

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 880

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 880

Witness

Mrs. Julia Hughes,  
Old Cross Square,  
Monaghan.

Identity.

Eye-witness

of arrest of Francis Sheehy Skeffington,  
1916.

Subject.

Arrest of Francis Sheehy Skeffington  
on the night before his execution  
in 1916.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S. 2159

Form B S M 2

ORIGINAL

Sir

I wish to state  
 Bridge on the night that  
 was arrested I was serving  
 Confectionary Rothmans after  
 to the Bridge there were  
 but I did not know any  
 Sherry Steffington give out  
 The time was about 9:00  
 day but I think it was  
 martial law was declare  
 come over and arrest  
 in the belief of a post  
 could justify his arrest  
 people against looting  
 heard the man was sh  
 That is all the inform  
 you

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S.2159

2 June 1953

A Chara,

I am desired by the Director to thank you for your letter which was received in the Bureau on Saturday last.

He would be grateful if you could see your way to record for the Bureau with as much detail as you can remember an account of the incident which you witnessed on Portobello Bridge during Easter Week 1916, including the names and, if possible, the addresses of any persons who were with you on the occasion; whether there were any other persons present; your own name and address at the time and any other particulars which seem to be relevant.

As explained in the enclosed leaflet, any statement entrusted to the Bureau will be treated as strictly confidential, and its contents will not be revealed to anyone outside the Bureau without the consent of the owner.

The story which you have to sell can be told in any manner you choose, and can take the form of a single statement or any number of statements. The essential thing is that whatever you set down should be a record of the facts as they are known to you. It should be told with as much detail as you can remember, including dates, persons, places, etc., as incidents which appear to be of minor importance may, in the view of historians, have a real significance.

Statements, when received in the Bureau, are carefully covered and bound to ensure their preservation and protection as historic documents, and, for that reason, it would be appreciated if you could arrange, when drawing up your statement, to use one side of the paper only, and to leave a margin of about one inch on the left, so that none of the text may be obscured in the binding.

If there is any aspect of the matter on which you would like further information, the Director will be only too pleased to meet your convenience.

Mise, le meas,

(Sgd.) (P.J. Brennan)

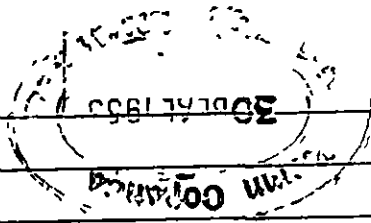
RÚNAÍ

Mrs. Julia Hughes,  
Old Cross Square,  
MONAGHAN.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1919-21
BURÓ STAIRE MILEATA 1919-21
No. W.S. 880

P.S. An addressed envelope which need not be stamped is enclosed for your reply.

W S 880



Sir

I wish to say that  
I was on Golden Slender's  
on Port's Belle Bridge when  
the soldiers came and arrested  
Mr. Steady, Staffington. He was  
giving out leaflets one of  
which was handed to me  
addressing the people not to be  
harsh looking and was not  
doing anything unlawful  
or political. He was shot the  
next morning unlawfully  
by the English.

(Mrs) Julia Hughes  
Old Cross Sq.  
Birmingham

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY-1913-21

BURO-STAIRE-MILEATA-1913-21

NO. W.S. 880

- 2 Operation and mobilisation orders, roll books, accounts, membership cards, etc., in relation to any of the various organisations
- 3 Proclamations, deportation, prohibition and similar orders and other documents issued by the British Authorities generally or to individuals
- 4 Orders and correspondence connected with them issued by the British Authorities to Local Government bodies.
- 5 Posters or notices issued or served by the British Army, the D M P., the R.I.C., the Auxiliaries or the Black-and-Tans
- 6 British Army and Police publications, such as —
  - (a) Hue and Cry.
  - (b) Weekly Summary 1920-21.
7. Irish official publications, such as:—  
An tOglach 1918-1921
- 8 Prison and internment camp journals, magazines, diaries, etc
- 9 Passes and permits issued by the British and Irish Authorities at various times, including Easter Week, 1916

Of importance also are:—

- (a) Drill books and other instruction manuals and leaflets issued by the various organisations
- (b) Pamphlets issued by various bodies in Ireland, U S A. and elsewhere, such as "The Friends of Irish Freedom," etc.

In the process of collection by the Bureau, it is possible that spare copies may accumulate, and it is desirable, therefore, that donors should in every case indicate their wishes as to the disposal of any of their contributions which may not be required by the Bureau, whether by return, or otherwise.

*September, 1948.*

ment, its Ministries, its Courts, and its relation to the Irish Republican Army, Conscription, Commissions of Enquiry by the British Government and by independent bodies in Ireland and elsewhere into the destruction of property, shootings, etc., the White Cross, the Prisoners' Dependents' Fund, etc

With such a wide range of historic activities, the Bureau needs the fullest co-operation from those who, by reason of their intimate knowledge, through personal contact or otherwise, of the events or personalities of the period, are in a position to give authoritative information on the many unrecorded aspects of the struggle

Because of the circumstances of the time, and of the difficult conditions under which the military and other National organisations operated, the amount of documentary material was of necessity very restricted, and some of it, unfortunately, has since been lost through destruction, deterioration or other causes. The collection, recording and preservation of such original documents as now remain are, therefore, matters of great importance. No original document which related to the struggle should be destroyed or allowed to deteriorate, even if it appears to be of trivial or purely local interest. The Bureau will gladly accept any such original document presented to it, and will take steps for its safe custody and preservation for the Nation. If the donor wishes to have a copy or a photographic replica, the Bureau will be only too pleased to supply it.

In any case where a person having custody of original documents does not wish to part with them, the Bureau would appreciate information as to their nature and contents, and would like to have permission to have them copied by photographic or other processes. If the owner prefers that the contents of certain documents should not be disclosed even to the Bureau for a specified time, but intends ultimately to make them available

to the Nation, it would be appreciated if the Bureau could be given a general indication of their nature and contents and of the owner's intention regarding them, so that a record may be made of their existence and of their present and intended location.

It is realised, of course, that in many cases the available documents do not represent a complete picture of the events to which they relate, and for that reason much of the work of the Bureau will, of necessity, be concerned with the assembling of evidence, oral or written, from persons or bodies having first-hand information of any phase or aspect of the conflict, whether in Ireland or abroad. The Bureau will welcome communications in writing from those who feel that they can assist in this way, and would ask them to give an indication of the areas, periods or phases upon which they are in a position to give information.

All information entrusted to the Bureau, whether in the form of statements, letters or other documents, will be treated as strictly confidential, except where the donor himself expresses a wish to the contrary. This will not in any way affect the right of the donor himself to use the information in any way he wishes, whether by publication or otherwise. The Bureau, of course, will not undertake publication or enter into any arrangement for publication, but the Director will offer no objection to the use for that purpose by the donor of copies or photographic replicas of documents given to him by the Bureau.

Apart from statements of evidence prepared for the Bureau, original documents of prime importance include, inter alia —

- 1 Original signed letters, notes, memoirs, etc., in manuscript and typescript, including captured correspondence, and similar documents or fragments thereof in manuscript, unsigned, but with evidence of authorship.

- 2 Operation and mobilisation orders, roll books, accounts, membership cards, etc, in relation to any of the various organisations.
- 3 Proclamations, deportation, prohibition and similar orders and other documents issued by the British Authorities generally or to individuals.
- 4 Orders and correspondence connected with them issued by the British Authorities to Local Government bodies
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September, 1948.

**An Roinn COSANTA**



**BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY**  
1913—1921

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