

16863

SECRET.



2

UNDER SECRETARY.

The G.O.C.-in-Chief considers that attached papers referring to alleged drilling at Westport does not disclose a case fit for Court Martial.

In accordance with the minute of the Chief Secretary dated 28/9/1917, on Government File No. ^{16215/5} 46125/5, the papers are forwarded for the consideration of the Civil Authorities as to prosecution by them.

Instructions were telephoned yesterday to C.P.A., Midlands & Connaught to cancel order for arrest, but it is not as yet known here whether Ring and Moane had already been arrested.

Attorney General

Please advise

H. Toppin

Major,

for Brig.-General, General Staff.

W P B
10-11-17
HEADQUARTERS,

PARKGATE, DUBLIN.

I think no action should be taken pending a report after the lapse of a few weeks - as to further movements

Under Secretary

submit for authority to call for a further report as requested by AG

13-11-17



3
M.C. 232 / 152 D.C.



To/
A. A. G. (2),

Headquarters,

Irish Command, Dublin.

Michael Joseph Ring of Drummindoo.
Edward Moane of Carrowbawn.

Forwarded.

Instructions have been issued to the County
Inspector, R.I.C., Castlebar, to arrest Ring and Moane,
and arrangements are being made for them to be lodged in
Galway Prison.

The Competent Military Authority has not made
any Determination as instructions are required as to
whether these men are to be tried by Court Martial or
dealt with by the Civil Authorities.

Curragh Camp,
Co. Kildare.
7th November 1917.

W. M. Moran Captain.
for Major-General.
Comdg. Midland & Connaught Dist.

S. R. Regs 9 E

Military Exercise and Drill Ireland Order 1

Illegal Drill by Sinn Féiners 4
at Westport 4 XI.17

County of Mayo

Westport 4 XI.17

I beg to submit for the information of
the Competent Military Authority
the following:

At 3 pm This date 100 Sinn Féiners
assembled at the Westport Sinn Féin
club. Michael Joseph Ring, a
released Rebellion prisoner, stood
on the street outside the Hall and
gave the Order "Fall in" The men
immediately fell in in two Ranks.

Ring then gave the Order "Number"
and the front Rank numbered off.

Ring numbered them a second
time. There were 42 files

Sixteen Boy Scouts (Sinn Féin)
fell in on the right and acted
under Ring's command but did
not number

Ring then gave the command to

"Move to the Right in Fours" - Form
 Fours" - Right by the Right
 Quick March. These orders were
 acted on and the Party then march
 up the Quay Road by the Workhouse
 to Westport Quay. At Westport
 Quay Ring gave the command
 "Right about Wheel" and the Party
 wheeled right about and returned
 to Westport. When coming to the
 turn at the Customs House Ring
 gave the command "Right Wheel"
 which was obeyed. When half a
 mile from the Workhouse, Ring
 gave the command "Scuffle" and they
 doubled for quarter of a mile.

On reaching the Sinner Fen Club
 Westport, Ring gave the command
 "Halt" and the band halted. He then
 gave the command "Left Turn" and
 the party turned to the left and
 faced the Town Hall. He then gave
 the command "Dismiss" and the
 party turned to the right and each
 man saluted the Commander with the
 right hand, and he returned the salute
 and broke off. After the Dismiss the
 Party dispersed quietly after a cheer
 while the Party was marching Edward

read and corrected the marching
of the men by calling out "Left", "Left"
"Right", "Left" and also corrected
the dressing of the sections of Fours
to do this he left the rear to the flank

I attach copies of statements of
Sergeant Michael Hayes, Constables Patrick
O'Brien, Patrick Sullivan, Francis
Holland and John Dorman and Constable
Francis D. Butler

The police identified in all 34
of the men who marched and 11
of the Boy Scouts.

I attach a list of those identified
the first 20 of whom are active
and locally prominent Sinn Féiners.

In case it is decided to prosecute
in this case I would recommend
that Nos. 1 to 20 in attached list
be proceeded against and two of the
oldest Boy Scouts Nos. 1 and 6

County Inspector's Office,

Castlebar, 5th Nov. 1917

Submitted

S. J. Dorman

The C.M.A.

County of Mayo

List of Westport

List of names of men identified by the Police as having taken part in Illegal Drill of Sinn Feiners at Westport
4-11-17

No	Names	Addresses	Age	Occupation	Acts done	Values seen to them (col)
1	Michael J Ring	Scammendoo	27	Farmer	In Command + 2nd in Command	No 1 to 6
2	Edward Moane	Carroubaun	28	do	do	do
3	John M Donagh	High St	47	Plasterer	marched	No 1, 2, 3, 5, + 6
4	Patrick Kitterick	do	21	Lifeguard	do	do
5	John Flynn	Bridge St	23	Lime Burner	do	do
6	Bartley Cryan	High St	27	Shop assistant	do	do
7	Martin Keane	Bridge St	23	do	do	do
8	Michael Higgins	do	25	do	do	do
9	John J Fearely	Shop St	27	do	do	do
10	John Berry	High St	20	do	do	do
11	Patrick Haran	James St	28	Solicitors Clerk apprentice	do	do
12	John Clarke	Altamont St	20	RY Fitter	do	do
13	Owen Reilly	Fair Green	24	Assistant Cattle dealer	do	do
14	Charles Gavin	High St	20	Shop Ast	do	No 1, 2, 3 + 6
15	Patrick O'Malley	Casnalwrgan	22	Farmer's Son	do	No 2
16	John Hester	Westport Quay	30	Labourer	do	do
17	Stephen Burke	Doon	24	Farmer's Son	do	No 1, 2, 3 + 5
18	Patrick Mcging	do	32	do	do	No 2
19	James Mcging	High St	27	Tailor	do	No 1, 2, 3, 5 + 6
20	Martin Geraghty	James St	24	Butcher	do	do
21	Joseph Sullivan	Octagon	22	Tailor	do	do
22	Patrick Heraty	Altamont St	21	Butcher	do	1, 2, 3 + 5
23	Michael Murray	James St	27	Shop Ast.	do	No 2

Westport

Continued. List of Men identified by Police
as having taken part in Illegal meeting by
Sinn Féiners at Westport 4. XI. 17

No	Names	Address	age	occupation	acts done	Witnesses & Prize
24	James Rush	Ship Street	19	Shoh Assistant	Marched	Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, & 6
25	Michael Keams	Mill St.	21	Tailor	do	do
26	James McKenna	Barrowham	21	Farmer's Son	do	No 2
27	Michael J. Gublin	Churchfield	24	do	do	do
28	Gus. Lennon	Hgh. St.	25	Tailor	do	do
29	Michael J. O'Malley	Ardooley	26	Farmer's Son	do	do
30	Thomas Reidy	Bridge St.	19	Shoh Assistant	do	Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 5
31	Michael McKenly	Peter St.	26	Tailor	do	do
32	John McEvilly	Shoh St.	22	Shoh Assistant	do	do
33	James Kearney	Mill St.	20	Tailor	do	Nos 1 & 3
34	John Gibbons	Quay Road	19	Teacher (Law Clerk)	do	No 1.

Note in Col. 7. the numbers shown are
the witnesses as follows:-

- 1 Serjt Michael Hayes
- 2 Const. Patrick O'Brien
- 3 " Patrick Sullivan
- 4 " Francis Holland
5. " John Neenan
- 6 " Francis J. Butler

List of Semi Teen Boy Scouts.

No	Names	Address	age	occupation	Remarks
1	William Malone ✓	High Street Westport	20	Carpenter	No 1. 2. 5
2	James Malone ✓	Fair Green do	17	Blacksmith	No 1. 2. 5
3	John F. McDonagh ✓	High Street do	18	Labourer	do
4	William Ainsworth ✓	Castlebar St. do	18	do	No 2 & 5
5	Stephen Walsh	High Street do	14	Messenger	do
6	Peter Kelly ✓	Peter Street do	20	Labourer	No 1. 2. & 5
7	Michael Joe Walsh ✓	Mill Street do	19	Tailor	do
8	Peter Kelly	The Mall do	17	Labourer	do
9	Thomas Sheridan	Mill Street do	17	Tailor	do
10	Martin Beilly	Fair Green do	18	Labourer	do
11	Robert Melis	Peter Street do	13	school Boy	do

I beg to state that I can identify the above

Patrick K. O'Brien

Con. 60.7740

1 Hayes

2 O'Brien
Luttrell

3 4
Hollis
F. J. ...
Nutter

No is Col. 6 same
as a mens list

P. S. Stone

Statement of Patrick O'Brien born 1874

County Mayo

Westport 4:11:17

I beg to state that about 3 Pm on this date on the Octogan I saw a body of Sinn Fein volunteers about ninety in number, lined up in front of the Town Hall, on their right was sixteen Sinn Fein boy scouts in uniform

All were under the command of Michael Joe Ring of Drummendoo assisted by Edward Moan who seemed to be acting Half company Commander. Ring gave the following words of command, "Company Shun", "Number", "Number again", "Right dress", "form fours", "form line", "form four", "Right", "by the right. quick march", at which the whole body of volunteers and boy scouts marched off & when on the march Edward Moan used to give the words of command, "Right", "left" on three or four occasions. when at Westport Quay Ring gave them, "Right wheel" at which they wheeled back again for Westport & when a short distance back they all doubled in the direction of the Town.

The Hb.

Patrick O'Brien

Statement of Patrick Sullivan Const.
Westport 24th November 1917.

I was on duty with Sergt. Hayes in Shop St. about 3pm on this date. I saw a party of men, headed by boy scouts in uniform, marching across the Octagon in the direction of the Quay Road, along with Sergt. Hayes I followed them and overtook them at the Workhouse, after passing the Workhouse I heard Michael Joe King give the words of command "half left turn" which was obeyed by the party, going along the Quay Road. I saw Edward moane assisting in getting the men to keep their dressing I heard him to say "left" several times, he was marching with the rear sections of fours. The party marched as far as Westport Quay, where they turned and marched back until they were clear of the Stones on the Quay Road when on the command "double" they "Doubled" and continued doubling until they got over the hill at the Workhouse when I lost sight of them. I heard Michl. Joe King give the following word of command, which were obeyed "Half Right turn" "Right wheel" "Double" I heard him to say "left" several times when the party appeared to get off the step.

I attach a list of names of those taking part in it whom I can identify.

Patrick Sullivan Const.

66 Mayo

Westport 4.11.17

I beg to state while on duty at the Octagon to day at 3 pm I saw Michael J Ring coming out of the Sinn Fein club rooms. He walked out to the centre of the street opposite the town hall and sounded the whistle three or four times. After the last sound of the whistle a number of young men came out of both the Sinn Fein and town Halls. Ring then said "Fall in"

The party formed up in two ranks facing the Town Hall. A party of Boy Scouts fell in on the right.

Ring then gave the following words of command

Company Shun

Number (He numbered them three times)

Form Fours

Forms Line

Form Fours

Right Turn

By the right quick March

all the words of command were obeyed by the whole party.

The party then marched off towards the quay under the command of

Michael J Ring I also saw Edward Moan on
the left firing the party into line. But did
not hear him give any words of command.
When the party moved off Moan was
behind the last section of fours.

Francis P. Holland Con 68921

Statement of Con J Tiernan

Westport 4: 11 : 17 16

I beg to state that about 3 pm
I went on duty to the Octogan and there
saw about 90 men with a number of
boy scouts on their right in uniform
lined up outside the Town Hall and
facing shot Street Michael J Ring
Hummendes was in charge I heard
him give the following words of command
which were obeyed by the party
"Company Shun" "Number" "Number
again" "Right dress" "Form fours"
"Form line" "Form fours" "Right" "By
the right quick march" Edward Moane
Barra-bawn seemed to act as section
commander, they proceeded on the
march up the Quay road and on towards
the Quay. I heard M J Ring give them
the several times as they went along
in I saw Edward Moane assist in getting
the men to keep their dressing. when
they marched below the Quay Barracks
they turned about towards Westport
I heard M J Ring give them Right
wheel at corner of Quay where there
is a turn in the road when on
further all doubled towards into
Westport

John Tiernan

Con. 64755

H. Allen