

The Easter Rising of 1916.

The Irish Republican Brotherhood took the view that The Great War meant once again 'England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity'. They had infiltrated many nationalist organisations and instigated the Easter Rising of 1916 during which the Republic was proclaimed.



Volunteer and the G.P.O.

Ireland's 25th Anniversary Issue,
from the Mauritania
U.P.U. specimens archive.

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 unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the 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 oblivious of 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, Whose blessing 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 valour 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 DIARADA. THOMAS MacDONAGH.
P. H. PEARSE. EAMONN CEAMNT.
JAMES CONNOLLY. JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

The 1916 proclamation, as read by P.H. Pearse on Easter Monday in front of the G.P.O proclaims "the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State". An Post's copy on display in the G.P.O., and reproduced on this postal stationery card, is one of few surviving originals.

The Easter Rising of 1916 – Manchester Martyrs labels.

The 'Manchester Martyrs' was the popular description of the three Fenian activists who were publicly hanged in Manchester in November 1867.



These 'labels' were produced by James Walker Ltd. as lapel flags in the week before the Rising. The joined pair illustrates how they would fold around a pin to give the tricolour flag.



Silk cigarette 'card', issued by Godfrey Phillips Ltd.



This cover, or one similar, gave rise to the erroneous idea as stated on the Godfrey Phillips silk cigarette 'card' that these were Republican stamps of the Rising.

Emergency use of a Parcels roller cancellation after destruction of the G.P.O. This had survived because the parcels office was elsewhere, located at Amiens Street.

The Easter Rising of 1916 – Erie Puist labels.

These labels are thought to be of American origin and in addition to showing support for the Rising also commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fenian raid into British North America. On 1 June 1866 a band of some 800 Fenians captured Fort Erie and held it for a day – hence “Erie” as well as “IR” for Irish Republic.



Padraig Pearse, Thomas MacDonagh, James Connolly, The O'Rahilly, Eamonn de Valera, Cornelius Colbert, Eamonn Ceant, "harp"

The Easter Rising of 1916 – “Irish War News”

The proclamation of The Irish Republic is announced in this, the only issue of the newspaper published by the rebels. *

IRISH WAR NEWS

THE IRISH REPUBLIC.

VOL. I. No. 1

DUBLIN, TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1916.

ONE PENNY

“IF THE GERMANS CONQUERED ENGLAND.”

In the London “New Statesman” for April 1st, an article is published—“If the Germans Conquered England,” which has the appearance of a very clever piece of satire written by an Irishman. The writer draws a picture of England under German rule, almost every detail of which exactly fits the case of Ireland at the present day. Some of the sentences are so exquisitely appropriate that it is impossible to believe that the writer had not Ireland in his mind when he wrote them. For instance:—

“England would be constantly irritated by the lofty moral utterances of German statesmen who would assert—quite sincerely, no doubt—that England was free, freer indeed than she had ever been before. Prussian freedom, they would explain, was the only real freedom, and therefore England was free. They would point to the flourishing railways and farms and colleges. They would possibly point to the contingent of M.P.s, which was permitted, in spite of its deplorable disorderliness, to sit in a permanent minority in the Reich-

stag. And not only would the Englishman have to listen to a constant flow of speeches of this sort; he would find a respectable official Press secret bought over by the Government to say the same kind of things over and over, every day of the week. He would find, too, that his children were coming home from school with new ideas of history. . . . They would ask him if it was true that until the Germans came England had been an unruly country, constantly engaged in civil war. . . . The object of every schoolbook would be to make the English child grow up in the notion that the history of his country was a thing to forget, and that the one bright spot in it was the fact that it had been conquered by cultured Germany.”

“If there was a revolt, German statesmen would deliver grave speeches about “disloyalty,” “ingratitude,” “reckless agitators who would ruin their country’s prosperity. . . . Prussian soldiers would be encamped in every barracks—the English conscripts having been sent out of the country to be trained in Germany, or to fight the Chinese—in order to come to the aid of German morality, should English sedition come to blows with it.”

“England would be exhorted to abandon her own genius in order to imitate the genius of her conquerors, to forget her own history for a larger history, to give up her own language for a “universal” language—in other words, to destroy her household gods one by one, and put in their place

The Easter Rising of 1916 – Sir Roger Casement.

Sir Roger Casement had gained an international reputation as a humanitarian during his time in the British Foreign Service. He joined the Irish Volunteers and raised money for arms. Thinking the German provision of weapons was inadequate he returned to Ireland to try and prevent the Rising. Executed for high treason on 3rd August 1916.



P.O.W. letter-cards were pre-printed "Ireland" for this camp as it was known all there were Irish.

Irish prisoners of war were put together in Limburg Camp. This was so that Casement could visit them to try and raise an Irish Brigade to fight against Britain in the Irish cause.



The Easter Rising of 1916 – The General Post Office.

The G.P.O. building was used by the rebels as their headquarters during the Rising.



After the Insurrection.—Interior General Post Office, Dublin.



This view of the G.P.O. interior during Easter week, ascribed to Walter Paget, shows the wounded James Connolly on a stretcher with P. H. Pearse standing on his right. Superimposed are pictures of the 1966 commemorative stamps portraying the seven men who signed the proclamation. (postal stationery card, An Post 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Conveyance of Letters Out of Ireland.

I, GENERAL SIR JOHN GRENFELL MAXWELL, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., Commanding-in-Chief His Majesty's Forces in Ireland, hereby Order that the provisions of Regulation No. 24 of the Defence of the Realm (Consolidation) Regulations, 1914, shall apply to the transmission of any letter or written communication from Ireland to any place outside Ireland.

The provisions of Regulation 24 are as follows:—

24. No person shall without lawful authority transmit (otherwise than through the post) or convey, to or from the United Kingdom, or receive or have in his possession for such transmission or conveyance, any letter or any written message for any other person, and if any person contravenes this provision he shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations.

This Regulation shall not apply to "shipowners' letters" as defined by section thirty of the Post Office Act, 1908, nor to any other class of letters or written messages that may be for the time being exempted by order of the Secretary of State.

J. G. MAXWELL,
General, Commanding-in-Chief,
The Forces in Ireland.

Headquarters, Irish Command,
14th May, 1916.

(273.) Wt. 644. 3,000, 5, '16. FALCONER, DUBLIN

The Easter Rising of 1916 – British Forces in Ireland.

The mail followed Major General Sandbach, of 59th Division, to Ireland.



Posted 27 April – addressed to Liverpool, forwarded from there to Dublin on 28 April.



Posted 29 April – now addressed to "Headquarters Irish Command, Dublin"

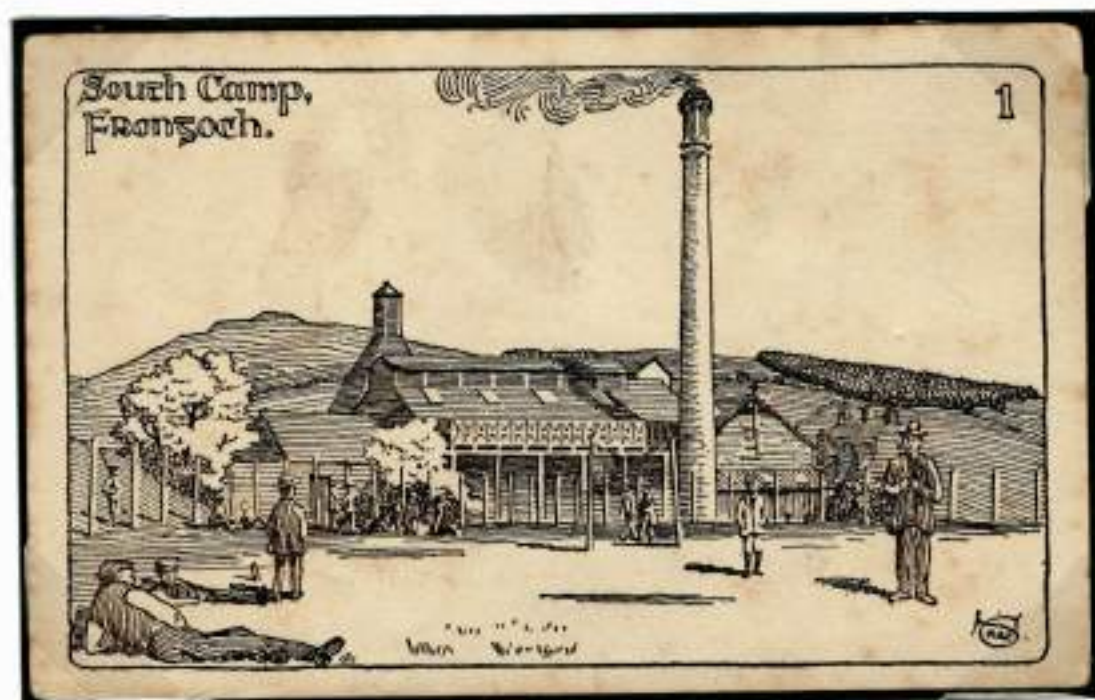
The Easter Rising of 1916 – Prisoners.

Some 2,000 were imprisoned following involvement or for rebel sympathies. Initially these prisoners were distributed between Knutsford, Stafford, Wakefield, Wandsworth, Perth, Glasgow, Lewes and Woking but were soon being held together at Frongoch Camp.



*Kingstown to Stafford, 30 June 1916 – and sent on to Frongoch?

There were three different prisoners named “J. O’Connor” from Dublin sent to Stafford on 1 May according to the “Sinn Fein Rebellion Handbook”.



Frongoch, Bala, North Wales, was a former Welsh Whisky distillery which had already been in use during the war as a P.O.W. camp for Germans.

The Easter Rising of 1916 – Prisoners interned in Frongoch.



Sinn Fein
Rebellion,
Dublin
Military
examining
Parcels
before
allowing
Visitors to
Prisoners

961 Ja Cotter,
Irish Prisoners,
5th Camp,
Frongoch.
14/8/16

Mr. & Mrs. Cotter of 32 St. Anne’s Road, Drumcondra visiting their three sons at Richmond Barracks, Dublin. Joseph, Richard and Thomas had all taken part in the Rising.

As identified by Edward Margiotta in ‘Postcards of the Easter Rising’, – Stenlake Publishing Ltd., 2015.

I got your letter on Saturday
if ever the enclosure is the only thing
I can really acknowledge as the
whole centre of the letter was cut
out, I saw that we were very fond of land
something about tennis, balwoy excursion,
& Kellie’s picnic. of course it left a
lot of work for the my imagination.
I got mothers parcel today & what
shame.
We are keeping pretty fit the
three of us are on the work my party
& its necessary as long as we are
in this camp? I’m sure it would
amuse you to see on with a pick

“the three of us” →

Overleaf ‘Joe’ writes, “Tim Healy was down here the other day”

“During the month of August Tim Healy M.P. and Lord Devonport visited the camp to see P. J. Davis, editor of ‘Mayo News’”
– quoted from ‘Frongoch, University of Revolution’ by Sean O’Mahony, Dublin, 1987.

The Easter Rising of 1916 – Commemoration.

The 1916 Armband was the first decoration given to veterans of the Easter Rising and was awarded at a ceremony at the Rotunda Rink, Dublin on Sunday 21st April 1935 to commemorate the 19th Anniversary. It was worn by Volunteer veterans with civilian attire on ceremonial occasions until the issue of the Rising Medal in 1941.



The 25th Anniversary in 1941 was marked by two stamp issues. The first was a "provisional issue" echoing the provisional overprints of 1921 while the second showed a Volunteer and the G.P.O.



The "Provisional" 25th Anniversary issue from the Mauritania U.P.U. archive.

Easter Rising and War of Independence Medals.

*Medals awarded to Thomas Sheil, Easter 1941.

He had been a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood since 1903 and in the Irish Citizen Army from 1913. Served during the Easter Rising (23-27 April, 1916) at St. Stephens Green, Leeson Street and the Royal College of Surgeons.

During the War of Independence performed tree felling and road trenching with the Carlow Brigade of the IRA and so awarded the Cómrac ("Struggle") Bar given to those on active service during the qualifying period (1 April, 1920 – 11 July, 1921)

(sources: Defence Forces Military Archives and Military Service Pension Collection)



Irish Convention – July 1917 to April 1918.

The Convention, under the chairmanship of Sir Horace Plunkett, was an attempt to find a settlement of the demand for Home Rule. It failed because self-government could not be reconciled with inclusion within the United Kingdom.



Postcard captioned in error, 1917 for 1918.

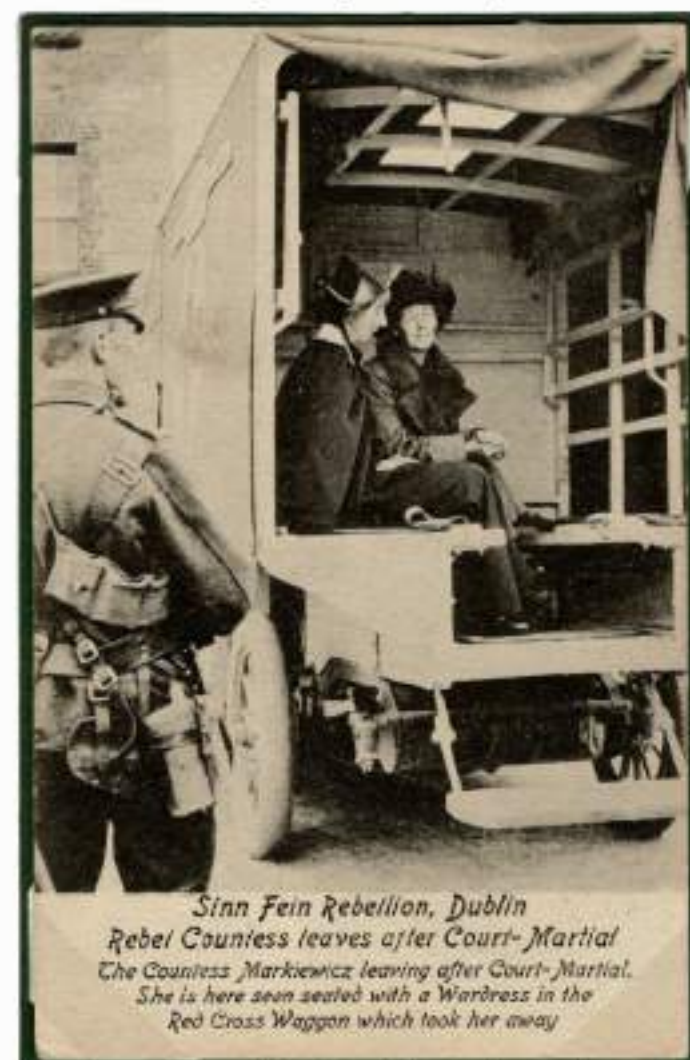
The General Election of 1918 and Countess Markievicz.

At the General Election of 1918 Sinn Fein, now a political party, was very successful in Ireland except for Ulster, but formed the first Dáil Eireann instead of taking their seats at Westminster. Countess Markievicz became the first woman elected to the British House of Commons.



General Election, 1918 – paper lapel flag.*

Countess Markievicz in uniform.
Government Printers, Dublin Castle specimens.
Ex-collection of Joseph E. Foley, FRPSL.



Born Constance Gore-Booth, she was educated privately at Lissadell, Co. Sligo where the family held extensive estates. She was presented to Queen Victoria at court in 1887 and a portrait from this time was used for the card above.

While studying painting in Paris she met Polish artist Count Casimir Markievicz and after marriage they settled in Dublin where she joined the Gaelic League, organized soup kitchens during the 1913 lock-out and became an Officer in the Irish Citizen Army.

During the Easter Rising she was second-in-command at St. Stephens Green and was sentenced to death for her role. The sentence was commuted and she was released June 1917.

Sinn Féin and nationalist "local posts", 1918-1921.

*Sinn Féin and others operated "local posts" of election material and republican circulars.

"O.S.I.R." =
On Service of
the Irish Republic.



Translates as-
Irish Post/Dublin



"Irish Republican Post/Dublin" roller postmark
The date "April/1920" has been noted at some time – it is probably correct.

A Nation Once Again – Paris Peace Conference and support from America.

Count Plunkett, as Minister for Foreign Affairs of the first Dail, led an Irish delegation to the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. Without the support of President Wilson they did not participate.



American labels of support, 1917-19.



Camden, West Virginia to Roanoke, Lewis County, West Virginia, 14 May 1921.
American label in support of an independent Ireland.