

**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STARE MILEATA 1913-21  
No. W.S. 281

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

**STATEMENT BY WITNESS**

**DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 281**.....

**Witness**

Mr. Bernard James Golden,  
60 Botanic Avenue,  
Drumcondra,  
Dublin.

**Identity**

Clerk in Dublin Castle during the years  
1920 and 1921.

**Subject**

Account of his employment by British Authorities  
during the years 1919-1921.

Reference to documents registered as C.D.123  
and C.D.143.

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

Nil

File No. ...S.1362.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

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STATEMENT BY BERNARD JAMES GOLDEN

60 Botanic Avenue, Drumcondra, Dublin.

In October, 1919, I joined the Dublin Brigade of the Irish Republican Army. I cannot say if I was assigned to any Battalion, but Michael Price, with whom I was in close contact, told me to take whatever civilian employment I could get, and that in all probability I would be of service to them.

Being a demobilised soldier of the British Army I applied for any position that could be offered to me. Under the Educational Corps which was established under British rule, I was given an interview before the representative of the Board here, Lieutenant Costello, and he recommended me to the 5th Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery stationed at Newtownards.

I reported to Newtownards, and was appointed assistant schoolmaster (civilian) to the troops there. In the meantime I got in touch with the I.R.A. leaders in Belfast, whose names I cannot recall, and kept them informed of the movements of troops to and from Newtownards, Belfast and the surrounding areas.

In 1920 the unit moved to Tallaght. I remained as the unit's assistant schoolmaster and got in touch with the local I.R.A. leaders in Dublin - Peadar Clancy, Dick McKee, Dick Mulcahy, Frank Thornton, Charlie Dalton, Maurice Brennan and Tom Markham. I got instructions to keep in touch with them, to report movements of troops, and, if possible, to bring out arms. Peadar Clancy gave me those instructions.

On one particular occasion while I was in Tallaght,

I was brought to Jack Golden's house on the South Circular Road where Dick McKee, Peadar Clancy and George Plunkett were. They showed me a Morris tube for a 6" gun and I gave instructions on it to Peadar Clancy, Dick McKee, George Plunkett and Kevin Golden. Dick McKee picked up the mechanism quickly; he understood it after about an hour and a half. It was left to George Plunkett to make a carriage for it. I never heard that it was used.

While I was in Tallaght I brought out any information I could get.

Before Christmas 1920 the establishments of the Educational Corps were cut down considerably, with the result that I was unemployed and I remained unemployed until some time between January and February, 1921, I had offers of employment from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, and Dublin Castle. The three letters came on the same morning to report at ten o'clock. I reported to Michael Price and he told me to go into the Castle, and to take out any arms, ammunition I could get and any information I could pass on.

I was placed under the direction of Frank Thornton and Charlie Dalton immediately, and from that until the Truce I carried out documents, files and information of all kinds and handed them over to Frank Thornton or Charlie Dalton. One of the documents I brought out was a typescript or manuscript about the Thompson sub-machine gun which had been perfected in America. The military authorities in the Castle did not think much of it as far as I can recollect. I also brought out from the Castle Eoin MacNeill's personal file and handed it to Frank Thornton. I also brought out particulars of a raid

which had taken place on the house of Mrs. Tobin in Clonmel.

The document registered C.D.123 was taken from Dublin Castle by me and given to Mr. Redmond, G.H.Q. staff, in 1943. This document is entitled "The Sinn Féin or Irish Volunteers and the Rebellion". To the best of my knowledge it is a copy of the printed report by the D.M.P. on the events which led up to the 1916 Rising and on the activities and actions of both the Volunteers and the police during Easter Week, 1916.

I now hand in to the Bureau of Military History a document in manuscript, which was a Crimes Index of raids and assaults carried out by military, police, Black and Tans and Auxiliaries. The pages were torn by me from a register which was kept in Dublin Castle. The Bureau has my authority to retain this document.

I also hand in to the Bureau of Military History pictorial cuttings from various newspapers published during the years 1919 and 1920. The Bureau has my authority to retain these cuttings also.

Getting back to my work in Dublin Castle, I overheard a conversation there which I think might be of interest. The conversation was between very high officers in Dublin Castle, in the Service. I entered the office one day while a discussion was in progress, and the four gentlemen there considered that the ideal solution to the settlement of affairs in Ireland at that particular time would be to have four Gibraltars in the country, one at Swilly, one at Belfast, one at Cobh and one at Bantry. I got the idea at the time that this proposal was to be put forward for inclusion in any peace terms which might be discussed.

The higher officials never left the Castle, they even slept there.

Dick Mulcahy visited my house on a few occasions to get documents which I had taken out from the Castle.

In a nutshell, my job was to keep my eyes open while working in Dublin Castle and to take out any documents which might be of interest to the I.R.A.

SIGNED B J Goheen  
DATE 21<sup>st</sup> July 1949.

WITNESS Wm. Jerry Condit

