

ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913-21

BURÒ STAIRÉ MILEATA 1913-21

No. W.S. 341

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BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1913-21.

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. W.S. 341.....

Witness

Mr. John Joseph Scollan,
18 St. Joseph's Avenue,
Drumcondra,
Dublin.

Identity

Comd't. Hibernian Rifles,
Dublin City Area, 1916.

Subject

Comments on portions of "Recollections of
a 'Rebel'" by the late Mr. J.J. Walsh.

Conditions, if any, stipulated by Witness

Nil

File No.S.458.....

Form B.S.M. 2.

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"Recollections"

Only for the fact that Col. Joyce of the "Military Historical Bureau" has asked me to comment on Mr. J. J. Walsh's "Recollections of a Rebel" I would not controvert anything that the author has written. Now, the book is his Recollections. Who am I, who dare challenge what he thought he had remembered?

On Page 36 of his book he says that on Easter Monday morning (1916) he went to Fairview as reported, stood too and was dismissed parade until 3 o'clock that day. This assertion is outside the bounds of understanding. What Commander of Battalion or Company could ^{be} ~~understand~~ to dismiss a parade of Volunteers who had mobilized for insurrection? that

2 / day without authorization from G. H. B.?
My Commander who got even one man
held him very tenaciously.

"J. J." has confused his dates - not
deliberately. After all, it was 30
years from the events he wrote of
and he could have become confused.

There was a mobilization of Volunteers
eight days earlier, viz: Palm Sunday -
at Dr. Nathan Park (Fairview) when
an alarm was sent out that the
British were about to attack and
attempt to disarm the Volunteers.
About 20 members of the Hibernian
Rifles were hastily assembled and
proceeded from No 28 North
Frederick Street to give what help
they could - they went to Philipsbough
avenue in twos and threes. "J. J."

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was not with us: He may have gone
on his own. There was no raid and
the parade was dismissed by a
bumptious and arrogant young officer
of the I.V. named O' Sullivan, who
eight days later at the South Circular
Road did not cover himself with
glory. I was in Command of the H.R.
that day.

On Page 37 "J.J." says he was then
a "member of the Hibernian Rifles." This
is amazing considering that he was
promoted from Rifleman (on transfer
from Cork) to Vice-Commandant ^{of the H.R.} in
1915 and that he accompanied me
in the autumn of 1915 to interview
Eoin MacNeill, The O'Rallaigh &
Bernard Fitzgerald at Mr. MacNeill's
home in Herbert Park with a view
to having a working agreement fixed
up with the H.R. & the I.V.!

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On Easter Monday afternoon I went to his shop in Blessington Street. He was engaged with some G. A. I. men to whom he introduced me. They left and he and I proceeded to Susanville Road (off Clonliffe Rd.) to his married sister's residence, where we picked up his rifle and he carried it up Clonliffe Rd. and Drumcondra & Dorset St. to No. 28 W. Frederick St.

The foregoing covers everything and I am sorry to have to controvert anything that a good patriot, a gallant, generous and charitable man - as I knew J. J. Walsh to be.

I conclude this statement with "Clarity in my heart towards all men and malice towards none."

John J. Scallan
Commandant
Hibernian Rifles
1916

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