

W. S. 1,057

**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21  
BURO STAIRS MILITARY 1913-21  
No. W.S. 1,057

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COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1,057

Witness

Very Rev. T.J. Shanley and others,  
216 West 68th Street, N.Y.,  
New York (23),  
U.S.A.

Identity.

Close associate of leaders of Irish Party  
in New York, 1919 - .

Subject.

Efforts to purchase ship in U.S.A.

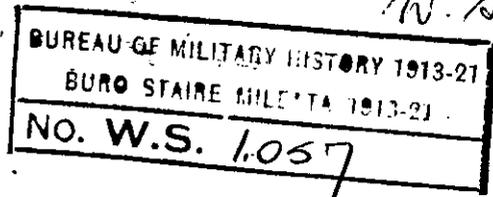
Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil

File No. S. 2191

Form B.S.M. 2

# ORIGINAL



## Seizure of the stuff at Hoboken

Paddy McGee left the ship when Gleason told him that the Customs people had seized the stuff between 10 and 11 o'clock Sunday morning.

Between 11 and 12 o'clock McGee went to Drennan's office. Olsen, a sailor's delegate, was there but he didn't know what was wrong. In the meantime Boland had telephoned Fr. Shanley who got in touch with Judge Bohan, and they telephoned Capt. Hayes in Jersey City. Hayes said he was as anxious as they were that the stuff might go over safely to Ireland, and he would cooperate. McGee (Jimmy) also went to Hoboken to Fallon's office and met Kincaid. McGarity and Delancey were there.

It was decided to make it a "stolen property" job - stolen from Delacey in the name of Williams.

A truck came to the pier bringing the Customs men to take the stuff to a Government warehouse. After hearing from McGee, Delacey made complaint that the Customs men were stealing the stuff. The Customs men loaded the stuff up and drove off the pier on the River Street. As they came out, the police were waiting (in charge of Capt. Garrick) and they seized the truck as stolen property. The police sent a patrol man to call two patrol wagons from the station house. The police then put all the Customs men into the patrol wagons and took them and the truck full of arms to Police Headquarters in Newark Street.

The arms were all dumped in the Police Headquarters in Hoboken and Judge Lynch of Newark issued a restraining order. After that the Customs men went in and took the stuff out of the police station.

All the stuff did not go to the same place, i.e. it was put in different cells at the police station. Fifty guns went back to the

original owners and 450 to the Government as a result of Court order. All of the latter, with the exception of six which the Coastguards got, were received back again by the Clan after two years. They were stored in the Manhattan Warehouse.

Sending the money over by Dr. Geraty to Keohane (by Fr. Shanley)

"Dr. Geraty, a young doctor connected with the Mater Hospital in Dublin, was recommended to me to take the money over to Dublin to give it to Keohane at Gills. When he got over and went to see Keohane, Keohane was scared and denied knowing any Father Shanley or anyone in America and said he wasn't interested in anything connected with America or Ireland. Several times Geraty tried to hand the money to Keohane, so finally he got 'cold feet' and consulted a bishop who advised him to send the money back to New York, and it came back by a girl".

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re Barney Downs

His home was in Liverpool. He was working with the Cunard Line. After he came here he left the Cunard to go on the "Minnesota" as bos'un. Later he got his family out to the United States (wife and three young children) as he was unable to go back to Liverpool. His family was in a peculiar position as his wife and children were admitted to the United States under the quota but as Barney had stayed over, he was in the country illegally and couldn't get his papers. Later an act was passed which made it possible for Barney to get his first papers.

Barney died in this country as a result of the hardships he suffered for the Irish cause.

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re Roger Casement (by Fr. Shanley)

"Roger Casement had been baptized a Catholic and died a Catholic. He had been brought up by Protestant aunts. Mrs. Casement also had the same bringing up. She had never made her First Communion. When she was sick here she was taken from the Waldorf with Pneumonia to Bellevue. I found out she was there, so we took her to St. Vincent's. I told her she was going to die and she told me that she had been baptized a Catholic and had not been brought up as a Catholic. So I gave her some instructions, and Father Hickey came and heard her confession. He gave her her First Communion, and she died".

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How the money was returned from Ireland (by Jimmy McGee)

"One night I was up in conference with Harty and Mangan discussing something pertaining to the outside organisation. Fr. Shanley came to the door and knocked. (It was on the third floor at 41st Street). Fr. Shanley said to Harty: 'The cat came back' and handed a package to Harry, who brought it in and I counted it out twice with Mangan, and said: 'That's the very same way I got it' (i.e. some denominations of notes). I said: "It's not safe to keep it overnight. We'll put it in the bank overnight on deposit". So we did, and next morning a check was drawn in my name for \$10,000 but I wouldn't take it, so I called Fr. Shanley and he said Harry would be up early next morning. Harry came up, and he said: "You go and get the money and pay it whatever way you want it'. Some time after there was an argument when Sean T. came out, as it was on the books as a loan to us."

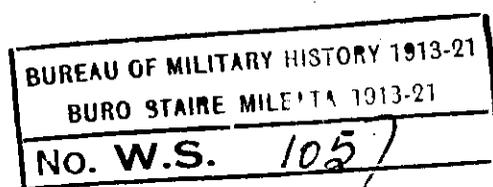
It was my impression that the money came back with a girl who was employed at Bloominhdale's".

Sending the money over (by Jimmy McGee)

"Fr. Shanley came to Joe McGarity and said: 'I have a trustworthy man here'. (Dr. Geraty, connected with the Mater Hospital, knew Cathal Brugh.)

They sent a draft over a few days prior to our sending the money over. The draft came back - It was for \$10,000, drawn on the Chatham & Phoenix Bank at 57th St. and Third Avenue. We brought it down to 31st Street and said: 'We'll go over to the hotel to Sean T.' So we did, and sewed it into a belt and put it on Geraty.

First thing we knew, the draft came back to 41st Street from Ireland. Our money was in cash (bills \$400, \$100, and \$50). So we came to the conclusion that it was gone, seeing that the draft had been returned."



MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

The shipping strike ended the day of the seizure of the ammunition: June 21, 1921. (Began....May, 1921).

The ship arrived in Dublin July 13.

Harry Boland sailed the day after Christmas 1921.

Collins and Mulcahy were in Liverpool the night De Valera sailed.

Downs got in trouble the other side. (Was mixed up in Liverpool fires).

Check the name of saloon at corner of 50th Street and Third Avenue.

Get details of lawsuit over guns.

Wm. Gleason - Twelve years in Federal Service and lost his job on account of the affair.

De Valera went to Philadelphia to Joe McGarity very soon after landing here.

Joe McG. knows about money sent to deputy elected in New Dail in 1918-19. Friends of Irish Freedom were in existence and Victory Fund was set up later.

Harry Boland wanted to get over to Dublin before Cavanagh's arrival. (Cohalan's man).

Most important thing was Newark Conference - check details with Joe McGarity. Judge Cohalan effected an agreement between Boland and Devoy to ensure that Devoy would not attack De Valera through the Gaelic American.

One of the best carriers was Thompson.

(By Father Shanley) - When Collins got to be chairman of the I.R.B. he put key men in all parts of the country so that they might speak for the country (Ireland) re the Treaty.

Harry Boland made up a story for the American press; when he heard that De Valera was safely over in Dublin he told them that De Valera went to Montauk and flew from Mutton Island to Dublin.

