

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILÉATA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 45



ÉIRE

Telefón 61018

ROINN COSANTA.

BURO STAIRÉ MÍLEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21),

26 RAEFH NA NIARTHARACH,
(26 Westland Row),

BAILE ÁRHA CIATH
(Dublin)

DOCUMENT W.S.45

Statement by:

Patrick Coakley,
Rahalisk, Ballinagree,
Co. Cork.

Dated: 18th October, 1947.

On: Ballinagree Coy. I.V.
1915-1916.

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I.O. W.S. 45STATEMENT OF PATRICK COAKLEY, RAHALISA, BALLINAGREE,
CO. CORK.

PERIOD: DECEMBER, 1915 to MAY, 1916.

UNIT: BALLINAGREE COMPANY, I.V.

The Ballinagree Company was started on the first Sunday in December, 1915. Bill Cotter put up a notice on the chapel gate to the effect that a meeting to form a Company of Irish Volunteers would be held after Mass. He had arranged for the attendance of speakers from Macroom, and Dan Corkery, Jim Murphy, Jack Lynch and Bill Cotter addressed the meeting. Sixteen men joined and the Company started.

About two weeks later we held an election of Officers and the following were elected:-

Captain: Denis O'Neill.

Secretary: Jerome Duggan.

Treasurer: Patrick Quill.

There was no change of officers down to Easter, 1916.

We paraded one night a week and every Sunday. On the week nights we used to go a couple of miles, or halfway to meet Paul O'Donoghue's Company of Carriganinna. On the Sunday someone from Macroom usually came out to us, either Dan Corkery, Jack Lynch or Mick Murphy. We had a parade to Coughlan's Inch one Sunday, where Seán O'Sullivan of Cork drilled us.

We paid 2d a week into a Company fund for the purchase of equipment, and by March, 1916, all had haversacks, belts and bandoliers.

In January, 1916, Jeremiah Buckley was sent on the Course carried out in the Sheares Street Hall in Cork by J.J. O'Connell but we only saw him at one Sunday parade after he came back. We had twenty-two men in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Cork in 1916. Fourteen of them were armed with shot guns, the remainder were unarmed, but had belts, haversacks and bandoliers.

A British recruiting meeting was held in Ballinagree on a Sunday in February, 1916. We held an opposition meeting at the same place and time. Seán O'Sullivan of Cork and Mick Murphy and Jack Lynch of Macroom spoke at our meeting. We made a collection and drilled opposite the other meeting, but the whole thing passed off peacefully enough.

Mick Murphy of Macroom brought us the orders for Easter Sunday, 1916. He came from Macroom on Good Friday night. The orders were to the effect that we were to go to Carriganinna immediately after first Mass on Easter Sunday with all arms and equipment and rations for three days.

On Easter Sunday the following twenty-two men paraded after first Mass at Ballinagree:-

Denis O'Neill.
Batt. O'Neil.
Patrick Quill.
Hemphrey O'Leary.
John Sullivan.
Dan Sullivan.
David Sullivan.
Michael Sullivan.
John Sullivan.
Michael Walsh.
Tim Walsh.
Patrick Coakley.
Bill Cotter.
Jeremiah Cotter.
Seamus Cotter.
Dan Noonan.
Patrick O'Keefe.
Billy Collins.
Jeremiah Healy.
Neilus Connor.
Jeremiah Cronin.
Tim Hyde.

Denis O'Neill was in charge and we all went together across country to Carriganinna. It was four to four and a half miles cross country but would be seven miles if we went by road.

We were armed with twenty-two shot guns, some J.B. and some D.B. Twelve of these were the property of members of the Company, the remainder were borrowed from local farmers. We had 4 boxes (100 rounds) of shot gun ammunition, none of which had been slug loaded. We had two or three .22 revolvers and some ammunition for them. We had no pikes or explosives.

We had in the Company also three old Fenian rifles which we had got from James and Jeremiah Twohig and Mike Walsh of Ballinagree. The Twohigs had been sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment in the Land League days, and one of them had been centre of the old I.N.B. organisation. We did not take these rifles out on Easter Sunday as they were useless and there was no ammunition for them.

The Macroom Company had just arrived when we got to Carriganinna and Jack Lynch took charge of us. Some exercises were carried out and we were there all day until a message came in the evening that the parade had been cancelled and we were to return home.

Before we left Carriganinna Jack Lynch took our four boxes of shot gun ammunition. It was dark and very wet when we started. We marched the seven miles back by road. There was only one overcoat amongst the twenty-two of us that night and everybody got soaked.

No orders came to us, and on Thursday night we went into Macroom and got back our four boxes of ammunition. We held a meeting of the Company on Friday night. Mick Murphy from Macroom attended it and Paddy O'Connor, Pound Lane, was with him.

We got orders then to give back all the borrowed shot guns, keep the other arms and ammunition safely and keep together.

There were no raids in the Company area and no arrests. No arms or ammunition were lost or surrendered.

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

SIGNED: *Patrick Coakley*

DATE: *18th October. 1944*

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WITNESS: *Seamus O'Donoghue*