

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BUREAU STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21
NO. W.S. 266

ROINN  COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S.266.....

Witness

Mr. Charles Walker,
28 Joyce Road,
Drumcondra,
Dublin.

Identity

Member of I.R.A.;
Printer of An tOglach;
See also Col. 2(c) W.S.241

Subject

- (a) Ambush of Enemy Lorry North Frederick St.,
Dublin, March 1921;
- (b), Printing of "An tOglach" 1921 -

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil

File No. ...S.466.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

ORIGINAL

SECOND STATEMENT BY MR. CHARLES WALKER,

28 JOYCE ROAD, DRUMCONDRA.

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| BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21 |
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On the reorganisation of the Engineers Classes I was transferred from G/Coy. 1st Battalion to "K", later known as 5th Battn. Dublin Brigade. I was No. 9 of No. I Coy. that time. About 1918 Engineer Companies were very busy in Dublin collecting information about telephone wires, underground and overhead, feed poles, attending lectures, drill, etc. We had also to do patrol duty around Parnell Square when a Council meeting was on.

I was with the Company during a raid on Income Tax Office, Parnell Square. Lieut. Ned Kelly was in charge of this raid. On Friday, 18th March 1921, I was told to report at 6.30 that evening at Mark Wilson's Place, Frederick St. North. The following were amongst those present:- Dan Jevins, ... Larrigan, Mick Dunne, ... Dwyer, myself, Lieut. Darcy and Lieut. Ned Kelly, who was in charge. Lieut. Kelly told us we were to ambush an enemy lorry with troops which usually passed through Frederick St. each evening. He allotted us the following positions:- Dwyer and two others the city end of Frederick St. Mick Dunne and Dan Jevins the corner of Frederick St. and Frederick Court. Larrigan and another man the corner of Frederick St. and Frederick Lane (North). Another man and I, the corner of Hardwicke St. and Frederick Court. The instructions were to throw the hand grenade first and then use the revolver and get away. On arrival at our positions we were each given a Mills bomb and a .45 revolver with five rounds. Between 7.15 and 7.30 a heavily armed British military lorry covered with a wire cage entered North Frederick St. coming from the direction of the city. The ambush party opened fire on it. Fire was returned from the lorry which put on speed and continued on its journey. One of our men - Dwyer (a nephew of Con O'Dwyer, Parnell St.) was killed. Larrigan was severely wounded and Lieut. Darcy got a furniture van in Frederick Court and brought him to Jervis St. Hospital. Jevins received a slight wrist wound. I do not know what the British casualties were.

We had only two wounded. On Saturday, 19th March, I received a message at the Pearl Printing Works, where I was employed, that I was to report at Brigade H.Q., Gardiner's Place, before 1.30 that day. There I met Oscar Traynor, O/C. Dublin Brigade, who told me that he had recommended me as printer and would I take up full-time work on An tOglach, to which I agreed. I was told to report to the late Joseph Cullen, compositor, at Mick Gleeson, Tobacconist & Newsagent, 10A, Aungier St. on Monday between 1 and 2 o/c. and make arrangement with Joe when I would start. The printing machine was in a small room at the rear of Gleeson's shop. The paper was to be a weekly, from that week, and what a job. Seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. We had not enough type, so Joe would have to wait until I finished one side, 15,000 to 20,000 copies by "treadle" and he would then set the balance of next 2 pages, when I would be off again with my job of "backing". Paddy Callwell was manager and he also looked after the dispatch of An tOglach..

Joe and myself had to bring proofs and copy to the Editor, Major General P. Beasley for checking, and on one occasion, Easter Monday 1921, I got on a tram car in Aungier St. I had also a daily paper with me, bringing proofs to Gardiner's Place. I was inside the car (which had the seats along the sides of tram) when I noticed that the car was not moving, and on looking out I noticed a British armoured car in front of tram and it was at Parnell monument. On looking around I found I was alone in the car and outside, in front of monument, the British had paraded. All the men from a lot of other cars were standing with their hands up in the rain. I quickly pulled proofs and copy out of my pocket and put them under the loose seat and kept on reading my paper. When the tram started other passengers got in but I did not ask any questions. I went as far as Cross Guns Bridge and then discovered that I had paper wrong way up.

I walked back to Gardiner's Place with proofs and all was well. The printing plant went to Beggars Bush Barracks about May 1922, and with G.H.Q. to Portobello Barracks, and is at present at G.H.Q., Parkgate, where I am still working it.

Signed: Charles Walker

Date: 14th June 1949.

Witness: Seán Brennan Comdt.

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