

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 43



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BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21),

26 RAEDH NA NIARTHARACH,
(26 Westland Row),

BAILÉ ÁTHA CLIATH.
(Dublin).

DOCUMENT W.S. 43

Joint Statement by:

- (A) James Murphy
Main St., Macroom, Co. Cork.
- (B) Tim Buckley,
Clondrohid P.O.,
Macroom, Co. Cork.

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JOINT STATEMENT OF JAMES MURPHY, MAIN STREET, MACROOM

AND

TIM BUCKLEY, CLONDROHID P.O., MACROOM, CO. CORK.

PERIOD: APRIL 1915 TO MAY 1916.

UNIT: CLONDROHID COMPANY, I.V.

Clondrohid Company was started in April, 1915. Before that there was a Company of National Volunteers in the area of Clondrohid and Carriganimma. They were about 100 strong. They had almost fallen through when we started, and they never held any parades afterwards. Two or three of them came over to us later.

The immediate circumstances which gave rise to the start of the Company was that a few men - Michael Kelleher, Jim Lehane, Tim Buckley, Jim Murphy, William Creedon, John Buckley - organised a local collection to help in defraying the legal expenses in the case of Seán O'Hegarty, who had been arrested in February and charged with the possession of documents and explosives. That showed who were sympathisers. A public meeting was held on a Sunday after Mass at Clondrohid. Terence MacSwiney spoke there. Either Seán or Seamus Murphy from Cork was with him. We made a start then with between twelve and twenty men.

For the first couple of months Barney O'Leary was Captain; after that the following Officers were elected and held office until after Easter, 1916:-

Captain:	James Murphy.
Lieutenant:	Tim Buckley.
Secretary:	Michael Kelleher.
Treasurer:	Michael Murphy.

We had no ex-servicemen in the Company. Some of the Cork men came frequently to our Sunday parades and drilled us. These included Tadg Sullivan, Seán Nolan, Seán O'Sullivan, Pat Higgins, and Paddy Cotter. At the end of 1915 we had 22 men, and that remained our strength up to Easter, 1916.

In September, 1915, twelve men from the Company attended a parade held in conjunction with a Feis in Millstreet at which Padraig Pearse spoke. Other Companies also paraded there that day. In October we attended a parade at Bealnablath with the other local Companies and the Companies from Cork City. In November we had eighteen men at the Manchester Martyrs' parade in Cork.

In January, 1916, the Company Captain, James Murphy, attended the Course for Officers conducted by Captain J.J. O'Connell at Sheares Street Hall, Cork. On the Sunday before St. Patrick's

Day, 1916, we had a parade to Ballyvourney, where a recruiting meeting was addressed by Tomás MacCurtain and Terence MacSwiney. We got only two recruits there. We had twenty-one men in the St. Patrick's Day procession in Cork.

Everyone paid a subscription of 2d or 3d a week into a Company fund for the purchase of equipment. Out of this fund we purchased caps, belts, haversacks and puttees.

For a month before Easter, 1916, we had two parades every week and a parade every Sunday. The orders for Easter Sunday came to us from Macroom. They were to the effect that the Company was to march to Carriganimma and be there at 10 o'clock on Easter Sunday morning. We were to bring all arms, ammunition and equipment, and rations for three days. We had no definite knowledge of the purpose of the parade, but we knew from the preparations being made that it was something more than a normal mobilisation, and we did not expect to come back that night.

We mobilised at Clondrohid. The Kilnamartyra Company joined us there and we marched to Carriganimma. We were the first to arrive there. A little later the Macroom, Kilmurray and Ballinagree Companies arrived.

The following are the names of the eighteen men from Clondrohid Company who were at Carriganimma:-

Jim Murphy	(Captain)	Main Street, Macroom.
Tim Buckley	(1st Lieut.)	Clondrohid P.O.
Mick Murphy	(Q.M.)	U.S.A.
Michael Kelleher	(Secretary)	
John Buckley		Assumption Road, Cork.
Jack Murphy,		U.S.A.
Tom O'Connor		Kilroultragh, Clondrohid.
James Lehane,		Tipperary.
Tom Bradley		Dromree, Macroom.
John Murphy	(Dillon)	
Paddy Bourke		Australia.
Mick Bourke		Kilmurray.
Dan Lehane		Kilnamartyra.
Cornelius Riordan		Macroom.
William Creedon		New Street, Macroom.
Dan Meaney	(Deceased)	
John C. Riordan	do	
Tim Crowley	do	

The arms we had were - one old type rifle and 10 rounds of .303, one miniature rifle and 100 rounds, 16 D.B. shot guns and 20 rounds for each. We had some slug and some No.4 cartridges and 10 lbs. of gelignite. Some of the shot guns were the property of the members of the Company, and some were on loan from local farmers. None had been purchased.

Peadar O'Hourihan passed us at the Priest's house on our way into Carriganimma on a motor cycle. He was going west. Seán Nolan, in uniform, came when we were in Carriganimma, and, speaking to Jim Murphy, he told him the exercises were off. We did not know, however, if he brought an official message to this effect. He may have been only speaking privately.

When all the Companies were assembled exercises were carried out on a hill nearby, and it was late, after dark, when Miceal Lynch came on a motor cycle with the official message that the parade was cancelled and that we were to return to our own areas. We marched back and dispersed at Clondrohid.

On Easter Monday an order came from Macroom to turn out and stand to and wait for orders. We were assembled on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and stood to during the whole week. No further order of any kind came to us.

On the following Sunday Dan Corkery, Jack Lynch and Jim Murphy went into Cork, cycling to Dooniskey Station, taking the train from there and getting off at Dooniskey again coming home. They met Tomás MacCurtain and Terence MacSwiney at the Hall in Sheares Street and discussed the situation with them. No definite instructions were given to them, and no order issued about arms.

On their return the arms were put in places of safety and none were captured in the subsequent raids, or surrendered. No member of the Company was arrested.

There were no Fianna or I.R.B. organisations in the area at Easter, 1916.

SIGNED: James Murphy
Timothy Buckley

DATE: 18 - 10 - 47

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WITNESS: Florence Donoghue