

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURÓ STAIRÉ MÍLEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 73



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ROINN COSANTA.

BURÓ STAIRÉ MÍLEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21).

26 RAEDH NA NIARTHARACH,
(26 Westland Row),

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.
(Dublin).

DOCUMENT W.S.73

Statement by: Denis Lyons,
22, Lr. Rathmines Rd.,
Dublin.

Dated: 12th December, 1947.

On: Kanturk Coy. I.V.,
1915/1916.

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ORIGINAL

STATEMENT OF DENIS LYONS, 22, LOWER
RATHMINES ROAD, DUBLIN.

PERIOD: 1915 to MAY, 1916.

UNIT: KANTURK COMPANY, I.V.

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In June, 1914, a Company of Volunteers was formed in Kanturk. It was composed mainly of supporters of the Irish Party, and those who subsequently started the Irish Volunteer Company in the town took part in it. This National Volunteer Company continued in nominal existence up to the end of 1915, when it became inactive and dissolved.

About the end of 1914, I started a Company of Irish Volunteers with about 6 men. Local feeling was very hostile to us at first, but we gradually worked up to a strength of 35 men.

We held parades on one night a week and a route march every Sunday, and military lectures under cover three nights weekly. We had no arms, and the training was in drill and marching.

The following Officers were elected soon after the start, and they continued in office until after 1916:-

Captain: Denis Lyons.
Adjutant: Tom Riordan.
Quartermaster: Jack O'Connell.

I think it was from Daithi Barry we received the orders for Easter Sunday, 1916. They were to the effect that we were to march to Barley Hill, Newmarket, with all arms and equipment and three days' rations. Everybody was mobilised and seven men paraded on Easter Sunday morning. They were:-

Denis Lyons, Captain.
Tom Riordan, Adjutant.
Jack O'Connell, Quartermaster.
Dan Lyons.
Jack Humerston.
John Ryan.
William Healy.

The only arms we had was one .38 revolver and a small quantity of ammunition for it.

We marched to Barley Hill. D.I. John McCoy and an R.I.C. Sergeant and Constable followed us from Newmarket to Barley Hill and back. We had no information as to what the purpose of the parade was. We waited at Barley Hill until about 5 o'clock. I am not sure if anyone brought us word that the exercises were off or if we decided to return, having got no orders. I do not remember anyone coming to us at Barley Hill. We marched back to Newmarket and I called a parade of the Newmarket Company and put them through some drill. There were about 80 Volunteers altogether at Barley Hill, some from Boherbue, some from Meelin, together with the Kanturk and Newmarket men.

On Easter Monday, my brother, Dan Lyons, and I went to Cork by train, and reported to the Volunteer Hall, Sheares' Street, in an endeavour to get some information or orders. We met Seán O'Sullivan,

Tadg O'Sullivan and Tadg Barry. They were unable to give us any orders. We stayed in Cork until the following Saturday and came back on the late train to Kanturk.

There were no arrests in the Company Area after Easter, 1916.

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

SIGNED: _____

D Lyons

DATE: _____

12-12-47

WITNESS: _____

Florence Donoghue

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