

Insights Into The Easter Rising



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RATHREGAN N.S.



BATTERSTOWN

This book is dedicated to all those who lost their lives during the 1916 Rising, the brave men and women who fought for our country.



Contents

Acknowledgments: Page 3	The Helga: Page 19
Overview: Page 5	Map Of Dublin During 1916: Page 20
Leaders: Page 6	Schools During The Rising: Page
Padraig Pearse: Page 7	Map Of Dublin During 1916: Page 22
James Connolly: Page 8	The Irish Flag: Page 23
Joesph Plunkett: Page 9	Where The Fighting Took Place: Page 24
Thomas Clarke: Page 10	Kilmanhim & Frongoch Prisons: Page 25
Sean MacDiarmada: Page 11	World War One: Page 26
Eamonn Ceannt: Page 12	27
Thomas Mac Donagh: Page 13	The Proclamation Of Independence: Page 28
Michael Collins & Eamonn De Valera: Page 14	Terrible Truths: Page 29/30
William Pearse & Roger Casement: Page 15	Pictures: Page 31/32
Countess Markievicz & Sean Heuston: Page 16	
Sixteen Dead Men: Page 17	
The G.P.O: Page 18	

Overview

The Easter Rising was a conflict between Ireland and England, during the week of Easter 1916. There were sixteen leaders and they were all shot dead. The Irish flag at the time was plain green with "Irish Republic" written across the flag. The Rising was considered a failure, but in 1921 there was War of Independence.

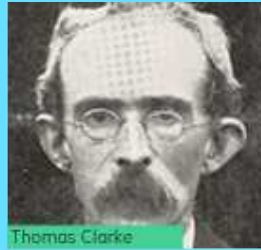


The Irish flag during 1916

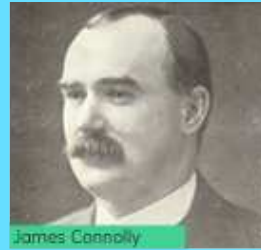
The Leaders



Eamonn Ceannt



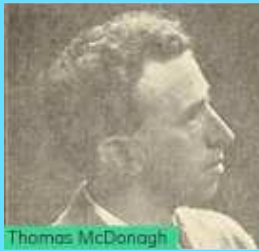
Thomas Clarke



James Connolly



Sean MacDiarmada



Thomas McDonagh



Padraig Pearse



Joseph Plunkett



Roger Casement



Con Colbert



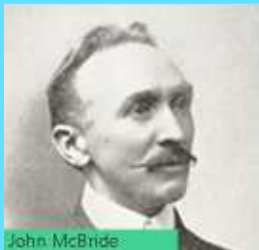
Edward Daly



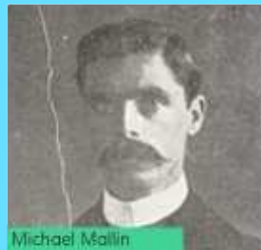
JJ Heuston



Thomas Kent



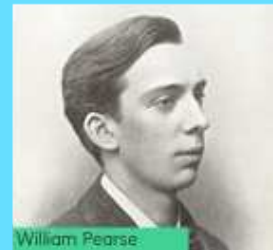
John McBride



Michael Mallin



Michael O'Hanrahan



William Pearse

There were sixteen main leaders in the Rising. Seven of them signed the Proclamation of Independence. All sixteen of them were executed in Kilmainham Gaol after the Rising.

Pádraig Pearse

Pádraig Pearse was born on the 10th of November 1879 in North Brunswick Street. He set up St. Enda's School in Rathfarnham. He was executed on the 3rd of May 1916. His brother William Pearse was also executed.



James Connolly



James Connolly was born on the 5th of June 1868 in Edinburgh, Scotland to Irish parents. He left school at age eleven to earn a living. He was shot in the leg in battle. He was executed on the 12th of May 1916. He was propped up on a chair to be shot.

Joseph Plunkett

Joseph Plunkett was born on the 21st of November 1887 on Upper Fitzwilliam Street in Dublin. He was diagnosed with tuberculosis at a young age. He got married seven hours before his execution on the 4th of May 1916.

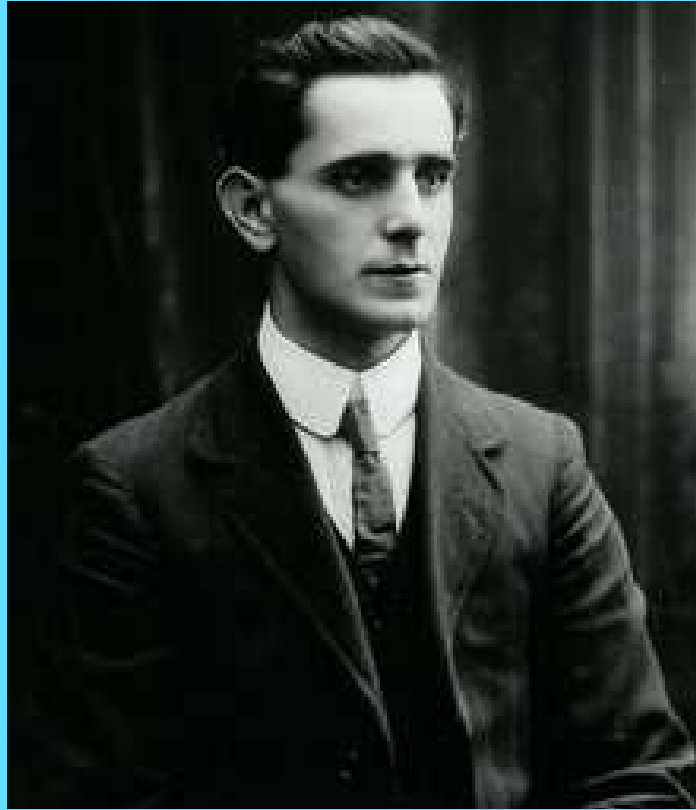


Thomas Clarke

Thomas Clarke was born on the Isle of Wight in England on March 11th 1857. His father served in the English Army and on retirement, the Clarke family settled down in Dungannon, county Tyrone. At the age of twenty one he was sworn into the I.R.B. He was executed on the 3rd of May 1916.



Seán Mac Diarmada



Seán McDermott was born on the 27th of January 1883 outside Kiltyclogher in county Leitrim. He was christened John Joseph McDermott but took the name Seán McDermott, although he signed the Proclamation of Independence as Seán Mac Diarmada. He was executed on the 12th of May 1916.

Éamonn Ceannt



Éamonn Ceannt was born Edward Thomas Kent on the 21st of September 1881. He was born in a small village in Galway called Ballymoe. He was executed in Kilmainham Gaol on the 8th of May 1916.

Thomas MacDonagh

Thomas MacDonagh was born on the 1st of February 1878 in Cloughjordan, county Tipperary. He was a poet and a playwright. He was executed on the 3rd of May 1916. In 1917, his wife drowned in a swimming accident leaving his two children, Barbara and Donagh as orphans.



Michael Collins and Éamon De Valera



Michael Collins was born on the 16th of October 1890 in Clonakilty, county Cork. He was the youngest of eight children. He was adjutant to Joseph Plunkett in G.P.O. He was killed in the Civil War Béal na Blá in 1922.



Éamon De Valera was born in Manhattan, New York on the 14th of October 1882. His father died when he was two. He later became Taoiseach and the President of Ireland.

William Pearce and Roger Casement

Roger Casement was born in Sandycove on the 1st of December 1864. Having been found guilty of smuggling arms from Germany, he was hanged at Pentonville Prison on the 3rd of August 1916.



William Pearce was born in North Brunswick Street on the 15th November 1881. He was a captain in the G.P.O during the Rising. He was executed on the 4th of May 1916.



Countess Markievicz *and Sean Heuston*

Countess Markievicz was born in Westminster on the 4th of February 1868. She became a politician for Fianna Fáil and Sinn Féin. She was also the first woman to hold a place at the British House Of Commons. Countess Markievicz died on the 15th of July 1927.

Sean Heuston was born in Dublin on the 21st of February 1891. With about 20 Volunteers, he held the Mendicity Institution on the River Liffey for over two days. Sean Heuston was executed on the 8th May 1916.



16 Dead Men

O but talked at large before
The 16 men that were shot,
But who can talk of give and take,
What should be and what not
While those dead men are loitering there
To stir the boiling pot?

You say that we should still the land
Till Germany's overcome;
But who is there to argue that
Now Pearse is deaf and dumb?
And is there logic to outweigh
MacDonagh's bony thumb?

How could you dream they'd listen
That have an ear alone
For those new comrades they have found,
Lord Edward and Wolfe Tone,
Or meddle with our give and take
That converse bone to bone?

William Butler Yeats

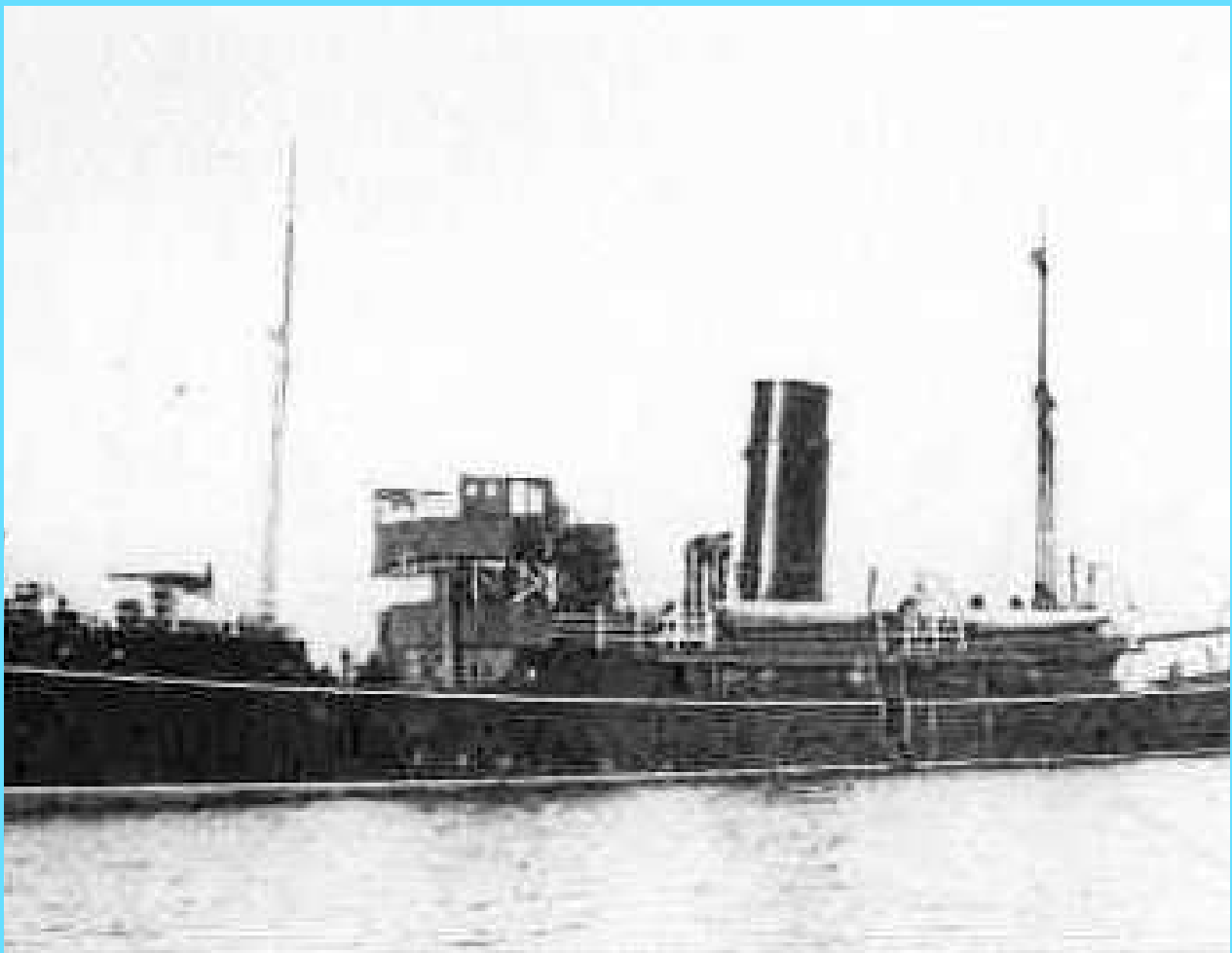
The G.P.O



The G.P.O (General Post Office) was built on the 6th of January 1818. On Easter Monday 1916, the Irish rebels led by Pádraig Pearse, occupied the G.P.O and used it as their base. Pearse read out the proclamation declaring Ireland a Republic to onlookers in the street. Fighting broke out between the Irish and the English. The G.P.O suffered great damage so Pearse against his will surrendered. The G.P.O is still standing proudly in O'Connell street. Bullet marks can still be seen in the pillars of the G.P.O.

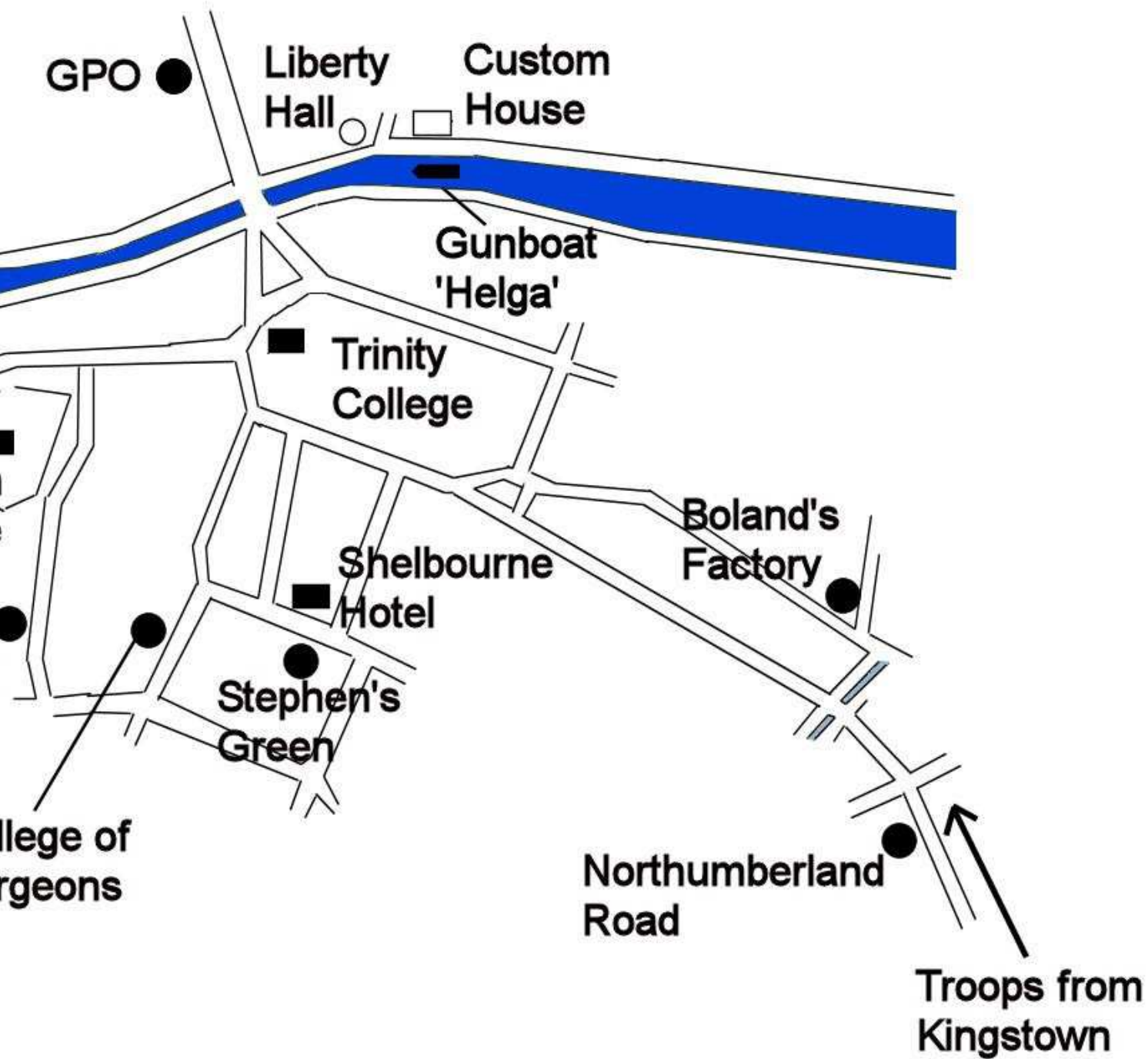
The Helga

The Helga was a British gunboat that sailed down the River Liffey and shelled rebel headquarters. It shelled the G.P.O, Liberty Hall and Boland's Mill. The British sailed into the Alexandria Basin and shelled Boland's Mill, but the rebels inside couldn't get out because the building was surrounded by the British Army.



Easter Rising 1916





The Flag

The flag the rebels put up on top of the G.P.O was actually not the Irish Flag but a green flag with *Irish Republic* written on it.

The green in the Irish flag represents the Irish Republic.

The white in the Irish flag represents peace in Ireland.

The orange in the Irish flag represents Protestant people in Ireland.



Where the Fighting Took Place

The heaviest fighting took place on Mount Street Bridge in Dublin. The G.P.O had very heavy fighting with the British trying to invade and the rebels pushing them out. Moore Street, Northumberland Road, Boland's Mill, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin Castle, Henry Street, Jacob's biscuit factory and along the quays all saw heavy fighting. Fighting took place in Ashbourne in county Meath as well.



Kilmainham and Frongoch Prison

Kilmainham jail was built in 1796. It was used during the 1916 rising to imprison the leaders before their execution. Most of the leaders were executed in the courtyard of Kilmainham Jail.

Frongoch is located in Wales. 1800 republican prisoners were sent to Frongoch. The prisoners arrived on June 9th, 1916. Frongoch became known as the University of Revolution.



World War I

World War 1 began in 1914. Britain sent all their army troops to fight in the war so there were no longer any soldiers watching Ireland. The rebels took the opportunity to start a rebellion

The British army were very confused whether to send troops to Ireland or the war, so the rebels thought it would be easy to fight. But they were wrong.

Many Irish people fought with the British army and when they came back from the war they were treated very badly by the rebels for fighting with the British.



Schools of the Rising

One hundred years ago, boys and girls were taught different subjects. Every child had to learn how to read, write, spell and use maths. The boys were taught about agriculture. While the girls were taught needlework, cookery and laundry.

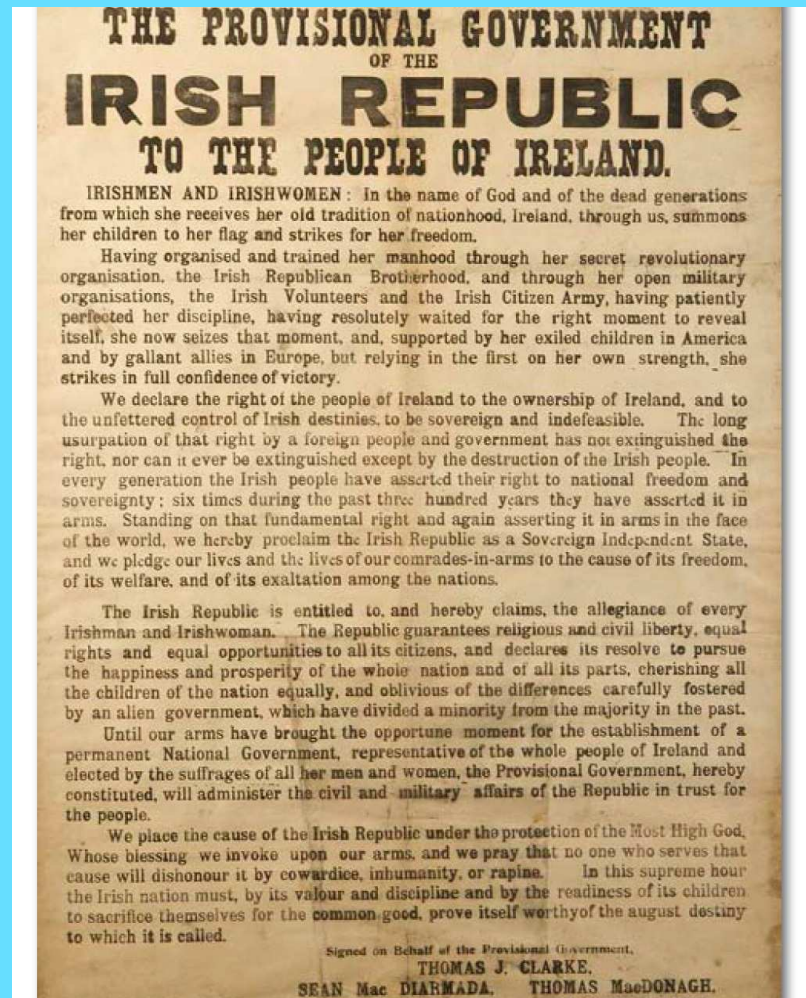
Part of the teachers job was to light the fire in the classroom. Pupils had to clean the school every day. Damages such as a broken window were sometimes paid for by teachers out of their own money. Other facilities that today's pupils take for granted, such as flushing toilets, were rare in 1916.



A class photo from 1916

The Proclamation of Independence

The Proclamation of Independence was read aloud by Pádraig Pearse on the steps of the G.P.O. It was signed by Pádraig Pearse, Thomas Clarke, Thomas MacDonagh, Seán Mac Diarmada, Éamonn Ceannt and Joseph Plunkett.



Terrible Truths

- One of the first shops robbed when the looting started was Noblet's sweet shop. The sweets were torn from the shelves. Crowds of adults and children fought on the street over the sweets.
- The rebels consisted of brave women too. Some rebel women smuggled guns and other arms in their knickers. The British were too polite to search the women, so one officer dressed up as an old lady and started asking the rebels if he could search them, and of course the officer was shot.
- Some people carried on normal lives during the rising, for example James Kearney the St. Stephen's Green grounds keeper was allowed into the park twice a day to feed the ducks.
- Joseph Plunkett tried to make a gun from a drainpipe bound with copper wire and iron chains. To test the gun he stuffed it with gunpowder, then he stuffed it with scraps of metal, including old razor blades. When it was fired by Plunkett it blew up and almost killed his beloved daughter.
- James Connolly served in the British Army, but he hated it, so he left.

- **Joseph Plunkett and a group of rebels stole a tram, and they took its driver hostage. While the rest of the group were firing from the top of the tram, Plunkett was on the bottom deck holding a shotgun to the driver's back, whilst paying him for 57 one way tickets.**
- **Zenon Geldof was a chef. He was also the grandfather of Bob Geldof, the lead singer of the "Boomtown Rats". During the Rising, bullets were flying in his kitchen window, so he got a special permit to walk the streets of Dublin without being shot.**
- **The British tried dirty tricks. At the Shelbourne Hotel a British soldier dressed up as a maid and sat in an open window. When he saw a target he would whip a pistol out of his sock and shoot the target. Afterwards he would stuff the gun into his sock and carry on acting as the innocent maid. Finally an Irish rebel saw the soldier and shot the "maid" with a sniper.**
- **Rebel leader Éamon De Valera sent a volunteer to guard the railway. De Valera also told him to shoot anything he saw in a uniform. When the volunteer arrived at the rail way he look about and saw a postman...**

Pictures



The I.C.A on the roof of Liberty Hall.



British soldiers survey the completely wrecked interior of the G.P.O. after the Rising



A gun and its
holster from the
1916 Rising



Padraig Pearse
surrendering to
British soldiers

*The 1916 Rising was a
pivotal moment in Irish
history.*



*This book gives an insight
into some of the main
characters and events which
shaped Irish history in 1916.*