

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1010-211 BURO STAIRE MILEATA 30

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1757

Witness

PATRICK L. ROGAN,

57 Jones Road, Drumcondra, DUBLIN.

Identity.

MEMBER OF I.R.A., WICKLOW, 1919-1922.

Subject.

DAIL EIREANN COURTS, 1919-1922.

· Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

File No. S. 3048.

Form B.S.M. 2

ORIGINAL I have been greatly taken up with upour admirable suggestion the Profle Cours, the for I Cayea in Courts was but a small one yes Lan priva dung for your Consideration & Leef M Dome Shack way to make afters

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effective operation. Dam tour than sure that
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Showered will. Mores and Books, The Daughter was giving Avidence of the attack and was been bross en anime a by Too Noyk who was for the defendant has Noy Das for as 5 Cun Framember was anserous to france that witness was not bery believe and was a flocking The action as a poiseucias stag , in his bearanaine It witness to Song to her, arongon Harrie a 18 lings Witness Sings. In Nuff Law hyper had a Baby Mente, Witness Have an Im from ofit what if got to do with Myon. In Noy & oh hother of In Just aske of a question Thats ale Thank ofour The old have who had been assauled was how in the Witnes Box softwaren how he hadlone attacked when how and agay his attacked would growling, in the end be love a hors out to longer and hushing up tothe Table a front of the frage he thorses Wown & bundle of Firty Sound to Saying tothe fudge how truck and fine of and forming tothe frote to Sang tothe fudge here to so and luming to the Dang tothe fudge here to so and luming to The Sounty with Clenche a Fiss he declared I lo Collegsed and he Doughier Grown Hurton ! Husales! After Some time order was restored and the Green adjourned 113 on towns! An anusing las before W. O Brien In The District lowy. BI BBay was one in whill a han hamey Runer Smell was Charge a with to breach of the Leense of daws on a unday, when askedy blow any they to day he stand Le dea hors , loguet to lower as we were all a Band

H hoongand about hower a Clair and de cont Arestman, the first Sand La would fine here 1/6 De for the 1/6 Sand Dan all Inghi Dun att fiction I le Serg you to free fits of days well in that The Sand Tien D'd fetter fry as I don't want to be

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21 BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S.

27 Joness Road,

Drumcondra,

Dublin.

6/12/1958.

My Lord Justice,

I have been greatly taken up with your admirable suggestion re people writing their experiences of the old Republican Courts. The part I played in the Republican Courts was but a small one; yet, the experiences I am forwarding, for your consideration, may help, in some small way, to make a start to put your suggestion into immediate and effective operation. I am more than sure that many, many interesting happenings can be recorded from the West, South and Midlands.

Your views on my little effort will be eagerly awaited by me, and I do most sincerely hope you will appreciate the spirit with which I have written my little story.

I remain,

My Lord Justice,

Yours very respectfully,

(Sd.) PATRICK L. ROGAN.

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10. W.S. 1757

STATEMENT BY PATRICK L. ROGAN,

27 Joness Road, Drumcondra, Dublin.

SOME SHORT MEMORIES OF THE REPUBLICAN COURTS,

I was associated with the Courts in Bray and Wicklow during these years, and I can recall some stirring and, at times, some funny incidents at the Circuit Court in Wicklow, presided over by the late Lar. Murphy of Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, a great Irishman and a great Sinn Feiner, and at the District Court at Bray, presided over by the late Larry O'Brien, and, when he had to go on the run, by William O'Brien, happily still with us, and hale and hearty, never missing a football game at Croke Park.

One big case, which lasted for three days before the Circuit Court, was one in which the late David Frame, who had bought the house, lands and timber of what is now the Presentation College at Bray Head, on the Putland Road, sought possession of a house and garden from a herd who had been there for years before Davey came to this country from Scotland. The case was an amusing and interesting one, as legal arguments were the order of the day, each day, for the three The legal battle was performed by two great solicitors of the time, both gone to their eternal reward. They were Mr. J.M. McGee of Bray and Mr. Craig of Dublin. The arguments were, at times, rather heated. Craig, the cooler of the two, did at times

more than annoy McGee. However, Frame lost the case, as indeed we knew he would, as Larry Murphy's sympathies were more with the herd. Funny, you might say, for a judge, but they were funny times.

I can recall a very amusing incident at the Circuit Court held in Bray. Mr. Noyk was in the case, and L. Murphy in the chair. It was a case in which a farmer from Kilcoole was charged with assaulting another farmer, on a Sunday morning, on his way to Mass. farmer, who was assaulted, was driving in his pony trap, with his daughter, when, from behind a hedge, they were showered with stones and rocks. The daughter was giving evidence of the attack, and was being crossexamined by Mr. Noyk, who was for the defendant. . Mr. Noyk, as far as I can remember, was anxious to prove that the witness was not very reliable and was a shady character. At a particular stage in his examination of the witness, he said to her, "Are you married or single?" Witness, "Single". Mr. Noyk, "Have you had a baby recently?" Witness, "I have, and I'm proud of What's it got to do with you?" it. Mr. Noyk, "Oh, nothing! I'm just asking a question. That's all. The old man, who had been assaulted, was thank you!" now in the witness box, explaining how he had been attacked, when, now and again, his attacker would interrupt, by shouting, "Liar, liar!", and continually growling. In the end, he could hold out no longer, and, rushing to the table in front of the Judge, he threw down a bundle of notes, some £50, saying to the Judge, "How much am I fined?", and, pointing to the notes, he said to the judge, "Here is £50!" And turning to the

plaintiff, with clenched fist, he declared, "I'll get the worth of it out of you, going home!" The witness collapsed, and his daughter roared, "Murder! Murder!" After some time, order was restored, and the case was adjourned for one month.

An amusing case before W. O'Brien in the District Court at Bray was one in which a man, named Daniel Smith, was charged with a breach of the licensing laws on a When asked if he had anything to say, he said Sunday. he did not recognise the court, as we were all a band of hooligans, and he was a clean and decent Irishman. The Justice said he would fine him 7/6d. "I'll pay no "All right!", said the Justice, 7/od.!", said Dan. "I'll send you to jail for seven days." "Well, in that case", said Dan, "I'd better pay, as I don't want to be found dead at an unknown destination. I'll pay in a few days. " Justice, "Seven days to pay". Smith had a niece courting one of our officers in the I.R.A. were afterwards married. The officer used to spend every Sunday with his girl friend at Smith's house. Ι went to collect the fine, and, when I knocked on the door, Smith's wife opened it, and, when her husband heard me, he said, "I know what that is". And walking backwards towards the door, standing with his back to me, he had the 7/6d. in his hand. I took it and gave him a receipt. As I was about to leave, he called me back, and made what was to me an amusing remark, and one that has of ten made me laugh down the years. is what he said: "When you go back, will you tell that General of yours not to be coming here for his cheap dinners on a Sunday!" The General was, of course, the Lieutenant who was courting his niece.

There was another memorable occasion in the District Court. Larry O'Brien was presiding, when the late Joseph Campbell, that great patriot poet (The Nine-penny Fiddle, etc.), arrived, and caused an uproar that might have been more than serious. Joe claimed that he had been instructed from H.Q. to preside at the Some heated and, at times, nasty exchanges took place between Campbell and O'Brien, leading to O'Brien ordering the arrest of Campbell. I can still see Campbell, standing in the middle of the room in his green uniform, knee breeches and the rest, with hand outstretched like the pose of Emmet in one of the beautiful paintings that we see of Emmet. Campbell declared, among other things, that he felt sure his old and gallant comrades in the I.R.A. would not leave a hand on him. Those of us who knew Joe would not do so, but some others, not long in the movement, advanced to carry out O'Brien's orders, when two shots were fired from a revolver, and pandemonium was let loose. midst of it all, Campbell raised his hands and called for order. Order was immediately restored. We brought him out of the hall, and away. He left the country after that, and I think he was later a Lecturer at Fordham University, U.S.A.

1919-1922 are a long time ago. Unfortunately, I have no written record, but, given time, there is much of the doings of the old Courts in the Sinn Fein days I could and would love to recall. I often thought it strange when serving summonses, civil bills, etc., in the remote country districts, the people appeared to be afraid. They would offer you money, butter, eggs or

fowl. I think it was fear of the name, I.R.A.

As I write this little story, I am reminded of our little hide-out, on the Upper Dargle Road, at Bray, where we used to hold prisoners when arrested and on remand. Much more could I write, were my great friends and comrades in arms still alive, Owen Gallagher and Peter Ledwidge. But, happily, William O'Brien is still with us, and living in Bray. He could, and I am sure, would be helpful when Republican Court experiences will begin to be written, as you, My Lord Justice, have suggested.

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	5th December, 1958.	į
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