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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 42



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ROINN COSANTA.

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21),

26 RAEDH NA NIARTHARACH,
(26 Westland Row),

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.
(Dublin).

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Statement by

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On: Kilnamartyra Company, I.V.
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STATEMENT OF PATRICK GALVIN, COOLCOWER, MACROOM,
CO. CORK.

PERIOD: SEPTEMBER, 1915 TO MAY, 1916.

UNIT: KILNAMARTYRA COMPANY, I.V.

About the end of August or early September, 1915, Henry A. Brown arranged for a meeting to be held in Kilnamartyra on a Sunday after Mass to form a Company of Irish Volunteers. The meeting was held. Someone from Cork - I think it was Seán Nolan - spoke there, and the Company was started. Twenty-three men joined.

Soon afterwards an election of Officers was held and the following were elected:-

Captain:	Henry A. Brown.
1st Lieut.:	Patrick O'Sullivan.
Treasurer:	Dan Harrington.
Section Commanders:)	T. Buckley, J. Brown, C. O'Connell, D. O'Riordan.

There was no change in the Officers or in the number of men in the Company up to Easter, 1916.

Parades were held on two nights a week and on Sundays. There was no ex-serviceman in the Company, and H.A. Brown usually drilled us. Sometimes Seán Nolan came out to the Sunday parades and Terence MacSwiney came also. Some of the Sunday parades were for the purpose of recruiting for the Volunteers. We attended parades for this purpose at Inchigeela and Ballyvourney. The Ballyvourney meeting was on the same day that the Clondrohid Company was there.

We were at the Manchester Martyrs' parade in Cork in November, 1915, and at the St. Patrick's Day parade there also in 1916. We had twenty-two men at each of these parades.

We paid 2d or 3d a week into a Company fund for the purchase of equipment. Everyone in the Company had haversacks, belts and bandoliers, but there was only one cap - Patrick O'Sullivan's.

The orders for Easter Sunday, 1916, came to us from Macroom. They were that we were to parade after first Mass in Kilnamartyra with all arms and equipment and three days' rations, and march to Carriganiumma. The following paraded:-

Henry A. Brown.
Patrick O'Sullivan.
Michael O'Sullivan.
Dan Galvin.
Con Connell.
Patrick Connell.
Jim Connell.
Dan Riordan.
John Riordan.

James Riordan.
John Delaney.
John H. Browne.
John T. Browne.
Jeremiah Sullivan.
Dan Murphy.
Con Manning.
Tim Buckley.
Dan Harrington.
Joe Roche.
Patrick Galvin.
Batt Galvin.

Dan Tadhg Sweeney of Ballyvourney also paraded with us.

The arms we had were twelve shot guns, some of which had been borrowed from local farmers, with about ten rounds for each, two miniature rifles with no ammunition, four .22 revolvers and about 20 rounds, and eight or nine pikes. We had some slugs also. Anyone not having a shot gun had a pike. The pike heads had been made by a blacksmith named Manning at Kilnamartyra. We had no bayonets for the shot guns, and no explosives.

We assembled at Kilnamartyra after first Mass and marched, via Mons, to Clondrohid, where we joined the Clondrohid Company, and both Companies then moved on to Carriganimma. Exercises were carried out there, and it was late in the evening when word came that the parades were called off and we were to return home. The night was very wet, and we stayed in Carriganimma until Monday morning. We then marched back to Kilnamartyra.

Daniel Harrington and Seán Ruadh Riordan were arrested on Tuesday morning, and we were mobilised that day with the intention of making an attempt to rescue them, but they had been taken to Macroom before we had time to make any plans and we were dismissed again.

We got no orders after that, as far as I know. The police raided for Henry A. Brown but did not find him. There were no other arrests and no arms were lost or surrendered in the Company area.

There were no I.R.B. or Fianna organisations in the district before 1916.

SIGNED :

Patrick Galvin

DATE:

16-10-1947

WITNESS:

Florence Donoghue.

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