

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MÍLEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 40



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Telefón 61018.

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BURO STAIRÉ MÍLEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21),

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(26 Westland Row),

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.
(Dublin).

DOCUMENT W.S.40

Statement by

Christopher Sullivan
Boherbue,
Co. Cork.

Dated: 16th October, 1947

On: Boherbue Coy. I.V.
1915-1916.

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STATEMENT OF CHRISTOPHER O'SULLIVAN,
BOHERBUE, CO. CORK.

PERIOD: AUGUST 1915 TO MAY 1916.

UNIT: BOHERBUE COMPANY, I.V.

The Boherbue Company of the Irish Volunteers was started at a meeting held in Boherbue on 15th August, 1915. I had attended a meeting in Kanturk and I had invited Denis Lyons, John O'Connell, Jim Nunan and Paddy Tracey to come to a meeting in Boherbue. This was a spontaneous action on my part, taken with a view to getting a Company of Volunteers going here.

We held a preliminary meeting at my forge before the public meeting. There were present - Denis Lyons, John O'Connell, Jim Nunan, Tim Collins, D. Linehan and myself. At this meeting there was just a general discussion, and we arranged for a meeting on the following night to enroll members. At the first meeting about ten men joined up, and by the end of 1915 we had twenty-two in the Company. That remained our strength up to Easter, 1916.

A Committee of five was elected at the start. They were - Christy O'Sullivan, Tim Collins, D. Linehan, J. Mulcahy and J. Daly. All of them were active members of the Company and they organised a concert and dances, and did everything possible to develop the Company and get recruits. They met almost every night. The area covered by the Company was the parish of Boherbue. No supporters of the Irish Party joined the Company, in fact they were hostile.

Daithi Barry came here in the Winter of 1915 to organise and train us. He was sent by Tomás MacCurtain of Cork. He remained in Boherbue for two weeks. He came to us again for some time in the Spring of 1916.

Soon after the formation of the Company the following Officers were elected, and they held office until after Easter, 1916:-

Captain:	D. Barry.
1st Lieutenant:	Christy O'Sullivan.
Adjutant:	Tim Collins.

At the end of 1915 the arms we had were:-

One Snyder rifle.
Seventeen shot guns, with about 500 rounds.
Four pikes.
Three revolvers, with small quantity of ammunition.
One bayonet.

Parades were held three times a week. We had no ex-service-man in the Company and until Daithi Barry came to us we had to do

Boherbee
Newmarket
Co Cork.
16-10-47

F. O'Donoghue Esq.

A Chara

You acted in a very humble fashion when you came into the forge. I didn't know then your rank in the Army. I suppose it only proves the man.

I've made a small mistake in rectifying the sheet, I hope tisn't any difference. "It was Wed of Easter week - Mary O'Sullivan nurse (my sister) brought the despatch re getting all ammunition possible Davy Barry it was who gave orders to mobilize at Barbyhill on Easter Sunday.

Kindly accept thanks for the interest you showed in Jim Collins's Case.

Hoping you are well

V. Sincerely Yours
Christy O'Sullivan

the best we could ourselves. The usual training was close order drill and route marches. Michael J. Dennehy was sent to the training course in Cork in January, 1916.

Mary O'Sullivan (nurse)
Strand St
Kentucky
where D. Barry
entrusted
This should
be West Easter
week

The orders for Easter Sunday, 1916, were brought to us by Michael Barry. They were to the effect that the Company was to mobilise with all arms and equipment and three days' rations and march to Barley Hill, Newmarket. We had no information as to what the purpose of the parade was. The whole Company mobilised and all paraded at Boherbue on Easter Sunday morning. The following are the names (23) :-

David Barry,	Captain.
Christopher O'Sullivan,	1st Lieutenant.
Timothy Collins,	Adjutant.
Daniel Linehan.	
Joseph Daly.	
Humphrey Courtney.	
Cornelius Coffey.	
Jack Forde.	
Edmund Forde.	
Denis Forde.	
Jack Kelleher.	
John Mulcahy.	
David Mulcahy.	
John McAuliffe.	
Denis T. O'Connor.	
Lawrence O'Sullivan.	
James Linehan.	
Jeremiah Cronin.	
Michael J. Dennehy.	
Daniel O'Keeffe.	
Charles O'Connor.	
Denis Hickey.	
Timothy Hickey.	

The arms we had were:-

One Snyder rifle.
Seventeen single-barrel shot guns) with 1,500 rounds of
One double-barrel shot gun) ammunition.
Three revolvers, with a small quantity of ammunition.
Four pikes.

We marched to Barley Hill and remained there till evening. No orders of any kind came to us there. We marched back to Boherbue and dismissed.

On the following Wednesday a despatch arrived to the effect that all shot gun ammunition possible should be procured. D. Linehan, T. Collins and myself proceeded to Newmarket and secured 1,000 cartridges. Before we left the town the R.I.C. demanded a count of the ammunition in the two shops where we had bought it. They were on our heels. We rushed our horse home. The Newmarket police wired Boherbue and the driver of our car was intercepted and held up. But before that we had taken the ammunition across the fields and dumped it. The driver of the car, Denis Feehan, deserves to be commended. He was severely questioned by the police for hours, but refused to give the names of the men who had been with him. On the following morning our homes were searched, but nothing was got.

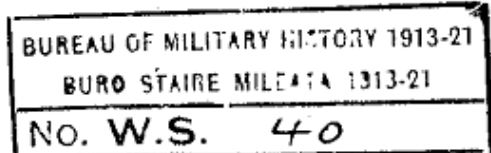
No orders came to us during Easter Week except the despatch about procuring ammunition.

The following arms were surrendered to the police on the following week:- One Snyder rifle, twelve single-barrel shot guns and four pikes. There were no arrests in the Company area.

There were no I.R.B. or Fianna organisations in the district before 1916.

SIGNED: Christopher O'Sullivan

DATE: Oct 16th - 1947



WITNESS: Florence Donoghue