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ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 1302

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,302.....

Witness

James Dore,
Ducateen,
Newcastlewest,
Co. Limerick.

Identity.

Captain Newcastlewest Company
Irish Volunteers, Co. Limerick,
1919 - .

Subject.

Newcastlewest Company Irish Volunteers,
Co. Limerick, 1914-1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S. 2600.....

Form B.S.M. 2

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1933-22
BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 1302

STATEMENT BY JAMES DORE,
Ducateen, Newcastlewest, County Limerick.

I was born in the parish of Newcastlewest on the 1st January, 1895. I attended the local national school until I was fourteen years of age. After leaving school I went to work on my father's farm.

A Company of Volunteers was formed in Newcastlewest in the summer of 1913. I did not join the Company until the summer of 1914. Garrett McAuliffe was the principal officer then. Bill Moone was drill instructor. Our strength was about thirty men. We drilled with wooden rifles at the time. The Company ceased to exist after a speech by John Redmond at Woodenbridge at the end of 1914.

In the year 1915, Ernest Blythe visited the area and reorganised the Company. Our strength was thirty men; they included men from surrounding areas who later formed separate companies of their own. Garrett McAuliffe again became the Chief Officer, Jim Liston became 1st Lieutenant and Tom McDonagh became 2nd Lieutenant. We resumed drilling and route marching which continued up to Easter Week of 1916.

On Easter Sunday, 1916, we marched to Glenquin Castle, where we met a number of Volunteers from other areas. Father Hayes and Father Wall were there. After waiting all day we were dismissed around 8 p.m. and returned to our homes.

After the surrender in Dublin after Easter Week a number of shot guns in the Company were handed into the R.I.C. barracks. I don't remember who issued the order to surrender the guns. After this we ceased to drill for a while, but we kept together and met occasionally until after the general release in 1917. Shortly after

a general mobilisation of Volunteers was held in Newcastlewest. Con Collins and other speakers addressed the Volunteers on the occasion. Routine drilling continued during the year.

During the conscription scare in 1918 we received an extra fourteen men into the Company. These men remained on in the Company when the scare was over. At the latter end of the year, with other members, I cycled to Limerick where we took a train to Waterford to support the Sinn Féin candidate - Doctor White - during the general election. Seán Finn was in charge of the West Limerick Volunteers who went to Waterford. We spent four days there during which we had some clashes with the supporters of the Nationalist candidate in the Ballybricken area.

Around this time a reorganisation of the Volunteers in West Limerick took place. A Brigade staff was appointed. The Brigade was composed of five Battalions. Seán Finn became Brigade O/C, Garrett McAuliffe became O/C. of Newcastlewest Battalion which became the 1st Battalion. Thomas McDonagh became Battalion Vice O/C. I became Company Captain of Newcastlewest Company and came under the notice of the R.I.C. for drilling and parading the members. They visited my home on several occasions to arrest me but I always managed to elude them.

In early 1919 the R.I.C. came upon myself and my brother Ned near my home and gave the two of us a severe beating but did not detain us. We, however, continued to meet and drill regularly. At the end of the year we collected a number of shot guns in the area. These guns were distributed among the individual Volunteers who were responsible for their maintenance.

In 1920, the R.I.C. got so active that I had to go 'on the run'. I could not sleep at home, but continued to work by day at home, always keeping a look-out for the R.I.C. Routine meetings and drilling were continued up to my arrest on the 21st November, 1920. That day I was taken by surprise and arrested at home. They took me to Newcastlewest R.I.C. barracks first, then to Limerick Jail, from there to Kilworth Camp by lorry where I spent a week. I was then transferred to the new Military barracks in Cork. All this time I had for companions Charlie Wall of Drumcollogher, John White of Ballygran and Dan Curtain of Tournafulla who were arrested at the same time. From Cork Military barracks we, with other prisoners, were taken by cattle boat to Belfast Lough. From here we were taken to Ballykinlar Camp and detained until after the Truce was signed.

Signed:

James Dore

(James Dore)

Date:

6th December, 1955

6th December 1955.

Witness:

John J. Daly
(John J. Daly)