

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 272

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 272

Witness

Mr. Daniel Branniff,
18 Herbert St.,
Belfast.

Identity

Member of Supreme Council, I.R.B. 1912-1914
and 1918-1921.

Subject

National Activities
1907-1921.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

N11

File No. ...S. 214.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

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SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT FROM DANIEL BRANNIFF,

18 HERBERT ST. BELFAST.

I joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood, Glasgow ~~Centre~~^{CIRCLE SB}, in 1907. We usually met in the Sinn Fein Hall, High St. Membership of the I.R.B. in Glasgow varied from time to time - about 50 average. I was introduced to the I.R.B. by a Co. Antrim man now living in Cushendun - Patrick McCormick - and was sworn in by a Kerryman, Patrick McAllen, now dead. The I.R.B. took the initiative in calling the meeting in Oct. or Nov. 1913 in Glasgow at which the Volunteers were formed. and, as far as possible, the Volunteers were officered and trained by the I.R.B. The Battn. O/C. of the Volunteers was a member of the I.R.B. as were also the chief instructors.

I was Chairman of the Glasgow Centres Board in early 1916. Of the Glasgow men who came to Dublin before 1916 and took part in the Rising Charles Corrigan fought in the G.P.O. and was killed in action in the retreat to Moore St. Others were the brothers Seamus and Sean Rice. I cannot say what assignments they had during the Rising.

I heard of the contemplated Rising first, as a possible event, in the Autumn of 1914, when I was a member of the Supreme Council of the I.R.B. This possibility became a specific project about January 1916, when the various Circles in Scotland were informed, through their officers, that a rising was to take place soon. No date was mentioned. All who could conveniently go to Ireland were advised to do so and be ready for action there. I left for Ireland in Feb. 1916 and I don't remember any of the Volunteer officers as such being consulted as to the projected rising before I left Scotland. The I.R.B. were the chief influence in bringing about the Rising. This was made easy by the fact that the I.R.B. men were amongst the officers of the Volunteers and many amongst the rank and file. I can't say if the plans for the rising were specifically approved by the I.R.B. as I was not on the Supreme Council in 1916.

I was co-opted on the Supreme Council about 1912 to replace

SB

Major John McBride who was released from the Supreme Council, or resigned, as he was engaged on other important work. I was still on the Supreme Council in 1914 when the war broke out.

I was elected Scottish representative on the Supreme Council in 1918. After my election I had to make periodical visits to Scotland. I remained a member of the Supreme Council until the Summer of 1921. I resigned then as Scottish representative as I had decided to remain full time in Ireland.

Signed:

Daniel Branniff

Date:

June 30th 1949

Witness:

John Meboy.
30/6/49.

