

GENERAL ORDERS.

1920 (New Series)

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,

NO. 9

19th. June, 1920.

POLICE FORCE.

1. Increasing demands are being made on the Volunteers for police services owing to the destruction and evacuation of the alleged "police" force of the enemy and the rapid development of the Civil side of responsible Republican Government. The General Executive of the Irish Volunteers have therefore agreed to place at the services of the Dail, under Officers specially appointed for the purpose, a police force voluntarily recruited from the ranks of the Volunteers. Police bodies so formed will be subject to the control and direction of the local Company Captain and the higher Volunteer Officers.

The object in forming this police force is to deal effectively with the detection and prevention of crime and the exposure of offenders, without involving Volunteers generally in this work. Interference will be avoided in personal or party disputes, and in matters that are not definitely criminal or disturbing to the community.

2. It is proposed to make the following appointments forthwith:-

- (a) A Brigade Police Officer whose duty it shall be to control all police action in the Brigade area, sift all charges, and direct arrests.
- (b) A Battalion Police Officer who shall be the General Executive Officer in police work in his area, superintending arrests, and providing places for custody and courts.

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(c) A Company Police Officer who will be assisted by 3 or 4 specially suitable men chosen for permanent police work, and in special cases by additional members of the Company, who shall have previously notified their willingness to help in such work, and of whom a roll will be kept. Such additional police help will be requisitioned through the Company Captain.

3. You will proceed at once to appoint the Brigade, Battalion and Company police officers, and notify the Adjutant General of all such appointments made. For the present where it is thought desirable to do so, the additional duties may be assigned to existing members of a Brigade, Battalion and Company Staff.

4. You will also submit any suggestions you desire to make in connection with the proposed scheme, either as it affects your Brigade area or generally, and state the definite number of police you consider shall be appointed in your area. This number should be made as small as possible.

5. After the appointment of the officers in question, all police-work in your area will be carried on through them, and arrangements should be made to circulate to them all reports of robberies, etc. and information re suspected persons. Any Volunteer, however, coming on criminals redhanded is instructed to intervene as effectively and as tactfully as possible. Suspected offenders will be arrested only on the order of the Brigade Police Officer after the evidence against them has been carefully sifted by him. On arrest they will be brought before a Court of Enquiry appointed by the Brigade Commandant, on the requisition of the Brigade Officer of Police, from among the officers of the Brigade.

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Where an offender is found guilty, the restoration of the damage done must be insisted on as far as possible. Pending the development of a criminal department by the Dail, no punishment will be inflicted, but the convicted parties will be retained in custody until the following Sunday, and publicly paraded after the principal Mass, their name and address and offence being publicly announced. The matter should also be formally reported to the Chairman of the County Council and to the local District Council. Where for special reasons, this is not considered adequate, the offenders should be retained in custody, and a report of the proceedings at the Court of Enquiry forwarded to Headquarters for instructions.

All cases dealt with should be reported to Headquarters. The proceedings of the Court of Enquiry should be recorded in writing and this record should be sent to Headquarters.

By Order.

ADJUTANT GENERAL.