

Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC

File Title: Chief of Staff Reports to the Executive Council of Dail Eireann, 1923-1930

Scope and Content: This collection consists of reports to the President and Executive Council of Dáil Éireann, the forerunner of the Taoiseach and Cabinet, for the purpose of apprising them of contemporary military matters. The 1923 reports consist of radio and telephone reports from the Army's Reports and Statistics Section, arranged by date and forwarded with covering note attached from the office of the Commander-in-Chief, General Richard Mulcahy, to the President of the Executive Council. The first file in this collection, dating from 1923-1924, is a less systematically organised file of letters, reports and statistical summaries (IE/MA/CREC/01). In 1924 the reports become systematic, and originate from the office of the General Officer Commanding the Forces, General Eoin O'Duffy, who was also the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána at that time. The reports from 1924 were compiled in the aftermath of the Army Crisis, and are rich in information of an intelligence nature. This includes, for example, a list of names and addresses of suspected agents of the Northern Irish government. The remaining reports span the tenure of Lieutenant General Peadar MacMahon, Lieutenant General Dan Hogan, Major General Sean MacEoin and Major General Joseph Sweeney. There is a noticeable change in content in the reports from mid-1926, and it is notable in the report for May 1926 that the Chief of Staff comments on his concern about the handover of responsibility for internal espionage to An Garda Síochána. After this, the reports no longer refer to matters of a national intelligence nature. The reports were circulated to all members of the Executive Council, and the reports in this collection originated variously from the offices of the President of the Executive Council, the Minister for Industry and Commerce, the Minister for Justice, and the Minister for Education. There is some duplication in the collection, though identical reports from different Departments contain various additional administrative notes, documents or annotations.

Date Early: 07 January 1923

Date Late: 13 August 1930

Date (Free Text): 1923-1930

Extent: 19 Files

Description Level: Fonds

Creator:

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:



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Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-01

File Title: "General Military Reports (1923-1924)"

Scope and Content: Unlike subsequent files in this collection, this consists of various reports that does not generally appear to be systematically prepared in multiple copies for the attention of the President and members of the Executive Council. Neither were they originally arranged chronologically and remain in their original order. File does however contain some documents specifically for the attention of the President and / or the Executive Council. Subjects and record types in this file include: Irregular indemnity campaign; Reports to the Minister for Justice and Secretary considering criminal cases that fall within the remit of the Indemnity Campaign; Correspondence relating to the reorganisation of the Quartermaster General's Department; Escape of prisoners; Irregular electioneering; Statistical summaries of official reports; Press extracts and precis originating from the office of the Director of Intelligence on various national and international topics; and Intelligence reports. Also contains statistical returns of official reports for 19 Oct 1923, furnished to Ministry of Defence in the following decade, on 23 October 1934. Annotation on original file cover notes that this copy had originally been held by the Department of Justice.

Date Early: 7 January 1923

Date Late: 12 November
1924

Date (Free Text):

Extent:

Description Level:

Creator: Various Military
offices

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:

1



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Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-02

File Title: "Confidential Military Reports, February-March 1923"

Scope and Content: File consists of collected radio and telephone reports from the Army's Reports and Statistics Section, arranged by date and forwarded with covering note attached from the office of the Commander-in-Chief to the President of the Executive Council. Reports originating from Commands around the country. Also contains: a letter for the attention of each member of the Army Council titled 'A Meeting between the President, C-in-C., and the Executive of the Labour Party, consisting of:- Johnston, Farren, Shannon, O'Brien, Duffy, O'Connell, and 3 or 4 others' dated 21 February 1923; and 'copies of reports dated 20th February and 28th idem, from a Senior Army Officer of the Six-Counties Area...indicating the attitude of the Northern Government regarding arresting of all people connected with our forces, who may find their way into the Six-County Area' from the Commander-in-Chief to each members of the Executive Council and Army Council. Annotation on original file cover notes that this copy had originally been held by the Department of Justice.

Date Early: 21 February 1923

Date Late: 16 March 1923

Date (Free Text): 1923

Extent:

Description Level:

Creator: General Richard Mulcahy,
Commander-in-Chief

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:

1

Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-03

File Title: "Confidential Military Reports, April 1923"

Scope and Content: File consists of collected radio and telephone reports from the Army's Reports and Statistics Section, arranged by date and forwarded with covering note attached from the office of the Commander-in-Chief to the President of the Executive Council. Reports originating from Commands around the country. Annotation on original file cover notes that this copy had originally been held by the Department of Justice.

Date Early: 1 April 1923

Date Late: 30 April 1923

Date (Free Text): 1923

Extent:

Description Level:

Creator: General Richard Mulcahy,
Commander-in-Chief

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:

1



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Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-04

File Title: "Confidential Military Reports, May 1923"

Scope and Content: File consists of collected radio and telephone reports from the Army's Reports and Statistics Section for May 1923, arranged by date. Reports originating from Commands around the country. Also contains some statistical summaries of official reports and a letter from Lieutenant Sean Hayes of the Reports Office, Dublin District, to Commandant Smith, GSO 2 (General Staff Officer) in charge of Reports and Statistics in the Department of the Chief of Staff (7 May 1923), reporting on his having attended a meeting of Irregulars in Tuam on 5 May 1923 representing himself as a journalist from the Irish Times. Annotation on original file cover notes that this copy had originally been held by the Department of Justice.

Date Early: 30 April 1923 **Date Late:** 31 May 1923

Date (Free Text): 1923 **Extent:**

Description Level: **Creator:** Department of Military Statistics

Normal Location: A-59-D-09 **Package Number:**

Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-05

File Title: "Confidential Military Reports, June 1923"

Scope and Content: File consists of collected radio and telephone reports from the Army's Reports and Statistics Section for June 1923, arranged by date. Reports originating from Commands around the country. Annotation on original file cover notes that this copy had originally been held by the Department of Justice.

Date Early: 1 June 1923 **Date Late:** 27 June 1923

Date (Free Text): 1923 **Extent:**

Description Level: **Creator:** Department of Military Statistics

Normal Location: A-59-D-09 **Package Number:**



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Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-06

File Title: "General O'Duffy's Army Reports 1924"

Scope and Content: Contains eleven confidential reports, numbered one to eleven, to the President and Ministers of the Executive Council of Dail Eireann from the General Officer Commanding the Forces, General Eoin O'Duffy. The first report in the series dates from O'Duffy's initial commencement of the role of General Officer Commanding the Forces in the aftermath of the Army Mutiny. O'Duffy was also Garda Commissioner during this time. Subjects include: The Army Mutiny and aftermath; Present strength of the Army; Discipline and Morale; Irregular activities; Scheme and organisation of the Army; Prisoners; and Northern Ireland; and contains a significant amount of information of an intelligence nature. This set of reports belonged to the Minister for Education.

Date Early: 7 April 1924

Date Late: 30 September
1924

Date (Free Text): 1924

Extent:

Description Level:

Creator: General Eoin
O'Duffy,
General Officer
Commanding
the Forces

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:

2



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Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-07

File Title: "Army - Reports of Chief of Staff (January-December 1925)"

Scope and Content: Contains 12 confidential reports, from the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Peadar MacMahon, to the Minister for Defence, for circulation to all members of the Executive Council of Dail Eireann. March to December's reports are numbered 5 to 14 with January and February not explicitly numbered but as part of the monthly sequence constitute reports no. 3 and 4 respectively. Report no.5 notes that reports no.1 and no.2 for November and December 1924 were not circulated. Subjects include: Organisation, structure and training of the Army; Sinn Fein, IRA and Irregular organisations; Hostile espionage and organisation within the ranks; Communist and Labour activity; Criminal activity; and Northern Ireland. The report for February 1925 contains two appendices dating from 1924: Scheme of Organisation for the Engineering Service as approved by GHQ, and Duties of Divisional and Brigade Quartermasters. Also contains a copy of an Irregular Recruiting Appeal dated 9 July 1925 and a report from the Director of Intelligence on activities of the 'Republican Party,' dated 8 July 1925, for the attention of the Executive Council. These copies belonged to the President of the Executive Council.

Date Early: 15 January 1925

Date Late: 17 December 1925

Date (Free Text): 1925

Extent:

Description Level: File

Creator: Lieutenant
General Peadar
MacMahon,
Chief of Staff

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:



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Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-08

File Title: "Monthly Army Reports 1925 - Minister for Industry and Commerce"

Scope and Content: Contains 12 confidential reports, from the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Peadar MacMahon, to the Minister for Defence, for circulation to all members of the Executive Council of Dail Eireann. March to December's reports are numbered 5 to 14 with January and February not explicitly numbered but as part of the monthly sequence constitute reports no. 3 and 4 respectively. Report no.5 notes that reports no.1 and no.2 for November and December 1924 were not circulated. Subjects include: Organisation, structure and training of the Army; Sinn Fein, IRA and Irregular organisations; Hostile espionage and organisation within the ranks; Communist and Labour activity; Criminal activity; and Northern Ireland. The report for February 1925 contains two appendices dating from 1924: Scheme of Organisation for the Engineering Service as approved by GHQ, and Duties of Divisional and Brigade Quartermasters. These copies belonged to the Minister for Industry and Commerce.

Date Early: 15 January 1925

Date Late: 14 December 1925

Date (Free Text): 1925

Extent:

Description Level: File

Creator: Lieutenant General Peadar MacMahon, Chief of Staff

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:

2

Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-09

File Title: "Chief of Staff Monthly Confidential Reports 1925"

Scope and Content: Confidential reports from the Chief of Staff to the members of the Executive Council for January – December 1925, numbered 3 to 14. Subjects include: Training and organisation of the Army; IRA, Sinn Fein and kindred organisations activities; Political activities; Criminal activities; Police activities; Economic North East Ulster Boundary Commission. Also contains a small number of additional administrative sheets recording receipt of copies of the report that are not in other versions of the 1925 reports. Original folder indicates that this set belonged to the Secretary of the Executive Council, and bears the name of the Assistant Secretary, Mr Michael McDunphy.

Date Early: 15 January 1925

Date Late: 14 December 1925

Date (Free Text): 1925

Extent:

Description Level: File

Creator: Lieutenant General Peadar MacMahon, Chief of Staff

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:

2



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Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-10

File Title: "Monthly Reports from Chief of Staff - Quarterly, Half-Yearly"

Scope and Content: Confidential reports from the Chief of Staff to the members of the Executive Council of Dail Eireann and some additional material. Confidential Monthly reports for: January – November 1925; February-December 1926; January-April 1927. Covering letters note the reports for March - November 1925 as nos.5 to 13. February's report resumes at no.16, indicating that December 1925 and January 1926 are missing from the file. Numerical sequence of reports is complete to no.30, April 1927. After this, reports become quarterly. Confidential Quarterly reports for periods ending June, September, December 1927, March, June, September 1928. Reports numbered 1-6. Confidential six-monthly reports for periods ending March and September 1929. No number recorded in cover letters. Subjects include: Training and organisation of the Army; IRA, Sinn Fein and kindred organisations activities; Political activities; Criminal activities; Police activities; Economic North East Ulster Boundary Commission. Contains a letter dated 31 March 1926, from the Department of Defence to the Minister for Defence, in relation to twelve men who were until recently in Peterhead Prison and who by order of the Executive Council, regarded as having been in the Army with effect from 1 April 1922; And a report dated 30 March 1927 from General Officer Commanding the Eastern Command in relation to the ambush of a Military Patrol on the Kimmage Road on 27 March 1927. It is notable in the report for May 1926 that the Chief of Staff comments on his concern about the handover of responsibility for internal espionage to An Garda Síochána. After this, the reports no longer refer to matters of a national intelligence nature. The records in this file indicate that this copy was that of the Minister for Education.

Date Early: 15 January 1925 **Date Late:** 24 January 1930

Date (Free Text): **Extent:**

Description Level: File **Creator:** Lieutenant General Peadar MacMahon; Lieutenant General Dan Hogan; Major General Sean MacEoin; Major General Joseph Sweeney, Chiefs of Staff

Normal Location: A-59-D-09 **Package Number:**



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Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-11

File Title: "Chief of Staff's Monthly Confidential Reports 1926"

Scope and Content: Contains twelve confidential reports, numbered fifteen to twenty-six, from the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Peadar MacMahon, to the Minister for Defence, for circulation to all members of the Executive Council of Dail Eireann. Also includes acknowledgements of receipt signed by the secretaries of the offices of the President, Attorney General, Ministers for Justice, Finance, Education, External Affairs, Industry and Commerce, and Defence, with note that the original copy was held by the Minister for Defence. Subjects include: Northern Ireland; the Military Mission to the USA; Discipline and Morale; Defence Forces counter espionage; Army training; Liaison between Garda and Army; and the Air Corps.

Date Early: 14 January 1926

Date Late: 22 December 1926

Date (Free Text): 1926

Extent:

Description Level: File

Creator: Lieutenant General Peadar MacMahon, Chief of Staff

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:

Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-12

File Title: "Chief of Staff's Monthly Confidential Reports 1926"

Scope and Content: Contains twelve confidential reports, numbered fifteen to twenty-six, from the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Peadar MacMahon, to the Minister for Defence, for circulation to all members of the Executive Council of Dail Eireann. Subjects include: Northern Ireland; the Military Mission to the USA; Discipline and Morale; Defence Forces counter espionage; Army training; Liaison between Garda and Army; and the Air Corps. These copies belonged to the Minister for Industry and Commerce.

Date Early: 14 January 1926

Date Late: 22 December 1926

Date (Free Text): 1926

Extent:

Description Level: File

Creator: Lieutenant General Peadar MacMahon, Chief of Staff

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:



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Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-13

File Title: "Army Reports of Chief of Staff (January-December 1926)"

Scope and Content: Contains twelve confidential reports, numbered fifteen to twenty-six, from the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Peadar MacMahon, to the Minister for Defence, for circulation to all members of the Executive Council of Dail Eireann. Subjects include: Northern Ireland; the Military Mission to the USA; Discipline and Morale; Defence Forces counter espionage; Army training; Liaison between Garda and Army; and the Air Corps. These copies belonged to the President of the Executive Council.

Date Early: 14 January 1926

Date Late: 3 January 1927

Date (Free Text):

Extent:

Description Level: File

Creator: Lieutenant
General Peadar
MacMahon,
Chief of Staff

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:

Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-14

File Title: "Chief of Staff's Monthly Confidential Reports 1927"

Scope and Content: Chief of Staff's monthly confidential reports to the members of the Executive Council for January to April 1927, numbered 27 to 30. Reports primarily concern training and organisation of the Army. These copies belonged to the Minister for Industry and Commerce.

Date Early: 20 January 1927

Date Late: 28 April 1927

Date (Free Text): 1927

Extent:

Description Level: File

Creator: Lieutenant
General Peadar
MacMahon,
Chief of Staff

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:



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Reference Code:	IE-MA-CREC-15		
File Title:	<u>"Chief of Staff's Monthly Confidential Reports 1927"</u>		
Scope and Content:	Chief of Staff's monthly confidential reports to the members of the Executive Council for January to April 1927, numbered 27 to 30. Reports primarily concern training and organisation of the Army. Signed receipt note on paper headed from the Department of the President suggest that they were the copies belonging to that office.		
Date Early:	20 January 1927	Date Late:	28 April 1927
Date (Free Text):	1927	Extent:	
Description Level:	File	Creator:	Lieutenant General Peadar MacMahon, Chief of Staff
Normal Location:	A-59-D-09	Package Number:	<input type="text" value="3"/>



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Reference Code: IE-MA-CREC-16

File Title: "Army Reports of Chief of Staff (January 1927-[March 1930])"

Scope and Content: Monthly Reports: Army confidential reports for January to April 1927, numbered 27 to 30. Quarterly Reports: Army confidential report for quarter ending 30 June 1927 (report no.1); Army confidential report for quarter ending 30 September 1927 (report no.2); Army confidential report for quarter ending 31 September 1927 (report no.3); Army confidential report for quarter ending 31 March 1928 (report no.4); Army confidential report for quarter ending 30 June 1928 (report no.5); Army confidential report for quarter ending 30 September 1928 (report no.6). Half-Yearly Reports: Army confidential report for half year ending 31 March 1929 (report no.1); Army confidential report for half year ending 30 September 1929 (report no.2); Army confidential report for half year ending 31 March 1930 (report no.3). Subjects include: Personnel; Organisation, Administration and Equipment; Disposition of Troops and Evacuation of Posts; and Education and training. These copies belonged to the President of the Executive Council.

Date Early: 20 January 1927

Date Late: 13 August 1930

Date (Free Text):

Extent:

Description Level: File

Creator: Lieutenant
General Peadar
MacMahon;
Lieutenant
General Dan
Hogan; Major
General Sean
MacEoin; Major
General Joseph
Sweeney, Chiefs
of Staff

Normal Location: A-59-D-09

Package Number:

3



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Reference Code:	IE-MA-CREC-19		
File Title:	<u>"Chief of Staff's Six-Monthly Reports Half Year ended 31 March 1930"</u>		
Scope and Content:	Confidential six-monthly report to the Executive Council for half year ended 13 March 1930. Primarily refers to organisation and training of the Army. This copy belonged to the Minister for Industry and Commerce.		
Date Early:	31 March 1930	Date Late:	13 August 1930
Date (Free Text):	1930	Extent:	
Description Level:	File	Creator:	Major General Joseph Sweeney, Chief of Staff.
Normal Location:	A-59-D-09	Package Number:	<input type="text" value="3"/>



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