

# 1916: The Story



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## Introduction

The Easter Rising was a very important week in Irish history, it was a hard time that was full of sadness for some families, but others thought it would be a great idea for Ireland to fight for their independence.

In the end, Britain won, but Ireland still claimed twenty-six counties for themselves, however Britain got to keep six counties, which we all know as Northern Ireland.

*This book is dedicated to everyone who risked their lives or were killed during the 1916 Easter Rising.*



## *Time line Of The 1916 Rising*

### *April 24th 1916*

The 1916 Rising begins in Dublin

### *April 26th 1916*

Jacob's Biscuit Factory is raked with bullets. Sackville Street is under fire, the killing continues.

### *April 28th 1916*

Ambush in Henry Street. The infantry men have retreated. The Metropole Hotel is under artillery fire. The G.P.O roof collapses.

### *April 30th 1916*

Easter Rising ends

### *April 25th 1916*

Artillery fire on the streets of Dublin, St. Stephen's Green is a battlefield, shocking casualties at City Hall

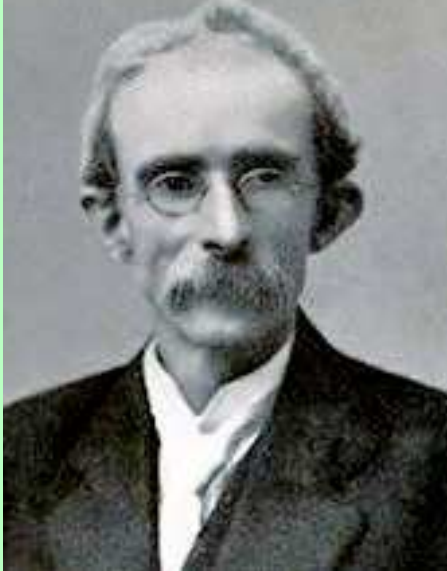
### *April 27th 1916*

Volunteers from Kelly's Fort have retreated, machine gun and rifle fire is constant

### *April 29th 1916*

Sniper fire on St. Stephen's Green. The Four Courts is holding firm.

## Thomas Clarke



Thomas Clarke was born in The Isle Of Wight. He was a shopkeeper and an expert in dynamite. His father was a soldier in the British army.

## Éamonn Ceannt



Éamonn Ceannt, born Edward Thomas Kent was mostly known for his part during the Easter Rising. He was born on the 21st of September in the village of Ballymoe, County Galway.

## Seán Mac Diarmada



Seán Mac Diarmada was a journalist from County Leitrim. He needed a cane to walk because he had a polio when he was younger, but that didn't stop him from fighting in the GPO.

## Joseph Plunkett



Joseph Plunkett was a journalist and a poet. He was born in Dublin and loved going to the theatre. He fought with his brothers during the 1916 Rising. He was also a champion roller skater.

## James Connolly



James Connolly was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was a trade union leader and founded the Irish Citizen army. He was in charge of the GPO but was shot in the leg on May 11th 1916.

## Pádraig Pearse



Pádraig Pearse was born in Dublin. He was a teacher, a barrister and a poet. He loved speaking Irish and set up an Irish school which he named 'Scoil Éanna'. He read the proclamation outside the GPO on Easter Monday.

## Thomas Mac Donagh



Thomás Mac Donagh was born in County Tipperary. He almost became a priest but became a teacher instead. He was also a poet and taught in Pádraigh Pearse' school 'Scoil Éanna'

## Eamonn De Valera



Éamonn De Valera was first registered as George De Valera but changed to Edward De Valera in the year 1910. He had a very political career and served several terms as head of government and head of state, he founded the political party: Fianna Fáil and later became Taoiseach.

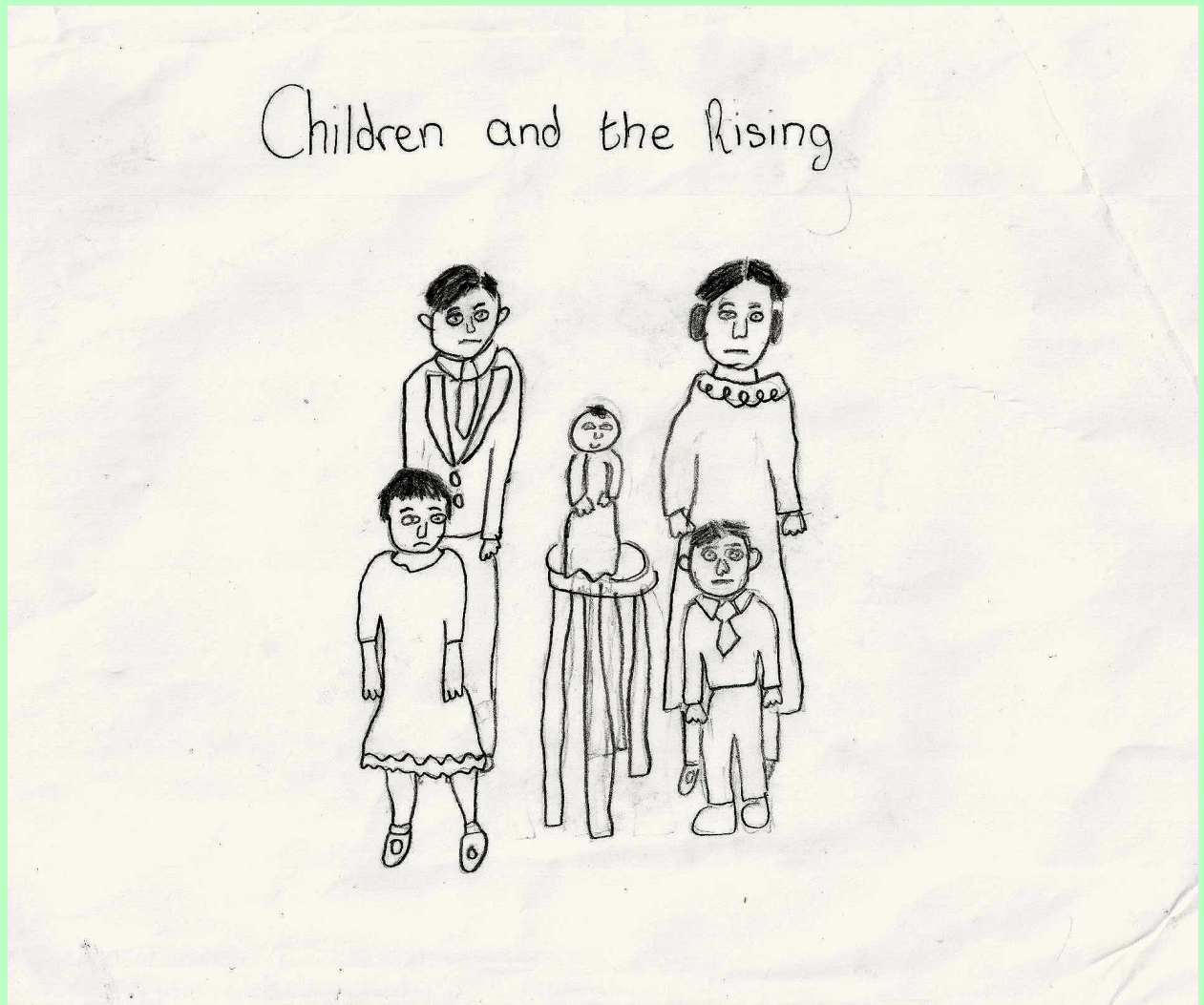
*Picture By Eoghan Mooney*



## *Children And The Rising*

Forty under 16s were shot in a week. One of the forty children, John Mc Namara, (12), was caught in the gunfire on Grafton Street and his head was blown off while peeling an orange. Another tragic death was the loss of Seán Francis Foster (2) who was shot through the head while he lay in his pram during the firefight between the rebels and the British soldiers.

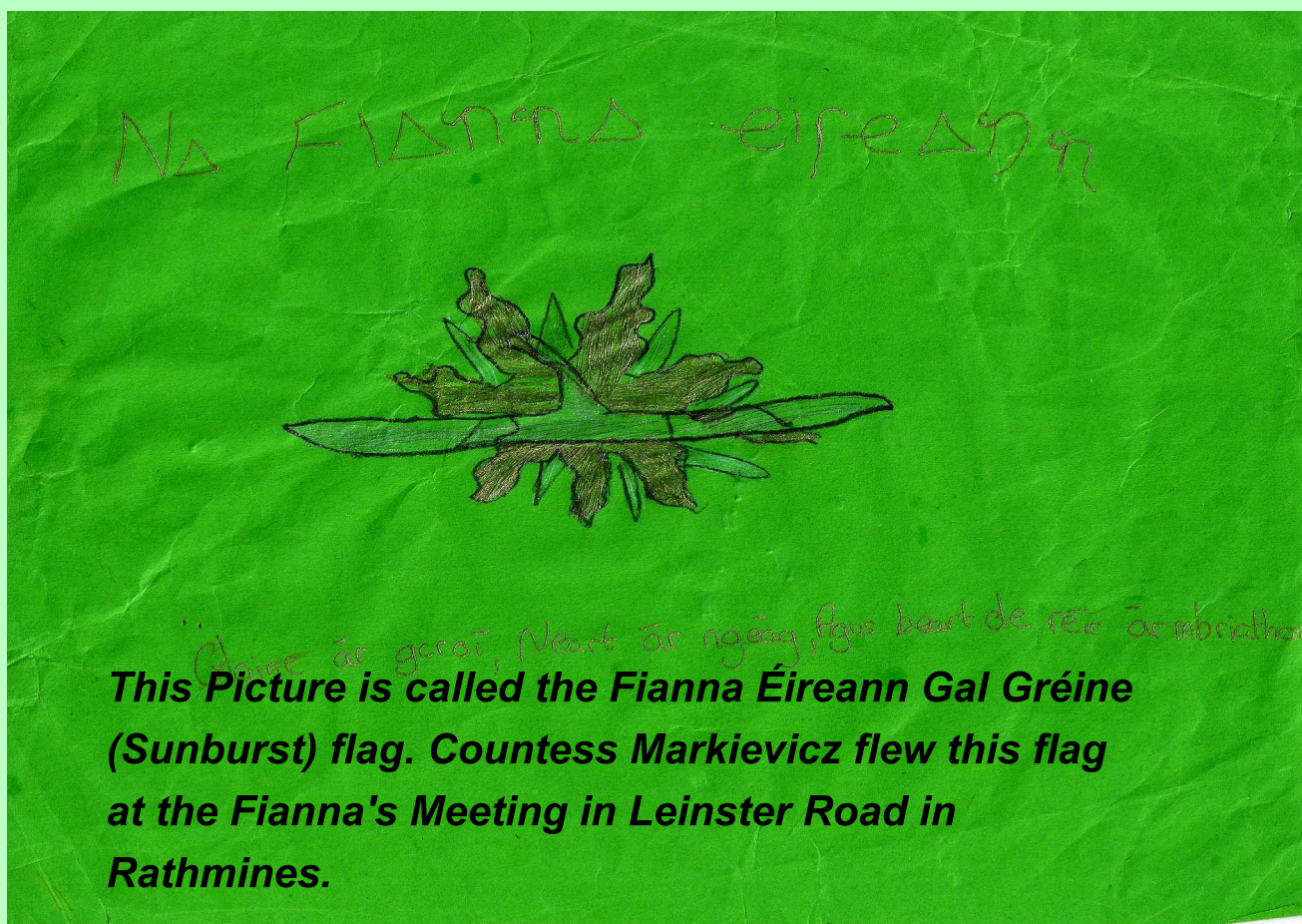
Many teenagers took part in the 1916 rising, either as messengers or in the actual fighting. Seán Healy was one of the youngest to die while fighting in the rising. He was only 14. Being a member of Na Fianna, he was carrying supplies, but was sent home by Thomas MacDonagh, who thought he was too young to be involved. On his way home, Seán was hit by a deflected bullet near his home in Phibsborough.



*Picture By Róisín O' Connor*

## Na Fianna

Na Fianna was an army for young boys, set up by Countess Markievicz in 1909. It was a bit like the scouts we know today. They learned to march and fight. They studied Irish history and Irish language.



**This Picture is called the Fianna Éireann Gal Gréine (Sunburst) flag. Countess Markievicz flew this flag at the Fianna's Meeting in Leinster Road in Rathmines.**

*Picture By Julie Plunkett*



A large group from St. Enda's secondary school in Rathfarnham joined Na Fianna and the IRB (Irish Republican Brotherhood). 15 of these joined the rebellion. The school was run by Pádraig Pearse, who once gave a new rifle as a prize for a poetry competition.

## Cumann Na mBan

Cumann Na mBan was an army of women fighting in the the rising, they wanted a better Ireland for everyone. There were chains of Cumann Na mBan set up all over Ireland at the time. Eilis Aughney was sent to lots of Cumann Na mBan meetings all over Ireland. In the summer of 1921 she was sent down to Longford and while she was there the truce was declared between Ireland and Britian. Lots of other women experienced this too.



## Women Of The Rising

Rose McNamara was a nurse in the rising, she decided to join Cumann Na mBan when she heard about it from her friend, Helena Molony. Rose made clothes for unfortunate children, learned first aid, helped in soup kitchens as well as fighting for Cumann Na mBan, many other women fought as well.

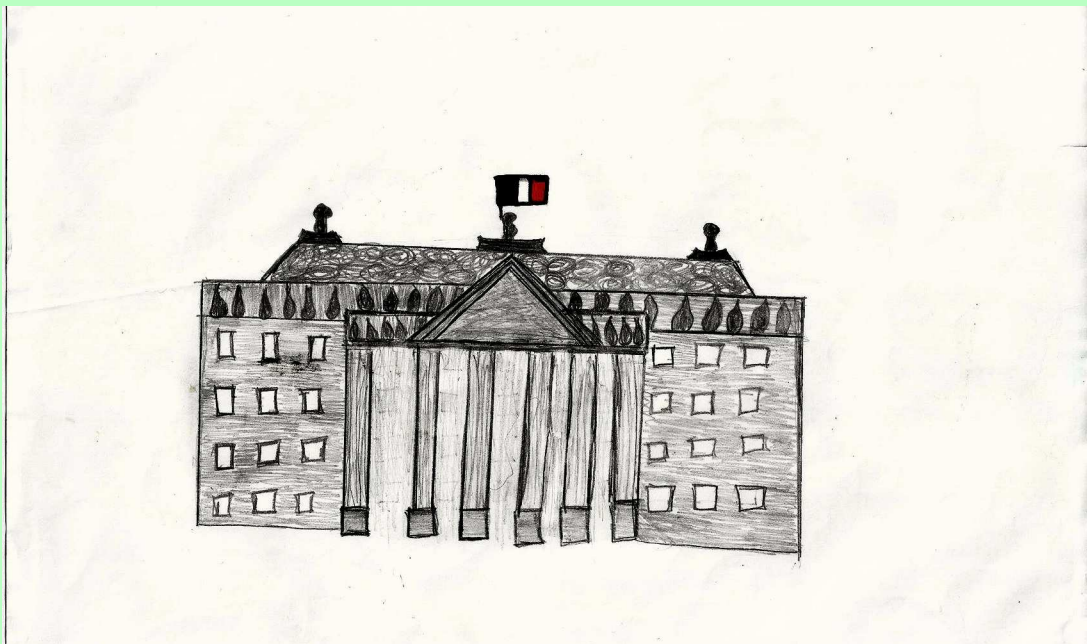
## **Countess Markievicz**

Countess Markievicz was born in 1868. She played a very important part in the rising as she commanded the Irish Volunteers as well as the Irish Citizen's Army which was in St. Stephen's Green during the rising. Later on in life, she became the first female to be elected to the House of Commons two years after the 1916 rising but refused to take her seat. She later died in 1927.



## The GPO

The GPO or General Post Office is the main headquarters of the Post Office in Ireland. It is on Dublin's main street O'Connell Street. O'Connell Street used to be called Sackville Street. The GPO was one of the most important buildings in Ireland during the Easter Rising because there were no phones to text or email so everybody used letters to communicate. If a message was urgent, a telegram would be sent. A telegram would be delivered by bicycle. Telephones were the new invention at the time. There was only two or three telephones in the GPO during The Easter Rising.



*Picture By Gemma Padden*

## *Marching To The G.P.O*

Around one thousand people marched to the G.P.O on Easter Monday 1916. They were led by James Connolly and Pádraig Pearse. A few people went to the roof of the G.P.O to take down the British flag, they replaced it with two flags; the tricolour and the old 'Irish Republic' flag. Some of the rebels went in to take over the post office. Pádraig went outside the G.P.O and read the proclamation to the public.

## *Healy And Heuston*

Seán Healy and Seán Heuston were members of Fianna Éireann. Seán Healy was living in the tenements in Dublin. He was twenty five years old during the Rising and was executed on the 8th of May 1916 in Kilmainham Gaol. Seán Heuston was born in Limerick. He worked in Kingsbridge Railway Station which was renamed 'Heuston Station' in Seán Heuston's honour.

## *The Irish Flag*

The orange in the Irish flag stands for the Irish Protestants.

The green signifies Irish Catholics and the republican cause and the white represents the hope for peace.

The Irish flag is known as the Irish tricolor. The first time the Irish flag was flown was in Waterford town in 1848. At this time Ireland was divided into two groups "The Catholics" and "The Protestants". Also at this time people were suffering from "The Famine".



## *World War I*



World War I lasted a duration of four years. Seventeen million people died in the war and twenty million people were wounded. There were two sides in the war. One side was named the "The Allied Powers" and the other side was "The Axis". There were five countries that were Allies and there was four countries on the Axis side.

## *Diary Entry 1916 Rising*

Easter Monday, 24th of April 1916

It seemed like a typical Monday morning, Father had gone out and Mother stayed at home to mind me, as well as my three other siblings, Jack, Michael and Ellen. Mother seemed very anxious, so I asked her what was wrong. She replied "Your Father has gone to fight for our country's independence, but I'm not sure he'll be back for a while".

There was a moment of silence, until Jack questioned, "Will daddy ever come back?". Then, Mother just started to cry. Suddenly there was a very large 'thud' then a deafening explosion. I ran to the window and saw a British boat shelling the GPO. Then it clicked with me. Mother was crying because she knew Father was in that building. Then I felt a tear drop running down my cheek.

By Eoghan Mooney



## **Execution Dates**

### **3rd May 1916**

Pádraig Pearse, Tomás Mac Donagh, Thomas Clarke

### **4th May 1916**

Joseph Plunkett, William Pearse, Edward Daly, Michael O'Hanrahan

### **5th May 1916**

John Mac Bride

### **8th May 1916**

Éamonn Ceannt, Michael Mallin, Seán Heuston, Conn Colbert

### **12th May 1916**

James Connolly, Seán Mac Diarmada

### **3rd August 1916**

Sir Roger Casement



## British Soldiers

The British soldiers were often called the "Red Coats" because of their bright red coats. They sometimes wore blue uniforms during the Revolutionary War. The British soldiers used pistols, pistols were one of the best weapons to use because it caused more deaths.

Officers Killed:17

Officers Wounded:46

Officers Missing:0

Other Ranks Killed:86

Other Ranks Wounded:311

Other Ranks Missing:9



## *Meath and the Rising*

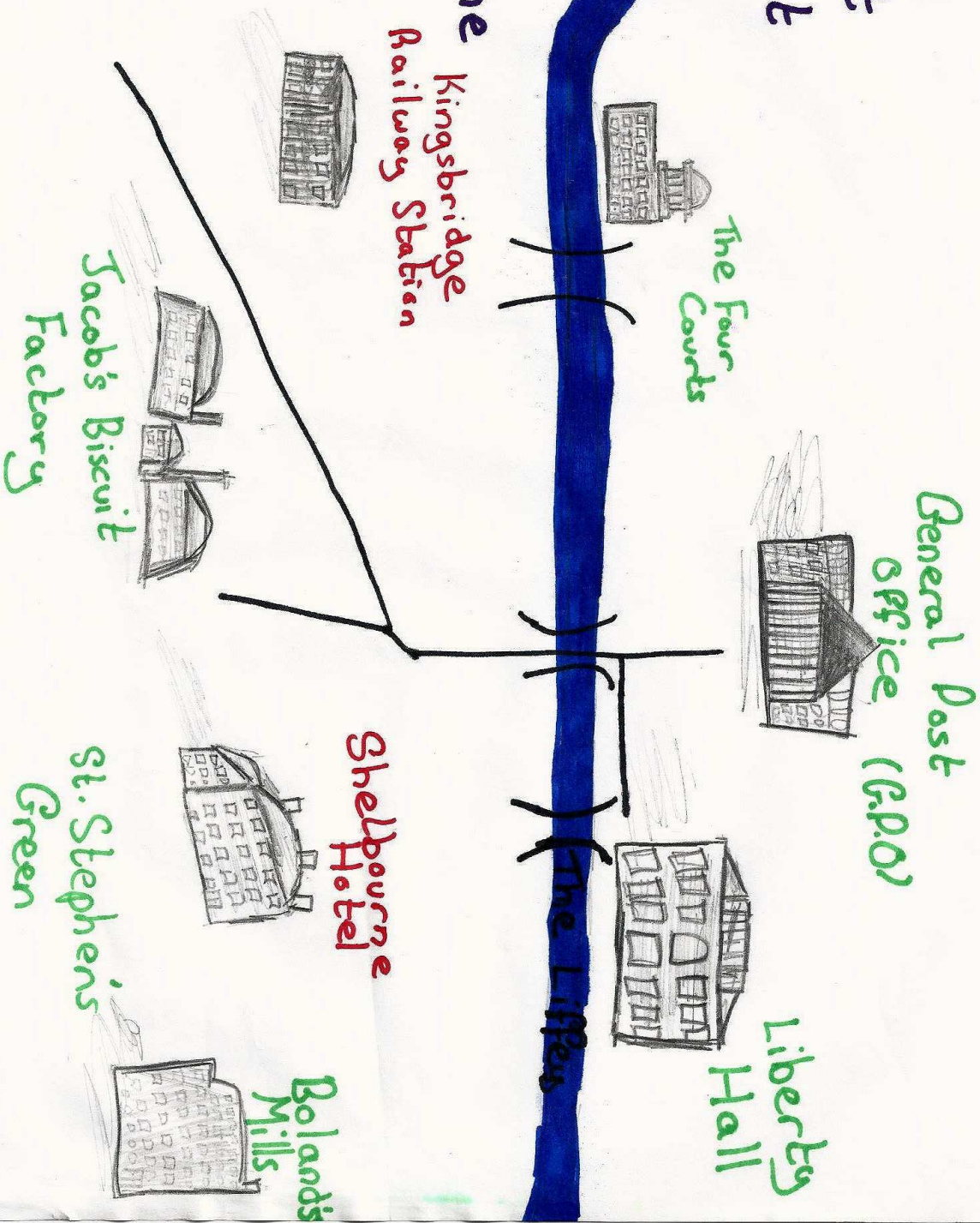
Brian O'Higgins from Kilskyre who was an author and publisher was one of the many Meath men who fought and survived the 1916 Rising. On Easter Sunday 1916 a large number of volunteers mobilised on the Hill of Tara. They dispersed and went home on hearing of Mac Neills order. The 1916 rising took place between Monday the 24th of April and Sunday the 30th of April. Ashbourne was one of the very few places outside Dublin that was involved in battles. Other took place in Galway, Cork, Wexford, Louth and Tipperary. However the fight at Ashbourne was biggest of these. It was held on the 28th of April. Ashbourne in Co.Meath was venue for one of the many military actions of the 1916 Rising outside Dublin on Friday the 28th Ashe and his men went Batterstown where they hoped to disrupt in the midlands rail line to Dublin.



*Some Of The  
Most Important  
Places During  
The Easter  
Rising ~*

# Some Of The Most Important Places

## During The 1916 Rising



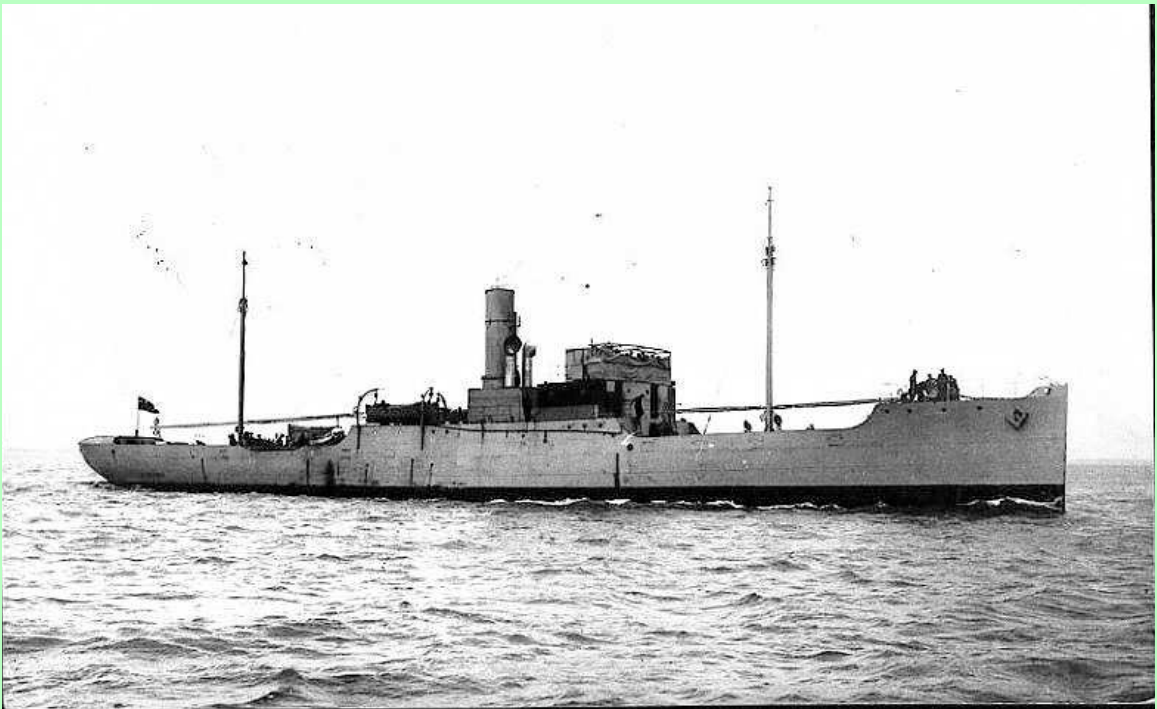
## The Proclamation



The Proclamation was the document created by the Irish Volunteers and the Citizen Army during the Rising. Seven of the main leaders signed the Proclamation. Thomas J. Clarke, Séan MacDermid, Thomas Mac Donagh, Padraig Pearse, Éamonn Ceannt, James Connolly and Joseph Plunkett.

## *The Helga*

The Helga was a gun ship involved in the 1916 rising. Their main firepower was provided by the gunboat Helga and field artillery (namely 18 pounder artillery guns, IVCO) summoned from their garrison at Athlone which they positioned on the north side of the city at Prussia Street, Phibsborough and the Cabra road. These guns shelled large parts of the city throughout the week and burned much of it down. (The first building shelled was Liberty Hall, which ironically had been abandoned since the beginning of the Rising.) Interestingly the Helga's guns had to stop firing as the elevation necessary to fire over the railway bridge meant that her shells were endangering the Viceregal Lodge in Phoenix Park, In October of the same year Leinster was torpedoed off the Kish and 600 passengers died .



## *A Terrible Beauty*

I

I have met them at close of day  
Coming with vivid faces  
From counter or desk among grey  
Eighteen-century houses.  
I have passed with a nod of the head  
Or polite meaningless words,  
Or have lingered awhile and said

II

That woman's days were spent,  
In ignorant good-will,  
Her nights in argument  
Until her voice grew shrill.  
What voice more sweet than hers  
When, young and beautiful,  
She rode to harriers?  
This man had kept a school  
And rode our winged horse;  
This other his helper and friend;  
Was coming into his force;  
He might have won fames in the end,  
So sensitive his nature seemed,  
So daring and sweet his thought.

This other man I had dreamed  
A drunken, vainglorious lout.  
He had done the most bitter wrong  
To some who are near to my heart,  
Yet I number him in the song;  
He, too, has been resigned his part  
In the casual comedy;  
He, too, has been changed in his turn,  
Transformed utterly:  
A terrible beauty is born.

III

Hearts with one purpose alone  
Through summer and winter seem  
Enchanted to a stone  
To trouble the living stream.  
The horse that comes from the road,  
The rider, the birds that range  
From cloud to tumbling cloud,  
Minute by minute they change;  
A shadow of cloud on the stream  
Changes minute by minute;  
A horse-hoof slides on the brim,  
And a horse plashed within it;  
The long-legged moor-hens dive,  
And hens to moor-cocks call;  
Minute by minute they live:

The stone's in the midst of it all.

#### IV

Too long a sacrifice  
Can make a stone of the heart.  
O when may it suffice?  
That is Heaven's part, our part  
To murmur name upon name,  
As a mother names her child  
When sleep at last has come  
On limbs that had run wild.  
What is it but nightfall?  
No, no, not night but death;  
Was it needless death after all?  
For England may keep faith  
For all that is done and said.  
We know their dream; enough  
To know they dreamed and are dead;  
And what if excess of love  
Bewildered them till they died?  
I write it out in a verse--  
MacDonagh and MacBride  
And Connolly and Pearse  
Now and in time to be,  
Wherever green is worn,  
Are changed, changed utterly:  
A terrible beauty is born.

*W.B Yeats*

## *The Main Events*

### *April 21st , Good Friday*

The British Navy intercepts the SS Libau a German cargo ship posing Ship Aud carrying 20,000 rifles machine gun and ammunition destined for the rebel

### *April 22nd,Easter Saturday*

MacNeil knows he can't do it without German Guns.Clarke and Connolly insist on War going ahead on Monday.

### *April 24th Easter Monday*

In Dublin , about 1,250 rebels occupy the GPO , Jacob's Factory, The Four Courts . In St Stephen's Green in South Dublin's.

### *April 26th*

Francis Sheehy - Skeffington is executed. He had been arrested the other day.

### *April 27th*

Journalists Thomas Dickson and Patrick Mc Intyre were executed

### *May 11th*

In a debate, John Dillon of the Irish Parliamentary calls on the British Government to end the execution the next day. Seán MacDiarmada and James Connolly are executed in Kilmainham Gaol.

## *Interviews~*

### *What Does The Easter Rising Mean To You?*

The Easter Rising was the most important event to happen for The Republic Of Ireland, it changed the nation, freeing us from British law and was the first step of independence. The Easter Rising was important to me because of Cumann Na mBan. These women worked hard and fought for our country alongside Irish men. Women were seen a class before men and still didn't get all of their rights for many years. These women were extremely influential and broke down the stereotypes that only men could fight and women had to stay at home.

~ Sister

“If the Easter Rising didn’t happen the people of Ireland wouldn’t have the freedom they have now; the 26 free counties they have now. The Easter Rising means a lot to me as it is the reason we can roam around our Country freely and under Irish law.”

~Pupil from Rathregan N.S.

“The Easter Rising represents bravery, courage and when people were prepared to fight, sometimes violently for a cause they believed in. It was a time of great suffering, contrasted by passion, excitement and emotion of an Irish independent being born.”

~Father

The Easter Rising means a lot to me because Ireland fought for their independence. Ireland would have fought in World War Two if the Easter Rising didn't take place. It was also a really big part of Irish history.

~Sister

In theory, the Easter Rising was a good idea. However, it led to a divided country and civil strife for the next one hundred years. Many people. They did not achieve their goals, and the church was given too much power.

~Mother

### **Go Raibh Maith Agaibh...**

***Go raibh míle maith agaibh, d'oibríomar go dían ar an leabhar seo. Tá súil againn go mbainfaidh sibh go léir taitneamh as an leabhar seo.***

***Thank you very much, we worked very hard on this book. We hope that you enjoyed reading this book as much as we did in creating it.***

# *6th Class Rathregan N.S.*





The 1916 Easter Rising had lots of deaths and sorrow. It was held in Dublin, outside the GPO, Kilmainham Gaol and Jacob's Biscuit Factory. It was very hard for the citizens who lived in Ireland at that time.

