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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 684.....

Witness

George Fitzgerald,
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Fairview,
Dublin.

Identity.

Member of 'A' Company
1st Battalion, Dublin Brigade,
1917 - .

Subject.

Raids for arms by Irish Volunteers, 1917 - ;
Work of I.R.A. Intelligence Section in England
and Dublin, 1917-1922.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. ...S.1924.....

Form B.S.M. 2

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Statement by George Fitzgerald,

15, Inverness Road, Fairview.

Company Armaments:

Following the re-organisation of the Volunteers on the general release of prisoners from English Jails and Internment Camps I joined "A" Company of the first Battalion, Dublin Brigade, at a meeting in Columcille Hall. I was very friendly with Joe Dolan, Mick McGee, Peadar Breslin and Peadar McNulty, and through their influence I became associated with the Volunteer movement. When "A" Company was re-organised Liam Carroll became its O.C. with Peadar Breslin and Seán O'Duffy Lieutenants. Weekly drills and parades were held in Columcille Hall. The Company was approximately 100 strong at the time. The Company was not long re-organised when steps were taken to arm and equip it. Ways and means were considered to procure arms and the general view was that Volunteers should be on the look out for sources from which rifles, revolvers and ammunition could be obtained and should get all particulars they could and inform their Company Officers. Initially the bulk of our Company armaments came from Wellington Barracks. Liaison was established between a Volunteer of the Company and a British soldier. It happened in this way. In the Company we had three brothers called Coles. Although these men didn't parade frequently like the majority of the Company members they proved themselves of estimable value by being able to contact soldiers. One day one of the Coles went to a Whippet Meeting at Shelbourne Park. There he met a

British soldier and, in the course of conversation, the soldier said to Cole: "I fancy a certain dog for the next race. Unfortunately, I haven't anything to put on it because I have been loosing all day". He told Cole to back it. Cole backed it both for himself and for the soldier. The dog won and this cemented their friendship. Out of that Cole broached the subject of getting arms out of Wellington Barracks where the soldier was stationed. This soldier according to himself was in the Army against his wishes. He had no intention of fighting, if he possibly could avoid it, and as he had lost his business he had made up his mind he was going to make money anyway he could. This gave Cole the opportunity he was looking for. He put it up to the soldier to supply rifles at a price. Cole reported all this back to the Company and was told to go ahead and make whatever arrangements were necessary and that he would be regarded as the chief contact man. A short time later word came through that he would be in a position to deliver rifles to us on a certain night. On that night a number of us went down the canal and at an appointed time the soldier handed over a couple of rifles. On the next evening money for the rifles was given to Cole who passed it to the soldier. Following the first delivery many more rifles were procured in this way. I cannot say how many in all we got from this soldier but the number was quite considerable. In fact, he became very daring in the end. On one particular occasion he stole the rifles from the guardroom while the guard was asleep. There were eight rifles this time. Another night Cole called to my house as I was going to bed and asked me to come along with him to Parkgate Street as he had got word that there was a chance of picking up some armaments there. Accompanied by the three Cole brothers

I went along to Parkgate Street. We met there the soldier from Wellington Barracks at the end of Parkgate St. and Infirmary Road. He told me there was a chance of getting a few rifles from the guard who were to go on late duty that night. He stated that a pal of his would be one of the guard, and that his pal would take a chance in disarming the guard at a certain time if we were prepared to take a chance of helping on the outside. He explained that a Sergeant and, I think, eight men would be on duty, and that the rifles if procured would be passed through a window which looked out on Infirmary Road. Our danger would be from the Sentry on the Main Gate, who, if he came out on the footpath, would have control over that window, or from officers or soldiers coming in on late passes. We agreed to take the risk, and he left us to tell his pal to go ahead, stating that he would see me in about half an hour at a particular place up the road. We separated to take up different positions. I should have mentioned that one of the Coles had a horse and cart with a brush and shovel, acting as if he was a Corporation night worker and pretending to work along the road. After some time I got a signal from the soldier (a whistle of a certain tune) and had a further chat with him. He said he had got in touch with his pal, but as the guard had only gone on duty about a quarter of an hour there would be nothing doing for at least an hour and his pal would give us a signal from the inside. It was the usual custom to inspect the guard in about an hour, and when the inspection was over they generally made themselves comfortable and soon were fast asleep. As there was sometime to wait he invited me into the barracks. Apparently he knew the sentry on duty and passed me in as one of his pals, stating he was going to his room to get something for me.

We had a look around the place and in one of the rooms I found 100 rounds of rifle ammunition in clips, which I pocketed. As it was coming near the hour we decided to leave. He had arranged that I would say good night to him at the gate and that he would keep chatting with the sentry to distract his attention. We parted at the gate. I made my way as if to go down to Parkgate, after some distance crossed the road and under cover got back up on the other side. We were now ready for the signal. After about ten minutes it came. We got silently to the window, cut the wire netting and with the help of the soldier inside pushed up the window. The guard were asleep. He handed out the Sergeant's rifle, but unfortunately some of the guard became restless and the soldier inside fearing one of them would wake up closed the window, lay down and pretended to be asleep. He waited sometime, but as the guard continued to be restless we decided to abandon any further attempt and get clear away. This particular window was soon afterwards bricked up and I believe that guardroom was never used again.

Next morning we saw the Sergeant being marched down the quays under an escort evidently to stand trial for the loss of his rifle etc. Ironically enough one of his escort was the soldier from Wellington Barracks who had planned the whole thing.

Sometime following this information reached us through Diarmuid Crowley (who was later a Republican Judge) that two rifles could be got easily, if we acted quickly, in the house of a Mr. . . . at Donnybrook - that this man was very pro-British and that he believed that he was going to hand the rifles into the Police Barracks on the following day for safe custody. Three of us drove to the

house of this man on a side car, Peadar Breslin dressed as a Military Officer, Peadar Healy and myself adopted the pose of G. Men. When we called at the house we were invited in and explained to the owner that we had come to collect the rifles as we thought that if they were left with him any longer they would be raided for by the Sinn Féiners, and told him we were now there to take them into safe custody. He received us very well and his housekeeper went down to the kitchen and brought up the two rifles in a sack and put them on the dickey of the jaunting car that we had hired. We told the owner that if he called to the Police Barracks at Donnybrook in the morning he would get a receipt. Evidently he must have called because a few days later the police published a "wanted" notice for us in their gazette "Hue and Cry" giving very accurate descriptions of the three of us. We were never arrested. As Donnybrook was outside our area the Battalion Staff of that area were very annoyed that we should have raided in their district. The matter was smoothed out by Peadar Clancy. A short time after that Diarmuid Crowley again told us where we could pick up another rifle from a friend of his. This time Peadar Healy and myself went to the house in question and the owner gave us the rifle without asking any questions. A rather amusing incident happened on the way back. I wore a long coat, with specially prepared inside pockets, made specially for carrying rifles. The rifle in question was so long that the barrel of it went through the bottom lining of the coat. As we were nearing Columcille Hall we met a policeman (who incidentally was detailed to keep observation on the place). He evidently saw the barrel of the rifle protruding through the coat as he said, "Goodnight lads. That's a dangerous bit of iron you have

there". With that he passed on. This policeman was friendly to us as he often passed on very useful information.

Dr. Jim Ryan provided me with two rifles on another occasion. When he was House Surgeon in Jervis Street Hospital he had rifles and ammunition there. As the hospital was being frequented by military he became very worried in case the guns would be discovered. This would mean a general raid on the hospital which he didn't want. I happened to meet him in a shop in Capel Street. He explained his position to me. As I was wearing my long coat with the special pockets, I told him I would make his mind easy at once. I accompanied him back to Jervis St. I took over the rifles from him in his private room in the hospital, put the rifles inside my coat and took them to a place of safety.

By the end of 1918 the Company was very strong in arms. Practically every man was issued with either a rifle or a revolver.

Ammunition taken from Dodd's of Smithfield:

On Saturday the 22nd June 1918 instructions reached us from Michael Staines that a big supply of ammunition from Belfast had reached Dodds, Grain Merchants, in Smithfield and that the ammunition was to be cleared by the Volunteers straight away. A small party of Volunteers from my Company were rounded up and ordered to Smithfield. When we got there we started emptying sacks of oats and retrieving small sacks of ammunition from them. Though we worked late into the night we weren't able to empty all the sacks and only portion of the ammunition was cleared. As the ammunition came from the sacks it was laid one side,

then taken by some of the Volunteers to a nearby yard. This entailed a lot of work and on account of the small number of Volunteers engaged the job remained unfinished that night. On the following day the Police and Military raided the place and evidently took over the rest of the stuff. I cannot say how many rounds of ammunition we took over but I do believe that a considerable amount was seized by the police. A few days later we returned to McEvoy's yard, packed the ammunition there and left it ready for distribution by Michael Staines who was then Quartermaster General.

Raid on Collinstown:

During the year 1919 a number of the Volunteers from "A" and "F" Company were employed on constructional work at Collinstown Aerodrome. From observations made these men reported to their Company Headquarters that it should not be a very difficult matter to raid the military guard and secure their arms and ammunition. As a result plans were drawn up for the proposed raid and submitted to Brigade Headquarters. Brigade Headquarters considered that this would be a very important raid and would require very careful planning and decided that they would refer the matter to G.H.Q. for their advice. After considerable discussion between the Brigade, G.H.Q. and the men responsible for undertaking the job a certain plan was arrived at and it was decided to raid the Aerodrome on the 20th March, 1919. A number of Volunteers were selected from "A" and "F" Companies together with specially picked men from the Dublin Brigade. Roughly the plan was that we would be taken to the vicinity of the aerodrome in a number of cars. One party was to take the guard-room from the rear and the other from the front, while other men

selected ^{FOR} from their mechanical knowledge were to go to a transport shed and put the cars there out of action. My particular job was to lead the raid with Breslin from the rear and principally to look after two Watchdogs - Airedales - that we knew were there. Incidentally it had been arranged beforehand that these dogs would be given some type of slow-poisoning. I was told that the dogs had been given the poison but they were very much alive when I faced them. The raid was arranged so that we should reach the Aerodrome before the moon would have risen. Through some mishap one of the cars broke down on the way and the entire party didn't assemble in Collinstown until at least one hour later than the appointed time and at this time the moon was well up. In any case when all the Volunteers were assembled our party set out to carry out its particular part in the raid. Owing to the moonlight X ^{OUR} one particular end of the job was made difficult. We had to advance over 200 yards practically in the open. As we advanced we could see the lighted guardroom window which faced us. Had any one of the guards been looking out that window at that particular time I am afraid there would be few of us left to tell the tale. However, Breslin and myself, with the others close behind, made the back of the guardroom safely. As I was about to hit the back door of the guardroom, having to pass through a wicket gate, one of the dogs ran at me. I had been used to dogs and, although prepared with a knuckle-duster knife to use on them instead of a gun, I decided to chance patting him. We had been told before going on the job that these dogs had been trained not to touch anyone in uniform. I had been dressed in an officer's uniform, and perhaps that was the reason he suddenly turned around and went back to his kennel although growling quietly. The delay was only

the matter of seconds. I should mention that a number of us were dressed in British Military Uniform. As both parties reached the guard-room they entered it simultaneously from the back and the front and took the guard completely by surprise. I was the first to enter by the backdoor and as I was dressed in the uniform of a British Military Staff Officer members of the guard who were lying down jumped up and saluted me. They soon realised their mistake when they saw the place crowded with civilians who called on them to put up their hands. They offered no resistance and they were taken to a nearby room where their hands were tied behind their backs. They were made lie down on the floor and their feet were tied to a rack on the wall. While this was happening the rifles and ammunition were being taken from the guard-room and brought out to the waiting cars. The whole operation went off satisfactorily resulting in the capture of 75 rifles and some thousands of rounds of ammunition. The captured rifles and ammunition were driven out to the North County Dublin and taken over by the local Volunteers there. "A" Company subsequently received 25 of the captured rifles.

Intelligence work in England:

Early in September 1919, I met Brigadier Dick McKee. During that May I had many personal contacts ^{WITH HIM} in Peadar Clancy's shop in Talbot Street. In the course of conversation he told me that he had received instructions from Michael Collins, acting on behalf of the Executive Council of Dáil Éireann to select a few men who would be prepared to undertake special Intelligence work. He explained that the work would be dangerous as it would involve a lot of travelling especially to England, carrying important documents, obtaining special information about

responsible enemy people and places and various other details and if once captured there would be little chance of escape for the personnel concerned owing to the incriminating evidence likely to be found. He also stated that my name was mentioned as a possible officer who would be suitable for the work, if I would be prepared to volunteer. He requested me to consider the matter and let him know later. I told him I didn't need any time to consider the matter and that my services were always available if required, but if possible I should like to be given sufficient time to resign from my job. He told me he would report back to Michael Collins and was sure that they would let me know in due course and give me sufficient time to do as I wished. He also gave me to understand that initially a few men would be selected to form the nucleus of an Intelligence Section which would later develop into a G.H.Q. Intelligence Squad.

Sometime afterwards I was informed by messenger on a Friday afternoon to report that night to the Chief of Staff, Dick Mulcahy, at Parnell Square, at, I think, No. 44. When I met the Chief of Staff that night there was also with him Liam Tobin and Mick McDonald. The Chief of Staff explained that it had been decided to send the three of us to London and that we were to start the following morning. He outlined in general the nature of the work but told us that Liam Tobin would be in charge and would be able to give us more details. I cannot recollect what precisely our aim was. We were simply to act on the instructions of Liam Tobin and he was to contact Sam Maguire in London. We were further instructed that we were not to correspond with anybody at home while we were in England and we were not to disclose to anybody where we were going. We left the following morning.

In London we contacted Sam Maguire who was O.C. of Britain. We stayed in the house of the sister of Dr. Mark Ryan who lived in Jeffrey's Road, off Stockwell Road, Clapham. Our chief job in London was to familiarise ourselves with the then Ministers of the British Cabinet, their haunts, habits etc. We were to attend any meetings at which they were tabled to speak or any function at which they were to attend. In addition we were to get any information we could about the geography of Whitehall, especially No. 10 Downing Street. After about a fortnight of this work Mick MacDonald left us and returned to Dublin.

Following the escape of the prisoners from Manchester Jail on the 26th October, Michael Collins came to London. We met him and he walked round London with us, and in the course of our walk we had a good look at Scotland Yard and the principal Government offices in Whitehall. He told us all about the escape from Manchester Jail and how everything had gone off successfully. We jokingly said to him, "These fellows are able to go home now, when are we going to get home?" He told us there was every possibility of a truce and with luck we might be back for Christmas. Unfortunately, owing to the action of the Galway County Council and the Rev. Fr. M. O'Flanagan making statements to the effect, I think, that we were nearly beaten, the British Government decided instead of offering peace terms to intensify the campaign against us. By this time our work was becoming very monotonous. We were getting tired hanging round having very little to do. We were asked from time to time to get information concerning some matter that G.H.Q. at home was interested in. For example, if a political meeting, banquet etc. was to be held and was to be addressed by some member of the Cabinet,

one of us was to go there and report on the Minister who addressed the meeting and say what precautions were taken to guard him, his method of getting to the meeting and getting away from it. This procedure was followed at any political meetings held in the vicinity of London. On one occasion I travelled to Colchester and was present at an "Oyster Banquet" at which the Prime Minister (Lloyd George) was the principal speaker. This information would be conveyed back to Dublin through Sam Maguire. We returned to Dublin a week before Christmas.

On New Year's Day an appointment had been made for me to meet Dick Mulcahy and Michael Collins at Cullenswood House. I was appointed there and then to organise Dick Mulcahy's Dáil Éireann Constituency for the Dáil Éireann Bonds. His area was northwest Dublin. My work generally was to sell these bonds and collect the money and meet the different suborganisers for the area, take the money and hand it over to Dathy O'Donoghue who was a Trustee for Dáil Bonds at the time. My work on Dáil Bonds was terminated by Dick Mulcahy some six weeks later. He told me to hand in my resignation and report to him. I met him at the National University. He told me he wanted me to proceed to London on a special job. I raised several objections which he overcame, and decided he would also send Joe Leonard to help me. He gave me a cheque for £40. I was to give £20 of this to Joe Leonard and both of us were to rig ourselves out with new clothes. He said "This time I want you to send me back reports of the information you get concerning Ian MacPherson." MacPherson was at that time Chief Secretary for Ireland. The information required concerned his clubs, his haunts, his home address, whether he resided there or not and to be able to identify him at any time. We spent a fortnight in London. I succeeded in

obtaining most of the particulars I had been asked to obtain. I shadowed MacPherson for days having identified him from his photographs. I was helped in my mission by some of Sam Maguire's men and in a short time I had a complete report of all the possible places that MacPherson was likely to be got. We had several addresses for him but eventually traced him to one place where he more or less permanently resided. This place was not far from Westminster. We kept watch on the place and noted the time that he usually arrived there and departed from it. This information was conveyed to Dublin through Sam Maguire. Joe Leonard and myself returned home about a fortnight later.

Attempted Rescue of Robert Barton:

Robert Barton, who was a prisoner in Mountjoy Jail, was taken on the 12th February, 1920 to Dublin Castle for trial. It was decided that on his return journey to the jail an attempt would be made to effect his rescue at Berkeley Street. A number of Volunteers met at Parnell Square under the command of Peadar Clancy. He explained how the hold up was to take place. The plan was simple. At the junction of Nelson Street and Berkeley Street two Volunteers would be in readiness with a hand-barrow and long pole. On receiving a signal that the Military car was coming near they were to push the barrow and pole out into the main road and block progress. The remainder of the Volunteers would be in readiness to jump on the car and effect the rescue. About a quarter of an hour before the car was due to arrive we took up our positions. When we received the signal the car was on its way we got into position to hold it up. At the critical moment a tram arrived simultaneously with the car, thus effecting a complete hold up. We went over to the military car and

saw that it only contained a British Officer, a military prisoner and the driver. The party were told to put up their hands. They were searched and we found they were not armed. One of our party had an automatic revolver and as he put it in his pocket with the safety catch off a shot was released and it wounded him in the leg. The Military Officer remarked to me, "That shot is not from our party". I said, "It's all right; I understand the position". I should have mentioned that it had been arranged for Mick MacDonnell to be at the scene with a motor cycle and sidecar to take Barton away. Instead of Barton, however, we put the wounded man into the sidecar and he was conveyed to a house owned by Malones where a doctor attended him and subsequently he was brought to Jervis Street where he remained for a considerable time.

Raid on the B. and I. Sheds, North Wall:

Information reached the Brigade that a large quantity of ammunition was expected to arrive on one of the B. and I. Boats at the North Wall on February, 19th, 1920. Picked Volunteers from the Dublin Brigade were detailed to assemble at 3rd Battalion Headquarters at a house in Brunswick Street. We went there and were addressed by Peadar Clancy who told us that the job on that night was a raid on the B. and I. Sheds. He detailed us to take up certain positions. Some were to raid the sheds, others were to hold up certain policemen who were on that beat or any other suspicious people who might be connected with the military or police in the vicinity. When the arrangements were finally discussed we set out from Brunswick Street and reached South Wall in a short time. Charlie Dalton and myself were given the particular job of holding up the two policemen on that beat. It was unnecessary, however, because they didn't come near us. A party of Volunteers broke into

the sheds and having searched them found that no ammunition was stored there. The raid was then called off and the Volunteers were told to disperse. As crowds of Volunteers were making their way home carrying their arms a British tender suddenly swooped on three of them in Marlboro' Street area. Mick Kelly, Phil Leddy and Jack Shaw were taken into custody. When I saw that my comrades were taken away in the Military car I made my way home seeing that I could do nothing. As I got near the Rotunda I heard shooting in the direction of College Green. I learned later that one D.M.P. man had been shot dead and one wounded and that Paddy McGrath who was on the raid that night had also been wounded. This I might mention was the first serious clash that took place between the British Military and the I.R.A. I was staying in lodgings at that time in the house of Mr. Kelly, Manor St., whose son had been one of the men taken away that night. As I anticipated a raid by the British Military I warned the people of the house and dumped a number of guns which I had with me in a henhouse at the end of the garden together with documents and correspondence that I had taken from the house of Mrs. Wyse Power. My anticipation proved correct as about 3 a.m. a lorry pulled up outside the house. I made my way out and got over the garden wall and lay down on the top of the next wall. The military search party went through all my belongings in my bedroom and having found nothing of consequence there searched the hen house outside. I had a view of all this from the wall. They discovered the documents but didn't take the guns. When the raid was over I returned to my room. This house was constantly raided afterwards, but luckily I happened to be away in London or elsewhere at the particular times. Subsequently I had to leave as it became too dangerous.

Burning of Income Tax Office in Beresford Place:

On the night of 2nd April, 1920, I sauntered into ~~the~~ Parnell Square where a meeting was in progress between Dick McKee, Peadar Clancy, Paddy Houlihan and other officers. They were discussing arrangements for the burning of various income tax offices throughout the city. I was told that before I arrived the question of burning the Income Tax section in the Custom House had been under discussion, and that it was decided it would not be feasible to do it. Then the question of Beresford Place was mentioned. Like the Custom House it also had been cancelled. In a joke I said to Dick McKee, "It would not be hard to do Beresford Place. What went wrong with the plans?" He said that the officer assigned to the job had apparently decided to go sick at the last moment, and passing over a large bundle of reports said, "Have a look at them and see can you make head or tail of them". After scanning through the reports I said, "No, they are too involved, but surely there could have been a simpler plan devised". Some of the others said, "Forget about it. We have no time now to go into other plans". Dick McKee, noticing that I was still thinking about it said, "Surely you are not thinking of taking on the job". My reply was, "I would like to have a look at the place and then I will give you my answer". As the meeting was finished I asked Dick if he would come for a walk and have a look at it. After inspecting the place I asked him to obtain information regarding the type of locks on the main door. This he promised to do and let me know the following day at 12 o'clock. I met the Brigadier at 12 o'clock. He told me the types of locks and I told him I would be prepared to go ahead with the job that night. He seemed amazed at such a sudden decision, wanted to know what plans I could make in

such a short time and if he could give any help. I said my plan was simple and all I wanted was to be supplied with a long and a short crowbar and that I would select my men from "A" Company of the 1st Battalion who were known as "The Forty Thieves". I went around and picked my men and told them to report at 44 Parnell Square that night. We arrived on the job exactly at 9 p.m., carrying petrol and two crowbars which we had brought from Parnell Square. Joe Dolan and myself had the two crowbars. We walked up to the door, inserted the crowbars between the locks, pressed on the door and it opened without any difficulty. The remainder of the party who had come along in pairs entered the building. Three men were already told off to each floor to collect all documents, place them in the middle of the floor and sprinkle them with petrol. When this was done all men assembled in the hall and one man was detailed to light each floor in turn, starting from the top floor. The fire got going immediately and we left the building satisfied that our job was well done.

I may add that what we failed to destroy, the Fire Brigade ruined with water as some of our members were attached to it.

Sir Hamar Greenwood:

Sir Hamar Greenwood replaced Ian MacPherson as Chief Secretary for Ireland early in April, 1920. On the day that the Mountjoy Hunger Strikers were released I was at Mountjoy arranging some matters in connection with their release. I had previously got into the prison and delivered a message to Peadar Clancy who was in charge of the hunger strike. Word was sent to me by Liam Tobin to meet him on the following evening at 4.30 at Vaughan's Hotel.

When I arrived there he told me that I was to proceed to Sunderland in the north of England that evening and find out all I could about the new Chief Secretary, Sir Hamar Greenwood who was at that time standing for re-election in his home constituency. I was told that if I attended the Election meetings I would possibly get all the information I wanted. On the following day at 1 p.m. I reached my destination in Sunderland. I found that practically every hotel was booked out but by tipping a waitress with a few shillings I got a room to myself. The election campaign was in full swing at the time which accounted for the crowding of the hotels. I started to feel my way around for the first day and then discovered that two of Greenwood's Election Agents were stopping in the same hotel. I got into chat with them and one of them, known as Captain Snow, mentioned that he had been in America and had worked there during the Presidential Campaign. Having been born in America and knowing something about places around New Jersey I started to ask him questions about America and from what I could gather the man had never been in America and this was all a game of bluff on his part to convince the people in the hotel. However, this mutual knowledge of America cemented a great friendship between us. He believed that I was a full-blown American as I professed to be then when I knew he knew nothing about American places. He invited me up to his Committee Rooms. I told him I was very interested as I was passing through on a holiday and would like to see how elections were carried out in England. He took me out to dinner the next day and told me practically all the information he had and which I wished to know about Greenwood. He disclosed everything to me. One evening

after that he invited me to hear Sir Hamar speak. I accompanied him to the meeting, and after the meeting was over he brought me along to the platform and introduced me to Sir Hamar and his wife. He gave me a pass to admit me to any other meetings that were to be held. With this free access I was able to closely watch Sir Hamar's Body Guard. To my surprise I recognised some of the Scotland Yard men whom I had previously seen in London. I got all information possible about his cars, their numbers etc., the number of body guard he had with him, where he was staying etc. The only difficulty I had was getting photographs but eventually I got some in a small shop. No photographs ever appeared in the newspapers. He got very little publicity in the public press. I came back to Dublin some 10 days later, and handed in this information. This was immediately given to Collins.

When Greenwood took up his appointment in Dublin he brought with him the car he used in Sunderland, together with one or two of his escort cars. On the day following his arrival he was travelling from the Vice-Regal Lodge to Dublin Castle. On the way he was attacked by members of the Squad. I heard later that there was great consternation over this with the Castle authorities as they could not understand how Greenwood was identified so quickly seeing that he had only arrived in the country the evening before this attack was staged. I knew the answer, Michael Collins had passed on my Intelligence information to the squad.

Shortly after Sir Hamar arrived in Ireland information was received to the effect that with other high Military Officers he would attend a Military Sports Meeting at Lansdowne Road. This was to be a Two-Day Meeting and they were to attend on the second day. It was

the opinion of the Director of Intelligence (Michael Collins) that this event would provide an opportunity of a large scale attack on the principal heads of the British Authorities. It was decided that myself and two other Intelligence Officers - Joe Dolan and Joe Guilfoyle - would attend the meeting on the first day. The purpose of this attendance was to inspect the layout of the whole place, to note the entrances and exits, where Sir Hamar and his party would be seated, the best method of attack and the possibilities of escape after attack and also any other useful information that could be obtained from Officers and men present that day. We attended the meeting and spent the afternoon mixing amongst the small crowd present. That evening we reported back to our Headquarters. I furnished a rough sketch of the grounds, the position of the stands, where Sir Hamar and his party would be seated, the position of the entrances and the exits. I also gave a report of the information I had picked up in the course of conversation with some Military Officers. This information led me to believe that the place would be alive on the following day with armed forces and that elaborate precautions would be taken to protect Sir Hamar Greenwood and his friends. I formed the opinion that the place would be a regular death-trap if they attempted to carry out the attack. While they might have succeeded in killing some of the members it was certain that many of themselves would lose their lives and the remainder would likely be captured because once the exits were cordoned off there was no hope of escape. The other two officers with me were of the opinion, perhaps because of seeing a small number of military present and no precautions being taken, that it would be possible to carry out a raid. Having given our reports we were informed that the matter would be

considered and that we would hear the final decision later that night. That same night we were informed that it had been decided to go ahead with the attack. All the available members of G.H.Q. Intelligence and Active Service Units were summoned and given details of the plan. They were to report armed and as respectably dressed as possible, individually at Lansdowne Road the following afternoon. I still protested against the attack but bowed to superior orders. As I was the only one who knew Sir Hamar and some of his body-guard, I was detailed to point them out to our members. In the course of strolling about I passed the information to the Officers in charge of the groups - who Sir Hamar was and where he was seated. It soon became evident that the place was bristling with armed men both in civilian and Military attire. All exits inside and outside were cordoned off with armoured cars. Machine guns were placed on every vantage point on the stands and on the walls overlooking the grounds and no matter where you turned you were up against armed men. Our Officers, principally Tom Cullen who was in command, and Paddy Daly who was in charge of the Squad, soon realised the hopeless position and also that their men were becoming restless. They were completely out of place in such a Military body. I had a chat with the officer in charge of operations - Tom Cullen - and after discussion he decided to call off the attack. Word was passed to the officers to tell the men to disperse and leave the grounds as quickly as possible. All got quietly away without arousing any suspicion and they breathed a sigh of relief when they found themselves on the road home. On the way back I had a chat with Paddy Daly who was in charge of the Squad and some of his Officers. They all expressed, in no uncertain terms, their opinions of me as an Intelligence Officer. They felt I was responsible

for walking them into such a death-trap. I explained that I had been strongly against any attempt to attack the British Authorities in the beginning and that it was the big shots who had ordered it to be carried out. To confirm matters I asked them to accompany me back to Intelligence Headquarters. They did and we met Liam Tobin and some others who had given the decision. It was soon confirmed that I had been very much against the plan and had gone on the job under protest. Having told Liam Tobin what they thought about the decision they then left with the parting remark to the effect that "We are ready at all times but give us a fighting chance".

Raid on Kings Inns:

A Council meeting between Officers of the 1st and 3rd Battalions was held at Parnell Square about the middle of May, 1920, to consider the feasibility of raiding the Military Guard at the Kings Inns. I was present at that meeting and information was given that the armaments consisted of approximately 14 rifles, ammunition, a Lewis Gun and a Field Telephone. A decision was taken to raid the Guard. The time was fixed for the 31st May, at 4 p.m. Peadar Clancy appointed me to take charge. Plans were discussed and positions which the various men would take up were outlined on a blackboard. The execution of the plan depended on the type of day. Our information was that in very sunny weather the guard became very lackadaisical and went out around the grounds and basked in the sun. It so happened that the 31st was not a sunny day. I sent up a number of scouts but in view of the very conflicting reports they brought back regarding the position of the guard Peadar Clancy and myself decided to

postpone the raid to the following day at the same time I should mention that at that time I was a member of G.H.Q. Intelligence. On that evening I reported back to Crow Street and there met a number of Intelligence and Squad men. I told them of the operation that was timed for the following day and asked them would they come along and take part in it. They agreed immediately. On the 1st June men detailed to take part in the raid assembled at Parnell Square. I think it would be 44 Parnell Square. Our arrangements were very simple for the capture of the arms. A few minutes before 4 p.m. one of our men would go into the Hall in Kings Inns. He would get talking to the Sentry (in the hall) and at the same time be ready to hold him up after we entered the front door, which was timed to happen at 4 p.m. exactly. By this time every member of the raiding party would have taken up positions outside. Everything went off very well. As we entered the hallway we passed the Sentry and proceeded in the direction of the guardroom. With would-be brief papers under our arms we made enquiries from the sentry at the guardroom as to the position of some office in the building. Simultaneously as he replied we drew our guns and held him up, at the same time covering the guardroom. The other men who were covering us from the rear took over the covering of the guard and lined them along the wall. At this stage we encountered our first set back temporary though it was. We saw to our dismay that the majority of the rifles were chained to the racks, and locked. I picked out a young soldier and asked him who had the keys. He pointed out the soldier who was in possession of them. With that the keys were handed over to us. In a short time we found ourselves in possession of 14 rifles, one Lewis Gun and a fairly large quantity of ammunition which was in haversacks,

and also a Field Telephone. Another party of our group then came on the scene and took the rifles and ammunition out to a van which they had in readiness. The whole thing was over in about five minutes.

One of our men, Gerry Golden, who was a member of the Strike Picket of Law Clerks on the day of the raid, subsequently reported to me that the soldiers in question had been courtmartialled and that the Sentry who had been disarmed had been awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery in the 1914-18 War. Some of the guard were sentenced but the Victoria man was given some kind of a suspensory sentence. He was permitted to wear civilian attire for the sole purpose of moving around the streets and trying to identify the men who had been ^{ENGAGED ON} employed in the raid. The raiding party were drawn from the 1st and 3rd Battalion, the Squad and the Intelligence Sections. When the raid was over I reported to Peadar Clancy that everything had turned out satisfactorily. I changed my suit and later went down to his shop. There I met Dick McKee who told me that they suspected that touts had seen where we had dumped the arms and that we should take immediate steps to have them removed from that place. With that Dick McKee asked me to get into the Squad Van and take the rifles and ammunition to a dump at O'Meara's at the back of Fitzwilliam Street. The instructions were carried out. When examining the rifles on the following day, I discovered that they were fully loaded and ready for immediate action - namely each with a full magazine, one in the breech and the safety catch off. It was providential that a major accident did not occur in the rush and excitement.

Raid on Mails in Westland Row:

In August, 1920, Liam Tobin instructed me to go down to Westland Row Station and to be there before 7 a.m. and report to him on the time the English Mail arrived, how it was handled from the carriages to the horse-drawn van and to get the number of the van, whether the mails were accompanied by a sorter and if so whether the sorter was on the outside or the inside of the van. I went to Westland Row Station the next morning and saw the mail train come in. I observed how the mails were dealt with. I returned and reported to Liam Tobin. When Tobin heard my report he pulled out another report from a drawer in his desk and he said to me, "Are you sure that that is the way the mails are being handled and that you have the correct number of the van". I expressed surprise and told him I was sure of my facts and then asked him if another member of the Intelligence Staff had also been given the same task. He said, "Yes", but the reports did not agree and this was so especially in regard to the number of the van. I returned to Westland Row again the following morning and again observed the time of the arrival of the train and the despatch and transfer of the mails to the van. Tom Cullen was notified to accompany me on this occasion. I arrived on the platform before seven and I had no sooner arrived than the train pulled in. The mails were loaded and the van had left for the Rotunda before Cullen arrived. I brought Cullen out with me and we walked up Pearse Street and got in touch with a Post Office Sorter who had been on the train. I introduced Cullen to him and asked this man to confirm the particulars that I had got which he did. Cullen was satisfied. As a result of this final report arrangements were made to capture the mails at Westland Row a few mornings later. A meeting

was held to discuss plans. Dick McKee presided at this meeting. It was decided here that the men need not report sooner than 7.15 a.m. From 10 to 12 men were selected. The plan was that when the Mail van came down the slip from Westland Row into Erne Street some of the men were to hold up the car as it entered into the street and the mails were to be transferred from the Post Office van to a waiting motor-car. In conjunction with the hold up of the van other Volunteers were detailed to take up positions in Pearse Street as it had been the custom then that whenever a big hold-up or raid took place detectives from College Street were immediately despatched to the scene. In such an eventuality this group of Volunteers were to attack them. At the time G.H.Q. Intelligence were very anxious to eliminate a detective by the name of Coffey. So the operation had a two-fold purpose - firstly a raid on the mails and secondly an attack on detectives.

On the morning timed for the raid I reported to Westland Row Station before 7 a.m. The train arrived in about 5 minutes to 7. The mails were taken off and put into the van. The van drove down the slipway to Erne Street and proceeded on its journey before 7.15 a.m., the exact time the men had been told to report. I returned to Headquarters via Pearse Street. I met some of the men in position there who had been waiting for detectives and told them that the plan had miscarried and that they could now disperse. I reported to Liam Tobin and he said to me, "The Big Fellow (meaning Michael Collins) will be very annoyed about this. I think you had better tell him yourself and report the matter first hand". I went to Walter Cole's house in Mountjoy Square and there met Collins. I explained the position to him - how the arrangements had miscarried. He was fuming and very much

annoyed. When he cooled down I said to him, "There is no harm done; we can do the same thing to-morrow morning on the understanding that the raiding party will be in position sharp at 7 a.m.". He said, "Alright, I will let you know later". That evening instructions came through that the raid was on for the following morning. The following morning the train arrived in at 7.30. That was over a half hour late. The mails were loaded in the usual manner, and when the car arrived at the bottom of the slip in Erne Street it was held up and the mails transferred to a waiting car. I accompanied the mails with the driver to a stable near Baggot Street. We ran the car with the mails into the stable and I locked up and went home to breakfast. Later that day I went back with two other men, opened up and sorted out the military packets and put them on one side for subsequent despatch to Crowe Street where they were dealt with by other members of the G.H.Q. Intelligence. A big consignment of notes came in addressed to the banks. Parcels of money for the Munster and Leinster Banks I was told to deliver to the Manager at Dame St. premises. I delivered many large parcels on a bicycle and an hour following the delivery I was told that the Manager of the Bank had acknowledged the receipt of the notes to Collins. What became of the cash for other banks I could not recollect.

Burning activities in London and on English farms:

A short time following the raid on the mails at Westland Row I was again sent back to London to obtain certain particulars about Balfour who was to attend at Oxford University on the following day. I took with me considerable correspondence for despatch to America and Paris. I handed all of it over to Seán McGrath who was

at that time connected with Art O'Brien. When I had done this I got the train from Paddington to Oxford and spent the day there, had a look at the University and got a full description of Balfour. I succeeded in getting into the University under the pretence of being an American visitor, meeting Balfour and having a general conversation with him. He was making a round of inspection in the place. I reported back to London that evening, met Sam Maguire and had a chat with him about things in general, picked up a large bundle of correspondence which was for Dublin and took the 8.20 train back home. I reported back to Collins myself and gave him a detailed account. The principal object of my visit was to be able to describe Balfour in detail so that if an occasion arose for drastic action he could be easily identified by any of our men, also to note precautions taken to safeguard his visit and the number of his own escort.

Soon after that I returned to London again and did general intelligence work with Sam Maguire. Before leaving I was told by Collins, I think, that it was intended to carry out a number of burnings in England by way of reprisals for burnings that were carried out at home by the Military and Black and Tans. I was to observe the places in London most suitable for burning. When I went to London I got in touch with Sam Maguire and met a number of London Volunteers, principally the officer in charge - Reggie Dunne - and Tom O'Sullivan, both subsequently executed for the killing of Sir Henry Wilson. We held several meetings. I outlined a scheme to them for the burning of a number of large wholesale houses in a very old part of London where the majority of warehouses were located. My instructions were that I was not to take any active part in the burning but that I was to draw up plans and discuss

with the London Volunteers the best way of carrying them out. We decided that the burning of certain houses would be attempted on a particular Saturday night at about 12 o'clock. The reason this time was selected was that the principal streets would be very crowded due to people coming from theatres and picture houses etc. and we felt that this would provide the Volunteers with a good line of escape or get-away, by mingling with the crowd once clear of the warehouse area.

The local Volunteers provided themselves with burning materials of an inflammable nature. The idea was that this inflammable material when ignited would be thrown into the basement of the warehouses selected. The window would be cut with a diamond cutter after putty attached to paper had been stuck to it, so that it would fall outwards without causing noise. At the appointed time on Saturday night Sam Maguire and myself walked towards the warehouses which were to be burned and spent some time in the locality but saw no sign of a fire. The only attempt that was made that night was on a timber yard and this was only partially successful. I cannot say definitely why the burnings were not carried out but I feel that when the London Volunteers hadn't been used to this kind of work they cried off at the last minute. Seeing the job was a failure on their part I decided to bring them out of London and attempt small jobs on haystacks belonging to farmers. We selected certain farms outside London and gave them instructions to concentrate on the burning of these places first. A farm in a particular area would be selected for one night while a farm in another quite distant area would be dealt with on the next night. This plan was successful as quite a large quantity of hay was

destroyed in several farms. This instilled confidence and activity into the London Volunteers. When they saw how easy it was to carry out burnings of haystacks they realised that the burning of buildings would not present such great difficulty as they had first contemplated. From that on the Volunteers in London acted on their own initiative and carried out a number of minor burning activities on the outskirts of London, particularly Railway Signal Boxes. These burnings gave rise to a lot of suspicion on the part of the Whitehall Authorities and in fact they became quite alarmed and erected several barricades in Whitehall and Downing Street.

At the same time as we had started to take action, another element which we presumed to be communistic started also and on several nights they made wholesale smashings on the windows of large establishments principally in Oxford Street, The Strand, Piccadilly etc. causing untold damage. This damage was put down to the I.R.A. and as a result intensive activities were taken to try and capture them. While I was in London at that particular time the late Rory O'Connor came up to London and visited me from Liverpool. The main idea of his visit was to see what progress the London Volunteers had made in the burnings as similar activities were being carried out by the Liverpool Volunteers.

New Route for conveyance of correspondence:

About this time Sam Maguire and myself had to consider establishing a safer route for the conveyance of correspondence between London and Dublin. The old route via Liverpool had become dangerous, and several of the contacts had been arrested. Sam Maguire knew an Irishman, Michael Cullinane, who was a sorter on the mail train from London to

Crewe. He was approached and asked if he would take correspondence from us. He agreed and he further said that before doing anything he would contact other Irish sorters who worked from Crewe to Dublin and find out if they would assist. A few days later he reported back that a couple of sorters working on the Irish mail were willing. Sam Maguire sent word to Collins of the new arrangements. These arrangements worked very well and were never discovered with the result that we could send a message from London to Dublin which would be delivered in Dublin at 7 o'clock in the morning having been given to the sorter at Euston at 6.30 p.m. the previous evening and in many cases have a reply back the following evening. I cannot recall the names of these sorters. I think one of them was Jerry O'Sullivan.

Visit to Pentonville Jail to examine the possibilities of effecting the escape of Tom or Seán Hales:

One of the Hales brothers of Cork was interned in Pentonville Jail. He was due a visit. Seán McGrath was a usual visitor to him. Word was sent to me that I was to accompany Seán McGrath on his next visit and view Pentonville Jail and find out what the chances of effecting an escape were. I did this and inspected the jail from the outside and decided that there would be a fair chance of working an escape if it were possible that Hales would be able to get to the wall from the inside from his cell. Having made my observations I discussed the matter with Hales and he said it would be best to discard the whole idea because it would be practically impossible for him to get any assistance from inside. It was decided to drop the whole matter.

Michael Collins had a namesake of his who was manager of the Marconi Company in London. I was despatched by Collins several times to meet this man and bring back any information that he might have which might be of value to the people at home. This Collins was very friendly with a Scotland Yard Officer but, as far as I know, little information of any material value resulted from this contact.

Conveyed Party to London for what was believed to be an attempt to rescue Terence MacSwiney:

I was ^{not} long back in Dublin again when Tom Cullen knocked at my window early one morning and asked me to get up and pack my bags for a further trip to London. He told me to report to Vaughan's hotel where I would get further instructions. When I arrived at Vaughan's I was introduced to three Cork men by either Tom Cullen or Liam Tobin. I was told I was to bring them to London and when I got to London I was to get in touch with P.A. Murray from the Cork Brigade and hand them over to his care. When in London I knew how to get in touch with P.A. Murray through Sam Maguire. When I saw the three men I was very disappointed in their dress. They were so shabbily dressed that it would be obvious to British Police Authorities in London that they were Irish in the first instance and that they were doubtful and suspicious looking customers. However, I could do nothing about it. I told them that the three of them should keep together as much as possible and that I would make myself very scarce - that while I would be travelling with them we were to regard each other as strangers. We successfully reached London and I found them accommodation in a hotel belonging to a sister of the late Gerry MacVeigh. I left the men there and went

to meet Sam Maguire and P.A. Murray. When I met them I told them that the three men were staying in MacVeigh's and that P.A. should look after them because I was not going to stay in MacVeigh's after that night. I left the three men that day. A couple of days after I met the entire party again. They told me they had seen a lot of London during their short stay and while I was talking to one of them I had a suspicion that they were being shadowed. I put this question to them and they said that they felt that somebody was trailing their movements. I advised them to get rid of their shadower by going into a picture house, sit out the programme, which was three hours, and when leaving to go out by a certain side entrance and then ~~take~~ take various ways home. I also informed them that I would speak to P.A. Murray that night and that I would explain the position but in the meantime they were to lie low. Their stay in London was a short one. Within a week they were ordered to return back to Cork. I believe their aim was to help in the rescue of Terence MacSwiney if such were possible. I was in London from then until Terence MacSwiney died. On the day that his remains were taken to Euston Station from Southwark Cathedral, I made my way into the station and by discreet enquiries I learned that the body would be taken by train to Holyhead and from there by boat to Cork and that the relatives and friends of the late Terence MacSwiney would have to travel via Dublin. I should mention that all were under the impression that the body was being taken to Dublin instead of to Cork. However, I passed on the information to Seán McGrath who was then in the Self-Determination League with Art O'Brien.

Intelligence Work in Dublin:

When I was finally finished with activities in London, I was put on Intelligence work at home in the city. This work consisted mainly of keeping shops and houses where enemy agents were believed to be residing under observation.

One of my jobs was to observe the movements of people who went in and out of a certain house in Morehampton Road. I was told, in particular, to watch out for a red haired lady who was believed to be a contact or a secretary to Colonel Hill Dillon, at that time Provost Marshal at the Royal Barracks (now Collins Barracks), Dublin. I watched the house for a couple of mornings and noted that a few strange people went in. One morning this red haired lady appeared, came out, walked up Morehampton Road. Suddenly she decided to board a tram which was coming. She travelled on this tram as far as Baggot Street. I was on a bicycle and I followed the tram. I saw she got off the tram near Baggot Street Bridge and walked past the tram stop; suddenly turned back and boarded another tram going into the city. I followed this second tram and noticed she got off at Nassau Street. She turned up Dawson Street and went into a Unionist Club in Dawson Street. I hung around and after about half an hour she came out carrying some papers. She came down Dawson Street, boarded the tram again at Nassau Street and went as far as O'Connell Bridge. She got off the tram there and took another tram to Parkgate Street. I followed to Parkgate Street and there discovered she went into the Royal Barracks. I reported back to Liam Tobin. The only remark he passed was "You have got her all right". Some days afterwards I was told to attend Military Sports which were being held at the Esplanade and to find out if the same lady was there

and to take note of the officers she talked to. I succeeded in getting into the sports meeting and after a time beheld my red haired lady. She was in the company of a couple of officers but after a time I noticed that she approached this Colonel who from the description I had I concluded was Hill Dillon. After talking to him for sometime he handed her a letter which she put into her handbag. I waited at the meeting for a considerable time but there was no sign of her leaving so I decided to leave. I reported back with my information.

Joe Dolan and myself were detailed to watch a house in Lower Gardiner Street and to report back to Intelligence if we observed a man leaving it at about 2.30 in the morning. We took up positions in the house opposite and watched the place for three nights, but the man we were interested in didn't appear. He was believed to be an R.I.C. man who had to leave the country and come to Dublin and that he was still carrying on Intelligence Work for the British Authorities.

On another occasion I was detailed to watch and take full particulars of how the mails were being handled by the Post Office in Marlborough Street. I kept watch for a few mornings and noted the procedure adopted by the postal authorities. One particular morning at about 6.30 I was in the vicinity when Michael Collins cycled down the street on his way to the office. Neither of us pretended to recognise each other. I reported back in the usual way to Liam Tobin and he said, "Yes, I know you were there this morning. 'The Big Fellow' passed by and saw you". The mails were raided shortly after this.

Raid on Loughrea Union:

One evening sometime in the year 1921 I was sent down to Loughrea by Oscar Traynor to raid the Union and take from it all books in connection with Local Government administration. I said to him "Why am I being sent? Why can they not pick someone else from the Dublin Brigade?" He said at the time he could not find a suitable officer to do the job. Seeing this was the position, I agreed to go along to Loughrea and he handed me £10 for the journey. I said £10 would more than cover expenses and if anything was left over I would return it. He gave me the names of two local men whom I should contact. They were regarded as safe people. On arrival at Loughrea I tried to contact the first man whose name was O'Neill. I learned by discreet enquiries that he lived about two and a half miles outside the town. I went to his place and when I satisfied the lady of the house as regards my identity she told me he was leader of the local column and that he could not be contacted very readily. I then made enquiries about the address of the second man and eventually I contacted him. I told him what my mission was and he gathered up his brother and a few more local Volunteers. At one o'clock in the morning we went up to the Union and seized the books, removed them about three miles away and put them in a haystack for safety for the time being. I left Loughrea the following morning. I travelled to the station with a British Army man, and returned to Dublin and reported to Oscar Traynor that the job was done.

Republican Courts:

About April 1921 Michael Collins instructed me to report to Austin Stack, then Minister for Home Affairs, in connection with a vacancy which existed for Registrar in

the Dublin North City Courts. I saw Stack and he advised me to apply to the Justices of the North City. This would be only a matter of form as Stack and Collins had already decided that I would fill the position. At a meeting I was appointed District Court Registrar.

The first day I took up duty in a house in Henry Street opposite Woolworths. I had an appointment to meet Dan Brown who was Private Secretary to Austin Stack at 3 o'clock. Shortly before 2 o'clock one of the Justices - a Mrs. McKee who was also one of the two Trustees, came into the office and asked me if I would oblige her by making a lodgment of some money she had in the National Bank, Leeson Street, saying that she would hardly be able to get there herself by closing time. Since I was not meeting Brown until 3 o'clock I decided I would have plenty of time to run over to Leeson Street on the bicycle. I went to Leeson Street, lodged the money and returned to Henry Street. When I was turning into Henry Street I noticed a lorry load of Auxiliaries outside the office. I left my bicycle on the side of the street and went into Woolworths restaurant. I sat at the front window and ordered a meal. From the window I had a good view of the building opposite. Soon I saw the Auxiliaries bringing down Denny Begley who was a member of the Republican Police. He happened to be the only person who was in the building at the time as the others had gone to lunch and I had gone to Leeson Street. This day was the first day on which the Republican Police had been supplied with a Correspondence Stamp on which was inscribed "Irish Republican Police". On this day too they had been issued with a pair of handcuffs. I saw Begley was now handcuffed with these by the Auxiliaries and they had used the stamp on his face with

the result that "Irish Republican Police" was stamped all over his face. All books, papers, documents and everything belonging to the courts had been seized. When they had gone I went back to the office and found that they had cleared away everything. This meant I had a bad start.

I met Dan Brown subsequently at 3 o'clock after the raid and my trouble was to try and find another premises in which to work. The Courts at this time had been held in The Typographical Offices in Gardiners Street. Others had been held in 42 North Great George's Street. The Police and myself found a temporary office in Eustace Street. I started then to look for a permanent office and found one on the Quays over Cahill's, the Opticians. We didn't use them, however, as Austin Stack was at that particular time looking for new premises because raids had been carried out on the ones which he had formerly occupied. He took over the newly acquired office from me. Eventually I found permanent premises in 41, Parnell Square. My office was on top of the building and the Courts were held in a large room on the second floor. Initially sittings were held on a couple of days per week. Usually three Justices presided. Some of the names that come to my mind of the Justices are - Mr. O'Reilly, Mrs. O'Shea-Leary, Matthew Farrell, James Kirwan, Seán Ó Murthuile, Mrs. Tom Clarke (she was President of the Justices Panel), Mrs. McKeane, Mrs. Buckley and many others.

Having heard the first couple of cases I caused the results to be published in the papers and the following day Austin Stack sent a very strong letter to me asking what authority I had ^{to} give publication to Court cases as his Department hadn't authorised publication. The reply I gave was that I was going to continue the Courts openly and if

The British wished to raid the place they could. After the first list of cases had been published solicitors and clients knew where to find me and they brought their ordinary business to me for hearing by our courts. The position was that after a time the work became so heavy that I was unable to cope with it and an additional Registrar was appointed and subsequently a second Assistant Registrar.

I should mention that at that time there was what I might term four categories of courts; first the Parish Court, next the District Court and then the District Court Circuit Sitting which was presided over by a qualified judge and finally there was the Supreme Court. I had functions in respect of all Courts. Cases came to me directly and from Home Affairs. I arranged for the Judges, fixed the date and time of hearing, and notified Solicitors on both sides. Many of those cases came from different parts of the country where it was more suitable to have the action held in Dublin than in local parts of the country. Many of the leading Barristers of the day attended our courts amongst whom I recall the late Tim Healy, Hugh Kennedy, Alfred Wood. The Judges were the late Justice Creed Meredith, Professor Arthur Cleary, Diarmuid O'Crowley, the late Justice Wyse Power and Conor Maguire. The Circuit Court hearings were held at 18 Parnell Square (Technical School) and there were often three courts sitting at the same time. The three judges would be occupied in different rooms. They dealt with every kind of action - land disputes, company affairs, actions for compensation, damages, breach of promise etc. and appeals from the lower courts.

This work continued until we actually disbanded ourselves about September 1922 when no further useful purpose could be served.

Signed: George Fitzgerald
Ex-Comd't G.H. Intelligence

Date: 28th May 1952
(George Fitzgerald)
Ex-Comd't G.H. Intelligence.

Witness: William Ivory Comd't.
(William Ivory), Comd't.

28th May 1952.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21 BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21 No. W.S. 684
