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ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 138 /

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1.387

Witness

Commandant Hugh Maguire (retired),
72 Lindsay Road,
Glasnevin,
Dublin.

Identity.

Commandant Crosserlough Battalion, Cavan Brigade;
Acting Centre Co. Cavan I.R.B.

Subject.

- (a) 'D' Company 2nd Battalion Dublin Brigade,
1914-1916;
- (b) Crosserlough Company Irish Volunteers,
Co. Cavan, 1916-1921.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

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ORIGINAL

W. S. 1,387

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
No. W.S. 1387

SECOND STATEMENT BY COMMANDANT HUGH MAGUIRE (RETIRED),

72, Lindsay Road, Glasnevin, Dublin.

I was born at Crosserlough near Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan, and went to the local school there. The school curriculum had nothing outstanding in it and we were taught the ordinary subjects required by regulations at the time. There was no emphasis on Irish subjects and no attempt was made to inculcate anything in the nature of extreme patriotism into the students.

I came to Dublin in 1913 to work at the bar and grocery business. During the years 1914 and 1915 big parades of Volunteers marching through the streets were a regular feature of city life. At this time the agitation for Home Rule was at its height and John Redmond and his Irish National Party were the dominating figures in politics at the time. In the North, Sir Edward Carson had started the Ulster Volunteers - pledged to oppose Home Rule to the death - and to counteract this movement the Irish Volunteers sprung into being in the remainder of Ireland.

I became a pal of another Cavanman, also domiciled in Dublin, named Philip Smith, and both of us joined the grocers' assistants company of the Irish Volunteers, which was 'D' Company of the 2nd Battalion, Dublin Brigade. We drilled at the Father Mathew Park, Fairview, on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. Owing to the nature of the duties performed by grocers and bar assistants, it was not possible for them to attend at the normal parade hours, so this particular company was organised to facilitate them.

Seamus Kavanagh, who had been very prominent in Fianna circles, acted as drill master. We often marched to the Banba Hall from Fairview and I am sure the company was around three hundred strong at least.

When officers were elected Seamus Kavanagh was elected Company Captain and Paddy Moran, who was in later years hanged by the British here, was elected Adjutant. There were apparently no rifles in the armament of the company but most of the men seemed to have a revolver of some type - many of them only .22. The election of the officers may have taken place after the split in the Volunteers; I am not quite sure. When we required rifles for route marches and so forth we usually got them from the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, to where they were returned again when we were finished with them. One of our men, Ned Cooney, turned up one day with a rifle he had bought from a British soldier. The soldier "spilled the beans" on him and Cooney was arrested and given a few months in jail.

When the split in the Volunteer force took place as a result of John Redmond's attitude towards supporting the British Government and enlisting in their forces, all of our men, except about forty-five or so, took the Redmond side and then became the Irish National Volunteers. I was amongst the forty-five or so who remained loyal to the Irish Volunteer headquarters, and our company, though now sadly depleted, remained as the Irish Volunteers. Seamus Kavanagh continued to be in charge of this company and Paddy Moran continued as Adjutant. We had drill and training parades at the Foresters Hall, Parnell Square. Many concerts and such things were held also at this hall, and I remember often seeing many of the leaders who were

executed after the rebellion there, including Pearse, McDermott and Tom Hunter. We still had no rifles, just a few revolvers.

On Sunday morning of Holy Week we were given a lecture by Tom Hunter regarding the manoeuvres which were to take place on the following Sunday - Easter Sunday. We were instructed to carry whatever arms we had and bring with us rations for forty-eight hours. He particularly stressed that on no account was anyone to be absent from this parade. On Easter Sunday morning we had a talk from Thomas McDonagh, who was then O/C of the 2nd Battalion. He instructed us to parade that evening at St. Stephen's Green at 5.15, and furthermore stated that if anyone lost their employment as a result of attending this parade and being absent from their work they would be fixed up otherwise. I was very pleased to hear this as for a long time previously I was not satisfied with my job and would be only too delighted to leave it.

At three o'clock that evening I received a message that the parade fixed for Stephen's Green was cancelled. The public bars closed at five p.m., so after I had my tea I went to Stephen's Green to see if there would be anybody there who had not got the cancellation message. Paddy Moran was the only one I saw there. I talked with Moran for a while and we both then walked down Grafton St. towards the centre of the city. While going down Grafton St. we met a large body of the Citizen Army, led by Connolly and the Countess, marching up Grafton St. towards the Green. Accompanying this parade and apparently keeping a watch on them was a detective named Nixon. Nixon, who was a Protestant by religion, was a neighbour of mine in Co. Cavan

before joining the D.M.P. and I was well known to him and he to me. The parade passed on and Moran and I continued on our walk. After the parade had passed us Moran made a remark to me which did not convey much to me then but which I remembered afterwards and showed that he was aware of what was going on in Volunteer headquarter circles. He said: "If those parades had not been cancelled you and I would be walking in an independent Ireland by this time to-morrow". I let the remark pass without commenting or asking any questions as it had no significance for me then. At the bottom of Grafton St. we met another man, whom I did not know. This man stopped and said to us: "Your headquarters at Father Mathew Park is at this moment being raided by the D.M.P.". Moran asked me if I had a gun on me and I said I had a .22 revolver. He said he had one also and that we would go to Father Mathew Park. We went there but found there was no excitement whatever. A couple of the D.M.P. were standing around but nothing was happening. I do not know if they raided the place - at any rate there was nothing there for them to get. We came back in to the city to Parnell Park, where we parted company about 8 p.m. on that Easter Sunday night.

On Easter Monday we were not mobilised as a company at all. I got no orders to parade anywhere. Some of the company were in the College of Surgeons, some in the G.P.O. and some in Jacob's. I was not called out and did not know what to do. I felt I was not wanted and I also felt peeved at not having been mobilised. The house where I worked continued open for business that week although it was close enough to Jacob's and I went to my work as usual. When the rebellion was over, the people around began jibing at me. They knew of my activities in the Volunteers and were

inclined to be hostile to me. Some of them asserted that during the fighting I had a light in my window as a signal and that when this light went on a shot was fired in the street below and this was followed by machine-gun fire. This was all sheer nonsense. This kind of talk I considered would soon draw the attention of the police on me. As I had not been mobilised with my comrades for the rebellion and not being anxious to join them in prison now, I decided to leave the job.

On the 3rd May, 1916, the day on which Pearse was executed, I made my way to Amiens St. station en route to my home in Cavan. On arriving at the station I found it completely cut off by a cordon of military and police who were preventing anyone from getting into the station. Who should I spot amongst this cordon but my neighbour at home, Detective Nixon. Without giving him time to think, I walked over and shook hands with him and then walked through the cordon and into the station without being hindered. I got on a train that was going out and got to Oldcastle. I stayed there that night and the following morning proceeded to Crosserlough to my home, where I remained afterwards.

After the collapse of the rebellion Volunteer activities were dead everywhere. However, when the prisoners were released, particularly the leaders, in 1917 things began to move again and the Volunteers began to revive and live again. Companies, or rather small sections, were organised in some of the areas around, including Crosserlough, Lowerdenn and Crosskeys. I was approached to undertake the drilling of some of these companies, which I did. Actually I was elected Company Captain of the ~~Crosskeys~~ ^{CROSSERLOUGH} Company. The company had about thirty young

men on rolls. We had no arms of any sort. We drilled in the local hall or old schoolhouse, using hurleys to act as rifles.

When the conscription crisis loomed up there was a big influx of recruits to the company, but they all disappeared again when the crisis was over and we were back around our thirty or so in strength again. Other than drilling there was nothing very special done to meet the conscription threat. The Volunteers were active in having the anti-conscription pledge signed by everyone and in collecting money for the anti-conscription fund and also in attending anti-conscription meetings in military formation. We were ordered to parade publicly then. This was, I think, to demonstrate our strength and determination to resist conscription.

The next item of interest was the Griffith election in East Cavan in July, 1918. All the Volunteers were actively engaged in this election in canvassing voters, collecting funds, checking registers of voters and so forth and providing parties of Volunteers at election meetings to protect the Sinn Féin speakers and in personating at the polls. On the day of the voting a large party of Volunteers from the Ballinagh area came in to assist the local Volunteers. There was no election in the Ballinagh area, which was West Cavan. The Volunteers were carrying hurleys and wooden batons and marched in military formation. It had been made illegal by the British government at this time to give military words of command. Military and extra police had been drafted into the area for the election and for some time it looked as if a clash between them and the Volunteers was inevitable, but it did not come off.

The police arrested four or five Volunteers for giving words of command, and some others had to go 'on the run' to avoid arrest, including Thomas Fitzpatrick of Ballinagh.

Later in the year 1918 a general election took place and the picture as regards the Volunteers was much the same except that now they were somewhat better organised. Paul Galligan, who had taken part in the Rebellion in 1916 in Wexford and who had been imprisoned in England, was released in 1917. He was, however, soon 'on the run' again as he was wanted by the British for his part in the supposed German Plot and he successfully avoided arrest for a long period. Just prior to voting day in the Griffith election he appeared openly. One particular night I met him and he stayed in a hotel in Killinaleck. On the following morning I went to the hotel to accompany him to Mass at Crosserlough. As we came through the village of Killinaleck there was an R.I.C. man at the cross, at road junction. This was Constable Kelly. Galligan was wellknown to this constable but he did not make any move to intercept him. When we came out from Mass in Crosserlough this constable and Constable Mulligan were waiting outside the church to arrest Galligan. Galligan asked them to produce their warrant for his arrest. The police said they had not got a warrant but that the military had, to which Galligan replied: "Let the military do their own dirty work" and we got on our bicycles and cycled off towards Ballyjamesduff. By this time a nice little hostile crowd had assembled around us and the two constables, and, I suppose, thinking discretion the better part of valour, they did not interfere with us but followed us on their bicycles. The country around here is pretty close and it would be hard to keep a person on a bicycle under observation,

so at a certain road junction we took a turning into another road which led us back to Kilnaleck. The police apparently thought we had gone on to Ballyjamesduff and they went on there. I left Paul at his own home near Ballinagh.

At about 3 o'clock that afternoon my home was surrounded by British military looking for Paul Galligan and me, but I was not at home to them. Paul was arrested in Cootehill after the Griffith election. A man named Pat Barrett and another man whose name I cannot now remember were now sent down by G.H.Q. to organise the Cavan Brigade of Irish Volunteers. He was paid, as far as I can remember, four pounds per week while he was in Cavan. Barrett organised Co. Cavan into nine battalions and then called a convention of battalion officers at Killygarry Hall, which is situated about three miles from Cavan Town on the Dublin road. At this convention the following officers were elected to the brigade staff: O/C, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Ballinagh; Vice O/C, Frank McKeon, Cootehill; Adjutant, Peter Paul McDermott, Cootehill, and I was elected Brigade Quartermaster. The battalions comprising the brigade were, as far as I can remember; Cootehill, Belturbet, Corlough, Ballinagh, Crosserlough, Virginia, Bailieboro, Carrickallen and Cavan.

The 1st Dáil met early in the year 1919 and affirmed the declaration of 1916 of the Irish Republic. The Dáil floated its first national loan and the services of the Volunteers were availed of everywhere to canvass and collect subscriptions for the loan and a large amount of money was collected. Temporary receipts were issued in all cases and later each subscriber received an official receipt. To the credit of the Volunteers, at least in our

area, there was not one dispute about the money subscribed. Every subscription was satisfactorily accounted for.

The Dáil courts, or Sinn Féin courts as they were generally called, were now being organised and soon were operating satisfactorily. The sittings of such courts were held in secret. The people quickly gained confidence in the courts and took their troubles to them and generally abided loyally by the decisions given therein. Really they were more arbitration courts than courts of justice. Soon the British courts were practically deserted and the legal profession - some through patriotic reasons but others realising where their bread and butter lay, took up practice at the Sinn Féin courts.

By this time the Volunteers had taken over the police work of the country. The R.I.C. had no longer any pretensions to be a police force and were, in fact, just another armed force and part of the general military forces holding this country for the British government. One could go even further and describe them as a uniformed force of spies, for they were the eyes, ears and the guides of the British or Castle government here. Without their aid the British forces could not make any progress. Sad to relate they were all men recruited from our own kith and kin. The performance of police duties threw a great strain on the Volunteers as all its members could only give voluntary service in their spare time. Arrests and detentions had to be made. Men arrested were kept in secret places under a Volunteer guard. Such places were generally known as "unknown destinations". The provision of guards and their feeding and accommodation were a source of big worry to the officers of the Volunteer force. On the other hand, this state of affairs had also its

rewarding side. It brought the Volunteers into close contact with the people and developed a sense of comradeship between them. The people developed a sense of confidence in the Volunteers when they realised that they were quite capable of maintaining law and order in the country. In this respect they were far more successful than even the R.I.C. were, as the people co-operated wholeheartedly with the Volunteers which they never had done with the R.I.C.

The Dáil now took over the Volunteer force as the official army of the Republic and all members were required to take an oath of allegiance to that body. This was subscribed to by all our members without any deflections. Sinn Féin was now extensively organised throughout the country and co-operating with the Volunteers. Many of the Volunteers were also members of the local Sinn Féin Clubs.

The R.I.C. now began to realise that it would be impossible for them to hold on to their small outlying posts scattered throughout the country. Some of these posts in other parts had already been attacked and a few captured by the Volunteers. Consequently, in the end of 1919 and early 1920 they began to evacuate such posts and to concentrate the force in larger centres, principally in the towns. Quite a good few of the force had resigned and recruits were not forthcoming in the numbers they required as heretofore. Crosskeys barracks was evacuated in our area and its garrison transferred elsewhere. We destroyed this barracks at Easter, 1920, on orders from General Headquarters. We gained admission to the place through prising the bars of the window at the rear with the coulter of a plough. We had to select this way of entry as the owner of the premises lived across the street to the

front of the barracks. Having set the place alight we retired to a hill in the rear to watch developments. To our surprise, the local people turned out and succeeded in putting the blaze out. They apparently did not realise that the place was being destroyed by the Volunteers. We returned on Easter Sunday night and this time we did the job openly. We commandeered tools and petrol from the local garage and totally destroyed the place. This time the local people did not interfere.

At this time I was Brigade Quartermaster. Our Brigade O/C was arrested sometime in March, 1920, and this left us without a brigade leader. However, Paul Galligan had been released from jail by now and he took over the brigade in a sort of way. He used to sign his dispatches "Chief of the Brigade Staff".

Galligan now instructed me to proceed to Dublin in an effort to secure some arms for the brigade and arranged to meet me in Dublin, which he did. We went to a place in Christchurch Place where we met a man called Frank Harding. Harding had a shop there and I believe the place still exists. Later Harding and Paul Galligan arrived at Vaughan's Hotel in Parnell Square (where I was staying) in a horsedrawn cab in which there were eight rifles, grenades and revolvers. I took possession of them and, accompanied by Galligan, travelled in the same cab to Broadstone station to get on the evening train for Cavan. Mr. Galligan helped me to place the three parcels under the seat of the carriage. I took the parcels off the train at Drumhorna station and collected my bicycle which I had left there when I was proceeding to Dublin. I was unable to take the grenades and left them with the stationmaster

who was friendly towards us. The rifles, with butts disconnected, were wrapped in sackcloth which was sewn with cord. I placed them on the handlebars of my bicycle. The fifteen revolvers were secured to the carrier and I set out to cycle to my home convenient to the village of Crosskeys and got there safely.

On the following Sunday week I attended a brigade council meeting in Killygarry Hall, taking the fifteen revolvers with me. At the conclusion of the meeting the revolvers were distributed to units entitled to same. They were an assorted lot and the late Captain T. Sheridan got the best of them, which, I think, included two of the parabellum type pistols. Commandant Pat Woods of the Corlough Battalion came to Crosskeys after the meeting and received a rifle. Phil McCaffrey and J. Tully, Castletara, came to Leahy school on the following Tuesday night for another rifle, and on the following Thursday I took the remaining six rifles to a house on a by-road off the main Ballinagh-Kilnaleck road convenient to Ballintemple Church and handed them over to the Ballinagh Battalion. Tom Sheridan was present and I can recall that grenades and ammunition were also there for distribution. I do not remember the exact date that I went to Dublin for these rifles and other items, but I am almost certain that it was on this occasion that a man named Carroll was shot dead in his home next door to Vaughan's Hotel by Crown Forces. I heard the shooting and saw the British forces in lorries from my bedroom window. This murder was published in the daily Press of the time. After I returned from Dublin with the rifles Paul Galligan also arrived a day or so later and, I think, had some more arms and ammunition. This was not the only occasion I visited Dublin on a similar errand.

I was back within three months and visited Tom Sheridan's brother who was wounded at Crossdoney and was then a patient in Jervis St. Hospital.

A raid had been made on the old age pensions' money with the purpose of securing that money to purchase arms, and although I had nothing to do with the handling of this money I believe that a considerable sum was seized by our Volunteers. G.H.Q. did not approve of this raiding of old age pensions' money and there was quite a row about it. When we went back to G.H.Q. again looking for arms and lodged a few hundred pounds, they took the view that this was old age pensions' money and they held on to the money and would not give us anything until the matter was investigated and we never got anything for that money. ~~This was not~~ ^{7/9/20} ~~night~~ as G.H.Q. had already confiscated the old age pensions' money and the money we now had was the money we had collected from the people in Cavan to buy arms. This happened early in 1920.

Around July, 1920, Paul Galligan was arrested again and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment. I think it was for some speech he had made. Fitzpatrick, the Brigade O/C, had been released but his health had broken down as a result of his treatment in jail and he was no longer capable of running the brigade. The result of this was that the brigade deteriorated and eventually G.H.Q. sent down two organisers. One was Peadar McMahon, now Lt. Gen. McMahon and Secretary of the Department of Defence, and the other was Seamus McGoran, afterwards a Colonel in the army but now retired. The situation was a curious one and I cannot understand why the county was not organised on a two brigade basis. It was too big an area and too

cumbersome to be all included in one brigade. G.H.Q. now assumed direct control of each battalion individually.

I now reverted back to the command of the Crosserlough Battalion again. Peadar McMahon ran officers' courses and organised in the East Cavan area, while McGoran went to West Cavan. Patrick McCahill was Adjutant of the Crosserlough Battalion, of which I was O/C and the late Ned Reilly was Quartermaster. Jim West was Battalion Police Officer. The Intelligence Officer was Michael Ferguson and the Engineer Officer was Daniel McDonald. The companies comprising the battalion were: Mountnugent - Capt. Hugh Brady; Kilnaleck - Captain Patrick Smith; Drumkelly - Captain John Callery; Crosserlough - Captain John Joseph Coyle; Crosskeys - Captain John Gaffney; Upper Lavey - Captain Bernard Monaghan; Ballyjamesduff - Captain Patrick J. Lynch. The Captain of Crosserlough was arrested later on and he was replaced by Thos. *CAMPBELL* as Captain.

Towards the end of 1920 a general raid for arms was carried out in the area on orders of G.H.Q. This was a general operation throughout the country in an effort to forestall the R.I.C. in collecting such arms. There was not much to collect in our area and the result in each company was much the same - five or six shotguns and a few revolvers in the battalion area as a whole, all of which were small bore weapons. There were no incidents during the raids and it was usually only a matter of asking for the weapons or, in some cases, a slight display of force did the trick. We now made a house to house collection in the area to raise funds to buy arms. Each person who subscribed five shillings or over was given a receipt, so that nearly everyone subscribed five shillings or more.

By this collection we raised about three hundred and fifty pounds. The Battalion Quartermaster and I now travelled to Dublin to try and purchase arms. It was understood at the time that if you had the money G.H.Q. would supply the arms. We lodged £250 with G.H.Q. for this purpose but never got any arms. I understand that a consignment of some sort was sent to us via Longford with a supply for that area, but that the Longford Volunteers kept the whole lot for themselves. While O'Reilly and I were in Dublin we had an interview with Mick Collins and Gearóid O'Sullivan. Collins asked us what we were doing in the area and we told him we had no arms and that all we could do was trench roads and cut communications and generally disrupt British government measures. He told us to continue this sort of work. We never got any arms and our money was never returned to us either. I think they were still suspicious about it being old age pensions' money. The rifles referred to previously were in the other battalion areas, some of them being in Ballinagh Battalion.

Early in 1921 a raid was made on the home of a Mrs. Boylan. We had received information that her son was going to join the R.I.C. or the Tans who were now in force in the country, large parties of them having been sent to each R.I.C. barracks to reinforce the garrisons of R.I.C. Boylan was a Catholic by religion and it was dangerous to have men like him join the British forces at this time. The raid on his home was an effort to deter him from joining. Eight men from Crosserlough were arrested and charged in connection with this raid and were put on a rule of bail. They were men who had no part in the raid. Paul Galligan advised the men to give bail, which they did, and before their case came up for final disposal Mrs.

Boylan was persuaded not to go on with the charges so the case was dropped and they went free. Young Boylan, however, joined the R.I.C.

A couple of months after this and around St. Patrick's Day a Constable Rooney who was serving in the R.I.C. and who was a Protestant by religion came home on leave. After trying to prevent Boylan joining, it would seem very strange if we allowed this man to go around freely. I mobilised a few of our men and sent them to deal with Rooney, instructing them not to kill him but to disable him. They were armed with shotguns and they fired at Rooney in his home and hit him in the leg. He had to have his leg amputated. He is still alive and in receipt of a fat pension from the British government.

The Black and Tans had now come in force to the area and hold ups and searches and beatings became the order of the day. I had to go 'on the run' after the attack on Constable Rooney as they were looking for me. On several occasions we lay in position with our few shotguns in the hope of ambushing patrols of Tans and R.I.C., but they never came our way and we made no contact with them. One particular night we cut or destroyed three bridges in the area, commandeering local labour to do this job. This type of labour was often to be found in the evening times where young men would assemble to play football while we were out taking risks. Following on this the Tans came to Crosskeys, where one of the biggest cuttings was, and rounded up all the local people and compelled them to fill it in.

At this time I was in a field talking to one of our men, the Captain of Crosskeys Company, when a Mrs. McDonald

came into the field and started making signals to us as if to go away. We were a good distance from her. As we started to move a Tan appeared at the hedge and fired at us. We started running and the Tans followed us across bogs and countryside for about two miles, firing at us as the opportunity presented itself. Eventually we got away from them and they gave up the chase. Two Black and Tans were in the habit of travelling along the Ballyjamesduff-Cavan road through Crosskeys dressed in civilian attire. They may have been going to Cavan. One Sunday a man named McEvoy and I lay in wait for them. They had gone out alright but they did not return, whatever was the cause, and after that they ceased to go any more.

Ned Reilly and I were staying in a house near Crosskeys one night. The following day we were going down the village. We were walking up a slight hill or gradient on the road when suddenly two Tans came into view on the crest of the hill and coming towards us on bicycles. We had revolvers in our pockets. Ned immediately made a dash for a gateway on the roadside but, seeing that I was not following him, changed his mind and rejoined me. We thrust our hands into our pockets and grabbed our guns and continued to walk on. The Tans came towards us and, although they had seen Ned Reilly make a short-lived attempt to go through the gateway, they made no effort to intercept us and passed by. When they had passed we turned and watched them, but they continued on their bicycles and never even looked back at us. They must have realised that they also were in as big a jam as we were and were at a disadvantage by being on bicycles, from which they would have to dismount before getting into action. Discretion was the better part of valour on both sides on this occasion.

An attempt was made to attack and capture the R.I.C.
and Tans barracks in Ballyvamesduff in the month of

The only attempt to make munitions in the area was the filling of shotgun cartridges with buckshot which we made locally. In addition, Peter Moynagh constructed some concrete road mines and some home-made bombs of the drain pipe pattern. Communications within the brigade or county area were maintained by dispatch riders on bicycles, and in this respect the women often gave a helping hand. Intelligence units were organised within each battalion but suffered badly from lack of training in this important line. I am afraid that very few of us at the time placed the importance on intelligence that it should have received. We had no contact that I knew of with any of the members serving within the forces opposed to us. We looked upon this as a brigade or general headquarters assignment. None of the staffs of the post offices in the area was of any avail to us and no attempt was made to exploit this source of information. There was, of course, the usual raiding of the mails and so forth.

There were no spies shot in the area and I doubt if any such existed. What information the British had about us, I believe, was what was supplied by members of the R.I.C. who had been stationed in the area for a long time before things came to a head and what they gathered from loose talk by the people as a whole. One man named Briody was shot in the Ballinagh area but not for spying. This man was a shoemaker and did work for the R.I.C. and Tans and, although warned to stop this several times, he refused to do so. In an effort to persuade him forcibly he, unfortunately, was killed.

The position in Cavan was a peculiar one and I am at a loss to understand why our G.H.Q. did not take some

steps to put the organisation there on a better footing. There were eight or nine battalions in the county area. This was too big and too scattered an organisation to be controlled as one brigade and should have been organised into two brigades at least. We could hardly have said to have a water-tight brigade organisation at any time, and when the original brigade organisation lapsed each battalion was an independent battalion coming directly under G.H.Q., Dublin, and for such a number of them in one county this was a pretty hopeless position.

Signed: Hugh Maguire
(Hugh Maguire)

Date: 28th March 1956

28th March 1956.

Witness: Matthew Barry Comd't (Matthew Barry), Comd't.
(Investigator)

