

**ORIGINAL**

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1649

ROINN



COSANTA.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS.

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 1649.

Witness

John O'Donovan,  
"Evening Press",  
Burgh Quay,  
Dublin.

Identity.

Subject.

Mutiny of Connaught Rangers at  
Jullundur, India, on 28th June, 1920.

Conditions, if any, Stipulated by Witness.

Nil.

File No S. 2975.

Form B.S.M. 2

The Rangers Defiant Stand at Jullundur on the 3rd July, 1920.

On the morning of the 3rd July, 1920, Major R.L. Payne came into our camp and shouted at the Rangers to 'fall in'. Seeing that they were not in any great hurry to obey his orders, he gave an order to the South Wales Borderers to dig the Rangers out of their tents. The situation looked very ugly, so I approached the Major and said: "The Rangers don't want any blood to be shed; if they did, they would not have handed in their arms, so if you want the Rangers to 'fall in' on parade I will get them to do so." The Major said, "Very well, get them to 'fall in' on parade at once, or I will soon get them on parade, about 400 all told". We were marched out of the camp to the back of a compound about three hundred yards from the camp. The wall around the compound would be about 20 yards square and about 12 feet high. The officer in charge of the Borderers (guard) then gave an order to his men to arrest one of the Rangers from amongst our party, but the Rangers would not allow this man to be arrested. This Rangers man was Thomas Moran. When the Borderers realised that they could not take Moran, Major R.L. Payne said, "Now I will let you see that my orders will be carried out". He then asked the Rangers if they would let the Borderers arrest this man, Moran, and the Rangers said they would not. The Major said, "Very well". He then gave an order to the Borderers to load and take aim. Turning to the Rangers, he said, "This is your last chance". The situation looked very ugly, so I rushed to the front of the Rangers and, facing them, I appealed to them to keep cool as I had a few words to say to them. I addressed the Rangers

as follows: "When you had this officer and your brother officers at your mercy, you did not injure a hair of any of their heads. Comrades, you have grounded your arms for a good and noble cause, the freedom of your native land. If this officer wants to shoot us down in cold blood, are you willing and ready to die for the noble and righteous cause for which you laid down your arms for". The Rangers answered, "yes", just like one man. Turning then to Major R.L. Payne, I said, "The Rangers are ready; you can carry on with the shooting". The Major then turned to the Borderers and was on the point of giving them the order to open fire. Just then the Rev. Father rushed in between the Rangers and the Borderers, and addressing Major R.L. Payne he said, "Major Payne, if you shoot one of these brave Irish boys, you will have to riddle my poor, old body as well". A tug-of-war took place between the priest and the Major. Just then Colonel Stanley of the South Wales Borderers came galloping on the scene just in the nick of time. This officer, Colonel Stanley, was the officer in charge of reinforcements. His job was to place all Rangers under arrest. He addressed Major R.L. Payne as follows: "How dare you do such a thing? Is it you or I that is in command?". The Major then departed amidst the jeers of the Rangers.

COPY.

Moore St.,  
Kilrush.

4/7/'57.

The Editor,  
"Evening Press",  
Dublin.

Dear Sir,

In Dubliner's Diary of yesterday's issue, 3/7/57, reference is made to the Connaught Rangers' Mutiny. There are a number of little inaccuracies in your article, or, should I say, omissions of detail, and I would like to give one or two details just to keep the record straight.

The mutiny started on the 28th June, 1920, and the incident referred to in your article happened on the morning of July 4th, not the 3rd.

The party of soldiers used against us were South Wales Borderers, but the officer who brought the party to deal with us was a Major J. Payne of the Connaughts; all officers, of course, remained loyal to the Crown.

Again the Colonel who interfered on our behalf was a Colonel Jackson who had been sent down some days earlier to negotiate with the mutineers.

Neither was the Colonel a South Wales Borderer.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) JOSEPH HAWES.

COPY.

York St.,  
Castleblayney,  
Co. Monaghan.

Confidential.

6-7-1957.

Dear Sir,

Will you kindly insert the attached "comment" in your "Evening Press". I send in "reply" to items which appeared in your paper on two occasions.

I was one of the leaders of the Connaught Rangers Mutiny. I know the full history but am handicapped by being in employment which forbids the writing to newspapers, and I would thank you if you could keep my name out of any paper report or item you may publish. Please use the non-de-plume which was my prison No. - 97 - in Maidstone Prison, and the initials are my own.

I would also ask you not to have any of your staff or reporters call on me under the circumstances, as I could not help them while in my present employment. I'm very sorry I cannot.

Thanking you in anticipation.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

FRANK GERAGHTY.

COPY.

Dear Sir,

Would you kindly cause the following to be inserted in your esteemed evening newspaper. Recently, on two occasions, in your papers of 13/6/57 and 3/7/57 under the captions "History Man" and "The Corporal Remembers", and relating to a man named John Flannery, an ex Connaught Ranger, I wish to remind Flannery that there are other Corporals and "History" men, honourable men, who still remember vivid details of happenings of the period of the Connaught Rangers' Mutiny, some of the details quite unsavoury. Details of parts of defence at the courts martial and the message, sent behind backs to the military authorities in Solan (Hill Station) resulting in the arrest of Frank Keenan and Patk. Kelly, before they could explain how the mutiny was to be carried out, and as a result the "miscarriage" of portion of the progress of the mutiny which resulted in two deaths, and subsequently the execution of James Joseph Daly, the indirect result of such a treacherous message.

Can John Flannery - the History Man - or, if you wish, "The Corporal who remembers", give any details of just the couple of details outlined and remembered by me? Has Dr. Hayes McCoy of the National Museum such recorded details, as mentioned? There are many more important details, I'm sure, that are not recorded. It would take more than one or two men to detail a proper and conscientious history. Flannery missed a lot of important details when he was not allowed to be imprisoned with other long term prisoners in Maidstone and Portland Convict Prisons, or allowed to travel with them on the boat from India to England, which would be included in part of history of Connaught Rangers' Mutiny.

(Signed) Convict 97, F.G.

COPY.

2B Thomas Court,  
Off Thomas Street,  
Dublin.

6-7-57.

Sir,

I have received the cutting which you sent me dealing with an incident which took place during the mutiny of the 1st Battalion, The Connaught, at Jullundur, 28th June, 1920. I am proud to be able to state here that the Rangers have proven by their splendid behaviour throughout the four days of the mutiny at Jullundur that they had not forgotten their native land in its hour of need.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) JOHN FLANNERY.

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21
BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21
NO. W.S. 1649

# ORIGINAL

IRISH PRESS, LTD.,  
DUBLIN

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## EVENING PRESS

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16th July, 1957.

The Bureau of Military History (1913 - 1921),  
26 Westland Row,  
DUBLIN.

1 7

Dear Sirs:

We enclose herewith a number of letters recently received in connection with the Connaught Ranger's Mutiny. As you will see, some of the recollections are contradictory but we thought you might be interested in seeing them.

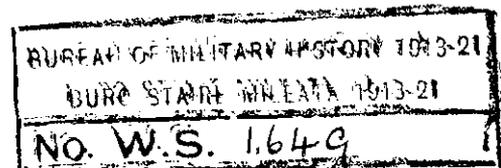
With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,



John O'Donovan.

JO'D/



**ORIGINAL** ~~Document~~ ~~Append on the 3rd July 1920~~

The Rangers - Defiant) stood at Jullundur  
on the 3rd JULY 1920

On the morning of the 3rd July 1920

Major R. L. Payne came into our camp and shouted at the Rangers to fall in. Seem that they were not in any great hurry to obey his orders. He gave an order to the South Wales Borders to dig the Rangers out of their tents. The situation looked very ugly, so I approached the Major and said the Rangers don't want any blood to be shed, if they did the wood rot have handed in their arms, so if you want the Rangers to fall in on parade. I will get them to do so. The Major said very well get them to fall in on parade at once or I will soon get them on parade. Having got the Rangers on parade about 400 all told. We were marched out of camp to the back of a compound about 300 yards from the camp. The wall around the compound would be about 20 yards square and about 12 feet high. The officer in charge of the Borders <sup>(GOARD)</sup> then gave an order to his men to arrest one of the Rangers from amongst our

Party but the Rangers would not allow this man to be arrested. This Ranger, name was Thomas Maran. When the Barden realised that they could not take Maran. Major R. L. Payne said now I will let you <sup>SEE</sup> that my orders will be carried out. He then ask the Rangers if they would let the Barden arrest this man Maran and the Rangers said they would not. The Major said Very well. He then gave an order to the Barden to load and take aim. Turning to the Rangers He said this is your last chance. ~~Things~~ The situation loosed very ugly so I rushed to the front of the Ranges, and facing them I appealed to them to keep cool so I had a few words to say to them. I addressed the Rangers as follows:- Comrades you have grounded your arm for a good and Noble Cause. The Freedom of your Nation Land. If this Officer wants to shoot us down in

PLEASE SEE OVERSEAS

When you had this office  
and your brother Officers  
at your mercy you did not  
ingore a hair of any of  
their heads.

(3)

Cold blood, are you willing and ready to die for the Noble and Rightous Cause for which you lay down yours arms for?

The Rangers answered yes, just like one man, turning then to Major R. S. Payne I said, The Rangers are ready, you can carry on with the shooting.

The Major then turned to the Barbers and was on the point of giving them the order to open fire.

just then the Rev Father Finem rushed in between the

Rangers and the Barber and addressing ~~the~~ Major R. S. Payne

He said, Major Payne if you shoot one of these Brave Irish Boys you will have to riddle my Poor Old Body as well.

A tug o' war took place between the Priest and the Major, just

than Colonel Stanley of the South Wales Border came galloping on the scene just in the mid of time.

This Officer, Colonel Stanley of was the Officer in Charge of Reinforcement

His job was to place all Rangers under arrest

(4)

He addressed Mayor R. L. Payne  
as follows - How dare you  
do such a thing. Is it you or  
I that is in Command. The Mayor  
then departed amidst the jeers  
and of The Rangers

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

NO. W.S. 1,649

2 B Thomas Court

Thomas Court

Wade 7/8

Mr. John Flannery  
2<sup>B</sup> Thomas Court,  
Thomas J.

T.O'S.: please note

ORIGINAL

The Editor,  
"Evening Press,"  
Dublin

Moose St,  
Kilrush.  
4/8/57

Dear Sir,

In Dubliner's Diary of yesterday's issue, 3/7/57, reference is made to the Connaught Rangers' mutiny.

There are a number of little inaccuracies in your article, or should I say omissions of detail, and I would like to give one or two details just to keep the record straight.

The mutiny started on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1920 and the incident referred to in your article, happened on the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup>, not the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The party of soldiers used against us were South Wales Borders but the officer who brought the party to deal with us was a Major J. Payne of the Connaughts, all officers of course remained loyal to the Crown.

Again the Colonel who interfered on our behalf was a Colonel Jackson who had been sent down some

11

days earlier to negotiate with the  
mutineers. ~~I desire.~~

neither was the Colonel  
a South Wales Borderer,

Yours faithfully  
Joseph Hawes

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1.649

ORIGINAL York St.

Confidential

Bastille Bayne  
Co. Monaghan  
6-7-57

Dear Sir,

Will you kindly insert the attached "comment" in your Evening Press. I sent in reply to items which appeared in your paper on two occasions.

I was one of the leaders of the brounought Rangers mutiny. I know the full history but am handicapped by being in employment which forbids the writing to newspapers; and I would thank you if you could keep my name out of any paper report or item you may publish. Please use the non-de-plume which was my prison no. - 97. in Maidstone Prisons and the initials are my own. I would also ask you not to have any

of your staff of reporters call on  
me under the circumstances, as I  
could not help them, while in my  
present employment. I'm very sorry because

Thanking you in anticipation

I remain,

Yours Faithfully,

Frank Geraghty  
D

BUREAU OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE  
BUREAU STAIRE MIL.

NO. W.S. 1,649

Dear Sir,

# ORIGINAL

Would you kindly cause the following to be inserted in your esteemed evening newspaper. Recently, on two occasions, in your papers of 13/6/57 and 3-7-57 under the Captions - "History Man" and "The Corporal Reminders", and relating to a man named John Flannery, an ex. brounought Langer I wish to remind Flannery that there are other corporals and "History" men, honorable men, who still remember vivid details of happenings of the period of the Connaught Rangers Mutiny, some of the details, quite unnecessary. Details of parts of defence at The Mounts Martello and the message, sent behind backs to the military authorities in Solan (Hill Station) resulting in the arrest of Frank Keenan and Pat. Kelly, before they could explain how the mutiny was to be carried out, and as a result the "misconception" of portion of the progress of the mutiny which resulted in two deaths, and subsequently the execution of James Joseph Daly, the indirect <sup>result</sup> cause of such a treacherous message.

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 to England, which would be included in  
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 (Convict 97. F. G.)

Tot's

ORIGINAL

2 B Thomas Court  
off  
Thomas Street  
Dublin.  
6-7-57

Sir,

I have received the cutting, which you sent me, dealing with an incident which took place during the meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Connaught at Jullunder 25<sup>th</sup> June 1920. I am ~~am~~ proud to be able to state here, that the Rangers, have proven by their splendid behaviour throughout the four days of the meeting, at Jullunder, that they had not forgotten their Native Land in its hour of need.

Yours sincerely

John Flannery

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURO STAIRE MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 1,649