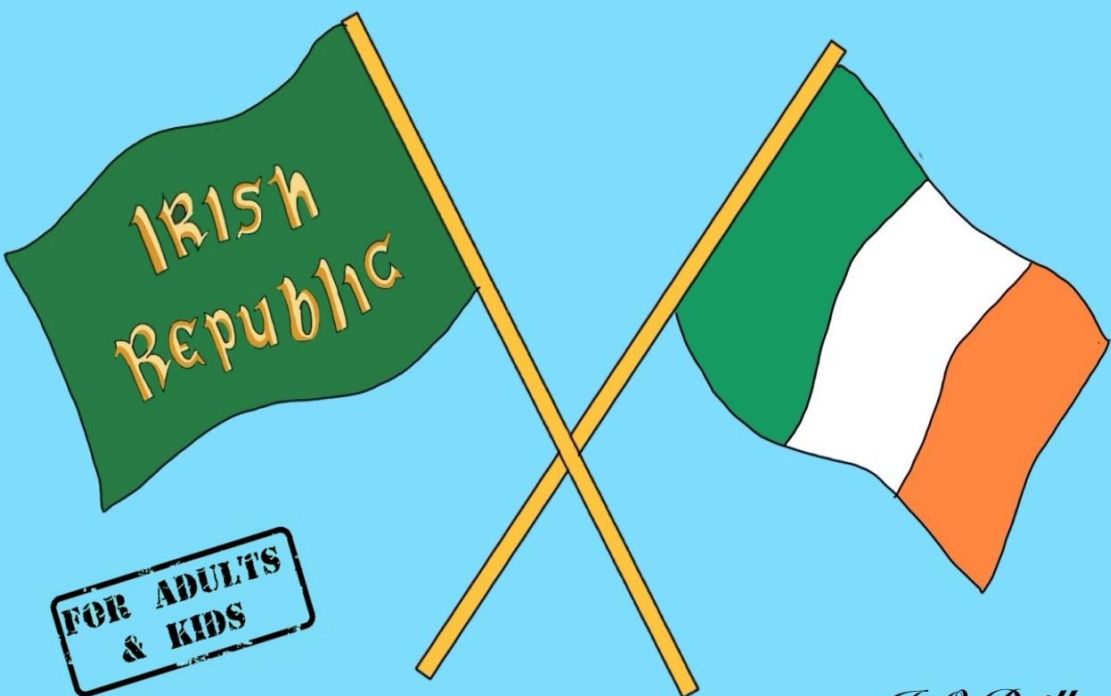


SIMPLIFIED HISTORY

THE

1916

RISING



**FOR ADULTS
& KIDS**

J. O Reilly

SIMPLIFIED HISTORY

THE 1916 RISING

Written & Illustrated by J. O' Reilly

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Dear Reader

This is a simplified but detailed account of the 1916 rising with lots of little drawings. It's for those of you who want to know the whole story without hours of study (about 40 minutes reading). I've done lots of research and verified all the facts I'm giving you. Hope you enjoy it.

Best Wishes

J O Reilly

Easter 1916

A group of poorly armed rebels led by poets, teachers and idealists took on the most powerful empire in the world. Six days later, Dublin city centre was in ruins, thick black smoke rose above the remains of what used to be one of the finest streets in Europe, dead bodies lay everywhere, the leaders had been captured and would soon die. The rising had failed, or had it?

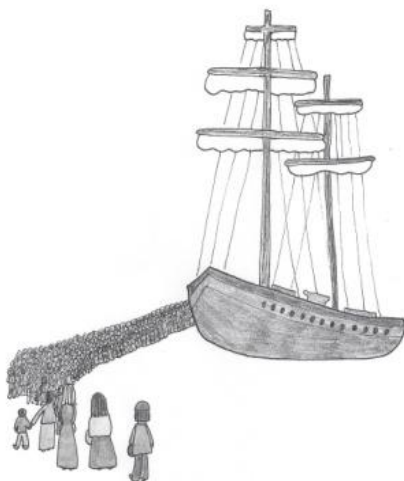
Part 1 Background

Brief History of Ireland from 1169 to 1916



England first invaded Ireland in the Middle Ages and spent centuries trying to subdue it. Hundreds of laws were passed ensuring that Catholics (& other non Anglicans) couldn't practise religion, own property or anything of value, get an education, have a profession, enter politics etc. These laws created appalling poverty and visitors in the 1700s & 1800s describe the Irish as the poorest people in Europe. This of course caused a hatred of

Britain which was greatly increased by the Great Famine of the 1840's when the government gave very little help to the starving people. Some historians claim that Britain looked on it as a golden opportunity to clear the land. Millions died and millions emigrated, taking a hatred of Britain with them and setting up Irish nationalist organisations abroad. Over the centuries there were many rebellions and the wish for a 'free Ireland' never died. In 1867 there was a rebellion by a revolutionary group called the Fenians and this and the rebellion of 1798 were often spoken of.



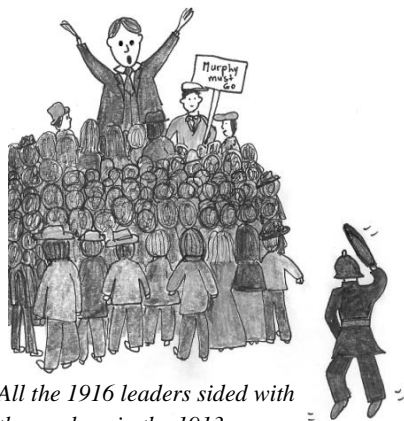
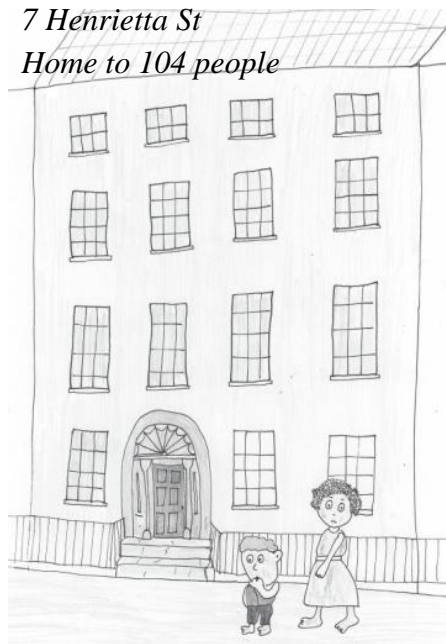
Conditions in Ireland in 1916

Ireland had always been a thorn in the side for Britain, with constant agitation about land, conditions and freedom. Britain in an attempt to pacify Ireland improved conditions. By 1916 there was a prosperous Catholic middle class and a fairly prosperous farming class. However there were still lots of very small farms, badly off farm labourers and workers. The west of Ireland was very poor.

The working class, especially unskilled workers, had very hard lives. The Dublin slums, where 40% of the city people lived, were the worst in Europe. 20,000 families had only one room to live in. 60% of children died before the age of 10. Whiskey was cheap and drunkenness a big problem. Huge numbers of destitute women tried to make a living as prostitutes. In the early 1900s the Trade Union and Socialist movements tried to make conditions better for workers and got some concessions but there was huge opposition to unions especially those for unskilled workers. In the '1913

Lockout' factory owners banded together to lock out all union workers (20,000 people), causing great hardship. 4 people were killed and hundreds injured, due to police brutality. In 1914 the workers, on the brink of starvation, were forced back to work. The suffragette movement was active here and there were several women's groups; many of them helped in 'The Lockout' by setting up soup kitchens. Newspapers were the only media and most of the political, socialist, nationalist and cultural groups had one.

7 Henrietta St
Home to 104 people



All the 1916 leaders sided with the workers in the 1913 lockout

Gaelic Revival

From the late 1800s there was a revival of all things Irish. Poets, writers, artists and the theatre all played a part. There were classes and clubs everywhere for Irish games, literature, song, music, dance and learning the Irish language..

The GAA and Gaelic League had branches everywhere. There was lots of socialising with

constant ceilis, games and concerts. Some of the working class were involved but few of the very poor. The Gaelic revival included Catholics and Protestants and led many into the nationalist organisations. (All of the 1916 leaders were involved in this)

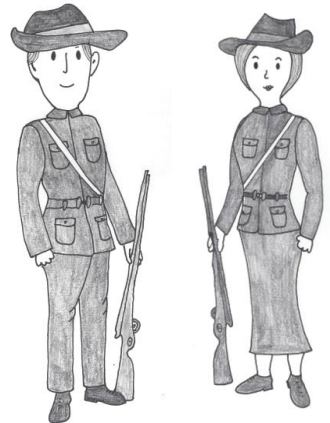


IRB (Irish Republican Brotherhood)

There were lots of nationalist organisations here, some in favour of violence, some not. In looking at the 1916 rising, the IRB is the important one. It was a secret group which had evolved from the earlier Fenians and was in favour of violence to achieve freedom. From 1907 it was revitalised with new leaders and young blood and infiltrated all the other nationalist organisations.

ICA (Irish Citizens Army)

In 1913 the Irish Citizen Army was formed to protect striking workers and soon became an armed group dedicated to establishing a socialist republic. It allowed women as equals; ICA women could wear skirt or trousers. There was a scouts group also trained with guns.



Nationalist Groups Abroad

Most of the millions of Irish who went abroad joined Irish clubs and societies, many of them revolutionary. These groups raised awareness and funds for Ireland as well as sending arms. Clan na nGael (USA) under John Devoy provided most of the funding for the rising.

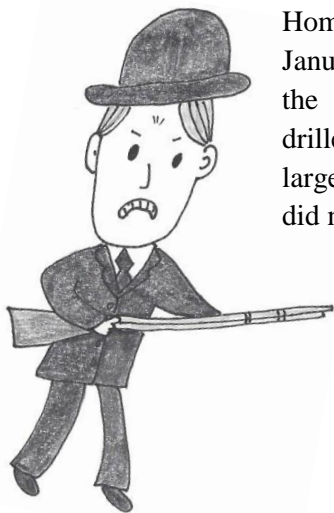
Home Rule

Ireland was ruled directly from London. The British frequently said that the Irish as a race were “unfit to govern.” The Irish Parliamentary Party, under John Redmond, had been working for Home Rule for decades. They wanted a parliament in Dublin but still wanted to be part of the British Empire. In 1912 a form of Home Rule was finally passed which gave Ireland its own parliament but no control over foreign affairs, defence or taxes. This was to come into effect in September 1914, (The Irish Parliamentary Party were on the side of the employers in the “1913” lockout and against votes for women).



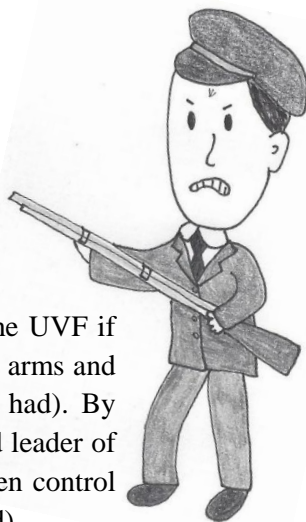
UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force).

Home Rule was bitterly opposed by Unionists and in January 1913 the UVF was formed to stop it by force if the government tried to implement it. They openly drilled and in spectacular defiance of the law imported large amounts of arms and ammunition. The authorities did nothing. 90,000 men had joined by early 1914.



IVF (Irish Volunteer force)

In November 1913 the IVF was formed to oppose the UVF if they tried to stop Home Rule. The IVF also imported arms and ammunition, (but only a fraction of what the UVF had). By 1914 over 75,000 men had joined and John Redmond leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party demanded and was given control of it (Many IRB members objected but were overruled).

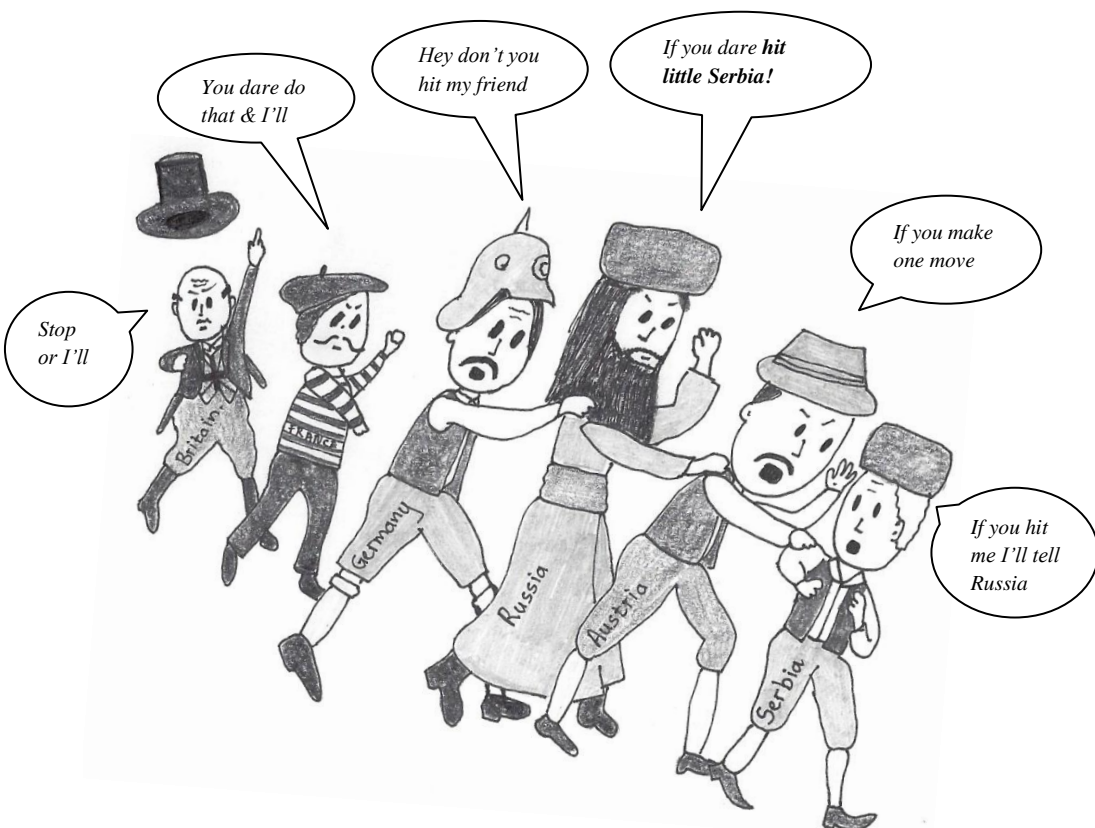


Threat of Civil War

Civil war seemed on the cards. Herbert Asquith the British Prime Minister tried to get the two sides to compromise. Scared of the UVF he talked of excluding the North from Home Rule. Nothing had been sorted when World War 1 broke out in August 1914 and all sides agreed to postpone negotiations until after the war.

World War I

Germany was clearly the aggressor in World War II, but World War I is much more complex, and was caused by a complicated set of alliances. Germany was on the opposite side to Britain, so Irish nationalists (IVF and IRB) decided to ask Germany for help.



Ireland's Reaction to World War I

IS YOUR HOME WORTH FIGHTING FOR?



John Redmond, the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party and the IVF, called on the IVF to join the British Army (believing a show of loyalty would help Home Rule). Tens of thousands of IVF men did. Large numbers of unionists also joined.

Many poor men joined the British army because it meant a substantial increase in income (their wives were paid a separation allowance). British propaganda persuaded many men to join up. As well as scaring people of a German invasion, the British kept talking

about the freedom of small nations, even though they were oppressing several small nations including Ireland.

The rush to join the British Army made nationalists despair and they campaigned against it.

IVF Split

John Redmond's call to arms split the IVF and the vast majority left with him to form the National Volunteers. Eoin MacNeill, a UCD history professor became the new leader of the IVF. The new IVF were firmly against joining the British army and prepared to resist conscription by force. They trained diligently. Many IRB were in positions of power in the new IVF.

Cumann na mBan 1914

This was formed by women who wanted to take an active part in the fight for freedom and support the IVF. Everyone learned first aid, drill and how to load and clean guns; some learned how to shoot. They campaigned against joining the British Army.



Planning a Rising

The leaders of the IVF and IRB agreed that a rising would take place if conscription was introduced, or if there was an attempt to suppress nationalist organisations. IRB members held many positions of power in the IVF.

Formation of the IRB Secret Military Council



In 1915, the IRB Supreme Council, formed a small secret Military Council, to make plans in case they needed to rebel. Unknown to the rest of the IRB the Military Council decided that there would be a rising no matter what, and that they would use the IVF as their army. They wanted to put Ireland on the world stage, by rebelling and “holding their positions for the minimum time which is legally required to launch a claim to independence, as stated in international law.” They thought that as Britain was busy with the war the timing was good and that even if they failed it would revive nationalism. All of the IRB Military Council were influential in the IRB and in the IVF.

The mood in Ireland before the Rising

In 1915, the funeral of an old Fenian, Jeremiah O’ Donovan Rossa, became a huge nationalist spectacle, with groups parading in uniform, and thousands of mourners. It was here that Padraig Pearse made his famous speech claiming that “Ireland unfree will never be at peace”.

Due to empire building, many European countries had built up huge armies, this and new technology created a long and terrible war. By 1916 people had begun to realise the awful reality of war; numbers joining the army had fallen and the threat of conscription had increased the numbers in the IVF. Bishop Daly of Limerick condemned Redmond for asking men to join the British Army; he said that the Home Rule being offered was only a pretence at Home Rule and would never come to pass. Nationalists were delighted



Liberty Hall, trade union headquarters



Unlike the IRB; James Connolly and the ICA were not at all secretive. They printed revolutionary leaflets, carried guns and by 1916 were openly calling for a rising (they were also making bombs in the basement of Liberty Hall). Afraid that Connolly and the ICA would start their own rising, the

IRB Military Council met with him in January 1916 and persuaded him to join them. Germany had been persuaded to send arms for the IVF. The date was set for Easter Sunday 1916, a day planned by the IVF for manoeuvres. IVF officers all over Ireland had agreed to take their orders from the IRB Military Council, and not from Eoin MacNeill their leader. The ICA, IVF, IRB and Cumann na mBan all had Protestant members as well as Catholic.

The 7 Members of the Secret IRB Military council

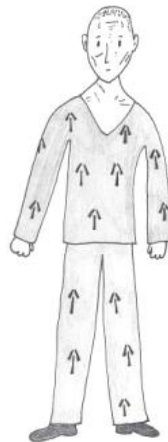
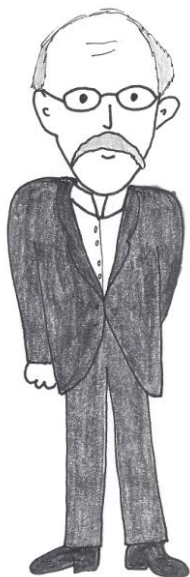
Thomas Clarke

Fenian, tobacconist, ex-convict, writer, inspirational leader.

Tom was born in England to Irish parents (his father was a

British Army corporal). He moved to Ireland when he was 7 and joined the IRB when he was 20. He lived for a while in the USA. He was sent to Britain by Clan na nGael USA, on a bombing campaign. He was betrayed, arrested and spent 15 years in prison. Conditions were brutal for Fenian prisoners with constant punishment. When he was released (a shadow of his former self) he met and fell in love with

Kathleen Daly. She was a dressmaker from a Limerick nationalist family, and 20 years younger than him. They married and lived in the USA for a while, returning to Dublin in 1907. Tom with Kathleen's support, began working towards a free Ireland. He was an inspirational leader to the younger generation and helped revitalise the IRB.



Sean MacDiarmada (stage manager of the rising)

Tram conductor, newspaper manager, orator.

Sean was the son of a Fenian carpenter born in a small cottage in Leitrim. People described him as handsome, sincere, witty and humble. Before moving to Dublin he worked in Scotland and Belfast. He was very critical of the Catholic Church's historic opposition to nationalism. He helped revitalise the IRB, and moved IRB men into prominent positions in the IVF and other organisations. He was the stage manager of the Rising, and good at uniting people of different beliefs. In 1912 he was sick for a year with polio and afterwards walked with a stick. He spent time in jail for speaking out against joining the British army.



Padraig Pearse (Commander in Chief, Irish forces)

Poet, writer, dramatist, teacher, orator,



Padraig was from a liberal, prosperous, Dublin family. He qualified as a barrister but decided to work as a teacher. He called the education system "the murder machine" and opened a bilingual school, (St Enda's 1908) to introduce a more creative system. Up to 1912 he was a 'Home Ruler' but became convinced that Ireland could only win freedom by violence. Shocked by the 1913 lockout he became more socialist in his thinking. When he asked Thomas Clarke how far he could go with his speech at O Donovan Rossa's funeral, Tom told him to make it 'hot as hell' which he did.

*The fools, the fools, the fools! they have left
us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds
these graves, Ireland unfree, shall never be
at peace*

James Connolly (Commandant General Dublin forces)

Socialist, trade union leader, writer, orator, active feminist.



Born in Scotland, to poor Irish parents, James started work at the age of 11. He joined the British Army at 14 and spent several years in Ireland, hating the injustices he saw here. He left the army and met Lillie Reynolds, a Dublin governess to a wealthy family, whom he married. He believed in equal rights for everyone regardless of class or sex. He devoted his life to fighting for the poor and oppressed, as a socialist and trade unionist. He was self educated and became a writer and great speechmaker. His wife Lily fully supported his work, even though this often meant that they and their children were extremely poor, and sometimes hungry. They lived in Ireland, Scotland and the USA, and he travelled extensively on lecture tours. He moved to Dublin in 1910 to work for the trade union movement. He condemned the Catholic Church for not being supportive to Trade Unions. He abandoned some of

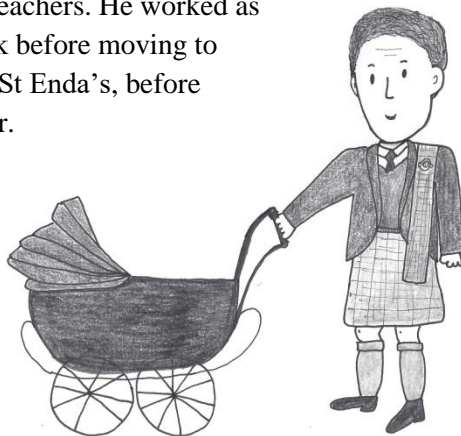
his socialist principles to join the 1916 Rising, believing that freedom from Britain would be the first step towards a Socialist Republic.

Thomas MacDonagh (Commandant 2nd Battalion)

Poet, dramatist, writer, singer, feminist.

Thomas was the son of Tipperary schoolteachers. He worked as a teacher in Tipperary, Kilkenny and Cork before moving to Dublin. He helped Padraig Pearse found St Enda's, before moving on to become a university lecturer.

He was described as kind, good looking, and witty. In 1912 he married Muriel Gifford, the beautiful daughter of a wealthy and artistic Dublin family. Muriel had spent some time as a nurse, and was involved in charity work. After the births of each of their 2 children she was ill. He only joined the Military



Council a short time before the Rising. He was very supportive of Feminism, and one of the first men to wheel a pram through the streets of Dublin.

Joseph Plunkett (Director of Military Operations)

Poet, playwright, military strategist.

Joseph was from a wealthy Dublin family. As a teenager he got TB so spent a lot of time abroad for his health. In between bouts of sickness he managed to study math, science and philosophy, become a keen roller-skater and graduate from UCD. He studied military strategy and street fighting, and planned this part of the Rising with James Connolly. He was one of the people who went to Germany to look for help for the Rising.

Shortly before the Rising he got engaged to Grace Gifford, an artist, cartoonist, and sister of Thomas MacDonagh's wife Muriel. Grace converted to Catholicism and the wedding was planned for Easter 1916. Joseph had an operation just before the Rising to remove a growth (TB) from his neck. He left the nursing home to take part in the Rising with Michael Collins as his assistant.



Eamonn Ceannt (Commandant 4th Battalion)

Clerk, musician, Irish teacher.

Eamonn was born in Galway the son of a native Irish speaking, RIC constable. His family moved to Dublin when he was 11. He became a clerk in the British administration. He was a gifted musician and exceptional uilleann piper, once performing for the Pope. He organised music, language, and dance classes. In 1905 he married Aine Brennan who was also a clerk and a member of Cumann na mBan. He was said to be quiet, competent, and loyal. He publicly denounced Arthur Griffith for siding with the employers during strikes. He had a brother in the RIC and another in the British Army.



Sinn Fein

Around 1907, Arthur Griffith (a great writer and speaker on nationalism) joined together a few nationalist organisations to form Sinn Fein. Griffith believed that Ireland should have its own government, not just home rule, but should stay in the Empire. He believed in achieving this without violence. He spoke against joining the army and his paper 'Sinn Fein' was banned in 1914. Sinn Fein was not involved in the Rising, but was so well known by 1916 that the authorities and everyone else called all nationalists Sinn Feiners or Shinnners (after the rising Sinn Fein did become a militant nationalist group).

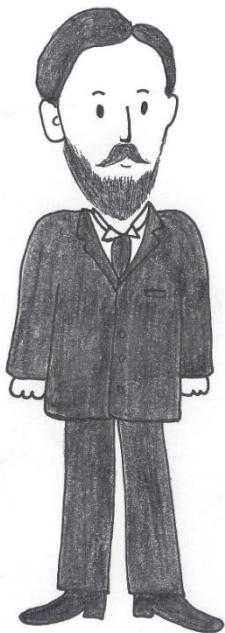
Sir Roger Casement

51 year old Roger was born in Dublin, to an Anglo-Irish family. As a British consul, he was responsible for exposing human rights abuses in the Congo and Peru, and was knighted in 1911. As a young man he had believed in the Empire, but experience changed him, and he became radically anti-Empire. In

1913 he retired, and believing that the only thing for Ireland was freedom, he threw in his lot with militant nationalists. He joined the IVF but not the IRB and wasn't a part of the military council.

"Ireland has suffered at the hands of British administrators a more prolonged series of evils, deliberately inflicted, than any other community of civilized men."

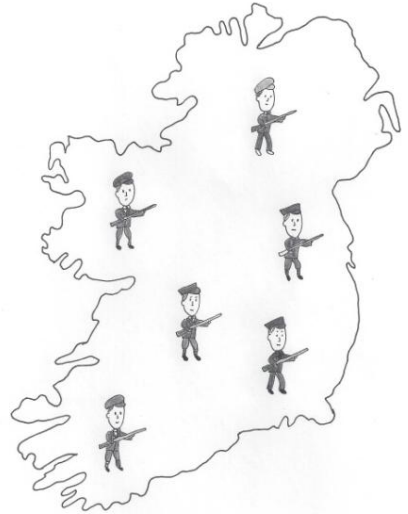
In 1914 he travelled to the USA, where he made contact with John Devoy of Clan na nGael, and with the German Ambassador. He then went to Germany, where he made various proposals for ways in which Germany could help Ireland. He was joined there by Joseph Plunkett of the IRB military council. Eventually the Germans decided that they would send a shipload of guns and ammunition, but wouldn't help in any other way. Casement felt that the Rising couldn't be successful, and wasn't in favour of it going ahead; he did however want to bring the arms for the IVF.



Part 2 The Rising

The Plan

German guns will land early on Easter Sunday morning and be sent around the country. The IVF will meet 'to parade' and once in place they will capture strategic positions and hold the country. (The IRB Military council have enough men in the IVF to make sure this happens). The head of the IVF Eoin MacNeill, and IRB man Bulmer Hobson, will be kept in the dark as they would not approve. The USA, and the rest of the world, will be kept up to date by radio.



The Lead up to the Rising

Wednesday 19th April

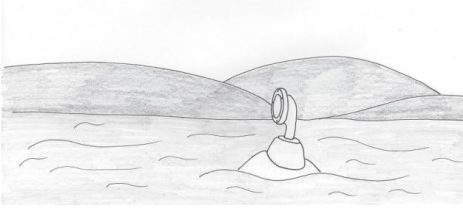
A document which has been smuggled out of Dublin Castle causes alarm; it shows plans by the authorities to arrest leaders of every nationalist organisation, and disarm the IVF and ICA - the "**Castle Document**" (it's not known whether this was real, a forgery, or a draft of a document altered by Joseph Plunkett to look like an immediate plan; historians cannot agree).

Thursday 20th April

Late on Thursday, a group including IRB leader Bulmer Hobson, tell Eoin MacNeill that they think a rising has been planned for Sunday. Pearse is confronted and confirms this.

Friday 21st April

The IRB Military Council 'arrest' Hobson' and lock him up, as they feel he is the biggest danger to their plans. They persuade MacNeill not to interfere with the Rising and tell him of the German arms on the way.



The 'Aud' (a ship carrying explosives, 20,000 rifles, 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition and 10 machine guns) and the submarine carrying Roger Casement are both

off the Kerry coast; they haven't received the message not to land until Sunday as they don't have radios on board. They cannot see each other or any reception committee (the locals are expecting them on Sunday). Roger lands on Banna Strand in a small boat and soon after is arrested. The Aud is spotted and arrested by British ships. Also in Kerry, plans to capture wireless equipment and destroy the wireless station in Caherciveen come to nothing when it's found to be guarded. Tragically some of the men on this mission die when their car drives off a pier in the dark.

Easter Saturday 22nd April

News of the Kerry disaster reaches Dublin. The IRB Military Council think that they have persuaded MacNeill not to interfere. They tell him that in light of the events at Banna, all nationalists will be arrested. Afterwards however, MacNeill becomes convinced that without the German arms the Rising will be a disaster, and that the 'Castle Document' is a forgery. He sends messengers around the country cancelling Sunday's meetings, and puts an ad in the Sunday Independent.

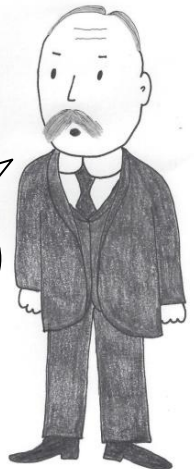
Easter Sunday 23rd April



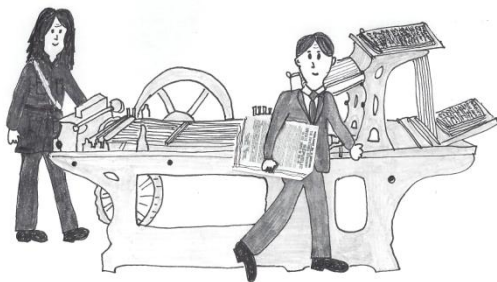
Easter Sunday morning,
meeting in Dublin

I say Nathan old chap, those beastly nationalists need to be arrested.

Contacting London today Wimborne, old boy, we'll start tomorrow.



The Rising leaders are shocked that MacNeill has called off Sunday's manoeuvres. They meet in Liberty Hall, and decide to go ahead on Monday, because "too many people have begun to smell a rat" and they are probably about to be arrested and have their arms confiscated. They plan to occupy strategic buildings in Dublin, and hold out until there is a general rising by the IVF countrywide (there are about 12,000 IVF members outside Dublin). They believe that if the Rising doesn't succeed, it will at least be an inspiration to the Irish people and encourage them to rise up and take back their independence.



Thousands of copies of 'The Proclamation of The Irish Republic' are printed in the basement of Liberty Hall. Different groups are officially joined together to make the 'Army of the Irish Republic.'

The Rising

Day 1: Easter Monday 24th April

Outside of Dublin

Most of Ireland chooses to follow MacNeill's orders, but there are rebellions in Meath Galway and Wexford (more on this later).

Dublin.

The Army of the Irish Republic

The rebel army is made up of IVF, ICA, (& ICA scouts) Cumann na mBan, a small group called The Hibernian Rifles, lots of boys from *Fianna Eireann* and some girls from *Clan na nGael*, (both are republican scouting groups trained in first aid and drill, the boys have also learned to shoot).

Rebel HQ

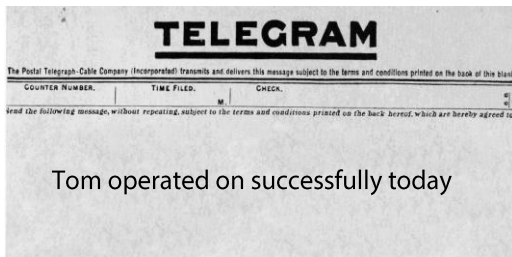
The GPO on Sackville St. (Dublin's main street, now O'Connell St) is to be the rebel headquarters (HQ). Strategic positions are taken up by other garrisons to stop troops getting to the GPO in the city centre from various barracks, and from outside Dublin.

GPO (General Post Office)



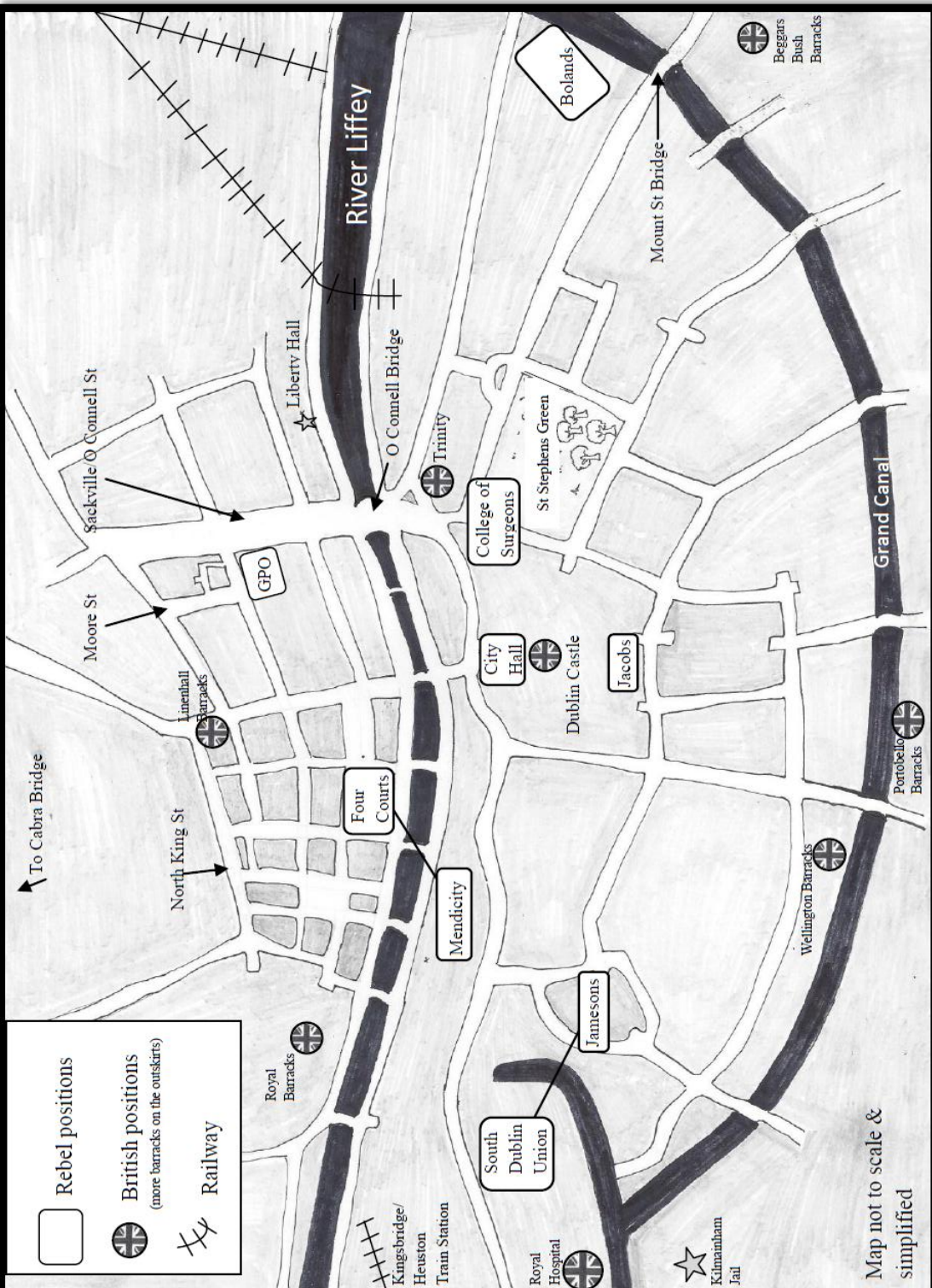
Rebel Manoeuvres

Initially, due to all the confusion, only about 1,400 people turn up for the Rising, but more come along over the next few days. There are to be 6 main rebel positions. In each position a building is chosen as HQ and this is fortified. Each garrison sets up cooking and first aid stations. Outposts are set up in nearby buildings and sometimes holes are knocked between neighbouring buildings. Snipers are sent to roofs and windows. Barricades are built in the surrounding streets to stop the movement of troops. Elaborate plans have been made beforehand but most garrisons don't have enough men to put them all in place. The rebels have home-made grenades. There aren't a lot of guns and bullets, some guns are old and faulty and they don't have machine guns.



Rebels take over a 'wireless school' and send out the world's first pirate broadcast, announcing the Rising. Tim Ring (Kerry) sends a coded telegram to John Devoy of Clan na nGael, to tell him that the Rising has started. Devoy alerts the

USA media (Tim Ring is later imprisoned). Bulmer Hobson is released in the evening having been held at gun point since Friday.



Map not to scale & simplified

GPO Area Garrison

A mixed garrison under Commandant James Connolly



**About 416 men (ICA & men from each IVF battalion) & Hibernian Rifles & 56 women of Cumann na mBan.*

About 150 people march on the GPO and take it over. The building is organised and the Irish flags raised on the roof (the flags used are on the front cover). There are 5 members of the IRB Military Council here. Pádraig Pearse, Tom Clarke, Joseph Plunkett, Sean MacDiarmada and James Connolly, (the other 2, Thomas MacDonagh and Eamonn Ceannt are in charge at outlying positions). James Connolly directs the fighting, his secretary Winnie Carney arrived at the GPO

with a typewriter and a revolver.

In the early afternoon, Pádraig Pearse steps out in front of the GPO, and reads the Proclamation. This is the first time people get a clue as to what it's all about. A small crowd of puzzled people listen to him. Copies of the proclamation are posted up all over the city.

The proclamation has been written mostly by Connolly and Pearse, with input from MacDiarmada and MacDonagh. It reads a little like a poem. It declares the right of the people of Ireland to the land of Ireland. It guarantees civil and religious freedom and equal rights and opportunities to all citizens (women and 70% of men didn't even have a vote in 1916).

Outposts are set up in nearby streets and buildings including the Metropole Hotel, Imperial Hotel and Clery's Dept. Store. 'Separation women' (those on a separation allowance because their husbands are abroad fighting in the war) gather outside and shout abuse for a while.

** Numbers given are for all those who served in a garrison. At the start of the week the numbers were much lower especially in the GPO. The Fianna boys are included with the men and the Clan na nGael girls with the women.*

POBLACHT NA h EIREANN. THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unqualified control of that right by a foreign people and government has no avowed right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty, six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades in arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

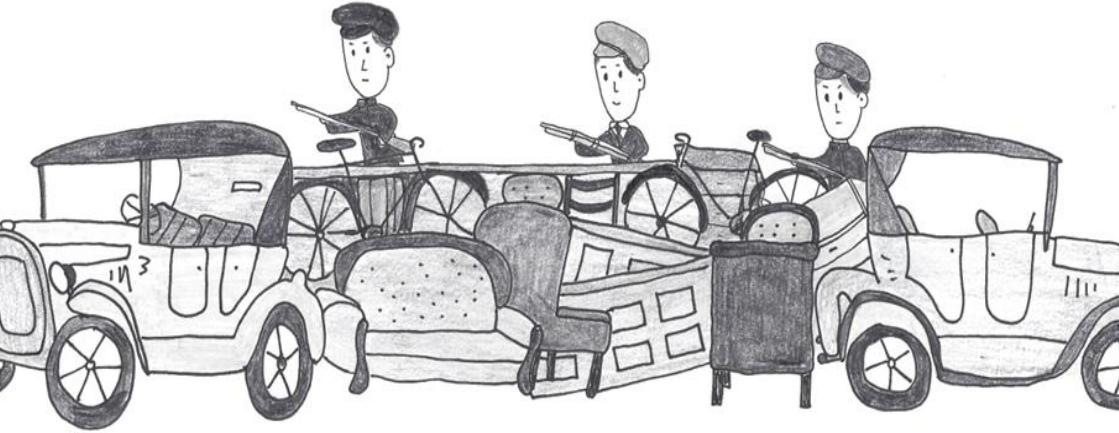
The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and abolishing all the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whom we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valor and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,
THOMAS J. CLARKE,
SEAN MAC DIARMADA, THOMAS MACDONAGH,
P. H. PEARSE, EAMONN CEAUNT,
JAMES CONNOLLY, JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

In the afternoon a group of British Cavalry rides up Sackville/O Connell St, the rebels fire on them, killing 4 and they retreat. By late afternoon the city centre is in rebel hands.



Barricades are built of anything that is to hand and include cars, rolls of lino carpet, clocks, bicycles and furniture.

Civilians



In the chaos the desperately poor people from nearby slums begin looting, the rebels fire over their heads, but give up when it doesn't work. People steal food but also things they could never dream of buying. The first victim is a sweet shop. Little girls hug teddy bears and dolls as if they can't believe their luck. Later diamond rings and gold watches are selling for sixpence and a shilling around the city. The looting



continues every day and is totally out of control by Thursday. Over 425 people are later arrested, 398 are imprisoned or fined.

Four Courts Area Garrison (HQ at Fr Matthew Hall)

1st battalion IVF & Cumann na mBan under Commandant Ned Daly.

About 306 men & 34 women (with an extra 24 men at the Mendicity Institute and 8 at Cabra Bridge)

This garrison is under Ned Daly, the younger brother of Kathleen, Thomas Clarke's wife. They attack a passing convoy of British soldiers who settle down behind a barricade of their own lorries and return fire (these troops are not rescued for 3 days).

Mendicity Institute

A small group from the 1st battalion (led by Sean Heuston) set up an outpost in the Mendicity Institute, across the river from the Four Courts. Their job is to stop British troops for a few hours to give the Four Courts garrison time to settle in. Shooting begins shortly afterwards as the British try to pass.

Cabra Bridge

Some men are sent to hold Cabra Bridge to stop troops coming in from the north.



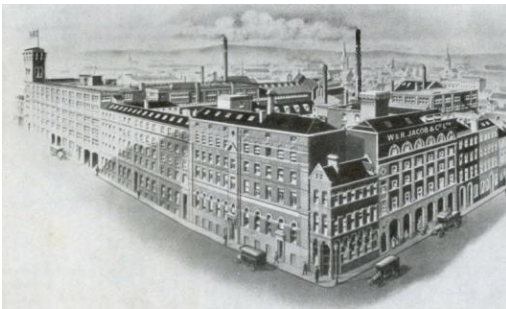
Ned Daly in full IVF uniform, many men had only part of the uniform and some had no uniform

Jacob's Area Garrison

2nd battalion IVF & Cumann na mBan under Commandant Thomas MacDonagh

About 188 men & 10 women.

Jacob's dominates an area between 2 military barracks and has 2 high towers.



Snipers are able to cover a large area. Michael O Hanrahan, the original second in command, yields his place to John MacBride, an experienced soldier who has joined the Rising that morning. MacBride directs the fighting. A group of British military on the way to Dublin Castle are put to flight.

Boland's Bakery Area Garrison

3rd battalion IVF under Commandant Eamonn de Valera

About 177 men



This battalion has to try to stop troops getting from the port to the centre, by rail and road. Outposts are set up in Boland's Mills and covering the railway lines. The rebels on the railway lines are attacked by British troops but hold them back.

Outpost at Mount St. Bridge

Led by crack shot Mick Malone, a small group take positions in houses overlooking this bridge over the Grand Canal. They shoot at a group of British reserve volunteers killing 4.

Eamonn de Valera is a USA born math professor. In spite of orders from Connolly & Pearse he will not allow women at Boland's.

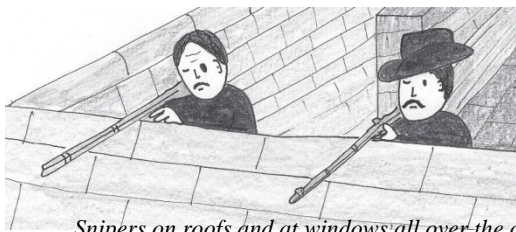
South Dublin Union Area Garrison

4th battalion IVF & Cumann na mBan under Commandant Eamonn Ceannt ***218 men & 21 women***

The South Dublin Union, a poorhouse, is a warren of buildings and passages on 50 acres, surrounded by a high wall. It is impossible to clear it, so some inmates are moved to a building draped with a Red Cross flag (a nurse and some inmates are later killed in cross fire, and when fighting takes place in the wards). Outposts are set up in nearby distilleries.

Eamonn's job is to stop troops getting to the city centre from the nearby train station and barracks. He chooses excellent defensive positions for his men so that the army will find it hard to take. Their first target is 30 soldiers moving towards the city, they open fire and the soldiers take cover; after this the fighting is continuous.

Outpost at Jameson's Distillery in Marrowbone Lane



This is held by Seamus Murphy with 50 men and Rose MacNamara with 21 women. Snipers on the roof fire on passing troops and on those storming the South Dublin Union.

Snipers on roofs and at windows all over the city make it difficult for British troops to get around

St. Stephen's Green/College of Surgeons Garrison

ICA under Commandant Michael Mallin (a weaver and ex-British soldier)

142 men & 19 women



St. Stephen's Green, a park in the city centre, is taken over. Trenches are dug and some of the surrounding buildings occupied. Numbers are small, so they can't occupy all the key buildings. Constance Markievicz is second in command here.

City Hall Garrison

ICA under Captain Sean Connolly

46 men & 10 women

Sean Connolly,
clerk, actor, GAA
star, father of 3.



This small brigade of men and women under Sean Connolly, (with Dr Kathleen Lynn second in command) try to get through the gates of Dublin Castle, and kill an unarmed policeman. They fail, fall back, and take City Hall and some surrounding buildings. Connolly is killed on the roof. The military assault City Hall but are driven back, shooting is non-stop. Because it is so



near to Dublin Castle the British are determined to take it. That night there's a sudden bombardment of machine gun fire and shortly afterwards the British break through the back. Over the next couple of hours they take the building. An outpost at the Evening Mail office is still held by the rebels.

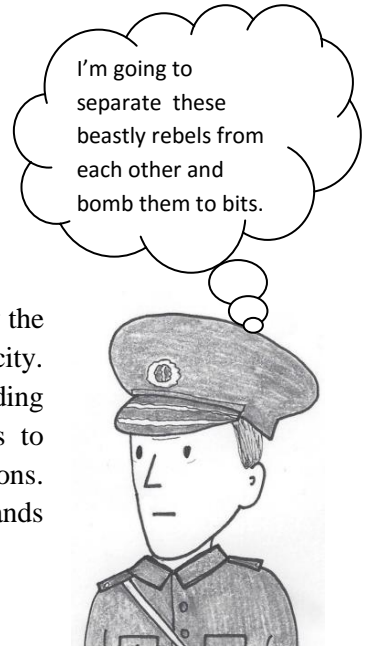
Women from Cumann na mBan, boys from Fianna and girls from Clan na nGael carry messages, food, and ammunition between posts.



British Manoeuvres

The authorities meeting in Dublin Castle to make a list of those to arrest, are taken totally by surprise. The unarmed Dublin Metropolitan Police are pulled off the streets after some are killed. The rebels haven't taken the Central Telephone Exchange so the authorities can communicate to order help.

The train stations and ports haven't been taken by the rebels, and it is easy for British troops to get to the city. Late on Monday night, reinforcement arrive, including General Lowe who takes charge. He sends troops to Dublin Castle and sets about isolating rebel positions. Dublin Castle and Trinity College are in British hands giving them good positions in the city.



Day 2: Tuesday 25th April

MARTIAL LAW DECLARED

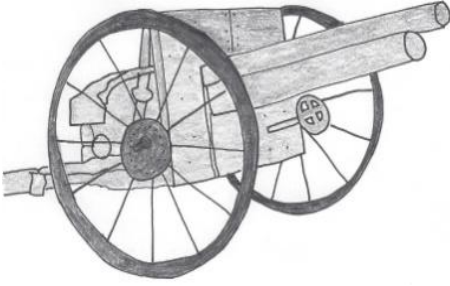
If it looks like you're carrying a gun you will be shot

If you have any information on the rebels you must tell the authorities

If you enter the battle zone you are likely to be killed

British Manoeuvres

Martial Law has been declared in Dublin (this alienates moderate nationalists).



There are now about 1,000 British troops in the city, mostly housed in Trinity College. Barricades are set up in the streets, to stop the rebels moving around. The 'big guns' (artillery) are set up outside Trinity College aimed at Sackville/O'Connell St. and the shelling

begins. Shelling the city will destroy it, and yet the government have given the military their full support to do this. The British also have machine guns and incendiary bullets which set fire to whatever they hit.

GPO Garrison under James Connolly

The rebels are shocked by the shelling, they thought that the British would use soldiers to attack them, rather than destroy 'The Second City of the Empire'. The GPO garrison spend the day reinforcing their positions, and put barbed wire on the streets to discourage civilians. There is shooting at some of the outposts. A Swedish and a Finnish sailor have arrived to help fight against the British, in sympathy with the fight of a small nation against a tyrant.

Groups of IVF (some from the country) keep arriving to the GPO. Tom Byrne from Louth, and Lucy Smith of Cumann na mBan, meet for the first time, they will later marry.



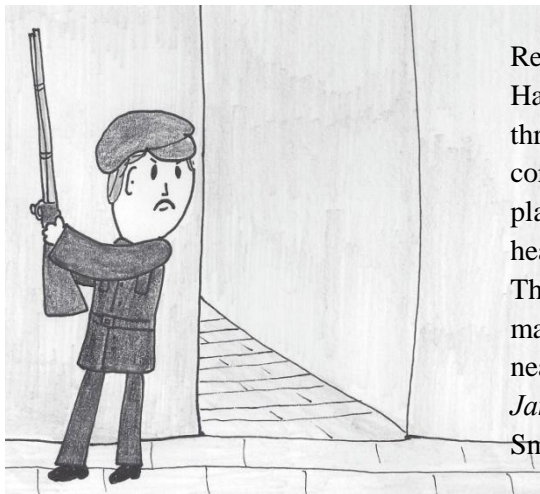
Jacob's Garrison under Thomas MacDonagh

Jacob's is surrounded by a mob howling abuse, mostly 'separation women'. The only action for the garrison is sniping. General Lowe decides not to try and take Jacobs, as it would be difficult to get artillery into position, due to the warren of little streets and houses around it. The outposts are attacked and forced to pull back to Jacobs.

City Hall Garrison

Some of this garrison are still holding the evening mail office.

South Dublin Union Garrison under Eamonn Ceannt



Repeated assaults are driven back. Hand to hand fighting has gone on through the night, in a maze of dark corridors and innumerable hiding places, and continues all day, with heavy casualties on both sides. They are also being raked by machine gun fire from the roof of a nearby British post.

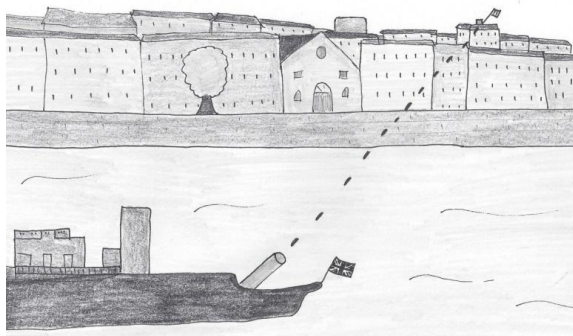
Jameson's Distillery Outpost

Sniping continues here.

Four Courts Garrison under Ned Daly

The Four Courts is in the way of Lowe's communication line, so he begins to shell it and to attack the approaches using machine guns and artillery. By Tuesday afternoon the attack is intense. The rebels are driven out of some of their outposts and forced to pull back to the Four Courts. The rebels end up taking lots of prisoners. The men in the *Mendicity Institute* and at *Cabra Bridge* are still hanging on.

Boland's Garrison under Eamonn de Valera



The Helga gunboat sails up the Liffey to shell the Boland's garrison. It spends most of its time shelling an empty building, on which the rebels have put a republican flag. Sniping and intense street fighting at the outposts continues.



Stephen's Green/College of Surgeons Garrison under Michael Mallin

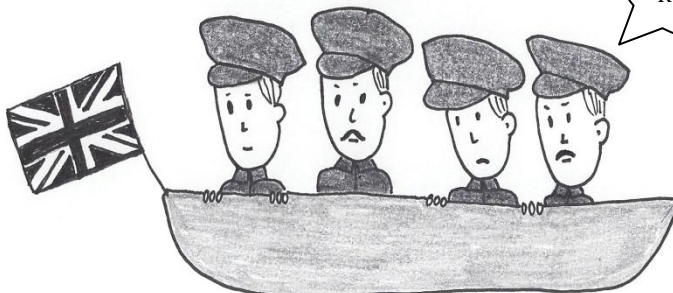
On Monday night, British troops slipped into the Shelbourne Hotel and when it becomes bright they start shooting down on the rebels in The Green. Surprisingly only 4 of the rebels are killed. Mallin orders a retreat to the College of Surgeons. This is barricaded and snipers sent to the roof. There is constant shooting across The Green. The Stephen's Green Park Keeper appears and calmly walks in to feed the ducks, both sides stop shooting (he does this every day).

Day 3 Wednesday 26th April

The Rising is now being covered by the New York Times.

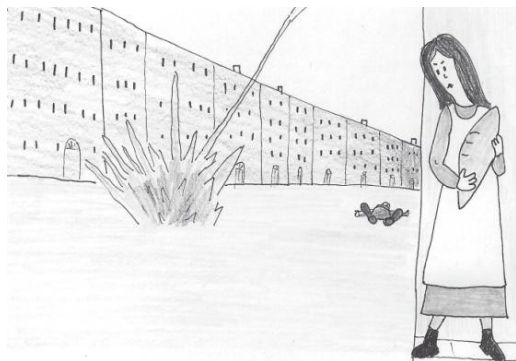
British Manoeuvres

General Lowe decides to concentrate on the GPO and Four Courts, and begins to encircle the city centre. Reinforcements of men, guns and artillery arrive by train and ship. Passing British troops are cheered by upper class crowds at the RDS Spring show. The Helga gunboat moves up the river and begins to shell the city centre and Liberty Hall (which is empty). 3 innocent civilians who were arrested on Tuesday are executed (a well-known pacifist Francis Sheehy-Skeffington and 2 journalists)



Civilians

All shops are now closed in the city centre, so it is impossible to get food.



Civilian casualties mount. When the shelling of the GPO and Four Courts begins the city centre becomes very dangerous. Large numbers of poor people live here and are trapped in their homes; some have no food and are forced to brave the streets for a loaf of bread, risking death at every turn.

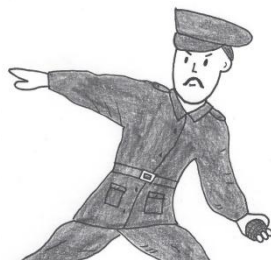
GPO Garrison under James Connolly

British troops in the Gresham Hotel in Sackville/O' Connell St, and rebels in the GPO, have been engaged in a ferocious sniper battle for several hours. The GPO is under fire from machine guns mounted on the roof of Trinity College and is being constantly shelled. British troops reach O' Connell Bridge making it easy to fire on the GPO. The crash of shells is almost constant and the street is being pulverised. The area around the GPO is still in rebel hands, but outposts to the north have been forced back. The noose is in place.

Four Courts Garrison under Ned Daly

Mendicity Institute

Sean Heuston and his men are being attacked by more than three hundred British troops armed with machine guns and rifles. They close in and throw grenades into the building. At first some of the rebels pick them up and throw them back, to the amazement of the British. Hoping to save the lives of his remaining men, Heuston surrenders (his original job was to hold out for a few hours). When the British see how small is the group who have given them so much trouble they are furious. One of the rebels is



killed and the rest are marched to a nearby barracks where they are kicked and beaten.

Main Garrison

The Four Courts garrison capture two enemy positions and intense fighting continues in the area. When The Mendicity Institute falls, the Four Courts area is exposed to fire from across the river.

Cabra Bridge

The men can no longer hold the bridge. They leave and join other garrisons.

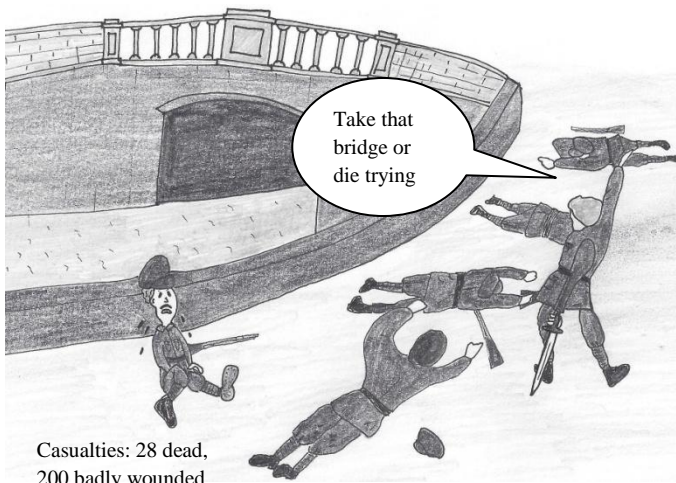
Boland's Garrison under Eamonn de Valera

There is constant sniping at Boland's with intense fighting at the outposts.

Mount St. Bridge - The Battle

Since Monday, Michael Malone (a 28 year old carpenter) and 17 men have manned 3 houses overlooking Mount St. Bridge. On this day, Mount St. Bridge sees the bloodiest fighting of the Rising. A battalion of British soldiers tries to get across the bridge to the city centre and are mown down by Malone's snipers. For the rest of the day, waves of troops, led by officers with drawn swords, charge up the road, only to be shot down; they cannot get across. (There are occasional ceasefires allowing medics to remove the wounded). Sniper fire is also coming from Boland's and the nearby railway lines. The British troops could cross at another bridge but typical of British officers of the time, General Lowe insists that this bridge be taken, "at all

costs." By evening, the road is carpeted with dead and wounded "the place is literally swimming with blood". This disregard for the lives of soldiers is very common at this time. After about 12 hours, the rebel position is stormed when the British bring up



Casualties: 28 dead,
200 badly wounded

machine guns and explosives. Four rebels, Malone among them, are killed and another captured. The rest manage to slip away.



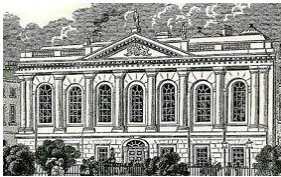
Mick
Malone

South Dublin Union Garrison under Eamonn Ceannt

Intense hand to hand fighting continues in the South Dublin Union.

Jameson's Distillery Outpost (now about 116 men & 21 women)

Con Colbert and his men who were in a nearby distillery, (Watkin's), and some men who were in Roe's Distillery, leave their posts as they aren't much good, and join the Jameson's Distillery post. They keep sniping but British troops are now by-passing them on the way to the city centre.



Stephens Green/College of Surgeons Garrison under Michael Mallin

There is constant shooting across St. Stephen's Green, with snipers at windows and on roofs. There are many injuries and some deaths.

Jacob's Garrison under Thomas MacDonagh

Jacob's biscuit factory is being saturated with machine gun fire from Dublin Castle. Hundreds of bullets are flying wildly astray in the city when they miss hitting the towers. The garrison continue sniping.



Cream Crackers were invented by Jacobs in 1885, rebels mention having eaten biscuits, while in the factory

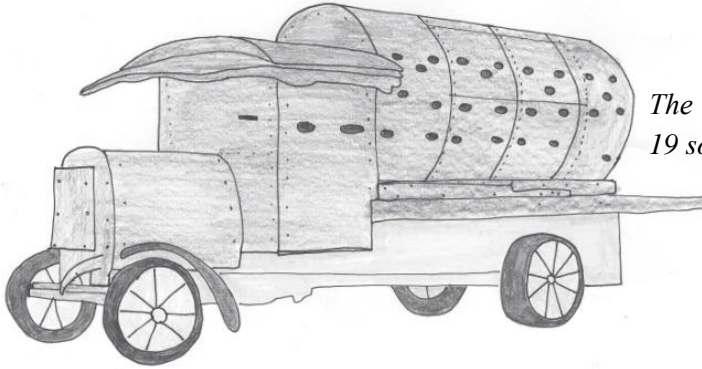
City Hall Garrison

4 ICA men from the City Hall Garrison have been holding the Evening Mail Office, they push back repeated assaults but are eventually overpowered.

Day 4 Thursday 27th April

British Manoeuvres

The British have surrounded the city and separated the rebels to the north and south of the river Liffey. They make armoured cars from Daimler flatbed lorries fitted with boilers from the Guinness brewery, metal sheeting covers



*The 'Daimler Guinness'
19 soldiers can fit inside.*

the cab. These are used to transport troops around the city. Having isolated the GPO and Four Courts garrisons, Lowe is concentrating on separating them from each other. 4000 troops are sent to the area around the GPO.



GPO Garrison under James Connolly

Buildings are being blown to pieces in Sackville/O' Connell St. and Dublin city centre is on fire. Rebels have to leave some outposts before the buildings fall. James Connolly is hit in the ankle while outside the GPO, and is unable to walk again. In spite of being in severe pain he continues to be an inspirational and effective leader. British soldiers are getting nearer to the GPO from all sides; they launch an attack into Sackville/O' Connell St, but are pushed back and stay behind barricades.

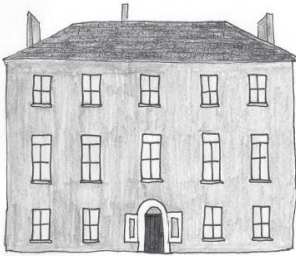
Boland's Garrison under Eamonn de Valera

There are no direct assaults on Boland's, but it is raked by machine gun fire. There is constant sniping. The street fighting at the outposts continues with the British now in control of a lot of the area.

Four Courts Garrison under Ned Daly

The Four Courts is being continuously shelled. British troops are moving in on it from all sides and there is intense fighting in the surrounding streets. By Thursday evening it is cut off from the GPO.

South Dublin Union Garrison under Eamonn Ceannt



To distract the garrison from British troops passing into the city there is a big assault on the South Dublin Union. The rebels are barricaded into the Nurses home. The British get into the entry hall but there is a huge barricade across it. They throw grenades over it and the rebels retreat. Cathal Brugha has been injured and stays behind. He sits behind the barricade in a pool of his own blood,

shooting continuously, roaring at British soldiers and singing 'God Save Ireland'. Unable to get through because of Brugha the British retreat. He has been injured 25 times, (14 bullets and shrapnel); he is not expected to live.

Jameson's Distillery Outpost

There is an assault on Jameson's Distillery but it is pushed back.



Cathal
Brugha

Stephen's Green/College of Surgeons Garrison & Jacobs Garrison

No assaults but constant sniping.

Civilians

The city is full of dead bodies, burnt out cars, collapsing buildings and dead horses. Shells are falling all over the city centre and bullets are flying everywhere. The poor people living in the centre are in desperate straits. Some venture out and are mown down by machine guns.

Day 5 Friday 28th April

British Manoeuvres



General Maxwell arrives in Dublin at 2.30am, as the new commander of the British forces. There are now 16,000 troops in the city. Almost all the action is around the Four Courts and GPO.

When I am finished there will not be a whisper of sedition in Ireland for another 100 years.

South Dublin Union Area Garrison under Eamonn Ceannt

When the British retreated the previous night they left the Union and haven't returned. The garrison reinforce their barricades and continue sniping.

Stephen's Green/College of Surgeons Garrison under Michael Mallin

Sniping continues.

Jacob's Garrison under Thomas MacDonagh

The Jacob's garrison can see that the city centre is on fire, they are expecting an assault at any minute but it never happens.

Boland's Garrison under Eamonn de Valera

The outposts are being forced to pull back to their HQ at Boland's Bakery. This garrison can also see that the city centre is on fire.

Four Courts Garrison under Ned Daly

In trying to surround the Four Courts it takes the British 2 days to travel 150 yards along North King Street. They are on one side of the street and the rebels on the other. This area is mostly private houses and the people are still in their houses. The British are breaking holes from one house to the next in order to get down the street, without coming under fire from the rebels. On Friday evening and Saturday morning they arrest lots of the inhabitants, accusing them of being rebels even though they clearly aren't. They send the women away or lock them up, and then they murder 15 men, including a 16 year old boy (shooting and bayoneting them). The British bury and hide some of the bodies.

Tom Hickey and his son Christy are taken to an empty house and killed, Mrs Hickey finds the bodies of her husband and only child the next day.



Ned Daly's men are still in control in the area immediately around the Four Court's, but they are surrounded. There is intense fighting, with the rebels shooting from roof tops and houses, making it difficult for the British to advance. Outposts pull back or are separated. They are vastly outnumbered, under heavy fire from across the river, and being constantly shelled

GPO Garrison under James Connolly

The GPO area is now surrounded. The British have built barricades in the streets and set up machine guns behind them. Sackville/O Connell St is a ball



of flame. The rebels still hold the GPO and the Metropole Hotel next door. The Metropole Hotel has been on fire since last night, but the rebels are still holding on as it is in such a vital position. The British finally get a direct line to the GPO, and it is soon on fire. It starts in the roof and spreads down. The leaders

feel it can't be held. Some of the men, and women from Cumann na mBan escort wounded and prisoners to Jervis St. hospital. They are under a Red Cross flag but it is still a dangerous journey. 3 women stay on, Elizabeth O Farrell, her life-partner Julia Grenan, and James Connolly's secretary Winnie Carney.

By night it is clear that they will have to leave or burn to death, and around 8pm they decide to evacuate the GPO and the Metropole Hotel outpost. Through a hail of bullets from British barricades, hundreds run out the side of the GPO and try to find shelter in houses on Moore St. James Connolly is carried on a stretcher. Shortly after they leave the GPO collapses and the Metropole hotel burns to the ground. James Connolly is in a bad way, and puts Sean McLoughlin, a 20 year old captain, in charge. Civilians are cowering in their houses in Moore St, which is now a battle zone.

The O' Rahilly



Michael Joseph O' Rahilly is a 41 year old wealthy, well-educated, well-travelled Kerryman. He married Nancy Browne of Philadelphia in 1900 and they lived in New York and Paris before coming to live in Dublin in 1909. He had opposed the Rising with Eoin MacNeill, but when he realised it was going ahead anyway he joined the GPO garrison, saying "*I've helped to wind up the clock I might as well hear it strike*". He is shot in Henry Place on Friday, leading a charge out of the GPO. As he lies dying he writes this note.

Written after I was shot.

*Darling Nancy I was shot leading a
rush up Moore Street and took refuge
in a doorway. While I was there I
heard the men pointing out where I
was and made a bolt for the laneway
I am in now. I got more than one
bullet I think. Tons and tons of love
dearie to you and the boys and to
Nell and Anna. It was a good fight
anyhow. Please deliver this to
Nannie O' Rahilly, 40 Herbert Park,
Dublin.*

Goodbye Darling

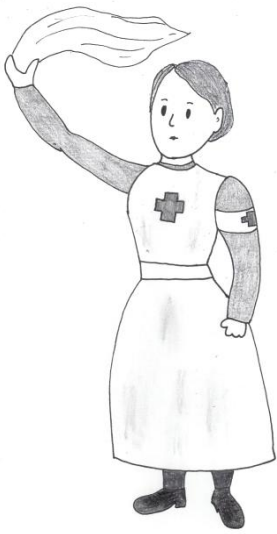
He is survived by 4 sons aged 3-12 and his pregnant wife Nancy, his last child is born 3 months after his death.

Day 6 Saturday 29th April

City centre in a noose

GPO Garrison under James Connolly

On Friday night the rebels had reached a house in Moore St. In order to avoid enemy fire, they smashed through the walls of adjoining houses eventually settling in 16 Moore St. The original plan is to try to break through to join the Four Courts Garrison, but the leaders begin to talk about surrender. They see 3 civilians with a white flag try to escape; they are mown down by machine gun fire. When they vote, Thomas Clarke is the only leader against surrender. Many of the men want to fight on, but the leaders appeal to them to look at all



the dead civilians and the destruction of the city. The leaders know that they will be executed but hope that the lives of their men will be spared. Nurse Elizabeth O Farrell is asked to take the surrender note; she steps out with a white flag into a hail of bullets. She goes to General Lowe and is told that only an unconditional surrender will be accepted. She returns and Pearse goes to General Lowe with her and signs an unconditional surrender. Pearse writes orders to all the garrisons and Elizabeth O'Farrell makes the treacherous journeys to deliver the orders (sometimes under military escort).

“In order to prevent the further slaughter of Dublin citizens and in the hope of saving the lives of our followers, now surrounded and hopelessly outnumbered, the members of the Provisional Government present at Headquarters have agreed to an unconditional surrender, and the commandants in the various districts of the city and county will order their commands to lay down arms.”

Stephen's Green/College of Surgeons Garrison under Michael Mallin

Sniping all day, on Saturday evening they receive an order to cease fire.

South Dublin Union Garrison under Eamonn Ceannt

Is left alone, they reinforce their barricades.

Jacob's Garrison under Thomas MacDonagh

Sniping continues.

Boland's Garrison under Eamonn de Valera

All men are back inside Boland's Bakery HQ, sniping continues.

Four Courts Garrison under Ned Daly



There is still intense fighting and shelling here. All outpost men have pulled back into the Four Courts which is now the HQ. In the evening the order comes from Pearse and they surrender. Local people cheer for them as they are marched away.

Prisoners

James Connolly also signs the surrender; he is taken to the hospital at Dublin Castle. The other prisoners spend the night in the open in the grounds of the Rotunda Hospital. Thomas Clarke is abused by a British officer who strips him naked to humiliate 'The President of the Irish Republic' (not surprisingly this officer is later assassinated in the War of Independence).

Day 7 Sunday 30th April

Jacob's Garrison under Thomas MacDonagh & Boland's Garrison under Eamonn de Valera

Surrender. There was never a direct assault on these 2 strong positions. Thomas MacDonagh tells the men without uniforms to slip away if they can.

Stephen's Green/College of Surgeons Garrison under Michael Mallin

Mallin tells his troops that the British know him and Markievicz so they cannot hide. He says that he will probably be shot and tells his officers to get back among the ranks as there is no point in them being sacrificed too.

South Dublin Union Garrison under Eamonn Ceannt

The 4th battalion surrender and are marched away; the locals cheer for them. The British tell Rose MacNamara that if the women denounce the rising they

can go free. They refuse and choose to be arrested with the men; they sing on the march to jail. Women all over the city choose to be arrested.



Reaction of Rebel Garrisons

The garrisons outside of the GPO cannot believe that they are being told to surrender and don't want to. They feel that they could have held out for ages. However they all agree to surrender.



Medics and Fire Brigade

Throughout the conflict, and without regard for their own safety, nurses and doctors have done what they can to attend to the wounded and dying of both sides. In Jervis St. Hospital, nurses hide wounded rebels by disguising them and putting them in the women's and nuns' wards. The Dublin Fire Brigade have been out every day, trying to put out fires, often with bullets whizzing past them.



The Rising outside of Dublin

Ashbourne (Meath)

59 IVF & 6 Cumann na mBan

A successful venture led by Thomas Ashe. 50 people capture 4 RIC barracks, and take about 90 prisoners (8 RIC men and 2 volunteers are killed). Ashe divides his men into flying columns and uses guerrilla tactics (this is later used to great effect in the War of Independence). They surrender when an order comes from Pearse.



Galway

Led by Liam Mellows, a group of IVF assemble on Easter Monday and have some skirmishes with RIC. They fall back and defend a position in Athenry for a time. They are shelled from a ship in Galway Bay. News of the rebellion being unsuccessful in Dublin, and of a large force of British on the way, causes them to disband.

Enniscorthy, Co Wexford



Paul Galligan cycles from the GPO with news of the Rising. On Thursday morning, he and Robert Brennan lead a group of IVF and Cumann na mBan, and take over the town and nearby Ferns (with no killing). Lots of locals join them. A large force of British are gathering to attack when the surrender order comes from Pearse.

Women of the Rising

The rebel leaders believed in equality, and many were active campaigners for votes for women. James Connolly's Citizens Army made no difference between its male and female members, and many of the women took part in assaults and were snipers. The Cumann na mBan women were on the bullet-riddled streets a lot, finding food and transporting messages and ammunition. Others cooked and nursed the wounded, while some who had learned to shoot were snipers in the GPO and Imperial Hotel. Before the Rising women had helped smuggle arms including bringing detonators under hats, when coming from England. Guns were transported around the city in prams.

Countess Constance Markievicz

Socialist, feminist, ICA Staff Lieutenant (second in command, Stephen's Green).

Constance is from the upper class Gore-Booth family of Sligo. She was briefly married to a Polish Count and they had one daughter (who went to live with her Irish grandmother at the age of 2). In her 30's she became an activist for women, nationalism and the poor. She helped found Fianna and the boys learned to shoot at her house. She is sentenced to death for her part in the Rising



Dr. Kathleen Lynn,

ICA Captain & Chief Medical Officer (City Hall Garrison), doctor, feminist, activist for the poor.



Kathleen is from a wealthy Mayo family. She has smuggled weapons for the rising and is an activist for the poor. She is sentenced to prison. Her life-partner Madeline French-Mullen, a Lieutenant in the Stephen's Green/College of Surgeons garrison is also sentenced to prison.

Margaret Skinnider



ICA Lieutenant, (Stephen's Green/College of Surgeons Garrison), feminist, teacher, sniper.

Margaret is a teacher, born in Glasgow to Irish parents. She is mentioned 3 times for bravery in dispatches to the GPO. On Wednesday she is badly wounded while commanding 5 men in destroying houses to cut off the enemy approach. When she recovers she is imprisoned.

Lily Kempson

Soldier in ICA , factory worker

Lily is from the Dublin slums, one of a family of 12 living in appalling conditions. She started work at age 14 in Jacob's Biscuit factory, and lost her job in the 1913 lockout. Her father and 2 of her brothers are away fighting in the war. She is involved in active fighting in the Stephen's Green/College of Surgeons area, and after the rising escapes to the USA.



Other notable women are Nellie Gifford (sister of Muriel and Grace), Helena Molony, Rosie Hackett, 15 year old Mary McLoughlin (Clan na nGael) who carried ammunition, food and messages between the garrisons and Chris Caffrey, who got through the British lines while disguised as a British War Widow, carrying messages in her mouth,(at one point she was searched and stripped so she swallowed the note).

General Maxwell says he doesn't know what to do with "all these silly little women" so most of them are released in the first few weeks. Some however, especially any who were leaders in the ICA are imprisoned.

Part 3 After the Rising

Casualties

About 485 people have been killed, half of them are civilians. 38 children have died, 3 were helping the rebels, 2 were murdered by British soldiers, and the rest were caught in crossfire.

Almost 30% of the casualties are British soldiers and policemen (about a third of them Irish) and the rest are rebels.

Reaction of Civilians

200 buildings have been destroyed and the damage runs into millions of pounds. Much of Sackville/O'Connell St. is in ruins.



The Unionist upper classes, the rich Catholics and the 'separation women' are very hostile to the rebels. These people cheered British reinforcements and now they shout abuse at the rebels being marched to prison, calling for vengeance against traitors.

Others are hostile because of civilian casualties, disruption of food supplies, destruction of the city and loss of income. The rising was planned in

secret, so when it began the ordinary civilians were astonished and dismayed. People are afraid of the authorities, given the traditional savagery with which rebellions and trade union unrest have been put down. They can't believe that Irish people could defeat the most powerful empire in the world. And yet the rebels are cheered by the crowds in some areas of the city, and many civilians of all classes, risk their lives and freedom to help the revolutionaries, hiding them from the authorities.

British Manoeuvres

Martial law is now in place all over Ireland. Over 3,400 men And 70 women are arrested, including many who had no part in the Rising. Eoin MacNeill and Arthur Griffith are arrested (Griffith had gone to offer his services at the GPO and was told that he would be of more use to them with his pen). Many are sent to prison in Britain (without trial) and the rest to Richmond Barracks.

General Maxwell is determined to teach the rebels a lesson by executing the leaders. He is delighted when Padraig Pearse mentions 'The German Expedition' in a letter to his mother. He can justify the executions with a charge of treason. Secret 'trials' of the leaders begin in Richmond Barracks 2 days after the rising ends. There are no witnesses, evidence, solicitor for defence etc.



The Executions



92 people are sentenced to death,
(91 men & 1 woman)

All the executions take place in the yard of Kilmainham Jail. Each man is blindfolded, placed against the wall and shot by a 12-man firing squad. The first executions



begin just 3 days after the Rising ends.

The Catholic hierarchy have almost all been against the Rising. The Capuchin Friars, and some other priests however visited the garrisons and are very involved with the condemned men. They spend time with them and take messages back and forth to their families. For the first 3 executions, they are not allowed to accompany the prisoners to the yard. They object strongly and are allowed to stay with the others until they die.

May 3rd Wednesday

Padraig Pearse

Commander-in-Chief & Proclamation signatory

36 year old Padraig is the first to be executed. His mother and brother Willie are on the way to see him but he is shot before they arrive. He leaves letters for them and whistles on the way to his death.



Thomas Clarke

President of the Provisional Government & Proclamation signatory



Tom at 59 is the oldest of the leaders. Tom's wife Kathleen (who is imprisoned in Dublin Castle because she refuses to denounce the Rising) is allowed to visit. He says that he is happy to die for Ireland, but hates leaving his family. Kathleen doesn't tell him that she is pregnant. She says later that the sound of the key turning in the lock as she left haunted her forever. He leaves 3 boys aged 13, 8 and 6.

Kathleen miscarries a few weeks later.



Thomas MacDonagh



Commandant & Proclamation signatory

28 year old Thomas hadn't told his wife Muriel that the Rising was starting. She made the dangerous journey to the GPO to try to see him, but he was in Jacob's, so she had to return home. He sent her several letters from Jacob's. Muriel tries to get to see Thomas before he dies, but can't get across the city; his sister, a nun, who lives nearby goes instead. A few hours before he dies he writes his last love letter to Muriel. He leaves 2 children aged 3 and 1. Muriel dies in a tragic drowning accident in 1917.



Thursday May 4th

Joseph Plunkett

Director of Military Operations & Proclamation signatory



28 year old Joseph, and his fiancée Grace Gifford, request permission to marry before his execution. This is granted (probably because she is thought to be pregnant) and they are married on Wednesday in the prison chapel. Grace returns later for the final visit, but is only allowed 10 minutes. (Grace didn't have a baby, it is not known whether she had a miscarriage, or made up the story in order to be allowed to marry). 2 of Joseph's brothers are also sentenced to death (later reprieved).



Edward 'Ned' Daly, Commandant



Commandant IVF, baker, sales clerk, singer.

25 year old Ned is from a republican Limerick family, and is the younger brother of Tom Clarke's wife Kathleen who visits him before he dies. He loved training, studying military strategy, socialising, music and singing. His dark good looks made him popular with the Cumann na mBan girls. His men say he showed great concern for the civilians in the Four Courts area, taking over a bakery and arranging for bread to be given to them.

Michael O' Hanrahan, Vice-commandant

Vice-commandant IVF, writer, journalist, proof reader, Irish teacher.

29 year old Michael is a quiet, serious man from a Wexford Fenian family. He is a talented writer and his 2 novels will be published after his death. His family think they are visiting him because he is being deported, but discover on arrival that he is to be executed the next day. His brother Harry is also sentenced to death (later reprieved).



Willie Pearse, Captain

Captain IVF, sculptor, teacher, dramatist.



34 year old Willie is Padraig's younger brother. He is a talented sculptor who has studied in London and Paris (Roisin Dubh, part of the Mangan sculpture in St Stephen's Green, is his). He left sculpting to help in Padraig's school, St. Enda's. He has always been by Padraig's side and is a committed republican, but not a leader. He is executed because he is Padraig's brother.

Friday May 5th

Major John MacBride



48 year old John, a native of Westport, was an IRB man from his youth. He led an Irish brigade fighting the British in The Boer War, (there was a lot of support here in Ireland for the Boers and 500 Irishmen fought with them. The British committed many atrocities there; the worst being the 'invention' of concentration camps. 20,000 children died in one year in these camps)

John was briefly married to Maud Gonne, the wealthy upper-class Irish activist. They lived in Paris and had one son. After a bitter divorce and custody battle, he returned to Ireland. He wasn't involved in the planning of the Rising but happened to be in the city centre on his way to lunch with his brother when he came across it. He was made second in command in Jacob's. He has no family in Dublin to visit before he dies.



Monday May 8th

Eamonn Ceannt, Commandant & Proclamation signatory



34 year old Eamonn sees his wife Aine the night before he dies, and gives her a letter for their only child Ronan, (age 9) in which he praises all who fought with him. His comrades tell afterwards of his cool leadership. Before his execution he writes

My dearest wife Áine, "not wife but widow before these lines reach you. I am here without hope of this world, without fear, calmly awaiting the end . . . What can I say? I die a noble death for Ireland's freedom. Men and women will vie with one another to shake your dear hand. Be proud of me as I am and ever was of you.



Michael Mallin Chief of Staff, Irish Citizen Army,

Ex-British soldier, silk weaver, music teacher, musician, socialist, trade unionist .

41 year old Michael is a working class Dublin man (his mother a silk winder, his father a carpenter). He joined the British army at 14 as a drummer boy. He spent 12 years in the army, 6 of them in India (fighting in Pakistan). From his letters it is clear that he does not approve of the way the British treat the local people. Just before he left he had met Agnes Hickey; they wrote to each other frequently and eventually got engaged.



They married on his return in 1903. Michael has been very involved with trade unionism, socialism and nationalism with Agnes' support. On Easter Sunday he played the flute at a concert in Liberty hall.

The night before his execution his pregnant wife Agnes and his 4 children (aged 12, 9, 7 and 2) come to say goodbye.



A priest passing by hears loud sobbing and he comes in to try to comfort them; even the guard is in tears during this visit. Michael is happy to die for Ireland; but he and his family are working class and he is very worried that they will be left destitute. In the letter he writes before his execution he requests that some of his children choose religious life; 3 of them do. His fifth child is born a few months after his death. His son Fr Joseph Mallin who visited him in his cell before his execution is still alive as of March 2016; aged 102 he lives in Hong Kong.

Sean Heuston, Captain

Captain in IVF, railway clerk, Irish teacher, leader in Fianna, & IRB.



25 year old Sean is a charming and driven young man, a fluent Irish speaker from a Dublin slum. He and his siblings were reared by his mother and 2 aunts, who manage to get them a good education (all 3 had jobs). He is a great organiser and has worked as a drill and shooting instructor at St. Enda's.

When he hears that he is to be executed he sends for his mother, sister and aunt who live nearby and his brother, a trainee-priest. He tells his mother that he is happy to die for Ireland.

Con Colbert, Captain

Captain in IVF, clerk at a bakery, leader in Fianna.

28 year old Con, a fluent Irish speaker, was born on a small farm in Limerick to a republican family. When his mother died he moved to Dublin to live with his sister. He is described as being full of life and fun, but very serious about work for Ireland. He is in love with Lucy Smith, whom he has described as "the nicest girl in Dublin" While in Jameson's Distillery he sent Lucy a packet of letters, but they got lost. He



spends the time before his execution writing letters to family and friends, but won't allow them to visit, as he thinks it will grieve them too much. He gives his priest a last message for Lucy (Lucy was in the GPO delivering messages, nursing the wounded and escorting them to Jervis St hospital. While there she met Tom Byrne whom she later married).

Day 5 Sunday May 7th

Sean MacDiarmada, Proclamation signatory.



33 year old Sean is visited by his girlfriend 'Min' Ryan before he dies. (Min was a courier during the rising). He is in great spirits and cuts off all the buttons from his uniform as keepsakes for his friends. He says

"I die...that the Irish nation may live".

James Connolly, Commandant General & Proclamation signatory



48 year old James is too sick to get out of bed, so his trial is held in the hospital in Dublin Castle. He is visited by his wife Lillie and his daughter Nora before he dies, and for the first time he hears of the executions of the other leaders. James is taken to Kilmainham by ambulance, he cannot stand so he is tied to a chair. Before he is shot, he

forgives the firing squad. He leaves 6 children aged from 22 to 11 (2 of James' daughters and his 15 year old son were involved in The Rising. His son was arrested, but luckily had been warned by his dad to give a false name, so no connection was made).



The Firing Squad

The firing squad is made up of 12 men, one of whom has a blank round. Many of those chosen are extremely nervous, a witness describes the rifles as waving like a sea of corn. Some of the rebels have to be finished off with a revolver shot to the head. A British Officer, impressed with the way the rebels face death says, "they all died like lions." A young Irish soldier is haunted by being on the firing squad and calls to Lillie Connolly to apologise for shooting James. She tells him that she knows he was only doing his job.

Executions outside Dublin

Cork, Tuesday May 9th

Thomas Kent, Commandant

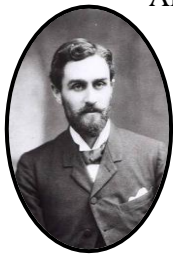
Commandant IVF, land agitator, carpenter, farmer.

50 year old Thomas spent time in the USA and on his return to Cork spent time in jail for agitation. His family home in Castlelyons, Cork is surrounded on May 2nd by the RIC and everyone is ordered to come out; they refuse. Thomas, 3 of his brothers and his elderly mother (who helps with the guns) fight them off for 3 hours until they run out of bullets. His brother Richard and an RIC officer die. Thomas, his mother, and his brothers William and David, are arrested. He is sentenced to death and requests that no Irishman be asked to shoot him; this is granted. He is executed and buried in an unmarked grave in the yard of Cork Detention Barracks. In 2015 his body is found, a state funeral held in Castlelyons and his body buried in the family grave with his brothers.



Pentonville Prison August 3rd

Roger Casement



After his arrest Roger is sent to prison in Britain. The authorities wish to execute him but are afraid to, as calls for clemency are being made by influential people. They have extracts from his diaries published which show him to be a promiscuous homosexual. In the climate of the time this causes a huge scandal and calls for clemency cease. Roger is tried for treason, and condemned to death. He isn't shot like the other leaders but hung like a common criminal in Pentonville Prison.

His body is buried in quicklime. His remains are returned to Ireland in 1965 and buried in Glasnevin; 30,000 people attended.

Aftermath

In the aftermath of the Rising, sympathy begins to swing towards the rebels. The atrocities in North King Street (which are reported in the papers), the

murder of other innocent civilians, the destruction of the city and the continuation of martial law all help to alienate the people.

The secret trials and executions begin and people are horrified, a commentator at the time described

“a feeling of helpless rage with which one would watch a stream of blood dripping from under a closed door.”

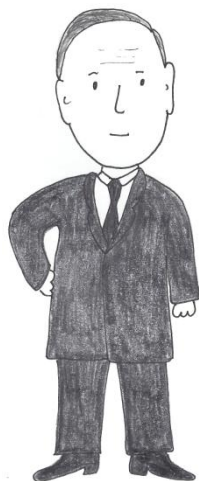
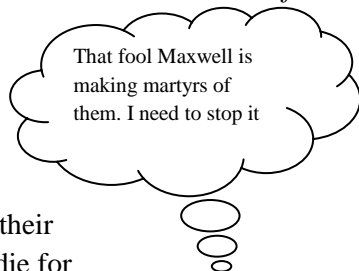
The authorities will not give the bodies of the executed leaders to the families. They dump them all in one trench, without coffins, in quicklime, at Arbor Hill Barracks.

Stories of the bravery of the leaders in the face of their executions, their high ideals and their willingness to die for Ireland quickly spread. There is public outcry here and abroad, especially in the USA, (the Rising is front page news in the New York Times for 14 days in a row).

Pressure is put on the British authorities. On May 12th Herbert Asquith the British Prime Minister arrives in Dublin and puts a stop to the executions (this is the day Connolly and MacDiarmada are executed). Eamonn de Valera is the only commandant to escape execution, Constance Markievicz too escapes. They are sentenced to penal servitude for life.

In May, the sympathy of the Church and Newspapers swings to the rebels, and by the summer the leaders have become cult heroes, with commemorative photos issued, songs written and funds raised for the families. Photos of the brave widows and orphans are in many newspapers, here and abroad.

The Rising has emphasised to the Irish people that they are a different nation to the British, one which can be persecuted and crushed if the British wish to do so. A private court martial into the executions of Francis Sheehy-Skeffington and 2 journalists, finds Captain Bowen Colthurst guilty but insane. He spends less than a year in a mental asylum and is then given an honourable discharge and full pension.



There are many calls for a public inquiry into the North King Street massacre but this is not granted. The military hold a private inquest into the murders and find that nobody is at fault. General Maxwell says that such incidents “are absolutely unavoidable in such a business as this.”



Long term Effects

All over Ireland the Rising turns moderate nationalists into hardliners and this together with the continuing martial law, threat of conscription and revulsion with World War I helps to create the conditions for a War of Independence.

Many of the families of the leaders become very involved in the struggle for independence, especially Kathleen Clarke. Cathal Brugha survives his 25 wounds. In August he is released from hospital and returns to his wife and children. He has lost part of one foot and has been so badly injured that the authorities think that he can never again be a threat (the fools, the fool!). Not knowing what to do with so many prisoners and under pressure from the media the British begin releasing prisoners, by 1918 most of them are home and the planning for the War of Independence begins.

The 1916 Rising succeeded in lighting the first spark for Irish freedom, but not without a price. Perhaps the greatest loss was that of men of vision, James Connolly in particular.

Visiting Dublin - What To See.

GPO - restored and re-opened in 1929.

South Dublin Union - now St. James' Hospital, some of the original building can still be seen.

Boland's Mills

Dublin Castle

City Hall

The College of Surgeons All as they were in 1916.

St. Stephen's Green

Mendicity Institute

Trinity College

The Four Courts - extensively rebuilt after damage in the civil war.

Mount St. Bridge and some of the houses used by the snipers can still be seen.

North King St. & Moore St - Some of the original houses still stand.

Kilmainham Jail - well worth a visit (The Nationalist Museum is here).

Jacob's - The National Archive is now where Jacob's used to be.

Boland's Bakery - The Treasury Building is now where Boland's used to be.

Bullet holes and tracks

St Stephens Green: at the front of the Shelbourne Hotel and at the College of Surgeons

O' Connell St: at the GPO and in the Daniel O Connell monument

Museums etc Many museums contain 1916 exhibits etc, check online for the latest. (many of the last letters written by those executed are on display)

***Trinity** was firmly on the side of the British in 1916. When the rising started it was locked and barricaded and the Trinity Officer Training Corps and students defended it. It was an ideal base for the British right in the city centre. They set up 'big guns' on the roof which gave them a direct line to O' Connell St.

Author: I have a degree in history and am passionate about it, especially finding stories of fascinating lives. I have used many books and sources for this booklet, one of the most absorbing being witness accounts from the Bureau of Military History (online at bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie)

J O' Reilly

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