Michael Sugrue, Dan McCarthy, Michael Fleming, Edward Morkan and Art O'Connor. Conditions in Durham were reasonably good and we were detained there until about May 1919, when, following the death of Pierce McCann in Gloucester Prison, we were unconditionally released. I attach as further appendices:

"D" - Photostat copy of order served on all the political prisoners in Belfast Prison at the time of the first break-up of the prison in 1919. (The schedule attached to the order contains a complete list of the political prisoners then held in Belfast Prison).

"E" - Photostat copy of the deportation order which was handed to me on my re-arrest outside the gates of Belfast Prison.

Following my release from Durham I enjoyed a few months of freedom during which my activities together with the other members of the Brigade staff were centred on organising the brigade and battalions on a proper footing and continuing with

the quest to secure more arms. Towards the end of that year (1919) I was, however, again re-arrested and, after short periods in Limerick military barracks and in Cork Prison, I was again deported, this time with a number of other prisoners to Wormwood Scrubbs Prison, London.

By April of 1920 there were upwards of 100 Irish political prisoners in Wormwood Scrubbs Prison and, after due consideration, it was decided to take hunger-strike action to secure our release. The hunger-strike, of which I as the prisoners' spokesman or commandant took charge, began on 21st April 1920, and continued for approximately three weeks. As men grew weaker and weaker, the prison authorities, fearing that they might die in their cells, had them removed singly or in small groups by ambulance to hospitals in London. Eventually, all were out of prison and in hospital and unconditional release had been secured.

On my return from Wormwood Scrubbs, I, with Edward O'Leary, then the brigade adjutant, prepared plans for attacks on three R.I.C. Barracks, those at Borrisokane, Newport and Rearcross. I, personally, took those plans to Dublin and submitted them to Dick Mulcahy, the Chief of Staff. After much consideration, he agreed that I should go ahead with the attack on Borrisokane barracks. In his final instructions to me he emphasised that the attack should not commence before nightfall and that in the event of the barrack not being captured, we should retire at the first signs of daylight.

As a first step in the preparations for the attack we commandeered a supply of petrol at Nenagh railway station and conveyed it to a dump at Moneygall where it was filled into quart bottles and, from where it was conveyed to Borrisokane on the night of the attack, i.e., on the night of June 26th 1920. I paid another visit to G.H.Q. and secured a supply of hand grenades. On this trip to Dublin I was accompanied there



and back by Michael Brennan, then O/C. of the East Clare Brigade, and later Lieutenant General Brennan. He was on a similar mission to mine, seeking grenades for use in his own area. I left the grenades with a Volunteer in Dublin who held them until I sent a Volunteer to collect them and to deliver them to our men in Roscrea.

In the meantime, we made arrangements for the blocking on the night of 26th June of all roads leading to Borrisokane and collected wool waste which, when steeped in petrol, we proposed to use for setting fire to the barracks. I also arranged to have a feint attack made on the same night on Silvermines R.I.C. barracks. This attack at Silvermines failed to come off, due to the fact that a detachment of British military encamped in that village that night.

A dispatch to this effect reached me in Borrisokane before the attack on the barracks there commenced. Those entrusted with the work of blocking the roads did their job exceptionally well and enemy reinforcements did not reach Borrisokane until midday of the day following the attack.

On the night of the attack, we mobilised at an assembly point at Ballynarow, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Borrisokane. Due to the delay of the Roscrea contingent in arriving with the grenades, we were unable to advance into Borrisokane until two hours after the appointed time and this naturally shortened the period allowed by G.H.Q. for the attack. I would say that it was some time between 11.30 p.m. and midnight when we arrived at the house adjoining the barracks. I forced the back door open with an iron bar and induced the occupants - a Mrs. Brennan and her children - to remove to a friend's house. When this was done, we went into occupation. At the same time a party of riflemen and shotgun-men, under the command of Liam Hoolan, the brigade vice-commandant, occupied a house opposite

to the barracks, and two other parties went into positions at both ends of the village.

We bored a hole through the roof of Mrs. Brennan's house and then broke a further one through the roof of the barracks. On a signal from me, the rifle- and shotgun men in the house opposite opened fire on the barracks and we then proceeded to throw flaming wool waste through the opening of the barrack roof, followed at intervals by hand grenades and quart bottles of petrol. During the work one of our men, James O'Meara, who was working on the barrack roof, received a bullet wound in the shoulder. We had him removed immediately to Dr. Quigley's house at the Nenagh end of the village for medical attention. His place was taken by Michael Kennedy. The R.I.C. garrison were then sending up Verey lights at regular intervals and we could hear their rifles as they replied to the fire of our men. When relieved from his work on the roof, Michael Kennedy came and stood behind me in Brennan's house, near an upstairs window which overlooked the street. He was in the act of wiping the perspiration from his face with a towel, when a bullet entered the window, went through my coat and struck him in the groin. He was badly hit and we had to have him, too, sent to Dr. Quigley's house for attention. I then sent word to our men ~~to~~ cease fire as I was convinced that it was their fire which had caused our casualties.

We continued to use the petrol and the grenades, but the barrack was very slow to catch fire. We afterwards discovered that the R.I.C. garrison had covered the upper floor with sand in anticipation of such an emergency. Our hand grenades also were not, apparently, 100% effective as we should, in the ordinary course, have had quicker results. I had repeatedly called on the R.I.C. to surrender but beyond increasing their rifle fire, they made no reply. However, we maintained the attack until it was full daylight and then, in view of G.H.Q.'s instructions, I had no option but to call off the operation.

A detailed report of the operation was sent to G.H.Q. who considered the action to be a most successful one, as the R.I.C. were evacuated from Borrisokane immediately after the attack. It also led to the closing, soon afterwards, of other R.I.C. stations in the area. The only regrettable feature from our point of view was that Michael Kennedy died from his wound in St. John's Hospital, Limerick, about three weeks later.

As far as I can now remember, the men who occupied Brennan's house and engaged in the attack with me from there were: Sean Gaynor, Nenagh; Michael Kennedy, Nenagh; Andy Cooney, Nenagh; James O'Meara, Rosgonda, Toomevara; Patrick Harty, Clounlea; Jack Hackett, Toomevara, Pat O'Brien, Silvermines; Thomas Devaney, Toomevara; John Whelehan, Toomevara; Con Donohue, Toomevara; Hugh Kelly, Toomevara; Joe O'Brien, Grawn; John Ryan, Knockcarodge; Tom Ryan, Stuick, and Frank Kelly, Toomevara. The men who seized the petrol at Nenagh railway station and conveyed it to the dump at Moneygall were: Austin McCurtin, William Flannery, Joseph Starr, Peter Gill and Michael O'Meara, all of Nenagh. Joe Devane of Nenagh prepared the flares and torches. Liam Hoolan was in charge of the Ballywilliam contingent who occupied the house opposite the barracks, and Edward Quinlan was in charge of the Roscrea section who held a position at the Portumna end of the village of Borrisokane. The strength of the R.I.C. garrison in the barracks was approximately 1 sergeant and 12 constables.

When considering the material for this statement for the Bureau of Military History, I asked my friend, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, formerly of Silvermines and now of Tralee, to furnish me with an account of the Borrisokane attack as he recollected it. I append herewith Mr. O'Brien's account:

THE BORRISOKANE BARRACK ATTACK - June 1920.

I give hereunder only what I distinctly remember. Being 'on the run' at the time, I got word of the attack to be made, and contacted men of the Toomevara Battalion, and somewhere between Toomevara and Borrisokane, I met the Brigadier - Mr. Frank McGrath - with Mr. Andy Cooney and others.

Proceeding to the village of Borrisokane, we entered the house adjacent to the barracks by the back entrance. The occupants of the house were removed, and some of our men with the Brigadier and Andy Cooney occupied the upper storey - a number - I'd say 7 or 8 - staying on the ground floor.

On the Brigadier's orders the roof was broken on the adjacent house and the roof of the barracks penetrated. Andy Cooney and Mick Kennedy, Emmet Place, Nenagh, were the men to do most of the work. Jimmy O'Meara, Toomevara, also volunteered for roof work. I don't know what was used, presumably paraffin or perhaps petrol, but the place was blazing when I was asked to take a hand on the ladder. Very soon it was a veritable inferno, and no resistance could be offered by the police occupants.

Incidentally, volunteers in the house across the street - opposite barracks, had opened fire to keep the enemy employed while both ends of the village were strongly held by Volunteers. Those on the Portumna end must have fired in the direction of the barracks and I still fear it was one of those bullets got Mick Kennedy who was standing in the little hallway upstairs after descending from the roof. I happened to be on the spot with him and so was the Brigadier who immediately sent word to the attackers to cease all indiscriminate firing.

I would say that we entered the house that night about 11.30 p.m. and that it was about 2.30 p.m. when Kennedy was shot. We gave temporary first aid and Jack Hackett and myself took

him between us up the street to the Nenagh end where we handed him over to the Volunteers there, to have him treated by Dr. Quigley who resided nearby, and I do think it was Sean Gaynor took charge of him. We made our way back to our post (next the barracks) at once, and I think it was then I discovered that Jimmy O'Meara had also been wounded in the arm while on the roof. Dawn was fast appearing by that time. The Brigadier had repeatedly shouted at the enemy to surrender but there was not a word, sound or movement from the enemy. 'Twas hard to realise what must have happened to them, but we could only conclude that they were "lying low" on ground floor for they couldn't possibly continue to remain in an upper room. I surmised then, and do still, that they'd have given a warm time to any of our men who might have attempted a gate-crash front or rear. Daylight was on us, and the Brigadier ordered cease fire and retreat. It was only afterwards I learned of the fairly large numbers of men engaged in road blocking to keep back reinforcements, but with large or small numbers on this outpost duty there was no alternative to retreating at the time we did. The work was done, the barracks a conflagration. Borrisokane was out of bounds for police in future, and our outpost men saved us from possible decimation by what could be expected to be large enemy reinforcing advance

It was a good attack, a brilliant piece of work and I think sufficient credit can never be given to our Brigadier for his soldierly qualities, detailed preparation, steadfastness, courage and, above all, his amiable disposition towards all on that glorious night.

Signed: Pk. F. O'Brien (Silvermines)  
 Present address:  
 La Retraite,  
 Tralee,  
 Co. Kerry.

Due to my prolonged periods of imprisonment and to the after effects of the hunger strike, my health deteriorated during the summer months of 1920, and I found myself reluctantly compelled to resign from the post of Brigade O/C. G.H.Q. then appointed Sean Gaynor to take my place.

From September 1920 until the Truce in July 1921, I was on the run to avoid being again arrested. During that time my work with the brigade consisted of activities such as organising the brigade flying column, organising the brigade I.R.A. police force and the establishing of Sinn Fein Courts in the area of North Co. Tipperary. I generally travelled on a bicycle and I took advantage of my visits to the battalion areas to inspect arms dumps and to instruct the quartermasters in the care of arms and in the preparation of returns. Another item which required my attention was the distribution on a more equal basis of the available arms and ammunition amongst the battalions. Checks revealed that some quartermasters were holding ammunition for which their units had no suitable guns whilst other battalions might have the guns but lacked the ammunition.

The Sinn Fein Courts, both parish and district, when once established, worked smoothly and efficiently. For the purpose of the district courts, North Tipperary was divided into three areas - No. 1 area included Nenagh, Cloughjordan, Toomevara, Templeberry, Silvermines, Youghal-Burgess and Borrisoleigh. The Justices for this area were: Rev. J. Fogarty, C.C., Mr. P.J. Dempsey, Mr. Rody Cleary and Mr. William Gleeson. The sitting of the Court took place on the second Friday of each month, and the Clerk of the Court was Mr. Michael Moloney of Nenagh. No. 2 area was comprised of Borrisokane, Terryglass, Kilbarrow, Puckane, Lorrha, Ballingarry and Carrig. The Justices in this area were: James Burke, John J. Hassett,

P.J. O'Byrne and P. Gantley. The Court's sittings were held on the second Tuesday of each month, and Mr. P.J. Cleary of Roscrea was Clerk of the Court. The parishes of Newport, Kilcommon, Portroe and Ballina formed No. 3 area. There the Court was held on the first Saturday of each month. The Justices were James Kennedy, W. Gorman and M. Mulcahy and the Clerk of that Court was Mr. Brian McGrath, Coolboreen, Newport.

The original documents from which the appendices to this statement were copied are in my possession.

Signed: Frank McEneaney

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 1957

Witness: J. Grace

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILITAIRA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1558

Appendix 'A'

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21  
NO. W.S. 1558

Form 69  
A.F.

7274  
06

60th Prison.

Reg. No. 78 Year 1917

Name, Frank McGrath

Offence, ✓

When Committed, 31. 10. 17

Sentence, Awaiting C.M.

Date of Discharge

On Expiration of Sentence, ✓

Earliest Possible, ✓

Religion, R.C. R.C.

Diet, D.



*Appendix B (3 sheets)*

C H A R G E S H E E T.

The accused FRANK MC.GRATH, Nenagh, County Tipperary, civilian, is charged with -

Doing an act prohibited by Regulation 9.E. of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, and the Military Exercises and Drill (Ireland) Order, 1916, namely, being concerned in movements of a military nature in an area in which the said Regulation 9.E. is in force.

in that he

REG. NO. 9.E.

D. R. R.

AT NENAGH, COUNTY TIPPERARY, ON THE 21ST. DAY OF OCTOBER, 1917, PRACTISED A PARTY OF MEN IN MOVEMENTS OF A MILITARY NATURE.

*Oliver Mosse*

Signature.....

Colonel.

Cork Garrison.

\* Commanding.....

*W.R.*

Place..... 5th. Nov. 1917.....

The Unit with which the accused is in custody.

Date.....

TO BE TRIED BY DISTRICT COURT MARTIAL

Place..... *Cork* .....

Date..... *5/11/17* .....

*R. G. ...*

Major-General,  
COMMANDING SOUTHERN DISTRICT, CORK.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE.

in the case of

FRANK McGRATH, a civilian, residing at  
Castle St. Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

-----

1st. Witness  
for  
Prosecution.

No. 46043 Serjt. George F. Brownlow, R.I.C. stationed  
at Nenagh, states:-

On Sunday 21st. October 1917, I was in Castle Street,  
at the Post Office, on duty. I saw about 100 men on  
parade near the Courthouse, and a man walking up and  
down in front of them, apparently in charge of them. I  
saw the party "Forming Fours" "Forming Two Dees" and other  
military movements. I then saw them "Form Fours" Right  
wheel to the left and march down Peter Street. On  
coming into Castle Street from Peter Street, I saw  
Frank McGrath, the accused now present, on the left  
flank. He gave them right wheel, as they came into  
Castle Street, and the party obeyed the Command. This  
was about 3 p.m. I saw the same party of men coming  
in the Dublin Road after being absent for 1 1/2 hours.  
When entering Castle Street, the accused Frank McGrath,  
now present, gave the command "Left Wheel" on which the  
men obeyed and marched down Castle Yard Street. The  
accused Frank McGrath then gave them Right Wheel and  
the party went up Peter Street. On arriving at the  
Court House the party wheeled to the left. Halted and  
Fronted. I heard the accused Frank McGrath putting  
the party through some movements of Military Drill.

He then gave the commands "Form Fours - Right -  
Left Wheel - By the left - Quick-march, on which the  
party marched away.

(Sd) Geo. F. Brownlow. Sgt.  
46043.

The accused declines to cross-examine this witness.  
Witness withdraws.

2nd. Witness  
for  
Prosecution.

No. 63310 Const. Thomas Malloran, R.I.C. stationed at  
Nenagh, Co. Tipperary States:-

On Sunday 21st. October 1917, I saw Frank McGrath,  
the accused now present, drilling a party of about 124  
men at the Court House, Square, Nenagh, about 3 p.m. He  
gave the following commands. "Attention - Form Fours -  
Two a deep and turned them to the Right and left. He  
then gave them Form Fours Left - Left wheel and marched  
them through the town to the Country. I saw the party  
returning at about 4-45 p.m. to the Court House Square.

P. F. O.

2.  
He gave them some movements in Military drill, and then  
marched them off.

(Sd) Thos. Halloran,  
Const. 23310

The accused declines to cross-examine this witness.  
The witness withdraws.

DEFENCE

The accused Frank McGrath states:-

I will say nothing at present.

Taken down by me at Cork Male Prison this 31st day of  
October 1917.

R.P.4(c)(d)(e) have been complied with.

(Sd) J.P. Moran, 2nd.Lt.  
3rd.R.Fus.

*Alfred B.*

**PRISONERS (TEMPORARY DISCHARGE FOR ILL-HEALTH)  
ACT, 1913.**

NOTICE TO BE GIVEN TO PRISONER.

*7*  
*Frank McGrath* is this day discharged  
from *Cundaetho* Prison in pursuance of *Lords*

*Justice's* Order of *21 November* 1917 subject to

the following conditions:—

1. The prisoner shall, if this period of temporary discharge be not  
extended, return to above-mentioned prison on the *11<sup>th</sup>*  
day of *December* 1917

2. The period of temporary discharge granted by this Order may,  
if the Lord Lieutenant thinks fit, be extended.

3. The prisoner shall abstain from any violation of the law.

If *he* fails to comply with any of the foregoing conditions, the  
prisoner is liable to be arrested and taken back to prison. While *he*  
is at large under this Order the currency of *his* sentence is suspended.

*P. W. Anglin*  
Governor.

*21 November* 1917

(30/6/18)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE IN IRELAND.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION (BELFAST PRISON)

ACT 1918.

-----

NOTICE is hereby given that if it becomes necessary to tender evidence on behalf of the Governor and Officers in answer to complaints which may be made, against them at the hearing of the above Inquiry, such evidence, in so far as it implicates any of the prisoners will be to the following effect.

- (1) That on the 25th June, 1918, most of the said prisoners were guilty of noisy and disorderly conduct, and in particular that those of them who then occupied the range of cells known as A-3 fronting the Crumlin Road kept up a prolonged disturbance tending to provoke the public and produce a breach of the peace by shouting, singing, whistling, bocking, raising disloyal cries and waving and gesticulating out of their windows. The names of such latter prisoners are set out in Schedule A attached hereto.
- (2) That on the 26th June in breach of an undertaking to keep quiet and observe the rules given on their behalf by Joseph McDonagh, similar conduct took place in which the same persons took part.
- (3) That on the 27th June in order to prevent the windows of their cells being restored to their normal positions such of the prisoners as then occupied such range of cells known as A-3, fronting the Crumlin Road, prepared to resist such restoration, and six of the prisoners, namely, Michael Reynolds, James Robinson, Charles Kenny, William McGinley, T. O'Flannigan, and A. McNeill, removed the windows of their cells, and the windows of two of the cells were broken.
- (4) That on the 27th June, when the removal of fifty of said prisoners from A-3 was being carried out, all of said fifty prisoners, save T. Brosnan and Michael Hooney forcibly resisted removal and in the course of such resistance were guilty of acts of violence to the prison officials and the Police called in to assist them, and that in support of such resistance to removal, 25 of the prisoners, whose names are set out in Schedule B attached hereto mutinied and committed various acts of damage to the prison fabric and furniture of the following character, namely: -breaking the glass of windows, and cpes, breaking and damaging tables, shelves, gas fixtures, stools, utensils, doors, door frames, beds, etc. A number barricaded their cells, so that same had to be opened by force, in particular great violence was used and fierce resistance offered by J. McMahon, Thomas Murrinan, James Robinson, John J. McKenna, and William Jones. In consequence of this conduct restraint had to be applied to 69 of such prisoners.
- (5) That on the 28th and 29th June all of such prisoners (except four released from restraint on the 28th day of June 1918, and seven released from restraint on the 29th day

of June 1918) continued in a state of mutiny, threatening violence and resistance, and did not undertake to desist from same if freed from restraint.

(6) That on the 29th June after returning from Mass 45 of such prisoners then in A. Ward refused to obey the orders of the Warders and in particular refused to go to their cells when so directed. The names of such prisoners are set out in Schedule C attached hereto.

(7) That on the 30th June a number of the prisoners who attended Mass in order to partake of Holy Communion continued in such a state of Mutiny and did not offer any undertaking to desist from further disorder and violence if released from restraint, for the purpose of such attendance by reason whereof it was considered necessary to continue such restraint.

(8) That on the 4th, 5th and 6th July, and subsequently from time to time all of such prisoners created disturbances by singing, yelling and raising seditious cries as before.

This Notice is filed on behalf of the Governor and Officers of Belfast Prison by John Graham, Solicitor, 24 St. Andrew Street, Dublin.

**SCHEDULE A.**

Michael Henney  
J. Traynor  
A. O'Donnell  
Michael Reynolds  
John M. Kenna  
E. O'Dwyer  
Kevin Higgins  
Edward Kennedy

William M. Ginley  
William O'Keefe  
J. S. Burke  
J. Gascoyne  
William Pedlar  
T. Brosnan  
A. M. Keill  
F. M. Grath  
Austin Stack

James Robinson  
J. Clancy  
James M. Evilly  
Michael Kirby  
Ed. Murphy  
J. Robbins  
E. M. Donnell  
G. Borland

**SCHEDULE B.**

William M. Gineey  
Joseph MacMahon  
John Gascoigne  
James A. Burke  
Ernest M. Donnell  
Gerald Boland  
William Pedlar  
William Keefe  
William Murphy  
Kevin Higgins  
Thomas Harrinan  
Thomas Wallace  
Jerh. Clancy  
Edward O'Dwyer  
Austin Stack  
John Traynor  
Michael Kirby  
James M. Evilly  
Edward Kennedy  
Daniel Brosnan  
Edward C. Fleming  
James Murray  
Patrick Morris  
Joseph Lynch  
Thomas Ryan  
John Ryan  
James Duggan  
Patrick C. O'Mahony

Michael Hanlon  
Daniel Mahony  
Patrick M. Carthy  
Patrick Meehan  
James Halpin  
Michael Keegan  
Ernest M. Auliffe  
Michael Keane  
James Murphy  
Edmund Ryan  
William M. Carthy  
James Robinson  
Patrick Hegarty  
Robert Jones  
Jeremiah Collison  
William Kynne  
John J. Guinness  
Michael Quinn  
Patrick Murphy  
Michael Leahy  
John Noonan  
James Talty  
J. J. O'Neill  
James Brown  
James O'Brien  
Maurice Hayes  
John Baloney  
John Dunne  
Francis Whitney

Thomas Brehan  
Edward P. Quinlan  
T. Crowe  
Patrick Loughnana  
C. O'Brien  
Patrick Kennedy  
Thomas Ryan  
John O'Shea  
William Jones  
J. Walsh  
John Barry  
James Clarke  
J. Brosnan  
Peter O'Loughlin  
Patrick Costello  
Austin Geraghty  
Philip Stackpoole  
Michael Lobb  
Michael Reynolds  
Edward J. Hegarty  
Martin Corry  
Arthur O'Donnell  
Frank M. Grath  
Charles Kenny  
J. MacDonagh  
A. B. Neill  
Thomas O'Flanagan  
Charles M. Carthy

**SCHEDULE C.**

E. C. Fleming  
Thomas Fannigan  
J. Murray  
P. Morris  
J. Clancy  
J. Lynch  
J. Ryan  
L. Ryan  
J. Duggan  
Joseph MacDonagh  
P. C. O'Mahony  
D. Mahony  
C. Kenny  
E. M. Carthy  
P. Keacken

T. Walsh  
G. M. Auliffe  
C. M. Carthy  
J. Murphy  
M. Keane  
J. Ryan  
J. Halpin  
E. O'Dwyer  
A. Stack  
James Traynor  
E. Kirby  
Edward Kennedy  
J. M. Evilly  
A. C. Donnell  
E. M. Grath

T. Brosnan  
J. M. Mahon  
W. M. Ginley  
J. Gascoigne  
E. M. Donnell  
G. Borland  
W. Pedlar  
E. Keefe  
R. Murphy  
K. Higgins  
T. Harrinan  
T. Wallace  
Jerh. Clancy  
J. A. Burke  
E. Hanlon

*Appendix E*

*original*

*To be handed to prisoner  
1/10/18.*

ORDER UNDER REGULATION 14.B.  
OF THE DEFENCE OF THE REALM REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS *Frank M. Grant, of Newcastle*  
is a person within an area in respect of which the operation of  
Section One of the Defence of the Realm (Amendment) Act, 1915,  
is for the time being suspended.

AND WHEREAS on the recommendation of a Competent Military  
Authority, appointed under the Defence of the Realm Regulations,  
it appears to me that for securing the public safety and the  
defence of the Realm it is expedient that the said *Frank*  
*M. Grant*..... should, in view of the fact that he is a  
person suspected of acting, having acted, and being about to act  
in a manner prejudicial to the public safety and the defence of  
the Realm, be subjected to such obligations and restrictions as  
are hereinafter mentioned:

I HEREBY ORDER that the said *Frank M. Grant*.....  
shall be interned in His Majesty's Prison at DURHAM.....  
and shall be subject to all the rules and conditions applicable  
to persons there interned and remain there until further orders.

If within seven days from the date on which this Order is  
served on the said *Frank M. Grant*.....  
he shall submit to me any representations against the provisions  
of this Order, such representations will be referred to the  
Advisory Committee appointed for the purpose of advising me with  
respect to the internment and deportation of aliens and presided  
over by a Judge of the High Court, and will be duly considered  
by the Committee. If I am satisfied by the report of the said  
Committee that this Order may be revoked or varied without injury  
to the public safety or the defence of the Realm, I will revoke  
or vary this Order by a further Order in writing under my hand.  
Failing such revocation or variation this Order shall remain in  
force.

*Ernest Thorne*  
CHIEF SECRETARY.

DUBLIN CASTLE.

*28<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1918.*

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-20  
BUREAU STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21  
No. W.S. 1558



ADDENDUM TO STATEMENT BY FRANK McGRATH,

Idrone, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

On reading through the statement of my activities during the Anglo-Irish war, the following incident, which perhaps I should have included, came to my mind. Sometime before the attack on Lord French at Ashtown in December, 1919, I was called to G.H.Q. There I met Michael Collins, who directed me to a room in which were Cathal Brugha and Dick Mulcahy. I learned from Brugha and Mulcahy that it was proposed to make an attack on Lord French, and they asked me if I was in a position to supply a number of men to assist in the operation, and, if so, how many. I replied that I was confident that the men could be got, but that offhand I could not give the number. I undertook that on my return home I would find out definitely and furnish the names of men agreeable to take part. This was considered satisfactory, and they asked me to communicate the information within four days. No mention was made of where the proposed attack was to take place, or of how the men were to be armed, but I assumed that G.H.Q. would provide the arms. On leaving the room I met Liam Deasy from Cork, who was evidently required on a similar mission to mine, for Michael Collins sent him into the room I had just left.

On my return home, I interviewed members of the brigade and, as a result, I sent forward to G.H.Q. a list of some fifty names (including my own) of men who were prepared to take part in such an engagement at any time. There, so far as I was concerned, the matter ended, for we were not subsequently called upon to take part in the attack on Lord French.

In my statement I have given particulars of the Sinn Féin District Courts which functioned in the North Tipperary Brigade area during the years 1920 and 1921. To complete the record, I append herewith the constitutions and areas of jurisdiction of the parish courts which functioned at the same time. The parish courts were based on the battalion areas, each battalion area being served by either one, two, three or five parish courts. The particulars are as follows:

Battalion 1 - 3 Parish Courts.

Area: - Nenagh, Kilruane, Puckane, Ballinalough, Silvermines, Ballycommon.

<u>No. 1 Court</u>	<u>Parish Justices</u>	<u>Court Clerk</u>
<u>Nenagh</u>	Jeremiah Ryan Patrick Hayes William Walsh	Patrick Clifford.
<u>No. 2 Court</u>		
<u>Puckane</u> <u>and</u> <u>Carrick</u>	Patrick Cahalan Patrick Coen Thomas McGrath	Patrick Clifford.
<u>No. 3 Court</u>		
<u>Silvermines</u>	Fr. Vaughan, C.C. William Gleeson M.J. Mackey.	William Kennedy.

Battalion 11 - 3 Parish Courts.

Area:- Moneygall, Toomevara, Cloughjordan, Gurthagarry.

<u>No. 1 Court</u>	<u>Parish Justices</u>	<u>Court Clerk</u>
<u>Moneygall</u>	Fr. Houlihan, C.C. Timothy Ryan William Conway.	William Carroll.
<u>No. 2 Court</u>		
<u>Toomevara</u> <u>and</u> <u>Gurthagarry</u>	Michael O'Donoghue Edward McCormack Michael Condon.	Denis Loughnane.
<u>No. 3 Court</u>		
<u>Cloughjordan</u>	John Spain Edward Gavin Denis Darcy.	Denis Costelloe.

Battalion 111 - 3 Parish Courts.

Area: - Portroe, Youghal, Ballina, Boher, Ballywilliam.

<u>No. 1 Court</u>	<u>Parish Justices</u>	<u>Court Clerk</u>
<u>Portroe</u>	John Kennedy Denis Ryan Michael Ryan	Robert Bonfield.
<u>No. 2 Court</u> <u>Ballina and</u> <u>Boher.</u>	John Duggan Timothy Ryan Michael Mulcahy.	Michael Herbert.
<u>No. 3 Court</u> <u>Ballywilliam</u> <u>and</u> <u>Youghal</u>	Matthew Fogarty Philip Ryan John Hurley.	James O'Brien.

Battalion IV - 5 Parish Courts.

Area: - Borrisokane, Kilbarron, Terryglass, Lorrha, Eglis, Ballingarry.

<u>No. 1 Court</u>	<u>Parish Justices</u>	<u>Court Clerk</u>
<u>Borrisokane.</u>	Michael McKenna Thomas Chadwick William Kennedy.	Nicholas McKenna.
<u>No. 2 Court</u> <u>Kilbarron</u> <u>and</u> <u>Terryglass</u>	Denis Costelloe John Gleeson Michael Kennedy.	Patrick Sammol.
<u>No. 3 Court</u> <u>Lorrha.</u>	John Abbot Patrick O'Meara James Moylan.	Thomas Cronin.
<u>No. 4 Court</u> <u>Eglis</u>	Patrick Hogan Michael Reddan Thomas Kennedy.	Patrick Kennedy.
<u>No. 5 Court</u> <u>Ballingarry</u>	Timothy McKenna Michael Gardiner John Torpey.	Paul McKenna.

Battalion V - 2 Parish Courts.

Area: - Templederry, Kilcommon, Curreeny, Killeen.

<u>No. 1 Court</u>	<u>Parish Justices</u>	<u>Court Clerk</u>
<u>Templederry</u> <u>Curreeny,</u> <u>and</u> <u>Killeen.</u>	James Butler James Ryan Daniel Ryan William O'Brien.	Michael Hogan.
<u>No. 2 Court</u> <u>Kilcommon</u>	William Hanley James Caplis Joseph Scanlon.	John O'Meara.

Battalion VI - 1 Parish Court.

Area: -- Newport, Ballinahinch, Killoscully, Knockfune, Rearcross, Lackamore.

One Parish Court served this battalion area.	<u>Parish Justices</u>	<u>Court Clerk</u>
	William Gorman	Thomas McGrath.
	John Kennedy	
	Martin Ryan	
	John Ryan	
	Denis Flannery.	

Battalion VII - 3 Parish Courts.

Area: - Roscrea, Dunkerrin, Shinrone, Clonakenny.

<u>No. 1 Court</u> <u>Roscrea.</u>	<u>Parish Justices</u>	<u>Court Clerk</u>
	David Rea	Edward Newe.
	Michael Walsh	
	David Fogarty	
	Michael Keeshan.	

<u>No. 2 Court</u> <u>Dunkerrin</u> and <u>Shinrone.</u>	Fr. O'Connor, C.C.	John Corcoran.
	Patrick Doorley	
	William Brophy.	

<u>No. 3 Court</u> <u>Clonakenny.</u>	John Sutton	J. Maher.
	Anthony O'Meara	
	James Burke.	

Signed: Frank W. Scallan

Date: 24 February 1957

Witness: J. Grace  
(Investigator).

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1558