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S W E E N E Y, Joseph.

SWEENEY. Joseph. Burton Port, Co. Donegal.

Age 24. (1921).

Occupation. Book-keeper and Shop Assistant.

Elected Sinn Fein M.P. for Donegal, May 1921.

Prior to May 1921 Election, was a Member of "Fisheries" Committee, Dail Eireann.

Voted for Treaty on Sat 7-1-22

Commandant No.1. Battalion, (Burtonport). *West Donegal Bde.*

Commandant, South Donegal Brigade, I.R.A. Also Commands 5th Bde.

Receiver and distributor of An t'Oglac.

Attended I.R.A. Convention, October 1918.

Son of John SWEENEY, J.P. of Burton Port.

Was at Pearses School, Dublin prior to the Rebellion.

Took part in the 1916 Rebellion, and was captured in the G.P.O.

Interned in England; and released in August 1916.

In October 1916 resumed his studies at the National University, Dublin.

In October 1917 went to Galway to continue his studies at the University College.

Attended Annual Sinn Fein Convention in Dublin, October 1918.

Attended opening Meeting of Dail Eireann 21-1-19.

On his return called at Strabane and discussed with the local Sinn Feiners the course it was proposed to pursue in connection with the Peace Conference on the Continent.

At Gortahork, 30-3-19, addressing a Sinn Fein Meeting, said:-
President is giving his attention to the Irish Question, but they were not going to stake their all on the President.
He also said that Sinn Feiners pledged to ignore British Rule in Ireland would be returned in every instance at the coming Local Elections.

At Kilmacreeena, 20-4-19 referred to treatment of Prisoners at Belfast and urged the young men to join the Irish Volunteers.

Attended Meeting of Dail Eireann 9-5-19.

contd.

Present at City Hall, Dublin when a reception was given to the U.S.A. Delegates to Ireland (Ml J.Ryan, Ed J.Dunne, and Frank P.Walsh)

At Dungloe, 1-9-19 said the "Dail" had established Consuls in France and America, and advised his hearers to purchase Republican Bonds.

Was at Dail Eireann Offices, 76, Harcourt St., Dublin 28-10-19.

Im January 1921 was warned by telephone of the approach of an arresting party.

Mentioned in Eileen McGRANE's papers as an Officer of the Dungloe Batt. I.R.A.

Said to have been concerned in the derailing of a Troop Train at Burton Port, and that he went "on the run".

Principal Leader of the I.R.A. in Burton Port.

Government requested his arrest 16-5-21.

Not arrested in 1921.

Has been active in drilling and organising the I.R.A. since the declaration of the Truce, July 1921.

Ext. "Irish Bulletin" Vol.5. No.20. dated 29-6-21. "Imprisoned 1920. Wanted. S.F. M.P. for Co. Donegal".

To stand for the Free State at the Election, against Commandt O'DONNELL. (Ref. File IX/1149).

Shown as Comdt Gen. O.C. 1st Northern Division I.R.A. (Regular Troops) (Ex. "Irish Independent" 10.5.22).

Nominated Treaty Candidate for Donegal. (Ex. "Irish Times" 2-6-22).

Returned unopposed for above constituency.

In charge of P.G. Troops operating against the Irregulars at Buncrana. (Ext. "Freeman's Journal" 1-7-22)?

Commandant of the P.G. Army in Donegal with H.Q.'s. at DRUMBOE CASTLE. Garrison consists of about 20 officers & 280 men. SWEENEY & his staff wear field-grey uniform & are comparatively smart. (IX/1404).

In command of a party of troops who made 22 arrests in Bundoran. The prisoners were brought to Finner Camp. (Ext. "Irish Independent" 17-10-22).

With Comndt. McGowan was i/c of column of F.S. Troops in the recent bound-up in Cos. Leitrim & Sligo. (IX/1539).

On 25-9-22 an attempt was made by Irregulars to assassinate him. (IX/1538)

Reported as operating in the Bundoran (Co: Donegal) area. (IX/1572).

ATHLONE. Action at TULLAGHAN 20-12-22. "Ballinalee" blown up. (Ref. Wireless messages).

Ordered by C-in-C (at LIMERICK- to attend ATHLONE meeting 31-12-22.

Is reported to have issued a warrant for the arrest of Major C.W.MORRIS.
(IX/1649).

*T.O for Disconail, is youngest officer holding this rank,
being well under 20 yrs. Educated at St Euda's Coll.
fought as a boy in G.P.O. under Padraig Pearse. He
was interned at Drungoch, & later was an active Vol.
in the North. Maj.Gen. G.O.C. Donegal command.
(G.S. 27.1.23.)*

*Issues proclamation to effect that if burning of property
does not cease in Co. Donegal, 7 men, now under
sentence of death in Bannock, will be executed. (G.S. 24.3.23)*

Appointed Acting Chief of Staff vice Maj.Gen.Mahon. (Press 21-3-24).

