

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 79



ÉIRE

Telefón 61018.

ROINN COSANTA.

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

(Bureau of Military History 1913-21).

26 RAEDH NA NIARTHARACH,
(26 Westland Row),

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.
(Dublin).

DOCUMENT W.S. 79.

Statement by:

Diarmuid Ó Donnabhain
15 Strand Road,
Kanturk, Co. Cork.

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ORIGINAL

STATEMENT OF DIARMUID Ó DONNEABHAIN, 15, STREND STREET, KANTURK, CO. CORK.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 79

PERIOD: 1911 to 1918.

UNITS: Provisional Committee, I.V., Cork.
Executive Committee, I.V., Cork.
Cork City Companies, I.V.
Borris, Carlow, I.V.

In 1911 it was reported that the King of England was to visit Cork, and some of the Nationalists were afraid that a loyal address would be presented by the Cork Corporation. There were two main parties in the Corporation, the All for Ireland League (O'Brienites) and the United Irish League (Redmondites). We formed a National Vigilance Committee in Cork in April to resist such an address being presented. The members of this Committee were:-

Terence MacSwiney.
Seán MacSwiney.
Tomás MacCurtain.
Harry Lorton.
Gus O'Neill.
Denis O'Neill.
Liam Travers (a Dublin man).
Diarmuid Fawsitt.
Diarmuid Ó Donneabháin.

Diarmuid Fawsitt was Secretary at first, but as he was also Secretary of the Cork Industrial Development Association, of which local public men like John J. Horgan, Solicitor and Coroner, who were pro-British, were members, he resigned lest they might interfere with him in his living. I was then appointed Secretary. We circularised all members of the Corporation. We sent a deputation to the All for Ireland Club, Emmett Place, where William O'Brien, one time famous, ordered our ejection. We interviewed Hugh Martin, United Irish League Organiser, at the offices in MacCurtain Street (then King Street). He promised to influence U.I.L. Corporators against voting for the loyal address.

Although I was Secretary of the Vigilance Committee, Terence MacSwiney wrote most of the important letters and manifestos. We got financial aid from people like Seán Jennings and Frank Daly of Suttons. On the day on which the Corporation considered the motion to present the address, a number of us were present at the meeting. We commented on the various speeches. Simcox was All for Ireland Lord Mayor at the time. One All for Ireland member, Fleming, a carpenter from Blarney Street, called us "Chocolate Soldiers". The loyal address was passed. Harry Lorton, Seán MacSwiney, Liam Travers and I hoisted a big black flag on two poles, two of us holding each pole and drawing it across the Council Chamber. We were forcibly thrown out by members of the Fire Brigade.

For the following Sunday morning we had Cork posted with big bill heads, as follows:-

CORK NATIONAL VIGILANCE COMMITTEE

Lest we forget the King's Own.

The following members of the Corporation voted for a loyal address:-

The names followed.

We gave also the names of those who helped in passing the address by absenting themselves from the meeting.

There was a big split in the Gaelic League soon after. The South Parish Branch, of which Seán Jennings and I were members, left the Dún in Queen Street and rented the Grinán. Seán Jennings and Tomás MacCurtain were not agreeing too well - they were the leaders. But when the question of forming a Volunteer Corps arose they became fast friends, both being enthusiastic.

The initiative in calling the first meeting for the formation of the Volunteers in Cork was taken by the small group of Sinn Feiners who in 1911 opposed the loyal address by the Corporation. They met occasionally and discussed national problems, but I do not remember any formal meeting of the group in connection with the formation of the Volunteers. The men who took the initiative included Terence MacSwiney, Tomás MacCurtain, J.J. Walsh, Diarmuid Fawsitt, Seán O'Hegarty, Liam de Róiste, Sean Jennings and I. Seoirse MacNiocaill was in and out to Seán Jennings about that time and discussed the formation of the Volunteers. He was a School Inspector who had come from Dublin, I understood.

The first enrolment was at the public meeting in the City Hall on 14th December, 1913. Forms were distributed. They were a combined application for membership and a declaration to fight for independence and liberties of Ireland for all its citizens, irrespective of creed or class. I understand about 130 joined at that first meeting, but only about 20 turned up to the first drill at the Dún subsequently.

A Provisional Committee was formed. This Committee continued in office for some months until it was replaced by an Executive Committee elected by all the members. I cannot recall all the names of the members of these Committees but the following were among them:- J.J. Walsh, who was Chairman, Tomás MacCurtain, who was Chief, but I forget what his rank was, Liam de Róiste, Seán O'Hegarty, P.S. O'Hegarty, Seán Jennings, Seán O'Sullivan, Diarmuid Ó Donnabháin. When the Redmondites came into the organisation in large numbers they were given representation by the co-option of the following representatives on the Executive Committee:- Captain Talbot Crosbie, George Crosbie, Tom Byrne and J.F. O'Riordan. The Executive Committee had various Sub. Committees. It functioned as a controlling body for the organisation in Cork City and County up to the split in September, 1914. After that it ceased to operate and control became vested in a Council consisting of the Officers of the Brigade, Battalion and Companies.

The first instructor was Sergeant Major Goodwin, an employee of Suttons. After about six months he was assisted by Sergeant Major Donovan, an employee of the Steam Packet Company, I think, and after another six months or so, Sergeant Long. All three were ex-servicemen. There was at first no division of the Corps into Company formations. As men became proficient at drill, some were picked out by the drill instructors and put in charge of Sections for drill. These Sections were not static. After we had been going for a couple of months, eight or nine Section Commanders were appointed as a result of an examination. These included Seán O'Sullivan, Pat Corkery, Seán Murphy, Seán Scanlan, Pat Trahey, Diarmuid Ó Donnabháin, and, I think, Donal óg O'Callaghan. Although we were well disciplined we nearly always used Christian names and very rarely names of ranks. Tomás MacCurtain and Terence MacSwiney were in a way like lovable dictators that we followed enthusiastically, having complete confidence in them. They gave orders which were carried out to the best of our ability.

The first route march took place from the Cornmarket to Blarney in April, 1915. After that we had route marches to places like Bottle-Hill (Battle?), near Mourne Abbey, Riverstown and Firmount. One Saturday evening preceding a Bank Holiday on Monday we marched to Nohoval and camped out for two nights, carrying out exercises in Sham-battles, Scouting, Skirmishing, and so on, during the days. The Cycle Corps

of which I was a member, went organising to places like Rathcormac, Castlelyons and Ballinadee.

On Whit Sunday, 1915, we attended a big muster at Limerick at which Padraig Pearse was present. On that day Bob Langford and I were detailed to accompany Diarmuid Lynch (also an employee of Suttons) to the Railway Hotel, Limerick, where he got a parcel of automatics for us from a press in his room. The leaders were in another hotel where Bob and I were to bring the pistols. There was a riot in Limerick at the parade previously and the crowd were angry. We were attacked by a group, but by threatening with revolvers and running we got to our destination. There was a row at Limerick Station that evening when we were leaving.

Seán Scanlon, and, I think, some others, attended the Training Camp in Wicklow in August, 1915. The first time I heard the "Soldiers' Song" was when he returned. That was the time of its introduction to Cork.

A party from Cork took part in the O'Donovan Rossa funeral to Glasnevin. Although we had a Pipe Band we were escorted to Kingsbridge Station by the Dublin Pipers' Band under Seamus MacAongus (Jimmy Ennis).

When it was discovered that Captain Talbot Crosbie had sent a letter to the War Office offering the services of the Cork Volunteers we had a heated meeting of the Committee. I remember Paddy Hegarty was very angry. He was Postmaster of Cobh at that time but was transferred soon after. That issue was put to the men on parade at the Cornmarket where they split. Nearly all Redmond's followers joined with Crosbie and guarded the Cork bridges from that on with Liege rifles that the Cork Volunteers had purchased from John Redmond previously. These rifles were useless, corroded and dangerous to the user. Fisher Street premises, where the Liege rifles were stored and recruits were being drilled, was raided by a party of Redmondites under the command of Band Conductor Delaney and a number of rifles carried off on the night of the 1st October, 1914.

After the split there were not more than 70 Irish Volunteers in the city. The Cornmarket was no longer available for drilling. We carried on in Fisher Street for a time and moved to the Hall in Sheares Street early in 1915. The four City Companies were there formed into a Battalion, with Seán O'Sullivan in charge. Officers were sent out as instructors or organisers to various parts of the County, but by the middle of 1915 I do not think there were more than two Companies outside the city - Ballinadee and Courtbrack. It was only after July, 1915, when Terence MacSwiney was appointed whole-time organiser for the County that Companies cropped up like mushrooms.

On Spy Wednesday, 1916, about eight members of the Cycle Corps under Pat Higgins proceeded to Ballinhassig with ammunition. It was collected there by one of the Hales and Hart of Ballinadee Company. We carried the ammunition in haversacks under our coats. The cyclists were in two groups. At Halfway about eight R.I.C. men stopped the last group for having no lights. We were quite pleasant with the constables - they carried rifles and surprised us by jumping over the road fence. Mark Wickham and Stephen O'Connell were apologising for not having lights. They showed their lamps and explained how they could not keep them lighting as the night was squally though fine. I had a mere match-light because I was reserving carbide for the return journey, although a real "bobby-dodger". I said "Don't be hard on them, Sergeant". He took their names - false ones. He asked were we shop-boys. We said we were and that we belonged to the "Old LEES' Boys". We got away but returned by a different route. Donncaid McNeilus was with us that night too and Jeremiah O'Driscoll.

I have no personal knowledge of how the orders for Easter, 1916, were received in Cork, but it was stated that Captain J.J. O'Connell, who had several times visited Cork and instructed Volunteers, had arrived at Mallow on Good Friday with orders from Padraig Pearse to rise. The Authorities sent Seán O'Sullivan to Mallow to meet Captain O'Connell.

At least 80 men from Cork City paraded at Sheares Street on Easter Sunday morning. Some East Cork Volunteers from Cobh and Dungourney slept in the Hall on Easter Saturday night. The only East Cork men I remember are Eamonn Ahern, Seán Standún and Mick Leahy. The Cork men I can remember being on parade are:- Terence MacSwiney, Tomás MacCurtain, Seán Nolan, Seán O'Sullivan, Liam de Róiste, Michael O'Neill, Dan Cronin, Joe Reynolds, Christopher O'Gorman, Dan Donovan, Eamonn Barry, Mark Wickham, Denis McNeilus, Willie Reilly, Pat Healy, Daithi Cotter, Daithi Sullivan, Pat Cantwell and his brother, Jeremiah Driscoll, Paddy Cotter, Tom Donovan, Maurice Donovan, Donal óg O'Callaghan, - Phillips (an ex-serviceman and the only one I can think of), Seán Scanlon, Pat Trahey, Sean Murphy, Seamus Murphy, Tadg Murphy, Con Murphy, Seán Bán Murphy, Miceal Ó Cuill, Toddy Sullivan, Bob Langford, Stephen O'Connell, Den Coughlan, Harry Varien, Paddy Varien, Joe Murphy, Jack Hurley and his brother Jeromé, Arthur White, Fred Murray, Tadg Barry, D. O'Donovan, Denny Barry, Jim Walsh, Frank Mahony, - Carty (a P.O. official), Paddy Corkery, Mick Murphy, Seán O'Donoghue, Seán Healy, Michael Barrett, Pat Harris, - Galvin, Tom Harris, Michael Harris, Harry Lorton, Jimmy O'Neill, Diarmuid Ó Donneabhain, Paddy Dunne, Dan Hallinan, Paddy O'Donoghue, - O'Donoghue of Kilworth, Daithi Barry.

The Infantry marched from Sheares Street Hall to the railway station and went by train to Crookstown. The Cycle Corps, of which I was a member, cycled to Crookstown via Inniscarra road in order to avoid passing Ballincollig Barracks. About a mile West of Crookstown, Companies from Bandon, Clonakilty, etc., joined us. I think it was there the Ballinhassig Company linked up also. All proceeded by Bealnablath to Macroom. We understood we were to meet the Kerry men at Carriganinna. At Bealnablath a motor car arrived. Terry MacSwiney, we understood, came in the car with the countermand from Eoin McNeill. On the way to Macroom some of the Volunteers were picking out houses and estates for themselves in great good humour.

We had no definite information as to what was intended that day; the only orders we got were to go to Confession and parade at Sheares Street. After the dismiss in Macroom, all of us, cyclists included, returned to Cork by train. On arrival in Cork we were ordered to stand to arms at home. Tomás MacCurtain had often said that he told Padraig Pearse he would take no orders from him.

We were standing until some kind of meeting took place between MacCurtain, MacSwiney, Bishop Coholan, Lord Mayor Butterfield and Captain Dickie, who, I believe, was Chief British Intelligence Officer in the South. A meeting was held in Sheares Street at which Bishop Coholan was present and at which it was decided to surrender the arms to the Bishop. The word went round privately that only the shot guns would be surrendered. The shot guns and some other arms were surrendered.

The arms were handed in to Lord Mayor Butterfield on Monday night, May 1st. Next morning eleven Volunteers were arrested, including Tomás MacCurtain and Seán Nolan, but I forget who the others were. I worked at Seán Jennings' furniture store - where the Cinema is now in Washington Street. Head Constable Quinn and Sergeant Byrne, R.I.C., armed with rifles, came to the shop to arrest Jennings, but he was gone. When they had left, Mr. McMahon, the leather merchant next door, came in to me in an agitated state asking me to remove some ammunition that Mr. Nolan had left in his premises. (Seán Nolan was employed there as a leather cutter) After removing the ammunition I closed the shop and proceeded towards the Lord Mayor's house. I met Tadg O'Shea, who was attached to the Auxiliary Volunteers, and asked him to accompany me. We met Bishop Coholan outside the Lord Mayor's house on the South Mall. He was talking to the late Mr. Green of the Cornmills. We went in to the

Lord Mayor's house with the Bishop. Contact through the 'phone was made with the Military, with General Higginson, I think, and the Bishop and Lord Mayor promised us that the arrested men would be released at once. Walking up Patrick Street about 3 o'clock I met the Lord Mayor. "They're out, Diarmaid", said he. "Where are they?", I asked. "Coming down the Western Road", he replied.

About Thursday of Easter Week a Miss Daly of Limerick came to Sean Jennings' shop. I don't know that she bore any order, but she urged that Cork County do some fighting to make a diversion to relieve Dublin. I escorted her to Sheares Street Hall, where MacCurtain and MacSwiney met her and discussed the position with her. They decided Cork was ringed with steel and action was out of the question. She was a sister of Commandant Edward Daly who fought in Dublin.

The Volunteers continued to use the Hall in Sheares Street after 1916. It was used as a kind of Club Room. I held a class there and many of the Volunteers studied Irish. I think it was in June I was arrested by police at my house, Evergreen Buildings - Sergeant (Beauty) Brien, Sergeant Charlie Bryan, Constable Garvey and another. They brought me to the Bridewell where I arrived walking about 12.30 p.m. In about a quarter of an hour Jimmy Walsh, brother-in-law of Tomás MacCurtain, was brought in, then Donal óg O'Callaghan, William Power, and Con Murphy. The following day we were taken to the Jail in covered cars, via the Mardyke. Pat Higgins and Tadg Barry were inside to welcome us. Some time before our arrest Tomás MacCurtain and many others had been arrested and deported. While in the Jail an Officer held a kind of Court and asked us questions. Two detectives gave information at this interrogation, Carroll, a high jumper, and Mailiff, a Rugby player, who was shot at along with another detective named Ryan one Saturday evening during the Tan war when they were coming down the Western Road from a match. Willie Redmond was killed in the war in France on a Friday and we were released on the following Saturday.

Nothing much happened until after the release of the leaders from internment. Shortly after their release a meeting was held in the Grinan. MacCurtain, MacSwiney, the Hales of Ballinadee, and the Lynchs, Diarmaid and Miceál, were there. They used the small room for the meeting while the rank and file held a Ceilidhe in the large hall. There was great disappointment and disagreement at the meeting. As they could not find satisfaction or agreement another big Ceilidhe was fixed for the City Hall about a fortnight later.

Early in 1917 Arthur Griffith and Sean Málroy met and consulted with the leaders in Cork about forming the Constitutional Movement of Sinn Fein. The leaders were apprehensive that the Constitutional Movement might wean men from the Volunteers and weaken their military strength. It was decided, however, to establish the Sinn Fein organisation, but that supporters fit for military service be advised to join the Volunteers. As a result of the meeting I was appointed honorary organiser of Sinn Fein. I had 10/- a week for postage. In about three weeks the organisation was ready for sub-division into Clubs. The first public meeting was held on Passion Sunday, 1917, in the City Hall. An old ex-Lord Mayor, Paddy Meade, who was present and in sympathy, managed to get a tri-colour hoisted on the City Hall flagstaff for the first time. Those present at the meeting were very enthusiastic and marched to the monument on the Grand Parade singing national songs. The R.I.C. were mobilising in the meantime, and after much trouble succeeded in dispersing the crowd. Some people were arrested, including my sister, M.T. O'Donovan. She got a fortnight's free lodging in Sunday's Well.

I left Cork in 1918 and went to Borris in Carlow where I worked for a year as an Irish teacher. Dr. Dundon was Commandant of the Volunteers there. A Section of Volunteers heard that there were many

guns in Glynn R.I.C. Barracks as a result of Lord French's proclamation. We proceeded towards Glynn but at the Bridge of Morley we were overtaken by the Commandant who ordered us back. He had negotiated with the Sergeant at Glynn, O'Dwyer of Kilmichael, and had got the guns.

SIGNED: Thakmeid O'Donnell

DATE: 8th La de M^h na Nodlag 1947

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

WITNESS: Florence Dowling

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILICIA 1913-21

No. W.S.

15, STRAND STREET,
KANTURK.

27.11.47

Florence O'Donoghue Esq.,
Loch Lein,
Eglantine Park,
Douglas Road,
Cork.

A Chara,

Just a few afterthoughts that might help to revive atmosphere of time.

For about six months after formation the Cork Volunteers were few in number, about 40 at most, and often met hearing groups when route-marching, but they were a merry, determined group. In the country they sang songs on the march: "Step Together", "Ireland Boys, hurrah", "God Save Ireland", "Clare's Dragoons" were the most popular. Later "The Soldiers' Song".

We often held smoking concerts at Sheares' Street Hall, where "Phil the Fluter's Ball", etc., were mingled with patriotic songs and recitations.

While at Fisher Street we organised a Pipers' Band. Dinny Duggan from Barrackton, James Hastings, who had a provision shop in Parliament Street once, and Jerry Conlan, a brother of Michael Conlan, the Public Auditor, were the first members. The march they usually played, and which I never heard from any other band, was a Scottish one, and is a lesser known Scottish song, "I'll gang no more to yon toon". It had a rousing, pleasant air. Later Jack Courtney joined the band. I forgot to mention that we had also a company from U.C.C. of which Dr. Paddy O'Sullivan of Kilnamartyra was the leader.

In preparation for the Manchester Martyrs' Demonstration Tomás MacCurtain drilled us and taught us how to march dead slow to the strains of "The Flowers of the Forest", another Scottish tune, which he played on the violin.

When we arrived at Kingsbridge Station for the Rossa funeral, a Dublin officer escorted us, not down the quays, but to the right. It might be James's Street. We were halted at a street crossing. Tomás MacCurtain and Seán Sullivan were in front with the Dubliner. Then came Jimeen Walsh (Tomás's brother-in-law), Dinny Barry, a mason (we called him Von Cluck), - Cauty and I. I think 'A' Company always came first, then 'B', 'C', 'D'. Tomeen Walsh, the Whistler, who had been working in Dublin, appeared on the path and saluted: "The best body of men here to-day, Jimeen. I am proud of Cork". He was not in the Volunteers then, but fought in Dublin with Citizen Army in the Rising. We never reached Glasnevin on that day, as we were dismissed before we arrived at the Mater Hospital. We had refreshments and walked around until time came to mobilise for train to Cork. The rendezvous was the South side of O'Connell Bridge. While waiting there the Dubliner Pipers' Band came along. They stopped. The bandmaster, Jimmy

Ennis, and Seán Ó Broin approached me. I knew Jimmy, because in 1911-12 I was Gaelic Organiser and Teacher for Fingal (North Dublin) and often had tea at Jimmy's house in the Naul. In 1912-13 I was Gaelic Teacher for Cuala (South Dublin) and Seán O. Broin was the Gaelic League Secretary.

They said to me that we had a splendid Company and expressed great admiration for us. This, coupled with Tomeen Walsh's comments in the morning, convinced me that we must have been a good Company.

I suggested to the pair that they might play us to the station. They replied that they would be honoured. We had our own band in Dublin, who were good enough at the time, but the Dublin Pipers were the leading band in Ireland.

In the Limerick Parade we were attacked with stones and bottles by howling crowds. I remember one very amusing incident. Passing through a main street, a man was hanging out of a window on the first floor over a shop. He was wildly gesticulating and shouting. Denny Barry shouted out, "Hey, would you tip there?" When we were young we often went swimming up the Lee. If we saw a group swimming at a place we never swam in before we'd ask, "Would you tip there?", meaning if you dived in would you hit your head - is it shallow? The humour of Von Cluck's remark will ever amuse me. That day we stacked our rifles and got tickets for them at Fianna's quarters; I think the place was called "The Market Field". Limerick crowds booed us as we marched to the station "to attention" going home, although some aggressive individuals got a quick poke from one of our rifles, without the knowledge of our Officers.

Prior to the Split, the Cork Volunteers made an appeal for funds. There was a generous response from all sections of the community, Sinn Feiners, who were very few, Redmondites and O'Brienites. At the Split our Committee felt that we should divide the money collected with Crosbie's Volunteers. However, when the Liege guns were taken we considered we were quits, that we owed no money to the other Volunteers. I always had the idea that it was one of our party who inspired the raid at Fisher Street. A high price was paid to John Redmond for these rifles that were useless, although we were assured by Byrne that they were serviceable before we purchased. (Byrne, the Redmondite representative on Committee).

The night of the raid on Fisher Street Hall the split was in the Cornmarket where the main body met. Sean Jennings was at the desk in Cornmarket. There were some serviceable rifles there which he gave to those he knew to be loyal. One rifle remained. He saw no one about but Hibernians. He liked the expression of one, Healy (a father of Paddy Healy). He handed Healy the rifle and he and his family proved worthy subsequently. Healy had been an enthusiastic and aggressive supporter of the Hibernians at all public Committees, but always impressed with his sincerity.

In the list of Easter Week Parade I think I omitted Dick Murphy of Coachford, who worked in Cork.

Early in 1916 a training course for the County Officers was held at Sheares' Street Hall. The Officers slept in the Hall on improvised shake-downs, of course, and prepared their own meals.

There was a shooting hall in Sheares' Street at the back of front hall where we had target practice with miniature rifles. We strolled in when we felt like it and paid for our ammunition. I was not a good marksman, perhaps because I had an injury to my right eye when a child, and the eye was rendered useless.

After returning to Sheares' Street in 1916 on Easter Sunday an armed guard did night duty in the hall and I think continued to do so until the agreement brought about by Bishop, Lord Mayor, Captain

Dickie and our leaders. My brother, Maurice, was on that duty all night. He was my mother's favourite and she could not understand why I was not on the job instead of him. The other Volunteers "stood to arms" at home.

Concerning the subject of Miss Daly's visit, some Volunteers were anxious that the Cork Company would fight. Only one, however, when no fight was decided, went away on his own. That was Miceal O Cuill. Most thought their Officers knew best.

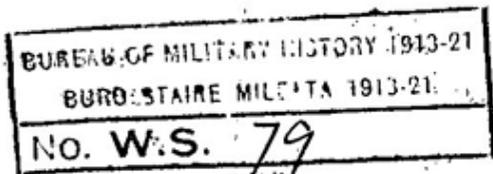
In connection with the incident at Ballingassig on Spy Wednesday, 1916, I should have mentioned that when stopped by the police we were all armed with loaded revolvers. The "Old Lees" referred to were a city football team recruited mainly from the large drapery houses. We pretended we were in training when the Sergeant wondered what brought us out.

There is another item I should like to refer to; that we had a Red Cross Van that accompanied us on several of our later outings. It was horse drawn and often came in handy to carry the footsore and weary, and the slight casualty, such as a turned ankle, etc. The driver was Jack the Salt, I fancy his surname was Murphy. Jack was an elderly, jolly fellow whose memory makes me cheery.

Mise le fíor meas,

SIGNED: *Seamus Ó Donnubáin*

DATE: *15th de Mí na Nollag 1947*



ORIGINAL

15 Strand St
Kanterk

15. XII. 1947

Florence O'Donoghue Esq.
Buro Staire Míleata
26 Keena nTarabac
6' l'ácaChait

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
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Acaso,

Thanks for copy of statement. I do not wish to weary you with further afterthoughts though you may consider them material. This one, however, I imagine is rather interesting. Jerry Mac Swiney discussed with me a marching-song for the Cork Coy. I suggested the air of "Fincen O'Driscoll, The Rover" to which Jerry wrote words. I had had a copy but it was taken by R.I.C. in one of their raids on my home. Things happened before we had time to popularise the song, but I fancy it should be found in some collection of Jerry's poetry.

I thought it my duty to help you with all the information I could derive from my old memory. Although the Cork Coy did not achieve much, they were at least pioneers in dark and evil days. God prosper the good work with best wishes for a Happy Xmas and many prosperous New Years.

Best Belongings

Postscript.

A cura,

When you are talking with old comrades in Cork you may discuss this point. The first time we carried a flag was on a route march from Fisher's Street Hall (up stairs in a room left) and that was the Green Flag with Gold Harp.

It was some time afterwards before we rose to a Tricolour;

However, about 1914 we began to wear small Tricolour badges in our hats, or caps. Many of us had military caps, ~~green~~ gray-green like a Civic Guard's in shape.

We bought bandoliers, belts, bayonets, knives, water bottles, at Doodey's, a saddler's shop on Lanelt's Quay, near Booth & Foxe.

Seán Connolly is dead
Cathleen O'Donnell is

