

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STAIRÉ I LEATA 1913-21  
No. W.S. 464

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 464

**Witness**

Mr. D. O'Sullivan,  
6 Ely Place,  
Dublin.

**Identity**

Secretary Valuation Office,  
Dublin.

**Subject**

Civil Servants and the British  
Oath of Allegiance, 1918.

**Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness**

Nil

File No. S.1023

Form B.S.M. 2.

S/H



OIFIG LUACHÁLA,  
VALUATION OFFICE,

6. PLÁS ÍLE,  
6, ELY PLACE,

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, M.2.  
DUBLÍN, C.2.

18 Nollaig, 1950.

Tag } S.50/779  
Ref }

**ORIGINAL**

An Rdnai,  
Buro Staire Mileata 1913-21,  
Roinn Cosanta.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21  
No. W.S. 464

I am directed by the Commissioner of Valuation to refer to your S.1023 of 14th instant and to enclose for your information ten copies of Treasury letter 30847/18 in connection with the Oath of Allegiance required of Civil Servants in 1918. The circular will answer queries 1 and 2 of your letter. I also enclose a copy of amending Treasury Circular No.41054/18.

There was no refusal to take the Oath of Allegiance in the Valuation Office and I do not personally know of any persons who refused to take it and were dismissed or resigned as a result. I cannot assist you as regards queries 4 and 5 as no question of refusal arose in this office.

In looking through the records following on the receipt of your letter I came across list of the movements of the members of the staff of the office between 22. 4. and 1.5.1916 as compiled at the request of the Chief Secretary just after the 1916 rising. Most of the statements indicate that the declarers took no part but a number described active help which they gave to the Crown Forces during the rising, including the provision of official maps of the City apparently to assist in the military operations. Please say if the Bureau would wish to have the staff declarations. Some of the staff involved are still serving and others are alive in retirement.

Rdnai.



4 Nollaig, 1950.

S.1023.

A Chara,

I am desired by the Director to send you the enclosed leaflet which explains the purpose for which the Bureau was established and the lines on which it is working.

Among the minor matters which are being investigated is the Oath of Allegiance which Civil Servants in this country were required to take in 1918, and as a result of which a number were dismissed from the Service.

The Director understands that it is customary to preserve records in the Valuation Office for a considerable period and it has occurred to him that, that being the case, you may be in a position to throw some light on this development, with particular reference to the points covered by the following headings -

1. The text of the Oath.
2. The specific authority, statute, Order in Council, or otherwise, on which its imposition was based, and the date thereof.
3. The names and ranks, and if possible, the total number and the Departments in which they served, of persons within your knowledge who refused to take the Oath and were dismissed or resigned as a result.
4. Departments where refusal to take the Oath did not result in dismissal and the reason for that exemption, and the names and ranks of those who refused.
5. The reason why as a result of a challenge as to its validity, certain Civil Servants in the Department of Agriculture and probably elsewhere were merely suspended pending resolution of the points raised, and the steps taken to secure that clarification, e. g. reference to the law officers of the Government in Dublin or London.

The Director has asked me to explain that all information entrusted to the Bureau, whether in the form of statements, letters or other documents, will be treated as strictly confidential, and that their contents will not be revealed to anyone outside the Bureau without the consent of the donor, until such time as the Government decides to make the collection as a whole available for consultation by historians.

Mise, le meas,

(Signed) P.J. Brennan.

RÚNAÍ.

D. O'Sullivan, Esq.,  
Secretary,  
General Valuation Office,  
Ely Place, Dublin.

# ORIGINAL

(30847/18.)

Treasury Chambers, S.W. 1,

9th September, 1918.

SIR,

1. I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to draw your attention to the additional Regulation 45 EE under the Defence of the Realm Act, which was approved by the Order in Council of the 2nd August, 1918.

2. This Regulation (which in the absence of further legislation operates only during the continuance of the war) requires that every person who is, on the 2nd August, 1918, serving in an established capacity in His Majesty's Civil Service shall, before the 1st November, 1918, or before such later date as may in any special case be allowed by the Head Officer of the Department to which he belongs, and every person who, after the 2nd August, 1918, is admitted to serve in such an established capacity, shall within one month after he is so admitted, take the Oath of Allegiance in the usual form: provided (1) that a person who has in any capacity whatsoever previously taken the Oath of Allegiance and makes a declaration of that fact in such manner as the Treasury direct shall not be required to take the Oath again, and (2) that an affirmation may be substituted for the Oath in the case of persons permitted by law to make a solemn affirmation instead of taking an oath.

3. The usual form of the Oath of Allegiance in England and Ireland is:—

"I swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, his Heirs and Successors, according to law";

and in Scotland—

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, according to law, so help me God";

but any person in England or Ireland, if he so prefers, may take the Oath in the latter form.

The usual method of administering the Oath in England and Ireland is prescribed by section 2 of the Oaths Act, 1909, but the method usual before 1909 (i.e. kissing the Book), or the method customary in Scotland, may be adopted, if preferred, by the person taking the Oath. In Scotland, a person takes an oath by holding up his right hand and repeating the words of the oath clause by clause after the person administering the oath.

By section 1 of the Oaths Act, 1888, any person objecting to be sworn, and stating as a ground of such objection that he has no religious belief or that the taking of an oath is against his religious belief, is entitled to make an Affirmation of Allegiance instead of taking the Oath of Allegiance, and in the subsequent paragraphs of this Circular references to oaths include references to affirmations.

The form of Affirmation is as follows, viz. :—

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, according to law."

4. As regards persons who have previously taken the Oath of Allegiance, My Lords are pleased to direct that the following declaration shall be sufficient, viz. :—

"I \_\_\_\_\_, hereby declare that I have already taken the Oath of Allegiance (or made an Affirmation of Allegiance) on the occasion (*state occasion on which the Oath was taken, e.g., on the occasion of my being enlisted as a soldier of His Majesty's Forces.*)"

5. In accordance with subsection 2 of the Regulation, the Lord Chancellor in England, the Lord Advocate in Scotland, and the Lord Chancellor in Ireland, have directed that the Oath may be administered in England and Scotland by any Justice of the Peace, and in Ireland by any Resident Magistrate, or, in all parts of the United Kingdom, by the Permanent Head of the Department to which the person required to take the Oath belongs or by such other superior officers of the Department as he may designate for the purpose, such permanent Head or other officers being themselves officers serving in an established capacity in His Majesty's Civil Service who have taken the Oath.

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland has further directed that should a question arise as to the person who is to be deemed to be Head of a Department within the meaning of his Order, it should be referred to him for decision.

6. Under subsection 3 of the Regulation it will be necessary to keep a record in every Government Department of the persons by whom the Oath of Allegiance is taken under this Regulation and of the persons who are exempt from the requirements of the Regulation by reason of having previously taken the Oath, and the necessary steps should be taken to secure such a record.

7. Established officers who are serving in the Navy, Army and Air Force will not come within the terms of the Regulation while so serving, but they will be required to take the Oath, or to make a declaration that they have previously taken it, on resuming duty in their Department.

8. His Majesty's Government desire that it may be clearly understood that the requirement of an Oath of Allegiance implies no reflection on the loyalty of the Civil Service. They are confident that every officer will gladly fulfil this requirement; but in the event of any officer refusing, he should be dismissed from the Public Service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. L. HEATH.

COPY

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41054  
18

TREASURY CHAMBERS.

29th October, 1918.

Sir,

Adverting to Treasury Circular of the 9th ultimo (30847/18), I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to inform you that Regulation 45 E.E. under the Defence of the Realm Act has been amended so as to provide that the Oath of Allegiance shall be required only of persons who are clerical or administrative officers serving in an established capacity in His Majesty's Civil Service or hereafter admitted as such during continuance of the War.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. L. HEATH.

The Commissioner of Valuation,  
Ireland.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1013-01
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1013-01
No. W.S. 464

# An Roinn COSANTA

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## BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY

1913—1921

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MICHAEL McDUNPHY, Barrister-at-Law

### Members of Bureau :

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P. S. O'HEGARTY.

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26 WESTLAND ROW, DUBLIN.

Telephone 61018

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY  
1913-1921

The Bureau of Military History, 1913-21, was set up by the Minister for Defence on 1st January, 1947, with the following terms of reference:—

“ To assemble and co-ordinate material to form the basis for the compilation of the history of the movement for Independence from the formation of the Irish Volunteers on 25th November, 1913, to the 11th July, 1921.”

The purpose of the Bureau is not to write the military history of the period ; that is a task for future historians. Its function is merely to assemble and collate in an objective manner the material from which that history can be written ; and to ensure that that material is as accurate and as comprehensive as possible. Part of that task is to collect and preserve what remains of original documents associated with the armed struggle for Independence.

The period with which the Bureau is concerned falls naturally into three phases.

PHASE 1. The events leading up to the Rising of Easter Week, 1916, including the creation of the five organisations which took part, namely:—

The Irish Volunteers  
The Irish Citizen Army  
Fianna Eireann  
The Hibernian Rifles, and  
Cumann na mBan.

the circumstances leading up to their formation, and all developments up to the

Rising, including organisation, training, appointments, personnel, finance, acquisition of arms, etc.

PHASE 2. The Rising itself, including the plans and preparations for it, contacts with other countries, mobilisations, the countermanding order and its effect, and events up to the close of the Rising, the surrender, trials, executions, imprisonments, events in prisons, releases, etc.

PHASE 3. Subsequent events up to the 11th July, 1921, including the reorganisation of the Irish Volunteers and associated bodies, the creation of the Irish Republican Army, and all military activities of that period, including attacks, ambushes, destruction of barracks, casualties, hospital treatment, trial and execution of spies, etc., the creation and operation of services such as active service units, intelligence, organisation, training, engineering, communications, purchase, capture and manufacture of arms and chemicals, administration, etc.

The military history of 1913-21 cannot be properly understood and assessed without a knowledge of other events which had an intimate bearing on the national resurgence of that period, and for that reason the Bureau is interested in every contributory fact or development, reaching back in many cases to at least the beginning of the century, including inter alia:—

- (a) organisations such as the Irish Republican Brotherhood, Dungannon Clubs, Inghinidhe na hÉireann, Sinn Féin, etc. ;
- (b) the Buckingham Palace Conference of July, 1914, the Irish Convention of 1917, the creation of Dáil Éireann as the Parliament of Ireland, its Govern-

ment, its Ministries, its Courts; and its relation to the Irish Republican Army, Conscription, Commissions of Enquiry by the British Government and by independent bodies in Ireland and elsewhere into the destruction of property, shootings, etc., the White Cross, the Prisoners' Dependents' Fund, etc.

With such a wide range of historic activities, the Bureau needs the fullest co-operation from those who, by reason of their intimate knowledge, through personal contact or otherwise, of the events or personalities of the period, are in a position to give authoritative information on the many unrecorded aspects of the struggle.

Because of the circumstances of the time, and of the difficult conditions under which the military and other National organisations operated, the amount of documentary material was of necessity very restricted, and some of it, unfortunately, has since been lost through destruction, deterioration or other causes. The collection, recording and preservation of such original documents as now remain are, therefore, matters of great importance. No original document which related to the struggle should be destroyed or allowed to deteriorate, even if it appears to be of trivial or purely local interest. The Bureau will gladly accept any such original document presented to it, and will take steps for its safe custody and preservation for the Nation. If the donor wishes to have a copy or a photographic replica, the Bureau will be only too pleased to supply it.

In any case where a person having custody of original documents does not wish to part with them, the Bureau would appreciate information as to their nature and contents, and would like to have permission to have them copied by photographic or other processes. If the owner prefers that the contents of certain documents should not be disclosed even to the Bureau for a specified time, but intends ultimately to make them available

to the Nation, it would be appreciated if the Bureau could be given a general indication of their nature and contents and of the owner's intention regarding them, so that a record may be made of their existence and of their present and intended location.

It is realised, of course, that in many cases the available documents do not represent a complete picture of the events to which they relate, and for that reason much of the work of the Bureau will, of necessity, be concerned with the assembling of evidence, oral or written, from persons or bodies having first-hand information of any phase or aspect of the conflict, whether in Ireland or abroad. The Bureau will welcome communications in writing from those who feel that they can assist in this way, and would ask them to give an indication of the areas, periods or phases upon which they are in a position to give information.

All information entrusted to the Bureau, whether in the form of statements, letters or other documents, will be treated as strictly confidential, except where the donor himself expresses a wish to the contrary. This will not in any way affect the right of the donor himself to use the information in any way he wishes, whether by publication or otherwise. The Bureau, of course, will not undertake publication or enter into any arrangement for publication, but the Director will offer no objection to the use for that purpose by the donor of copies or photographic replicas of documents given to him by the Bureau.

Apart from statements of evidence prepared for the Bureau, original documents of prime importance include, *inter alia* :—

1. Original signed letters, notes, memoirs, etc., in manuscript and typescript, including captured correspondence; and similar documents or fragments thereof in manuscript, unsigned, but with evidence of authorship.

2. Operation and mobilisation orders, roll books, accounts, membership cards, etc., in relation to any of the various organisations.
3. Proclamations, deportation, prohibition and similar orders and other documents issued by the British Authorities generally or to individuals.
4. Orders and correspondence connected with them issued by the British Authorities to Local Government bodies.
5. Posters or notices issued or served by the British Army, the D.M.P., the R.I.C., the Auxiliaries or the Black-and-Tans.
6. British Army and Police publications, such as :—
  - (a) Hue and Cry.
  - (b) Weekly Summary 1920-21.
7. Irish official publications, such as :—

An tÓglach 1918-1921.
8. Prison and internment camp journals, magazines, diaries, etc.
9. Passes and permits issued by the British and Irish Authorities at various times, including Easter Week, 1916.

Of importance also are :—

- (a) Drill books and other instruction manuals and leaflets issued by the various organisations.
- (b) Pamphlets issued by various bodies in Ireland, U.S.A. and elsewhere, such as "The Friends of Irish Freedom," etc.

In the process of collection by the Bureau, it is possible that spare copies may accumulate, and it is desirable, therefore, that donors should in every case indicate their wishes as to the disposal of any of their contributions which may not be required by the Bureau, whether by return, or otherwise.

*September, 1948.*