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UNTIL**  
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McLann

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HOME OFFICE,

WHITEHALL,

S.W.1.

12th March, 1919

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Dear Power,

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I enclose herewith  
a report on the illness, treat-  
ment and death of Pierse McCann  
the Irish internee, who recently  
died in a nursing home at  
Gloucester.

Yours sincerely,

*C. A. Hunt*

S.M. Power Esq.,

Irish Office.

*Under Secretary  
Submitted to  
see this report, received by me  
on yesterday. WYK 8/4*

*more*



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.....  
3

COPY

H.M.Prison, Gloucester

9th March, 1919

PIERCE McCANN

Irish Internee.

I beg to report that the above-named first complained of not feeling well on February 25th. He had then a slight sore throat. Later in the day he complained of a headache and pains all over, and his temperature was on 100°. It was considered advisable to remove him to the Nursing Home and he was sent there the same evening in a cab. His case appeared to be a mild attack of influenza and he made satisfactory progress until February 28th when he developed a cough and his temperature began to rise. On March 2nd he showed signs of Broncho-pneumonia and he was reported seriously ill. From this on he quickly got worse- his temperature rose higher and higher, his breathing got more embarrassed and he became exceedingly nervous and excitable, so much so that on the evening of the 5th, the nursing sisters were powerless to keep him in bed. I gave him a hypodermic of morphia (gr 1/6) and one of the hospital warders was detailed for duty in the nursing home in case his assistance should be required. At midnight he jumped out of bed and it was only after the greatest difficulty and struggling that he was got back again. I saw him shortly afterwards. He was then in a state of unconsciousness with rapid gurgling breath and he was obviously dying. He died at 2.10 a.m.

Throughout his illness he had plenty of nourishment and had the usual medicinal treatment together with brandy. He was seen by me twice a day and four times within the last 24 hours. He was also visited by Dr Bell, the Medical Officer.

I attach his temperature chart.

(sgd.) J.M.Ahern  
for the Medical Officer.

T.O.



2.

I beg to report that I agree with the above statement in every particular.

The late prisoner was seen by me also every day from the commencement of his illness to his death.

He was well and carefully nursed in the Nursing Home and had every attention and convenience.

(Sgd.) J.A.Bell M.O.



HOME OFFICE,  
WHITEHALL,  
S.W.

Please quote  
Ref. No.  
362,269/173

6th March, 1919

Dear Power,

Pierse McCann died in a Nursing Home at Gloucester at 2 a.m. this morning, as I informed you by telephone, and in accordance with the Chief Secretary's wishes as communicated by you, instructions have been given to the Governor of Gloucester Prison authorising the removal of McCann's remains to Clonmel at the expense of the Irish Government.

----- You also asked for a medical report and the date when McCann was removed to a Nursing Home. I enclose a copy of a report dated 25th February, which shows that McCann and others were suffering from a mild form of influenza on 25th February, and were removed the same day to a Nursing Home.

Yours sincerely,

*C. A. Hunt.*

S.M. Power Esq.,  
Irish Office.



COPY

6

H.M. Prison,  
Gloucester.  
25th February 1919.

Irish Interned Prisoners.

I beg to report that I have today examined the Irish prisoners interned in this prison and have found the following to be suffering from a mild form of influenza with temperatures varying from 100° to 102°.

Patrick O'Keefe.

Robert Haskins.

William Loughran

Pierse McCann.

J.J.O'Connell.

With the concurrence of the Medical Officer I have recommended to the Governor their removal to a Nursing Home in the town. This recommendation was made on the following grounds:-

- (1) There is no hospital accommodation or means of isolation in the prison.
- (2) There is no nursing staff.
- (3) The cells from the point of view of ventilation and equipment are utterly unsuitable.
- (4) There is no vacancy in the City Infirmary.

These men were removed to the home this evening. Should further cases arise, I would recommend the removal of the uninfected to some other prison where there is suitable



hospital accommodation, etc., as otherwise the probabilities are that they will all become infected. The cases seem to be mild and could be well dealt with in a prison hospital should symptoms develop subsequent to their removal from here.

(Sgd.) J.M.Ahern

Deputy Medical Officer.

Submitted. Dr Ahern has been busily engaged since his arrival here and has been of the greatest help.

He and I made the arrangements for the reception in the Nursing Home and the internees affected have been removed under the personal supervision of Dr Ahern and myself.

(Sgd.) H.T.Pearce

Governor.

25. 2. 19.



Dear Mr Holmes.

Could you please have the  
Dossier prepared. I believe  
the same debate will be  
on Monday or Tuesday  
but Power's letter to  
me was marked  
"immediate"

W.D.

118 S.  
15500

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Immediatē

Under Secretary,

A brief summary of what is known of  
the late Pierce M'Can in this office.

*[Signature]*

Mr Power.

Summary herewith.

14:3:19.

Please return when no longer required. I got it too late  
tonight to enter in our Register.



W. Connolly  
Returned

W.D. 14/3

W.D. 14/3





Wednesday

Dear Dublin,

would you get  
from H. or Holmes a  
dossier giving particulars  
as to Pierce Mc Cormac,  
Irish intell, who died  
recently in Nursing Home  
at Gloucester. The Chief  
Secretary wants it in con-  
-nexion with coming debate  
on Irish affairs.

Yours truly

Sam. M. Power



**SECRET.**PIERCE McCANN.  
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PIERCE McCANN was the son of a gentleman farmer and lived with his father at Newpark, near Cashel, Co. Tipperary. From his youth he was prominent in Gaelic League circles and as early as 1912 was a member of the Executive Council of Sinn Fein, then in its early stages. He had been intimately connected with that movement ever since.

When the Irish Volunteer organization was first started McCann took a leading part in it and procured rifles for the Dualla Corps near his home.

In Sept. 1914 the Volunteers split into two distinct bodies, one acknowledging the late John E. Redmond as its leader, the other, the extreme and Sinn Fein section, coming under the control of a council of which John McNeill was the head. McCann at once allied himself with the latter body and helped in the movement up to the time of the Rebellion at Easter, 1916. He drilled with the Sinn Fein volunteers, and attended meetings at which John McNeill spoke.

In November, 1914, he came under notice in connection with the distribution of anti-recruiting and pro-German leaflets and tried to visit the German prisoners of War at Templemore, but sufficient evidence for a prosecution could not be obtained. He travelled extensively on this work and had a motor car and motor cycle.

He attended several meetings of the Sinn Fein Volunteer Council in Dublin at this time and was intimately acquainted with P.H. Pearse, The O'Rahilly, McDonagh, the Plunketts, and other extremists.

In May, 1915, the police received most reliable information that McCann was actively engaged in pro-German propaganda and in organizing work for Sinn Fein, and his movements which were being closely watched were very suspicious. He travelled continually between Dublin and his home and visited the country towns of Tipperary where he was often observed in conversation with local suspects.

On 8th August, 1915, McCann attended the General Council of Sinn Fein Volunteers in Dublin, P.H. Pearse, The O'Rahilly, McDonagh, McNeill and other extremists being also present.

On 12th October, 1915, he visited Dublin and spent a short time with T.J. Clarke, a rebel leader afterwards executed.

On 31st October, 1915, McCann attended the annual Convention of the Sinn Fein Volunteers at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, all the extremist leaders being present.

On 14th December he attended a meeting of the Central Council of the Gaelic League in Dublin together with a number of other prominent Sinn Feiners.  
On 8th & 10th January, 1916, he visited the Volunteer offices in Dublin and had conversations with the leaders.



On 16th. Jany. 1916 he attended the General Council of the Irish Volunteers at 2, Dawson St., Dublin, with John McNeill, P. H. Pearse, The O'Rahilly and others.

On 27th Jany. he visited one of the principal Volunteers in Limerick and spent an hour in conversation with him, having met another leading suspect just before at Limerick Junction.

On 31st Jany. McCann again visited the Sinn Fein Volunteer Offices in Dublin where he met The O'Rahilly, Mellows, and a number of others.

McCann next visited Dublin on 19th Feby. and spent that evening in the Volunteer offices and next day attended another meeting of the General Council when it was noticed that a very large number of the leading extremists from Dublin and the principal provincial centres were present.

On 16th March he was observed in Waterford where he purchased a Volunteer Officer's belt and some other small articles.

McCann had been to Dublin again on 11th March when he attended a meeting of the Central Executive of the Gaelic League and spent the next day at the Head Quarters of the Volunteers in Dawson St. Between these visits to Dublin it was noticed that McCann was in close touch with the local leaders in his own County.

On 25th March McCann visited Maryborough and went on to Dublin where he spent the evening of that day in the Volunteer offices in Dawson St. with a number of other leaders.

Next day he attended a large meeting of the General Council of Volunteers at which all the leaders were present. He was again at Volunteer headquarters on 12th April.

On 22nd April, 1916, two days before the Rebellion, McCann paid another visit to Dublin but his movements on this occasion cannot be traced. He was seen going towards Tipperary in a motor car accompanied by a stranger on Sunday 23rd April. After this he disappeared and what part, if any, he took in the actual rebellion is not known. There were rumours that his motor car passed Portumna and was seen in the neighbourhood of Clarenbridge where rebels attacked the police barracks but there is no confirmation of this. Immediately after the rebellion he was arrested in Dublin as a leading Sinn Fein suspect and after being detained for some time in Richmond Barracks he was interned at Frongoch. He was released with a number of others on 31st July, 1916.

For a considerable time after his release he appeared to take no part in Sinn Fein affairs.

In March, 1917, he acquired an interest in a large farm at Adamstown, near Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. In July he is alleged to have stated that he feared the Dublin Sinn Feiners might again resort to physical force of which he was not in favour, but that he would like the best settlement he could get. Shortly afterwards he was appointed Gaelic League organizer to the Munster Council.

Speaking at a fete under the auspices of the Cuman na MBan, or womens' Sinn Fein Club, at Limerick on 15th Sept. 1917, McCann said he thanked God England was not yet out of her difficulties. From this time on he seems to have resumed his Sinn Fein activities, and two days later he met De Valera at Goold's Cross and accompanied him to Cashel. He again began to travel about the country frequently visiting Cashel, Limerick, Dublin, Waterford, Galway and Wexford. On his journeys / he



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he was seen to interview leading local suspects.

On 6th December he attended and spoke at a Sinn Fein meeting at the Mansion House, Dublin, on the Food campaign which the Sinn Fein party was then undertaking.

Just prior to this he was elected representative for East Tipperary on the Executive or Governing Body of the Supreme Council of Sinn Fein in Dublin. On 8th December he visited Thurles and had an interview with a Volunteer leader and with a local suspect there.

On 19th December he attended a meeting of the Supreme Council of Sinn Fein in the Mansion House, Dublin, and did not return home till some days later.

On 8th January, 1918, he again visited Dublin and attended a meeting of the Central Executive of the Gaelic League at Rutland Square.

On 24th January he went to Waterford to meet Arthur Griffith, Vice-President of Sinn Fein and Mrs. Connolly. He attended a Sinn Fein Concert in the Theatre Royal the same evening. Two days later he visited Dundalk in company with Cornelius Collins and John O'Hurley, two Sinn Fein leaders.

On 2nd Feby, he arrived in Dublin where he attended a further meeting of the Central Council of the Gaelic League, returning next day to Cashel.

On 19th April McCann paid a visit to Sinn Fein Head Quarters in Harcourt St., Dublin, returning home the same evening.

He was next observed in Limerick on 4th May and left there cycling to visit some suspects at Portumna, Co. Galway.

On 18th May he was arrested and again deported to Usk Prison whence he was afterwards removed to Gloucester Prison.

There can be no doubt but that McCann had fully resumed his Sinn Fein activities some time after his release from Frongoch and that he was a trusted leader fully in the confidence of the others.

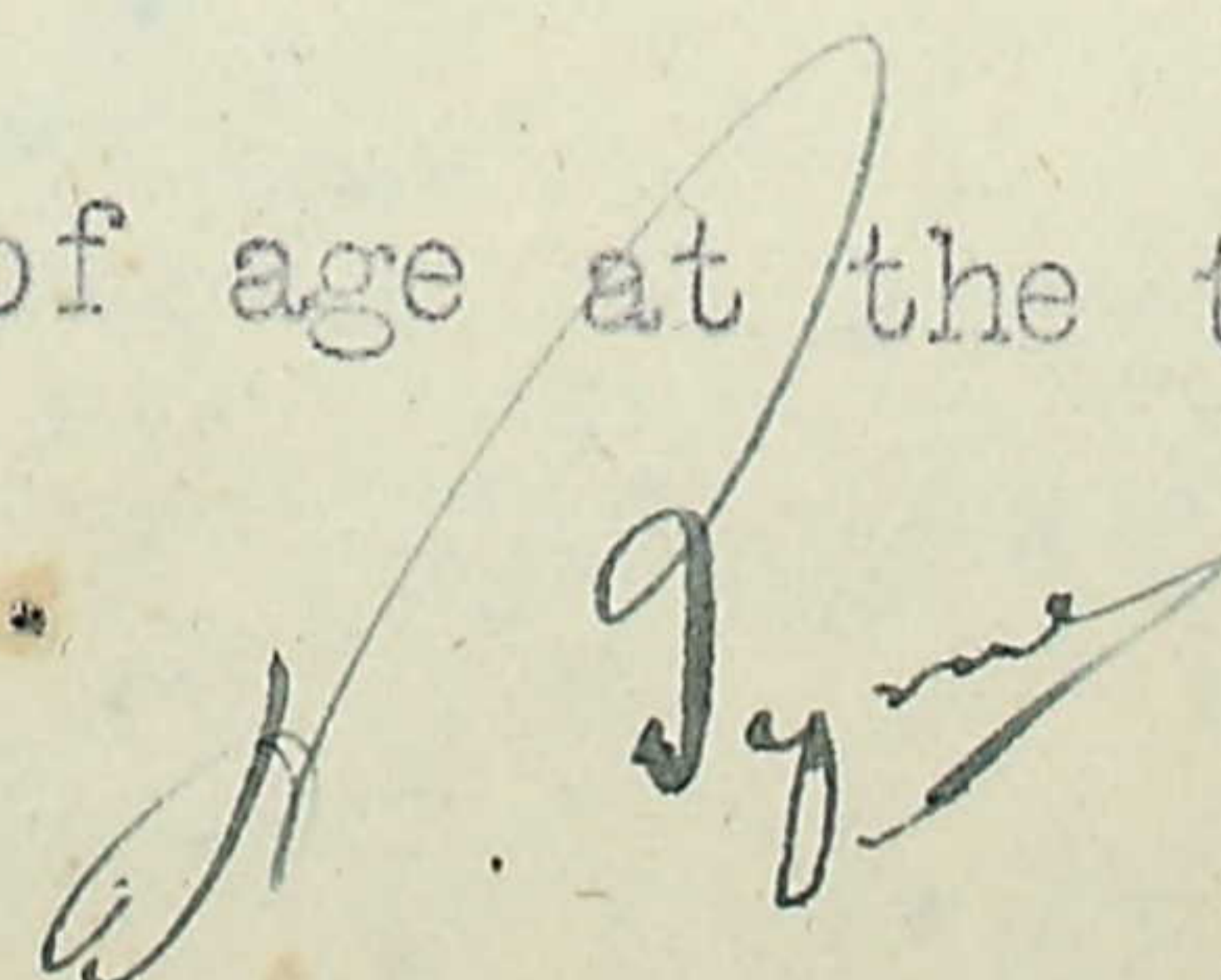
He again came under notice forming Sinn Fein Clubs and addressing public meetings.

Early in August, 1917, he met De Valera and John McNeill and spent some time in private conversation with them in the Granville Hotel at Waterford. Prior to this he had been canvassing for De Valera in East Clare.

In September, 1917 he was unanimously selected Editor of the "CLAIDHEAM SOLUS", an organ of the Gaelic League. He was again in close communication with all the local extremists in his own and the adjoining Counties and it is impossible in a brief summary to give a list of all his interviews with these persons.

During his internment in Usk Prison in December, 1918, he was elected Sinn Fein M.P. for the Eastern Division of Tipperary.

McCann was about 34 years of age at the time of his death.



14th March, 1919.

INSPECTOR GENERAL.



