

FAINNE GEAL AN LAE



As the sun rose on the morning of May 3rd, 1916, three men were led out to die in Kilmainham Jail. This was their last sight of the free world, for which in a few moments they would crumple onto the ground. The three were Pearse, MacDonagh and Clarke. The inexorable sun rose on the following morning for Plunkett, Willie Pearse, Daly and O'Hanrahan. John MacBride looked on his last light on May 5th, and then here, on May 8th, Eamonn Kent, Michael Mallin, Con Colbert and Sean Heuston walked to death through those echoing walls and bitter ringing iron stairs. Then, on May 12th, for Sean MacDermott and James Connolly, the rifles crashed once more. In Cork, in unique loneliness, Thomas Kent was executed on May 9th.

Look upon those awful bars of steel, strangling the light of the sun, and listen to the unknown prisoner . . .

"Sunbeam on a prison wall
you are like a great light hand,
grasping in the darkness of destiny."

And then the voice of MacDonagh:

"But they chose for a leader a stern sure man
That looked not back on the waste of story:
For his country he fought in the battle's van,
And he won her peace and he won her glory."

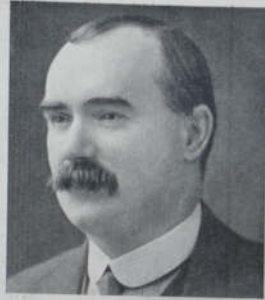
IS IAD A D'ADHAIN AN TINE BEO



PATRICK H. PEARSE

President Provisional Government, Commander-in-Chief Army of Irish Republic. Born Dublin 1879, of Co. Meath mother and English father. Went to C.B.S., Westland Row, and graduated in law Royal University. Poet, writer, orator and playwright in Irish and English.

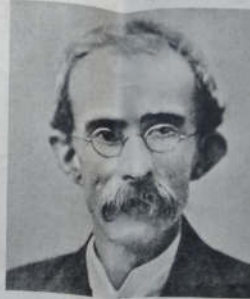
Founded St. Enda's School, boys, and St. Ita's, girls, first at Cullinstown House, later Rathfarnham. Joined I.R.B. America, 1913. Executed by firing squad, Kilmainham, May 3, 1916.



JAMES CONNOLLY

Commander for Dublin in the Rising, O.C. Citizen Army, twice wounded Edinburgh at eleven. Married and returned Ireland to found Socialist paper, "The Workers' Republic," America 1903-1910 where he ran "The Harp."

Marched out with Pearse from Liberty Hall, Easter Monday. Carried on stretcher to Dublin Castle, court-martialled there and shot in wheel chair, Kilmainham, May 12, 1916.



THOMAS J. CLARKE

Elders and first of the signatories, Born Isle of Wight, of Leitrim father, Tipperary mother, 1857. Proved Fenian and Treasurer, Supreme Council, I.R.B.; member Military Council and Provisional Government, Boyhood South Africa and in Dunganon. Went to America in his early 20's.

London 1883, waged dynamiting campaign public buildings; life imprisonment, Back 1907, G.P.O. Easter Week. Shot at dawn, Kilmainham, May 3, 1916.



SEAN McDERMOTT

Secretary of Supreme Council, I.R.B.; member of Military Council and Provisional Government. Born Leitrim 1886. Gardener and tram conductor, Glasgow. Back to Belfast, then Dublin, close friend of Tom Clarke, expert organiser and most popular personality.

Manager of "Irish Freedom" and Gaelic League and G.A.A. enthusiast. Spent part of his youth in America. Delicate health and lame. Was in G.P.O. Easter Week. Shot Kilmainham, May 12, 1916.



THOMAS MacDONAGH

Born Cloughjordan, Tipperary, 1878; pupil Rockwell College and followed parents into teaching profession. Poet, critic, co-founder Irish Theatre and co-editor Irish Review. Met Pearse on Aran Islands where both learning Irish, taught St. Enda's. After M.A. became lecturer, U.C.D.

Director of Training in Volunteers in 1916. In charge Jacobs factory Easter Week. Shot at dawn, Kilmainham, May 3, 1916.



EAMONN CEANNT

Commandant of 4th Battalion at South Dublin Union, Easter Week. Born Ballymore, Co. Galway, 1881. Governing Body Gaelic League. Keenly interested in traditional Irish music. Played on the pipes before Pope Pius X on Rome pilgrimage, 1908. With Pearse and Plunkett comprised original Military Council which planned Rising.

Had lived Dublin from age of ten. Shot Kilmainham, May 8, 1916.



JOSEPH MARY PLUNKETT

Born Dublin, 1887, son of Count Plunkett. Co-founder of Irish Theatre and co-editor of Irish Review. Founder member of Volunteers; went on secret missions Europe and America for I.R.B. 1915. Director military operations, 1916, and prepared plan of Rising.

Chronic ill-health but although after operation fought in G.P.O. Easter Week. Married to Grace Gifford in Kilmainham while awaiting firing squad—on May 4, 1916.



EDWARD DALY

Commandant of the 1st Battalion in Easter Week, 1916. Had headquarters at the North Dublin Union, North King Street and the four courts, in its area, were the scenes of some of the toughest battles of the Rising. Capture and burning of Linenhall Street Barracks was brilliantly carried out under his direction.

Shot at dawn May 4 after a farewell visit from his sister, Mrs. Tom Clarke.



MICHAEL MALLIN

Born Dublin 1886; early youth in India as drummer boy in British army. Trained boys' group which was forerunner of Fianna. Appointed by Connolly as Chief of Staff, Irish Citizen Army. Helped to prepare plan to defend Dublin and it was he suggested the G.P.O. as H.Q. rather than Bank of Ireland.

Commander in St. Stephen's Green, Easter Week. Shot Kilmainham, May 8, 1916.



EAMON DE VALERA

Commandant of 3rd Battalion, Boland's Mill, 1916. Born New York, 1882. Irish mother, Spanish father. Brought to Bracon, Limerick, at two and a half; C.B.S., Charleville; Blackrock College and Royal University. Teacher of mathematics. President Sinn Fein, 1917; President Irish Republic during War of Independence. Founded Fianna Fail 1926. Head of Government 1932-48, 1951-54, 1957-59; President of Ireland since.



SEAN HEUSTON

Youngest Commander in the Rising; took over the Mendicity Institute on Easter Monday in charge of one of Commandant Edward Daly's companies of 1st Battalion. Like Con Colbert, his close friend, who was shot on the same morning, he was one of Madame Markievicz's Fianna boys. Lieutenant in National Boy Scouts and was at the Howth gun running.

The tall, young man of the brilliant scholarly mind faced firing squad May 8, 1916.



THE O'RAHILLY

Originally chosen to approach Eoin MacNeill about formation of Volunteers. He was elected treasurer. Organised wholesale importation of arms and explosives and was on the quay at Howth to meet the Asgard with cargo of rifles.

He reached the G.P.O. after the main garrison had got there and fought all through Easter Week. Volunteered to lead first party down burning building but was shot dead at top of Moore Street, April 28.



WILLIE PEARSE

Younger brother of Patrick H. Pearse. They went to school together and all through their boyhood and young manhood were deeply devoted to one another.

He marched out with him from Liberty Hall on Easter Monday and was by his side, as his personal aide, all through the G.P.O. fighting. He was court-martialled and shot at Kilmainham, May 4, 1916, after a farewell visit from his mother.



JOHN MacBRIDE

Commanded Irish Brigade with rank of Major against British in South African War. Fought in Jacobs factory Easter Week, 1916, as Thomas MacDonagh's lieutenant. Prominent in anti-recruiting campaign earlier. Married the beautiful and talented Maud Gonne; father of Mr. Sean MacBride.

Was especially a marked man by the British following his South African record. Shot at dawn, Kilmainham, May 5, 1916.



MICHAEL O'HANRAHAN

Was Quartermaster with Thomas MacDonagh's garrison, Jacobs factory, Easter Week. Brilliant intellectual, wrote extensively, mostly for nationalist periodicals. Prominent in Volunteer movement from start, he was one of the most trusted men in the organisation. Best known novel, "A Swordsman of the Brigade," to which Thomas MacDonagh gave an enthusiastic review. He was shot at Kilmainham on May 4, 1916.



ROGER CASEMENT

Born, son of Ulster Protestants, Sandycove, Dublin, 1864. Knighted for work in British Consular Service. Purchased arms in Germany for Volunteers and landed on Banna Strand, Good Friday, 1916, but the Aud which arrived simultaneously with the arms was captured by British warships.

Arrested near Banna Strand, tried on treason charge, London, and executed August 3, 1916.



CATHAL BRUGHA

Second-in-Command South Dublin Union, 1916. Severely wounded and remained lame. Keen Gaelic League and G.A.A. enthusiast. Born Dublin 1874; Belvedere College. Acting President, Irish Republic, 1919, while Mr. de Valera was in prison. Minister for Defence, Dail Eireann. Sinn Fein T.D. for Waterford, 1918. Fell mortally wounded holding revolver in each hand emerging from blazing Hammond Hotel, O'Connell Street, July, 1922.



CONSTANCE MARKIEVICZ

Constance Gore Booth, born Lissadell, Sligo, 1868. Married Polish Count. Beautiful, talented. Founded Fianna Eireann, helped Connolly 1913 lock-out. Fought in uniform College of Surgeons, Easter Week. Sentenced to death, commuted. First woman elected to Parliament, 1918. Minister for Labour first Dail. Uncompromising Republican until her death in 1927. Keen student of painting and drama; sister of poet, Eva Gore Booth.



LIAM MELLOWS

Toured Ireland on bicycle organising Fianna and Volunteers. Left Ireland under expulsion order, but returned secretly and commanded Volunteers in West in 1916. Operated Oranmore-Maraon-Clonsilla area, Easter Week. Helped organise Mr. de Valera's American tour, 1919-20. Later T.D. for Meath and Director of Purchases for I.R.A. until surrender of Four Courts. Shot in Mountjoy, December 8, 1922.



THOMAS ASHE

Commanded the Volunteers in five-hour battle with armed constabulary at Ashbourne, Easter Week. Arrested and court-martialled on May 8 and was to be shot, with Mr. de Valera, at Kilmainham on May 9, but had sentence commuted. Interned England 1916. Re-arrested August, 1917, and later in Mountjoy after demand for political treatment for prisoners, lost bed, bedding and boots. Went on hunger strike, forcibly fed, died September 25, 1917.

AFTERMATH



Eamon de Valera with courtmartial escort.
 "He paved the way; his character, his life,
 have been the bridge that led to our time."



"By day this sunlit citadel of death
 Flashes the arrogance of your bayonets,
 Sharp biting gleams that sear our pride like teeth
 Of the old dragonish sowing that begets
 Even today as dangerous a birth
 As ever bristled up from ancient earth."

(Right) "And still their hearts shall guard the sod
 That holds their father's funeral urn,
 Still shall their hearts volcanic burn
 With anger of the sons of God."

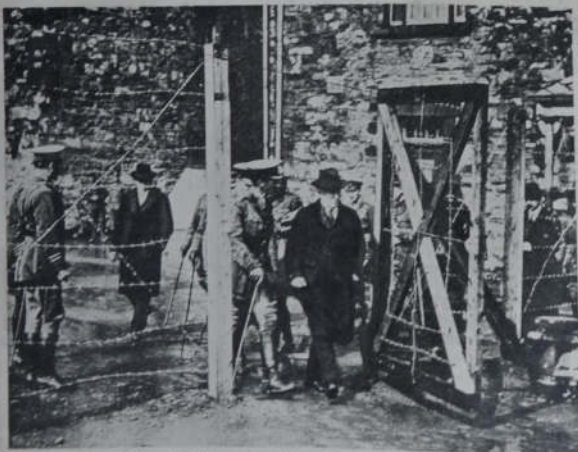
Joseph Mary Plunkett wrote these lines. The picture is of
 his brothers Jack (left) and George, uniformed, in centre.



With bearing more military than that of his
 guard . . . Major John MacBride was marched
 to Kilmainham, and death.



"We have no drums or trumpets! Naught have we, but some green branches taken from a tree, and
 flowers that grow at large in mead and vale!"



The British Prime Minister, Asquith, who visited Dublin, said: "So far
 as the great body of the insurgents is concerned I have no hesitation in
 saying in public that they conducted themselves with great humanity
 . . . they fought very bravely and did not resort to outrage."



Captured in Fermoy, Thomas Kent, hatless, is led away to his eventual execution
 in Cork. He was the only one of the Easter Week men who did not share the cold
 companionship of the grave of Arbour Hill.



"No man shall deck their resting-place with flowers; Behind a prison wall they stood to die,
Yet in those flowerless tragic graves of ours; Buried, the broken dreams of Ireland lie."



"One man with a dream, at pleasure, shall go forth and conquer a crown;
And three with a new song's measure can trample a kingdom down."



"The storm thrush on the shaking tree shouted loud and jubilantly—
A month, and April will unfold her flag of green and white and gold."