

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURÓ STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 78



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Telefón 61018.

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BURÓ STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21).

26 RAEDH NA NIARTHARACH,
(26 Westland Row),

BAILE ATHA CLIATH.
(Dublin).

DOCUMENT W.S. 78

Statement by: John Manning,
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Ballinagree,
Co. Cork.

Dated: 30th November, 1947

On: Donoughmore Coy. I.V.,
1915-1916.

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STATEMENT OF JOHN MANNING,
MOULNAHORNA, BALLINAGREE,
CO. CORK.

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PERIOD: October 1915, to May 1916.

UNIT: Donoughmore Company, I.V.

Donoughmore Company of the Irish Volunteers was organised by Patrick Looney, Meenachonee, in the first week of October, 1915. Eighteen men joined at the start. Training instructions were given by Pat. Higgins of Cork after Stuake Mass. The Company held regular weekly parades after that, and additional members joined its ranks. Instruction in drill was given by me, taken from a British Infantry Training Manual.

The first public parade of the Company outside its own area took place in November, 1915. It was to the Manchester Martyrs Commemoration parade in Cork City. Thirty men from the Company took part in it. Later we held parades to Peake, Rylane, Nadd and Ahabullogue, with the result that other Companies were formed in these places.

The weekly parades were continued. The men paid a regular weekly subscription and out of this fund we purchased a miniature rifle which was used for target practice. Two old rifles which had been in the area since Fenian times were used for rifle drill, although they were useless as weapons.

In January, 1916, I attended the course of training for Officers, carried out by J.J. O'Connell at the Hall in Sheares Street. On my return from the course I was appointed Company Captain. The area of the Company was very large and it was then organised into four sections. The following Officers and Section Commanders were appointed, and no change took place in these appointments down to Easter, 1916:-

Captain:	John Manning.
1st Lieutenant:	Joseph Collins.
2nd Lieutenant:	Jeremiah Scanlon.
Adjutant:	William Kelleher.
Quartermaster:	Thomas Scanlon.

Section Commanders:

No. 1 Section:	Denis Murphy.
No. 2 Section:	James Barrett.
No. 3 Section:	Pat. Collins.
No. 4 Section:	Maurice Brew.

These nine men comprised the Company Council. In addition to the ordinary weekly parade they met weekly as a Council and for additional instruction at Mullane's Forge, Stuake.

A British recruiting meeting was advertised to take place in Stuake on 15th March, 1916. Word was sent to the Courtbrack Company to parade with us at Stuake that day. The car in which the speakers for the meeting were (they included one of the Day's of Cork) arrived and the crowd gathered round it. As the meeting was about to commence I ordered the Donoughmore Company to "fall in" close by. They did so, and I marched the Company round the car. Courtbrack Company arrived soon afterwards. All the crowd dispersed and the speakers were

left without any audience, apart from the members of the R.I.C. who were present.

Forty men from the Company took part in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Cork in 1916. Sixteen were armed with shotguns and some with croppy pikes. Some shotguns had been purchased at this time and also a large quantity of shotgun ammunition. Thirteen croppy pikes had been made by a local blacksmith.

Denis Mullane Patrick and Joe Bellens and handles made by Dalys Bros

The Company was on parade on Friday evening, April 21st, 1916, when a dispatch arrived from Brigade Headquarters. It was received by me. It contained the instructions for the parade on Easter Sunday. The Company was dismissed and a Company Council meeting held. At this meeting orders were issued, in accordance with the instructions received, for a mobilisation of the whole Company at Coolmona on Easter Sunday at 11 a.m. sharp with all arms, ammunition and equipment and two days' rations. Instructions were given to have the mobilisation carried out as quickly as possible so as not to arouse the suspicions of the R.I.C. The men received their mobilisation orders during Saturday. We had no definite information that this was anything more than an ordinary parade, but the general feeling at the time was tense and we felt that the order may mean serious business. I had been at a Brigade meeting in Cork on, I think, the second Sunday before Easter, and Tadhg Barry told me there was something on.

The following mobilised at Coolmona at 11 a.m. on Easter Sunday:-

- John Manning, Gurranedmond, Donoughmore.
- Patrick Looney, Meenachonee, "
- Maurice Brew, Kilmartin, "
- James Barry, Coolick, "
- William Kelleher, Ballykerwick, "
- Patrick Daly, Ballycunningham, "
- Denis Daly, " "
- James Daly, " "
- Edward Daly, " "
- James Barrett, Firmount, "
- John O'Shea, Kilmartin, "
- Richard O'Leary, " "
- William Foley, Knockrourke, "
- Tim Dineen, " "
- Batt. Healy, Lackabawn, "
- Thomas Downey, " "
- Pat. J. Murphy, " "
- Denis Murphy, Meenachonee, "
- Tim Sexton, " "
- Pat. Collins, Ballykerwick, "
- Joe Collins, " "
- Denis Kelleher, " "
- Pat. O'Meara, Firmount, "
- John Murphy, Coolmona, "
- Thomas O'Neill, " "
- Michael Healy, Lackabawn, "
- Charles Hurley, " "
- Thomas Forde, Coolmona, "
- Thomas Healy, Fornaught, "
- Timothy Cremin, Boola, Beeing, Mallow.
- Mick Sullivan, Ballykerwick, Donoughmore.
- Pat Sullivan, " "
- John MacSweeney, Meenachonee, "
- Jim O'Connell Kilmartin*
- Denis O'Callaghan Firmount*
- John O'Shea Coolmona*
- John Downey*
- Peter O'Callaghan Fornaught*

The arms which the Company had on that day were:-

Seventeen shotguns with 1500 rounds of ammunition.

Thirteen pikes.

Two revolvers with 40 rounds of ammunition.

The Company marched to Bering, arriving there at 12.30, the time appointed in the orders. Companies from Courtbrack, Whitechurch, Mourne Abbey, Mallow, Castletownroche and Nadd paraded there also. Micheal Lynch arrived on a motor cycle and some exercises were carried out.

Later in the evening Tomás MacCurtain arrived in a car. There were other Officers with him. I think Terence MacSweeney was one of them. MacCurtain ordered the Company to return to and remain under arms until further orders. The Company marched back to its own area that night and the men returned to their homes with instructions to be available at short notice. The car containing Tomás MacCurtain and the other Officers had passed us at Beenalought going towards Donoughmore, when we were marching back.

On Monday and Tuesday most of the Officers were engaged in loading shotgun ammunition with slugs. On Wednesday Jeremiah Scanlon and Denis Daly were sent in to Headquarters in Cork to seek information or orders. They came back with the same order we had received on Easter Sunday evening.

On Friday of Easter Week a special courier arrived from Headquarters to arrange for the transfer of arms out from the city and the dumping of them in the Company area. Three men with horses and carts were sent to Cork for the purpose of bringing out the arms. Two of the men, Maurice Brew of Kilmartin and John Scanlon of Bauracharing, arrived in the City and reported to Headquarters there. They were informed that an agreement had been made to hand over the arms to the Bishop of Cork. No arms or ammunition were surrendered or lost in raids in the Company area. There were no arrests.

I was sworn into membership of the I.R.B. by Seán O'Sullivan when I was on the course in Cork in January, 1916. I was the only member of the Company in the organisation.

There were no Fianna or Cumman-na-mBan organisations in the Company area before 1916.

SIGNED:

John Manning

DATE:

31st November 1947

WITNESS:

Florence Dowling

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