

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1,743

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,743.

Witness

Comdt. General Tom Barry,  
64, St. Patrick's St.,  
CORK.

Identity.

O/C Cork No. 3 Brigade, Flying Column;  
Commandant-General I.R.A.

Subject.

- (a) Authentication of his book "Guerilla Days in Ireland";
- (b) Disagreement with the method adopted by the Bureau in regard to obtaining evidence.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

File No. S. 694. ....

Form B S M. 2

S. 894.

23 Deire F6ir, 1958.

A chara,

Thank you very much for your letter of  
21st instant.

I do understand the spirit in which you  
have written and I also appreciate your point of  
view but, as you are already aware, we cannot  
deviate from the established procedure.

I certainly shall be very happy to meet  
the wish you expressed in regard to your letter  
and I am arranging to have it included in the  
Archives with the other records of the Bureau  
where it will be available to historians of the  
future.

With renewed thanks.

Mise, le meas,

*Sgd* P. J. BRENNAN R6NAf.  
(P. J. Brennan)

Commandant-General Tom Barry,  
64, St. Patrick's Street,  
CORK.

CORK 22190

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BUREAU STAIRS MILEATS 1913-21
NO. W.S. 1743

64 ST PATRICK'S STREET  
CORK

Your ref:-  
S.894

21st October, 1958.

P. J. Brennan, Esq.,  
Secretary,  
Bureau of Military History 1913-21,  
26, Westland Row,  
DUBLIN.



Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 16th instant.

I have already told at least two investigators from the Bureau of Military History that anything of importance with which I was associated in the War of Independence has been published in my book "Guerilla Days in Ireland". I do not think that there is anything else in my experience worthy of recording.

In any event I have always held that the whole set-up is wrong in so far as all the statements are confidential. As far as I understand there will be no attempt to collate the facts of that period from your records until a quarter of a century at least will have elapsed. Any individual is entitled to make any claim he likes and defame any officers he likes and it must be recorded by your Bureau. In my opinion no history is a real history unless all statements are subjected to the light of publicity during the lifetime of those who took part in the events being recorded. At least every statement made should have been submitted to a Brigade Committee which would have verified or rejected it - then the future compilers of the history of the period would have some facts to go on and not some of the fantastic claims which I understand have already been recorded.

I know it is not the fault of the Bureau officers who are simply keeping to their terms of reference but if it is possible for you to include this statement in the files of the Bureau as my contribution I shall be very happy. Thank you again for your own courtesy in writing to me and I hope you will understand the spirit in which this is written.

Yours faithfully,

*John Barry*

COPY.

S. 894.

16 Deire Foir, 1958.

A chara,

As you are probably aware, the Bureau is due to be wound up not later than the end of December next, and the time available for the completion of its work is, therefore, very short and rapidly running out.

You will appreciate, I am sure, that it would be regrettable if, when the operation of the Bureau comes to an end, there should remain unrecorded any important material which is part of one of the most vital periods of our history. For that reason, I sincerely hope that you will see your way to record your personal recollection of any of the events or developments with which you were associated, or which were within your personal knowledge, and to send it to the Bureau, together with any relevant documents which may be in your possession or at your disposal.

I might mention that all material entrusted to the Bureau, whether in the form of statements or other documents, is treated as strictly confidential except where the donor himself expresses a wish to the contrary.

If there is any aspect of the matter on which you would like further information, I would be only too pleased to let you have it.

Mise, le meas,

sgd. P. J. BRENNAN RÚNAÍ.  
(P. J. Brennan)

Commandant General Tom Barry,  
64, Patrick Street,  
CORK.