



Royal Irish Constabulary Office.

DUBLIN CASTLE.

Administrative Division.

SUBJECT.

MINUTE.

Mr. Clancy's Question No.
76 for Monday, 3rd. August.



11.33 am

Logg

Wm

Chap Sec.

Mr. Clancy's 76

for today -

The D.G. reports

as follows :-

repeat

W.D.
A.M.

Submitted,

1. No members of the Royal Irish Constabulary took part in the attempt to disarm the Irish Volunteers at Clontarf on Sunday the 26th. July.

There were two parties of the Royal Irish Constabulary present. One, from Howth, consisted of a Head Constable and 11 men. They were ordered by their County Inspector to identify as many as possible of the persons who were actually engaged in the illegal act of gun running; to count the number of persons carrying arms landed from the yacht, and to accompany the Volunteers until their destination was known. They followed the Volunteers to Clontarf and took no part in the attempt to disarm them.

The other party consisted of 1 Head Constable and 9 men who were sent from the Royal Irish Constabulary Depot to assist the police at Howth. They reached Raheny, and while there received instructions from the Commandant, which I personally confirmed later, to follow the Volunteers and keep them under observation. They carried out these orders and took no part in the attempt to disarm the Volunteers.



Both parties of the Royal Irish Constabulary on arrival at Clontarf, were in rear of the long column of the Irish Volunteers. They could not see what was going on in front, and they were unaware that an attempt was being made to disarm the Volunteers.

2. No instructions were issued by me to any member of the Force to take part in the attempt to disarm the Volunteers. The only instructions issued by me were those mentioned above.
3. I had no communication with either the Under Secretary or Mr. Harrel in reference to the prospect of disarming the Irish Volunteers.

I met Mr. Harrel after the incident referred to, and had a conversation with him. Nothing occurred while I was with Mr. Harrel.

Please see the attached copy of a report which I submitted to Government on the 29th. July, 1914.

I have given details, for the information of the Chief Secretary, of the instructions given on the occasion to the members of the Royal Irish Constabulary, referred to above, but I would suggest that it would not be advisable to give these publicity when replying to the question.

N. Chamberlain

Inspector General.

2nd. August, 1914.

COPY.



Copy of report above referred to



Submitted :



On Sunday, the 26th. instant, I remained at my residence, Brookville House, Raheny, and, as is my custom, I directed that any news which reached my office from the Provinces should be communicated to me. An orderly brought me out some papers but of no special importance, at about 1 p.m. Later in the afternoon, about 3.50 p.m., I received information that a large body of Volunteers had marched from Howth, carrying arms which had been illegally landed there. I proceeded as rapidly as possible to the Raheny police barrack, to find that the Volunteers had passed by there some time previously. I at once directed such police as I found at Raheny to follow in rear of the Volunteers and to keep touch with them, while I proceeded to Dublin by the 4.11 p.m. train, which was just leaving Raheny Station. At Amiens Street I found a party of about 80 of the Royal Irish Constabulary from the Depot, who were awaiting orders. The officer in command informed me that the Deputy Inspector General of the Royal Irish Constabulary, Mr. O'Connell, was at the Castle with the Under Secretary. I could not learn whether the Volunteers had entered Dublin or not, and as I knew that several of the Royal Irish Constabulary had followed the column of the Volunteers and there was no officer with them, I considered it was my duty to try and get in touch with them, to issue any directions which might be necessary.

I proceeded forthwith towards Clontarf, and a short distance after passing Fairview I met Mr. Harrel,

Assistant



Assistant Commissioner Dublin Metropolitan Police, who was returning with his men and he informed me of what had taken place. All was quiet then, and I saw none of the Royal Irish Constabulary on the road.

I stayed with Mr. Harrel for a short time at Fairview during which nothing occurred, and then, as everything seemed perfectly quiet, I returned home and shortly afterwards received full reports from the County Inspector, County Dublin, of what had taken place at Howth.

(signed) N. Chamberlain

Inspector General.

29th. July, 1914.


URGENT.

6573. P. Q.

(358). Wt. 3999—132,5,000.10/12. A.T. & Co. Ltd.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION.

One

Date and hour of Receipt.	Date and hour when sent to Registry or other Department.	Date and hour when received back.	Date and hour when reply sent to Irish Office.	REMARKS.
				

10 - 207

Y. In favour of
report on I, II & III

From Power

To u.s.

By Mr. W. D. H.

1. VIII. 14.

* Notice for Monday 3rd August 1876
Mr. Glancy to ask the Chief Secy I whether some
members of the R.I. Constabulary took part in
the attempt to disarm the Irish Volunteers at
Blontarf on Sunday the 26th July; II if so whether
they did so with the consent or in obedience to the
instructions of Sir Neville Chamberlain the
Inspector General of the Force; III if Sir Neville
Chamberlain was in communication on the occasion
referred to either with Mr. Harrel or with the
Under Secretary in reference to the prospect of
disarming the Irish Volunteers and IV whether if
Sir Neville Chamberlain had anything to do with
the enterprise of Mr. Harrel ^{he} will be suspended
& his action made a subject of investigation at
the coming enquiry