

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STAIRÉ MILITÉ 1913-21  
NÓ. W.S. 228

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S....228.....

**Witness**

Mr. James E. Hackett,  
Main St.,  
Clogher, Co. Tyrone.

**Identity**

Member of Irish Volunteers Clogher, Co. Tyrone;  
Member of I.R.B.

**Subject**

National activities from 1914 up to and  
including Easter Week 1916.

**Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness**

Nil

File No. S.1254.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

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STATEMENT FROM MR. J. E. HACKETT, SLOGHER,  
CO. TYRONE.

I joined the Irish Volunteers in ~~Glenties~~<sup>Clogher</sup> when first organised <sup>924</sup> early in 1914. Hugh Bogue was Captain of ~~Glenties~~<sup>Clogher</sup> Company and Frank Dooris was Battalion O/C. in charge of South Tyrone area. James McKenna and William Clifford (ex-British Army) were military instructors. We had not much arms. I made several journeys to Dublin and purchased rifles, revolvers and other military equipment. The arms, when purchased, were distributed to the most reliable of our men. I brought about, at least 36 rifles from Dublin during several visits I made there. We had a considerable number of shotguns available in 1916. The ammunition for all arms were limited and all we had were purchased in small lots - a few dozen rounds at a time. I myself must have purchased about 1,000 rounds in small lots, a good share of it in Dublin. <sup>924</sup>

All our training and preparation for the 1916 Rising was carried out under difficult conditions. We operated in an area comprising a large Unionist population in most districts and the R.I.C. kept a close eye on our activities. We openly trained with arms as far as our armament permitted. The local Unionist population was very antagonistic, but they never openly interfered with us. On a few occasions we met Ulster Volunteers on the roads when we and they were carrying out training operations. Those incidents might have resulted in serious clashes, particularly as the Ulster Volunteers were stronger in number and better armed than we were, but nothing serious ever happened.

In South Tyrone I would say that about 50% of the population were Unionists. On the Nationalist side a big percentage were Hibernian and generally antagonistic<sup>to</sup> the Irish Volunteers. Some of them, however, joined the Volunteers at the start but dropped out at the <sup>to</sup> which took place in Co. Tyrone about Sept, 1914.

I joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood in 1914. Ned Rice, who then was a schoolteacher in Clogher, was Centre. Later Frank

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Dooris succeeded Rice as Centre.

From I joined the Volunteers in 1914 up to after 1916 I was what I can describe as a general utility man. I had a car which I used extensively for journeys all over the county for organisation work, communications, transfer of munitions, etc. My special job was communications.

On the Friday of Holy Week 1916, Dr. P. McCartan sent me down to Belfast to contact Mr. Denis McCullough. I met Mr. McCullough and brought him back with me to Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone to Dr. McCartan's place. After we arrived in Carrickmore on Friday I was told, I think by Herbert Moore Pim, who was then in Carrickmore, that a general mobilisation was ordered for Easter Sunday. There was not, as far as I can remember, any general mobilisation under arms ordered for Sunday or Sunday night. We were 'standing-to' awaiting orders. Very late on Sunday night I heard that a mobilisation was ordered.

On Sunday we heard that Eoin MacNeill's orders were issued calling off the Rising. I think this news first came to me when I was in Newry town attending the consecration of the late Dr. Mulhern Bishop of Dromore. On the journey to Newry on Monday I was driving Father James O'Daly, C.C., Clogher (now Canon O'Daly, P.P. Clogher) and we picked up P.T. Ryan, Archie Heron and two other men who were on the run in Co. Tyrone. We took these men to the residence of Father McPhilip, Tyholland, Co. Monaghan, and dropped them there. I noticed police activities all day on Sunday and on my journey back from Newry we were held up a few times and questioned as to our petrol supplies - which were then subject to strict rationing - and the car was searched.

On Easter Monday I heard that the Rising had started in Dublin. I cannot remember how I heard it. I took Father Coyle on a journey that day - I cannot remember where I took him. I went on Monday to Dr. McCartan's place and we were then fully informed of the Rising in Dublin. I was not told how the news came. I was handed

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about 150 revolvers and ammunition which I was told to distribute at specified places. I took the revolvers to Hugh Bogue and distributed the ammunition on the mountains near Clogher on Monday night. There were about 200 men under arms - Clogher Company, and some men from Scotstown and Clones, Co. Monaghan were there also.

On Tuesday of Easter Week we were standing to awaiting orders or further developments. Eventually we all dispersed.

I had a lot of activities after Tuesday, dumping arms, messages etc. I cannot remember them or give details now. I had not to go 'on the run' and I was not arrested. The police adopted an interfering attitude towards me which led on a few occasions to heated arguments. The police were apparently trying to intimidate me into restricting my movements and I defied their efforts to put me off my usual routine of work.

Signed: James E. Hackett

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> April 1949.

Witness:

John MacDermott  
8/4/49.

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