

The Military History Bureau – a list of Tipperary names

By the Editor

The long since defunct Military History Bureau was established in 1947 by the de Valera government, with the aim of compiling an authoritative contemporary record for posterity of the War of Independence. For ten years statements were accepted from participants or their families. The system was confidential, but contributors were offered copies of their statements and were free to make whatever use they wished of them. In this way a small number were in circulation for some years, particularly in Dublin, among both academic and amateur historians. Several decades ago, about a dozen came into this writer's possession, who found that once loaned they were rarely returned.

In 1957 the Bureau was closed and all statements received to date were deposited in the Department of the Taoiseach, with access denied to all until (it was then widely believed) 2016, i.e. 100 years after the 1916 Rising. In the past two decades, however, pressure has grown for the opening up of the Bureau, especially as the number of survivors of the 1913-1923 period has fallen sharply. Following strong representations by reputable historians such as the late Professor Thomas P. O'Neill (of the National Library and University College, Galway), official biographer of Eamonn de Valera, a Government decision was made some time ago to release the statements made half a century ago to the Bureau.

The task was entrusted to the Director of the Military Archives, whose staff began the gigantic task of cataloguing this enormous "cache" of some 1,800 typed statements, and of ensuring that no sensitive material would reach the public domain, in accordance with a rule followed for many years by the National Archives. Assuming the provision by the Government of additional adequate expert staff (something that cannot be taken for granted even in the atmosphere of the Celtic Tiger), it is hoped that the Bureau documents will be on general release within a year of the writing of this Note in January 2001.

In the meantime, to prepare researchers for this planned general release, a detailed Index of Contributors has been prepared and made available by the Director of Military Archives. It contains in alphabetical order the name and relevant county of every contributor, with his or her official MHB reference number. In the following Appendix are listed every name of a contributor from Co. Tipperary. They total 73. This Journal hopes to publish in due course a selection of these statements (with footnotes and/or explanations, where appropriate), and will also be pleased to consider contributions from researchers.

The co-operation of the Director, Military Archives, Comdt. Victor Laing, in compiling the following Appendix is gratefully acknowledged, as is the assistance given by the former Director, Comdt. Peter Young, who died suddenly in 1999.

APPENDIX

Names of persons from Co. Tipperary who contributed statements to the Military History Bureau, 1947-1957.

Babington, S.	Hoolan, L.	O'Dwyer, P.H.
Breen, D.	Hynes, M.	O'Flynn, J.
Cash, P.	Keane, P.	O'Flynn, W.
Crowe, E.	Keating, James	O'Keefe, D.
Crowe, M.	Kennedy, A.	O'Keefe, J.
Crowe, T.	Kennedy, James	O'Leary, E.
Dalton, R.	Kilmartin, J.	O'Neill, S.
Davern, M.	Kinnane, P.	Robinson, S.
Davin, Jerome	Leahy, J.	Ryan, Bridget
Drohan, F.	Meagher, T.	Ryan, E.J.
Duggan, James	Meagher, W.	Ryan, J.
Dwyer, T.	Merrigan, P.	Ryan, J.
Fitzgerald, P.	Mulcahy, P.	Ryan, Jerry
Fitzpatrick, M.	Murphy, P.	Ryan, John C.
Fitzpatrick, S.	Myles, W.	Ryan, P.
Ó Floinn, P.	McGrath, E.	Ryan, Thomas
Frewen, J.	McGrath, E.	Scott, S.
Gaynor, S.	McGrath, F.	Sheehan, T.
Glendon, E.	McGrath, M.A.	Spain, Con.
Grace, M.	McGrath, Mce.	Tierney, T.
Grogan, M.	Needham, M.	Tobin, P.
Grogan, E.	O'Carroll, S.	Walsh, R.
Hackett, J.	O'Carroll, T.	Walshe, S.E.
Halpin, T.	O'Donnell, W.	Waters, T.P.
Hewitt, J.	O'Driscoll, D.	
Hoolan, J.	O'Dwyer, E.	