

I6 LETTERS

geraldine o'sullivan

I6 LETTERS

FOREWARD

When we began the Letters of 1916 project in September 2013 we never dreamt that so many people would find so much inspiration in the project. This is especially true of Geraldine O'Sullivan.

Geraldine O'Sullivan contacted us in August 2015 with the idea of using letters in our collection as a source material for a series of paintings. Since then, we have been collaborating with her, watching with admiration and pride as her ideas and inspiration transformed from creating a series on the Rising itself to providing new expression for the Letters of 1916's own tag line: 'a year in the life'.

These paintings capture the anguish and grief, the political and emotional turmoil, as well as new beginnings of the period. War and politics, literature and religion, rebellion and sacrifice, all find expression in this series.

Geraldine's work makes visible not only the major events and players of the period, such as Pearce's surrender and Casement's capture and execution, but the smaller, no less tragic events, such as the death of Captain Charlie Martin, from Monkstown, Co Dublin, who was serving with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers on the Eastern Front.

Geraldine has visually captured the intimacy of the letters themselves, such as Thomas MacDonagh's poignant last letter, or a letter from Marie Martin to her mother from the front where she was serving as a nurse in the Voluntary Auxiliary Detachment.

The form of the collage is an ideal one to express the multiplicity of views, what is written and what is unstated, what is known by the author, and what we, a century later, know of them and the events through which they lived. O'Sullivan's series is a tangible acknowledgment of how privileged we are to have this rare glimpse into the lives of those who lived a century ago as they felt the need to reach out, to connect, to put pen to paper.

Susan Schreibman
Professor of Digital Humanities
Founding Editor, *The Letters of 1916*
Maynooth University



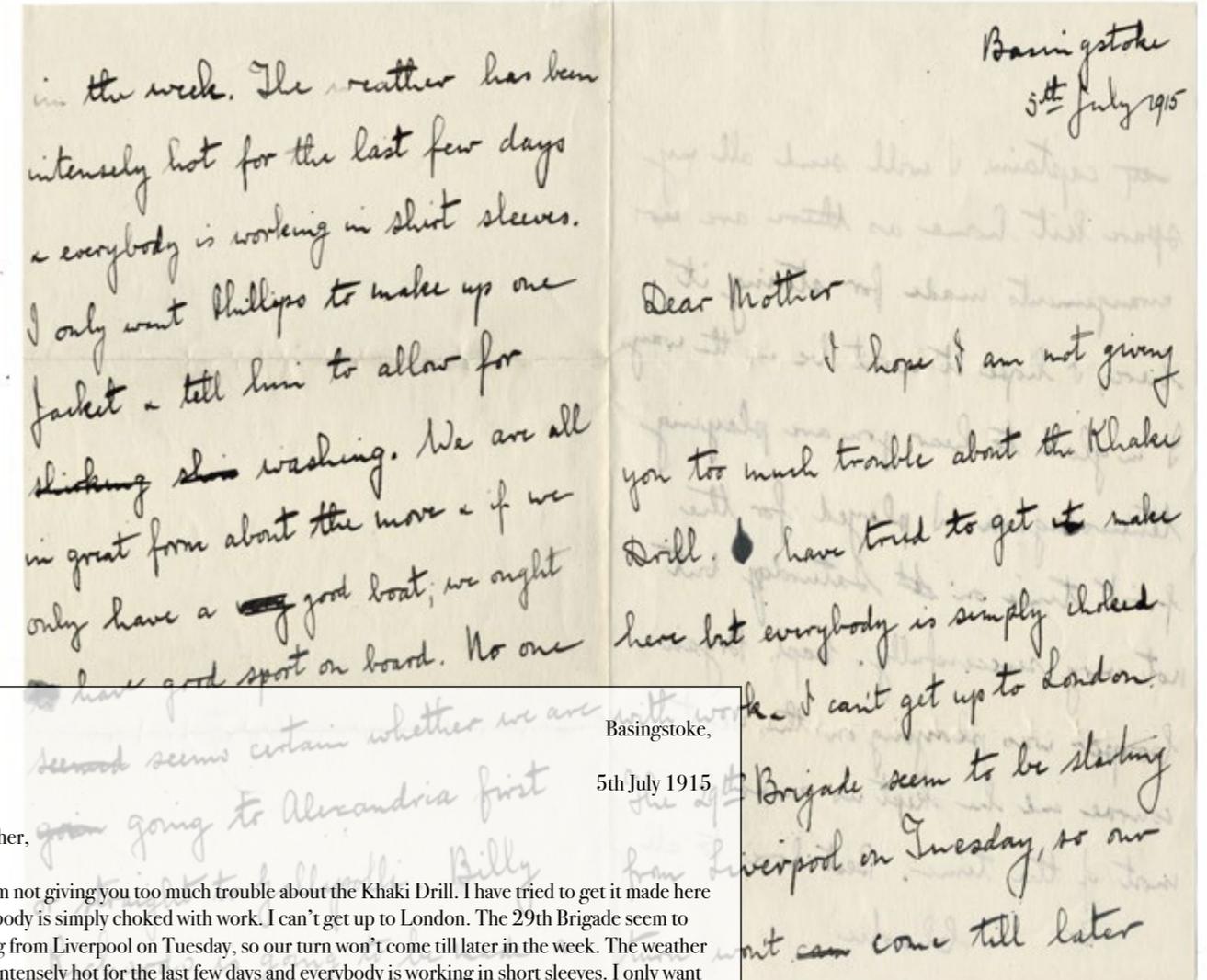
No.1

Charlie Martin joined the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in 1914 at the age of 19. In 1915 he was sent to fight in Gallipoli. He landed at Suvla Bay and was injured. In October 1915 the RDF were sent to Salonika in Greece. They were then sent North, to Serbia. Temperatures sank to -22 degrees. They were still in their shorts and many without overcoats, having been fighting in the heat of Gallipoli all summer. When the Bulgarian attack came, they were hopelessly outnumbered. Charlie was leading his men in a retreat to safety, when he was hit in the arm, the leg and later in the stomach; the bullet lodging in his spine. He was paralysed from the hips down. He is believed to have died in a Bulgarian Field Dressing station in or around December 8th 1915. He used to be referred to by his fellow officers as 'Baby Martin', presumably because of his youth and smiling disposition.

Letter Source
Medical
Missionaries of Mary

"Letter from
Charlie Martin to his
mother, Mary Martin,
5th July 1915"

Letters of 1916
Schreibman, Susan.
Ed. Maynooth
University : 2016



Dear Mother,

I hope I am not giving you too much trouble about the Khaki Drill. I have tried to get it made here but everybody is simply choked with work. I can't get up to London. The 29th Brigade seem to be starting from Liverpool on Tuesday, so our turn won't come till later in the week. The weather has been intensely hot for the last few days and everybody is working in short sleeves. I only want Phillips to make up one jacket and tell him to allow for washing. We are all in great form about the move and if we only have a good boat, we ought to have good sport on board. No one seems certain whether we are going to Alexandria first or straight to Gallipoli. Billy Richards is going to be made a captain. I will send all my spare kit home as there are no arrangements made for storing it here, I hope it won't be in the way. I'm glad to hear you are playing tennis again. I played for the first time on Saturday but not very successfully. Capt. Bryan Cooper was playing on the next court and he kept us amused most of the time.

Best love to all,

Charlie

Basingstoke,

5th July 1915



No.2

Letter Source
Military Archives of
Ireland

Bureau of Military
History
Contemporary
Documents,
Mrs Erskine Childers
Collection, BMH
CD/6/2/11

"Letter from
Roger Casement,
20th December
1915"

Letters of 1916
Schreibman, Susan.
Ed. Maynooth
University : 2016

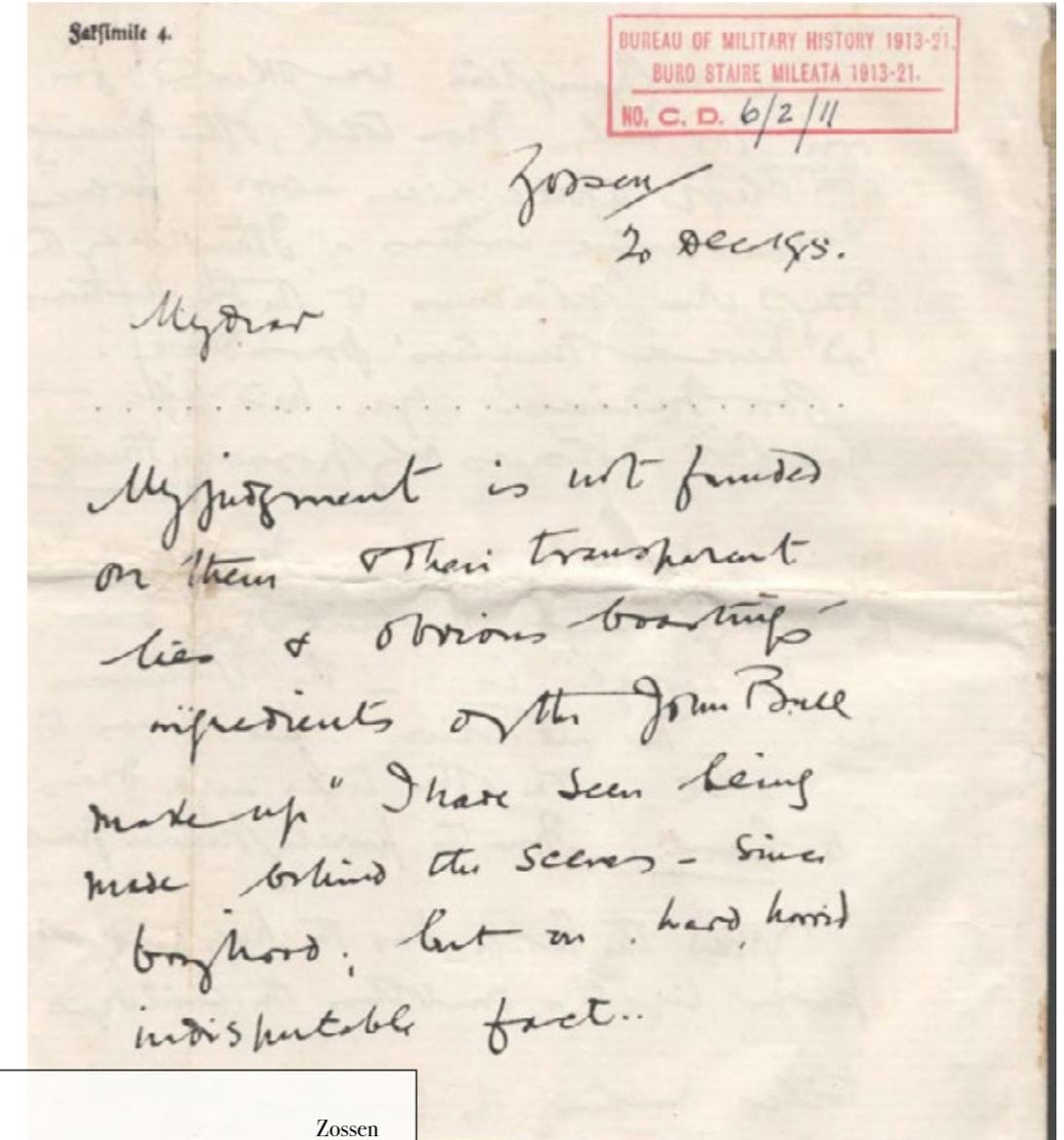
The letter is a facsimile copy of the first page of a letter written by Sir Roger Casement (1864-1916). The letter was written while Casement was in Germany. The letter is critical of the "transparent lies and obnoxious boastings" of some unnamed people, which he believes are symptoms of a "John Bull" (i.e. English) make up. Sir Roger Casement was a humanitarian and Irish Nationalist. Casement believed that an Irish insurrection would be crushed unless it received substantial assistance from Germany. He spent eighteen months in Germany, arriving first as an envoy of Irish-American leaders, attempting to encourage Germany to support Irish separatist aspirations by providing arms.

(continued)

Casement succeeded in securing limited German support, but his attempt to form a brigade of Irish soldiers in German prisoner of war camps to fight against Britain was largely unsuccessful.

When it became clear that adequate help would not be forthcoming, he travelled to Ireland by submarine. Casement landed and was arrested at Banna Strand, County Kerry on Good Friday 1916.

He was tried in the Old Bailey for treason and subsequently executed by hanging at Pentonville Prison on the 3rd of August 1916.



Zossen
20 Dec 1915

My Dear,

My judgement is not founded on them & their transparent lies & obvious boastings – ingredients of the John Bull make up" I have seen being made behind the scenes – since boyhood, but on hard, horrid indisputable fact..



No.3

Joseph Stanley owner of the Gaelic Press to George Bernard Shaw.

The sequence of events mentioned in the letter commence with a raid of the office of the Gaelic Press on Friday 24th of March 1916 by the Military Authorities. Stanley's letter dated 28th of March and Shaw's response typed on the same letter on April 3rd. The raid and seizure occur less than a month before the Easter Rising and show that the military authorities were trying to break up small printing presses that were printing nationalist and subversive material. The letter is a story in two halves, two typed passages, one blue, one red, a question and the answer.

Letter Source
Military
Archives of Ireland
BMH CD/004/3/5

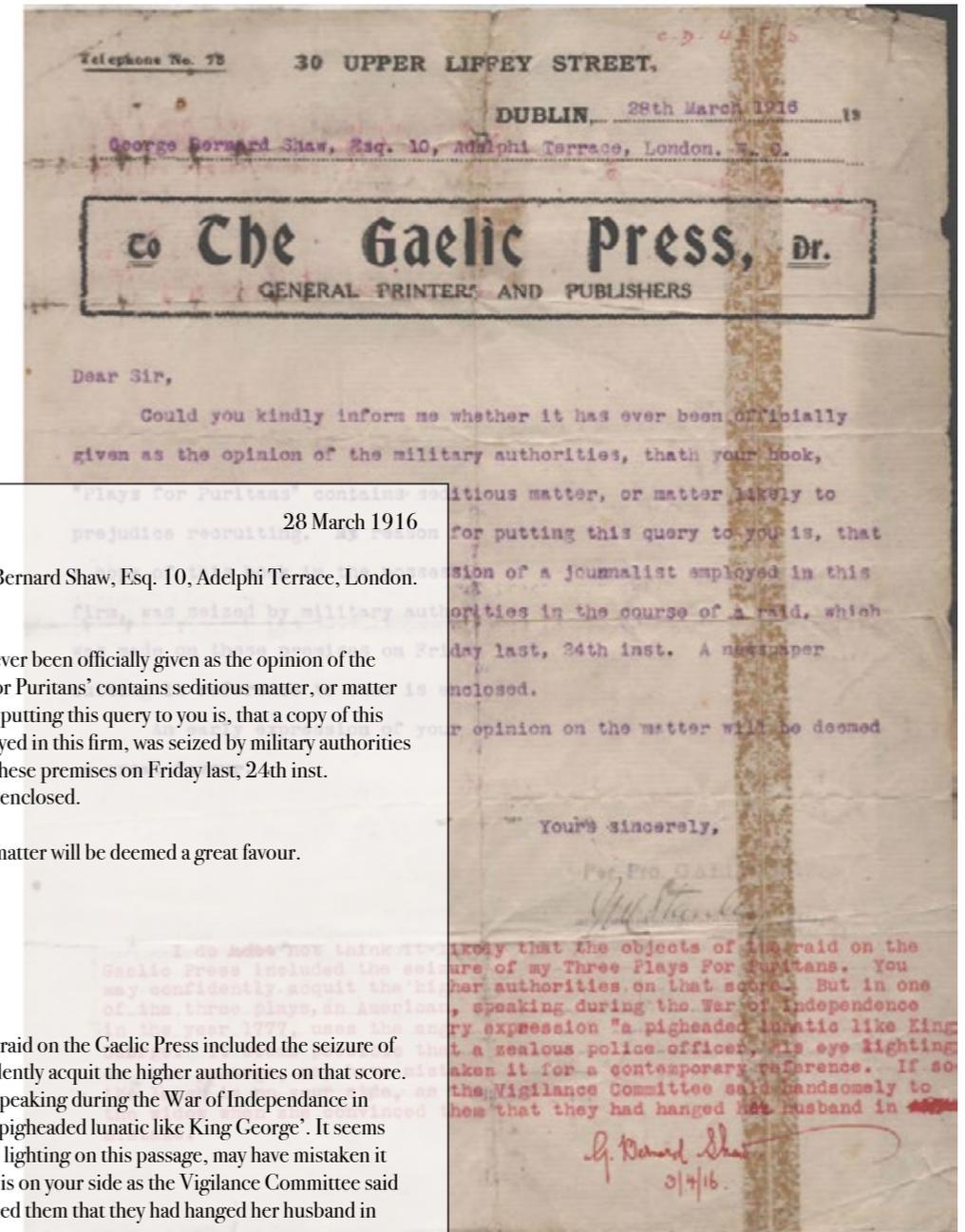
"Letter from
Joseph Stanley to
George Bernard Shaw
and response,
28th March 1916"

Letters of 1916
Schreibman, Susan.
Ed. Maynooth
University : 2016

(continued)

This image would be repeated again with the drafting of the 1916 Proclamation following the breakup of the print type.

The 1916 Proclamation had to be printed in two halves by the compositors using a mixed bag of Type Set, manufacturing a "C" from an "O" in REPUBLIC, an "E" from an "F" in THE and substituting a different type "E" as they ran out. Some of the type used was retrieved from the Gaelic Press office.



Dear Sir,

Could you kindly inform me whether it has ever been officially given as the opinion of the military authorities, that your book, 'Plays for Puritans' contains seditious matter, or matter likely to prejudice recruiting. My reason for putting this query to you is, that a copy of this book in the possession of a journalist employed in this firm, was seized by military authorities in the course of a raid, which was made on these premises on Friday last, 24th inst. A newspaper cutting in reference to same is enclosed.

An early expression of your opinion on the matter will be deemed a great favour.

Your sincerely,
J.M. Stanley

In response:

I do not think it likely that the objects of the raid on the Gaelic Press included the seizure of my Three Plays for Puritans. You may confidently acquit the higher authorities on that score. But in one of the three plays, an American, speaking during the War of Independence in the year 1777, uses the angry expression 'a pigheaded lunatic like King George'. It seems possible that a zealous police officer, his eye lighting on this passage, may have mistaken it for contemporary reference. If so, the laugh is on your side as the Vigilance Committee said handsomely to the widow, when she convinced them that they had hanged her husband in mistake.

G. Bernard Shaw
3/4/16

Dear Sir,

Could you kindly inform me whether it has ever been officially given as the opinion of the military authorities, that your book,

28 March 1916

George Bernard Shaw, Esq. 10, Adelphi Terrace, London.

'Plays for Puritans' contains seditious matter, or matter likely to prejudice recruiting. My reason for putting this query to you is, that

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Your opinion on the matter will be deemed a great favour.

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G. Bernard Shaw

3/4/16



No.4

Brigadier William Henry Muir Lowe was commander of British Army Forces in Dublin during the 1916 Easter Rising who received the surrender from Patrick Pearse. Patrick Pearse was one of the leaders of the Easter Rising, and, along with 15 others, was executed shortly after surrender. Elizabeth O'Farrell (1884-1957), nurse and member of Cumann na mBan, accompanied Pearse to the surrender and delivered notice of the surrender to other Rising locations. O'Farrell was chosen by Patrick Pearse to contact the British Military on the morning of April 29th, to discuss terms of surrender. Initially suspected of being a spy, she was eventually taken to Brigadier-General W.H.M. Lowe, who sent her back to Pearse with a demand for unconditional surrender.

Letter Source
National Library of
Ireland
Manuscript
15000/04/05

"Letter from
WHM Lowe to
Elizabeth O'Farrell,
1st of May 1916"

Letters of 1916
Schreibman, Susan.
Ed. Maynooth

(continued)

A partly obscured O'Farrell can be seen in a press photograph taken at the moment of surrender.

Grateful for her service in this perilous mission, Lowe assured O'Farrell that she would be released. Unbeknownst to him after the surrender she was stripped and searched and imprisoned overnight in Ship St. Barracks.

On hearing of this, Lowe had her released immediately, apologised for her treatment and hand wrote a letter permitting her freedom of movement.

B/42
Parkgate
1.5.16

Miss Elizabeth O'Farrell
was of great assistance &
voluntarily accompanying
a Staff Officer to various
Rebel Commandants & I
trust that this may be taken
into consideration at any future
date

W.H.M. Lowe
G.O.C. Dublin Forces

Parkgate
1.5.16

Miss Elizabeth O'Farrell was of great assistance, voluntarily accompanying a staff officer to various Rebel Commandants and I trust that this may be taken into consideration at any future date.

WHM Lowe
Dublin Forces



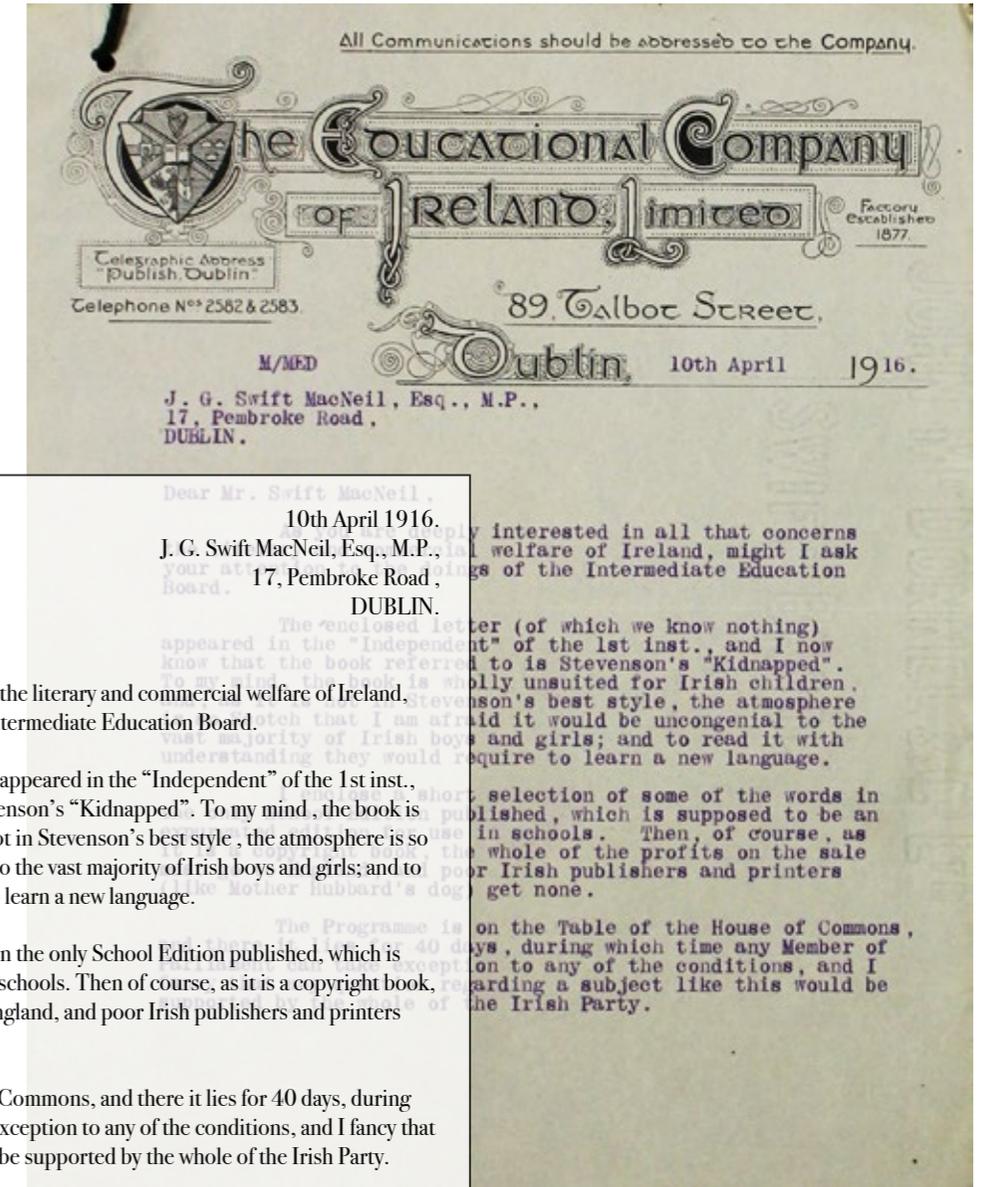
No.5

This is a letter from William George Lyon (1868-1939), a publisher, to J. G. Swift MacNeill. The letter concerns the use of Robert Louis Stevenson's novel 'Kidnapped' on the school syllabus. In the letter Lyon states the book is unsuitable for Irish children to read, stating that it has a Scottish atmosphere and language and the children would need to learn a new language to read it. He also highlights the fact that the profit from the sales of the book will go to English and not Irish publishers. He goes on to say that the issue is on the floor of the House of Commons and that he expects the Irish Party to support it. The letter encloses a list of words in the book that Lyon believes Irish children will not understand, also a newspaper cutting of a letter to the editor of the Irish Independent regarding the same issue. John Gordon Swift MacNeill (1849 - 1926) was a jurist and politician. He was MP for South Donegal from 1887 until 1918.

Letter Source
National Archives of
Ireland
Chief Secretary's
Office-Registered
Papers,
NAL/CSO/RP
/1916/5611
/8225/5

"Letter from William
George Lyon to J. G.
Swift MacNeill,
10 April 1916."

Letters of 1916.
Schreibman, Susan,
Ed. Maynooth
University: 2016.



Dear Mr. Swift MacNeil,

As you are deeply interested in all that concerns the literary and commercial welfare of Ireland, might I ask your attention to the doings of the Intermediate Education Board.

The enclosed letter (of which we know nothing) appeared in the "Independent" of the 1st inst., and I now know that the book referred to is Stevenson's "Kidnapped". To my mind, the book is wholly unsuited for Irish children, and, as it is not in Stevenson's best style, the atmosphere is so Scotch that I am afraid it would be uncongenial to the vast majority of Irish boys and girls; and to read it with understanding they would require to learn a new language.

I enclose a short selection of some of the words in the only School Edition published, which is supposed to be an expurgated edition for use in schools. Then of course, as it is a copyright book, the whole of the profits on the sale must go to England, and poor Irish publishers and printers (like Mother Hubbard's dog) get none.

The Programme is on the Table of the House of Commons, and there it lies for 40 days, during which time any Member of Parliament can take exception to any of the conditions, and I fancy that any question regarding a subject like this would be supported by the whole of the Irish Party.
J. G. Swift MacNeil, Esq., M.P

I should be very glad if you could see your way to bring the matter before The Chief Secretary, because if an alternative book is not allowed there will be a serious revolt amongst the Principals of the Intermediate Schools.

Yours sincerely,
W.G. Lyon



No.6

Letter Source
National Library of
Ireland

Clonbrock Estate
Papers,
Collection List No
54, Ms 35,796 (7)

“Letter from
Lady Clonbrock to
Mrs Budson,
19th April 1916”

Letters of 1916
Schreibman, Susan.
Ed. Maynooth

Letter from Lady Clonbrock to Mrs Budson requesting help in the creation of sub-centres in County Galway for the collection of moss for surgical dressings. The moss was to be used for the treatment of soldiers wounded while fighting with the British army during World War I. The Irish War Hospital Supply had requested that the collection of moss was to be increased to meet higher demand and Lady Clonbrock was put in charge of the collection in Galway. Augusta Caroline Dillon (née Crofton 1839-1928) was the wife of Luke Gerald Dillon (1834- 1917), the 4th Baron of Clonbrock, Co. Galway and the daughter of Lord Crofton of Mote Park (Edward Henry Churchill Crofton, 3rd Baron), Co. Roscommon.

(continued)

Augusta was a skilled photographer and was responsible for creating much of the collection of 3,000 negatives and prints, now held by the National Photographic Archive of Ireland, which illustrates many aspects of life on the estate over a period of seventy years.

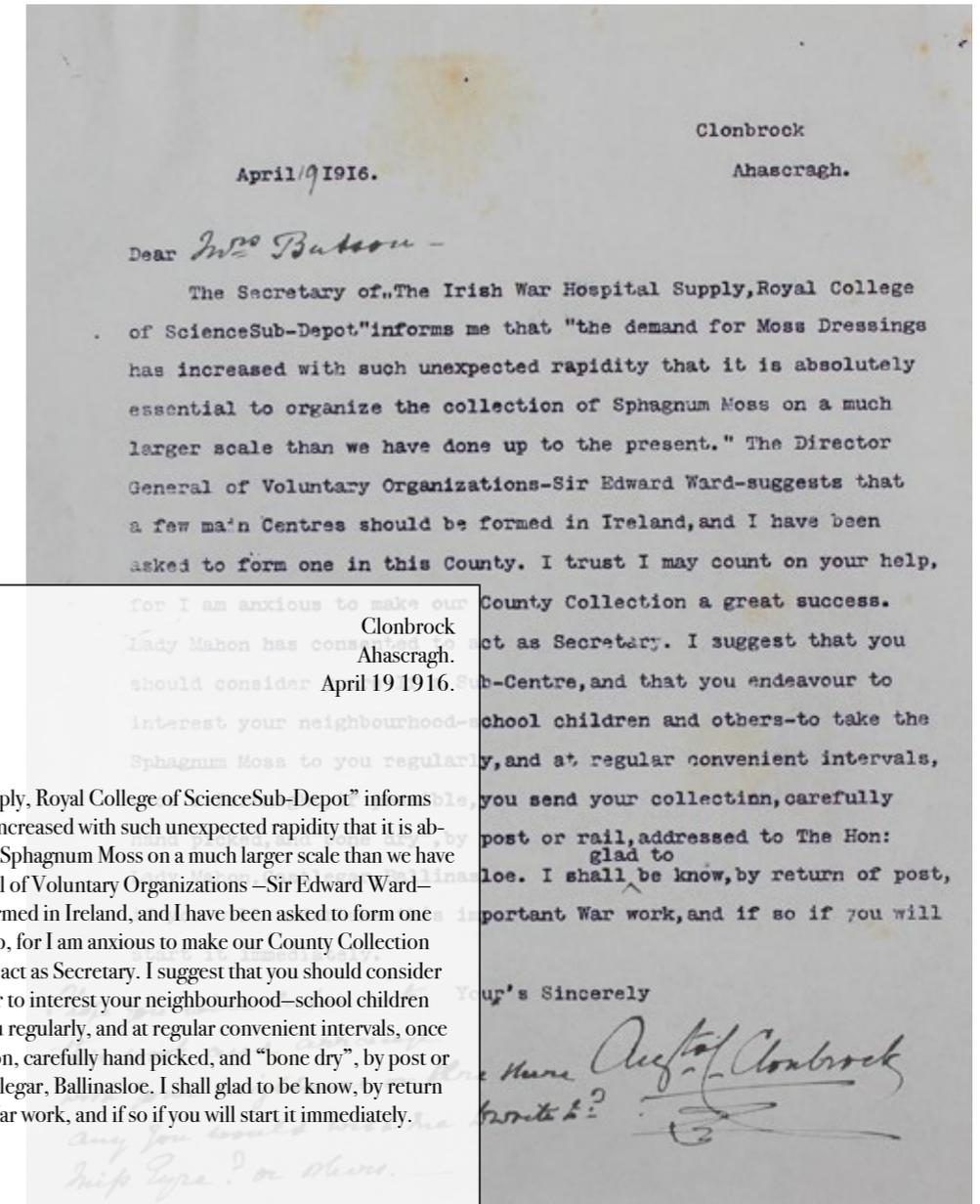
She was also very active in promoting home industries at Clonbrock and in organizing voluntary work on behalf of local men serving with the British Army during the First World War, for which she was awarded an OBE in 1920.

Dear Mrs. Budson,

The Secretary of “The Irish War Hospital Supply, Royal College of Science Sub-Depot” informs me that “the demand for Moss Dressings has increased with such unexpected rapidity that it is absolutely essential to organize the collection of Sphagnum Moss on a much larger scale than we have done up to the present.” The Director General of Voluntary Organizations – Sir Edward Ward – suggests that a few main Centres should be formed in Ireland, and I have been asked to form one in this County. I trust I may count on your help, for I am anxious to make our County Collection a great success. Lady Mahon has consented to act as Secretary. I suggest that you should consider yourself a Sub-Centre, and that you endeavour to interest your neighbourhood – school children and others – to take the Sphagnum Moss to you regularly, and at regular convenient intervals, once a fortnight, if possible, you send your collection, carefully hand picked, and “bone dry”, by post or rail, addressed to The Hon: Lady Mahon, Castlegar, Ballinasloe. I shall be glad to know, by return of post, if you will undertake this important War work, and if so if you will start it immediately.

Your's Sincerely
Augusta Clonbrock

*I hope you will enter into
this work and arrange
with your neighbours, or are there
any you would wish me to write to?
Miss Eyre? or Mavis (?). –*





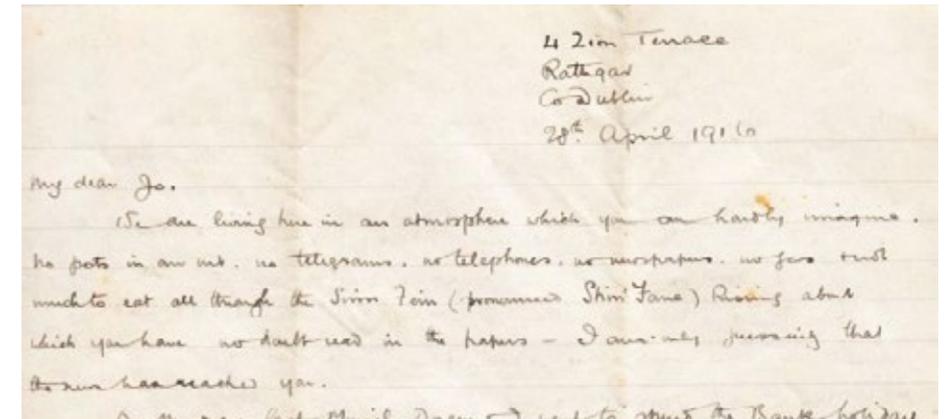
Letter Source
Blair Halliday
Collections

“Letter from Patrick
Blair Carphin to
his sister Joanna
Carphin”

Letters of 1916
Schreibman, Susan,
Ed. Maynooth
University: 2016

No.7

This letter was written by Patrick Blair Carphin (1872 - 1932), an insurance surveyor from Dublin. The letter is addressed to Carphin's sister Joanna (b. 1863). In this letter Patrick describes for 'Jo' the Easter Rising as he experienced it. Patrick begins by writing about the Rebellion's effect on the transport network in Dublin, noting that there were no trams running. After asking a bystander for an explanation Patrick is told that Dublin is in 'a state of riot'. Patrick continues on to describe how he and his family attempted to make their way home when their daughter, Doreen was shot in the leg, and he himself was shot in the ankle. A doctor from a nearby house brought them into his house to shelter until they could safely get to an ambulance. Patrick then recalls the nature of the conflict, including the restrictions on leaving your home to rumors of reinforcements.



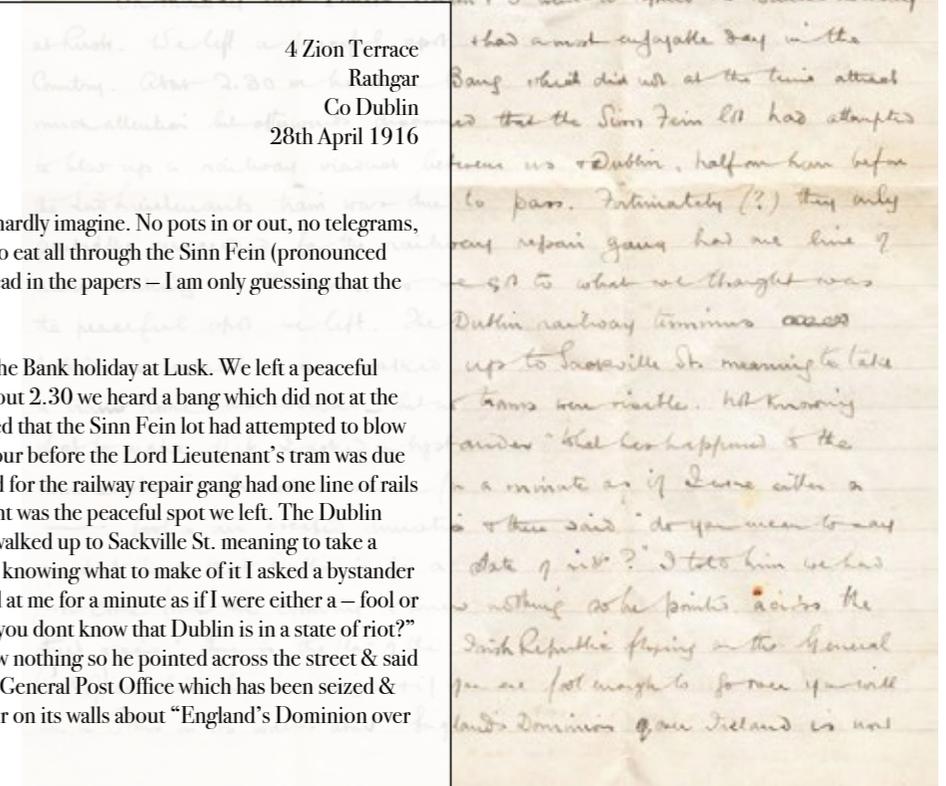
4 Zion Terrace
Rathgar
Co Dublin
28th April 1916

My dear Jo,

We are living here in an atmosphere which you can hardly imagine. No pots in or out, no telegrams, no telephones, no newspapers, no gas & not much to eat all through the Sinn Fein (pronounced Shin Fane) Rising about which you have no doubt read in the papers – I am only guessing that the news has reached you.

On Monday last Muriel, Doreen & I went to spend the Bank holiday at Lusk. We left a peaceful spot & had a most enjoyable day in the Country. About 2.30 we heard a bang which did not at the time attract much attention but afterwards discovered that the Sinn Fein lot had attempted to blow up a railway viaduct between us & Dublin, half an hour before the Lord Lieutenant's tram was due to pass. Fortunately (?) they only partially succeeded for the railway repair gang had one line of rails working in 3 1/2 hours, so we got to what we thought was the peaceful spot we left. The Dublin railway terminus looked as usual & we walked up to Sackville St. meaning to take a tram home as usual – but no trams were visible. Not knowing what to make of it I asked a bystander “What has happened to the tram service” He looked at me for a minute as if I were either a – fool or an escaped lunatic & then said “do you mean to say you dont know that Dublin is in a state of riot?” I told him we had just come from the country & knew nothing so he pointed across the street & said “There is the flag of the Irish Republic flying on the General Post Office which has been seized & if you are fool enough to go over you will see a Poster on its walls about “England's Dominion over Ireland is now at an end”.

I said thanks there is no place like home – no carts, no cars, no taxis, so with a bundle of eggs which we had gathered at Lusk we started to tramp home. On we went past Trinity College where the rattle of machine guns from the Castle made me hurry the party on. Up Grafton Street & a friend of ours who has a Painters Shop in Stephens Green said “The best thing you can do is leave your parcels in my place till tomorrow & then you'll have nothing to carry. This we did & had resumed our homeward way when, from the Direction of Harcourt Street came a scurrying rush of men women & children which I could not understand.



(continued)

4 Zion Terrace
Rathgar
Co Dublin
28th April 1916

We drew aside to get the shelter of a church porch as the crowd swept by when Doreen suddenly cried "Oh Mother I am shot" & something (like a boy throwing a stone) hit me hard on the ankle. I never bothered about anything but picked Doreen up & carried her back to where our parcels were (& are still) reposing, there I cut her clothes off & put an improvised tourniquet on her leg.

She got a bullet (which I have in my pocket as I write) right through the upper parts of her left leg, which providentially escaped the bone & the femoral artery but cut a branch of the latter. Meantime a Doctor turned up from a few doors away & said "you are not safe here come into my house" & then we had to shelter for an hour & a quarter while rifle & revolver shots made it unwise, to say the least of it, to open the door.

Then we all bundled into an ambulance Waggon which was the only possible means of conveyance & got home. I may add that if reports are true the Sinn Fein crowd have as much respect for the Red Cross as the Germans! Our own Doctor came shortly after & found Doreen fearfully weak from shock & loss of blood but pulled her round with whiskey & Brand's essence & now after an anxious time I am thankful to say she is getting on quite well - no temperature & very little inflammation.

Poor Muriel who was trying to shelter Doreen got an awful fright & it was only afterwards that we counted twelve bullet holes in various articles of her attire showing that one if not two bullets had passed within a hairsbreadth of her legs. What hit me afterwards turned out to be a spent bullet so all three of us had marvellous escapes!

Now here we are living out in the suburbs not knowing what has happened or what is happening in the city. We have to stop indoors between 7.30 pm & 5.30 am. an open window is regarded with suspicion & if you happen to walk in daylight with your hand in your pocket a soldier with loaded rifle will probably appear from somewhere & tell you to keep your hands free. One poor chap who put his hand into his hip pocket & drew a silver cigarette case was instantaneously shot as it was thought to be a revolver.

at an end. I said thanks this is all
no cars, no taxis, so with a burden
father at hand we started to tramp
Trinity College where the rattle of march
made me know the party on. Up
one who has a Printer's Shop in left
thing you can do in case you have
tramps & then you'll have nothing to con-
sumed our homeward way when, for
still came a surprising rush of m-
I could not understand. We drew
a church porch as the crowd swept by
cried "Oh Mother I am shot" & some-
a stone) hit me hard on the ankle
something hit me hard on the ankle
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here our parcels were (& are still)
clothes off & put an improvised tourniquet
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& tell you to keep your hands free. One poor chap who put his hand into
his hip pocket & drew a silver cigarette case was instantaneously shot
as it was thought to be a revolver. You see some of the Sinn Fein are
in uniform but a lot are in plain clothes & one never knows who or
what idlers in the streets are & we are all idlers with the jumps just
now. It is very a wry feeling to see the sky at night lighted up with
fires & listen to the crack of rifles, the knock-knock of machine
guns & the bang plop which says 'dropped' as the military & sailors
fight for the possession of the city - raiding home to home & I suppose
destroying what they cannot capture. A great deal is left to the
imagination & with all our nerves on edge you can (imagine) guess
what a lot we imagine, particularly as there are rumours that another
face of reinforcements for the rebels is coming near the hills & that
some of the country houses near us are ammunition depots.

(continued)

4 Zion Terrace
Rathgar
Co Dublin
28th April 1916

You see some of the Sinn Fein crowd are in uniform but a lot are in plain clothes & one never knows who or what idlers in the streets are & we are all idlers with the jumps just now. It is very a wry feeling to see the sky at night lighted up with fires & listen to the crack of rifles, the knock-knock of machine guns & the bang plop which says 'dropped' as the military & sailors fight for the possession of the city - raiding home to home & I suppose destroying what they cannot capture.

A great deal is left to the imagination & with all our nerves on edge you can (imagine) guess what a lot we imagine, particularly as there are rumours that another face of reinforcements for the rebels is coming near the hills & that some of the country houses near us are ammunition depots.

In any case don't be alarmed about us; things are not so bad that they might not be worse. bad and all as they are. You might tell Georgethe contents of this as I have no time to write more & am sending this in a round about way in the hope that it may keep you from wondering if we are all dead.

Love to all from us all. Your affectionate Brother
Pat



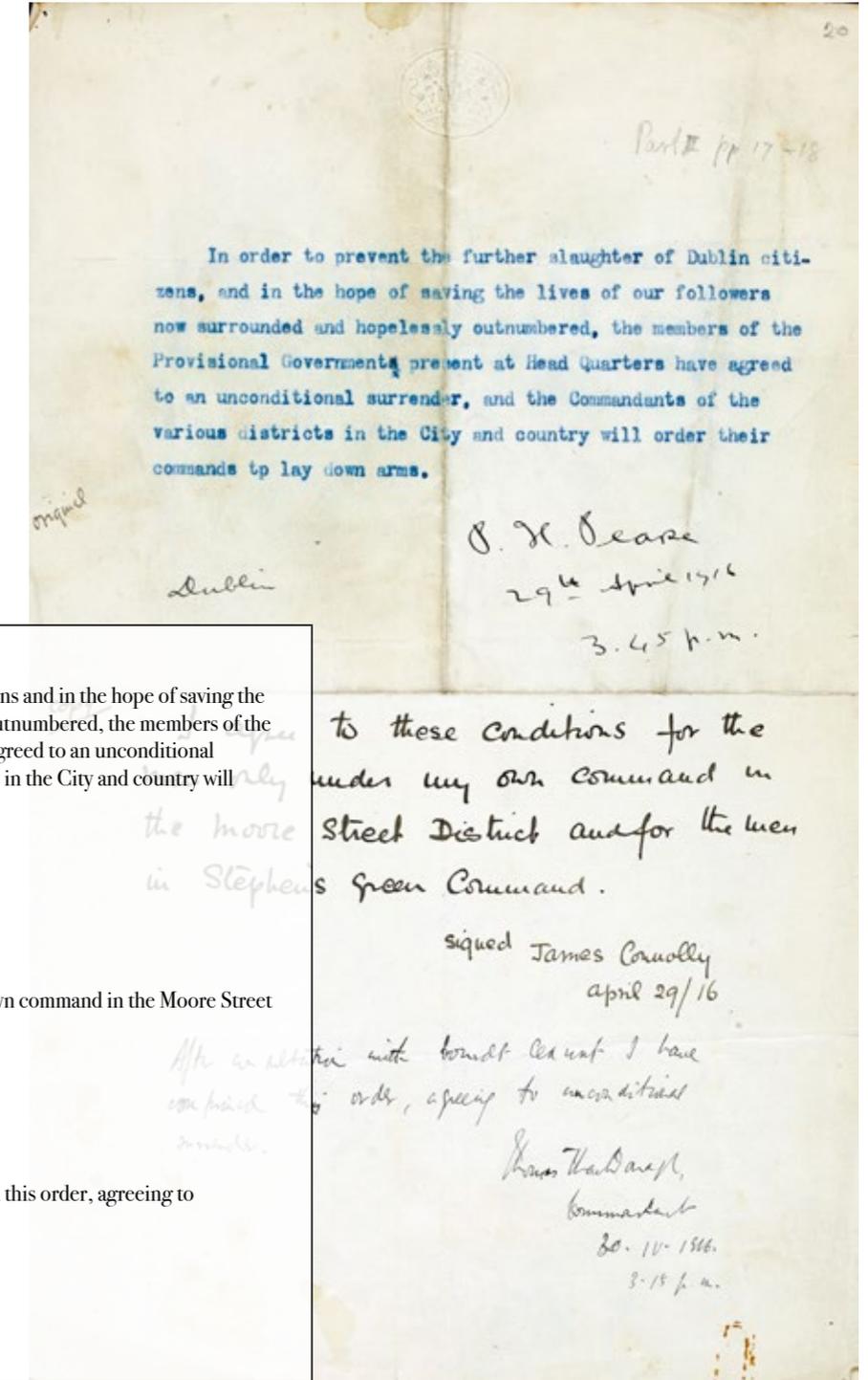
Letter Source
National Library of
Ireland
MS 15000/2/1

Surrender Order
signed by PH Pearse,
countersigned by
James Connolly and
Thomas MacDonagh.

29/30th April 1916

No.8

Fighting had lasted one week and resulted in the deaths of more than 250 civilians, 130 members of the British Forces and over 60 insurgents. With much greater numbers and heavier weapons, the British Army suppressed the Rising, and Pearse agreed to an unconditional surrender on Saturday April 29th. After the surrender the country remained under martial law. About 3,500 people were taken prisoner by the British, many of whom had played no part in the Rising and 1800 of them were sent to internment camps or prisons in Britain. Fifteen of the Rising leaders were executed at Kilmainham Gaol, including the signatories of the surrender order.



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 of the various districts in the City and country will order their commands to lay down arms.

P.H. Pearse
29th April, 1916
3.45pm
Dublin

I agree to these conditions for the men only under my own command in the Moore Street District and for the men in Stephen's Green Command.

Signed
James Connolly
April 29/16

After consultation with Comdt. Ceannt I have confirmed this order, agreeing to unconditional surrender.

Thomas MacDonagh
Comdt.

to these conditions for the
under my own command in
the Moore Street District and for the men
in Stephen's Green Command.

signed James Connolly
April 29/16

After consultation with Comdt. Ceannt I have
confirmed this order, agreeing to unconditional
surrender.

Thomas MacDonagh,
Commandant
20. 11. 1916.
3.15 p.m.



No.9

40 CHILDREN AGED SIXTEEN AND UNDER WHO DIED DURING THE EASTER RISING

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Christopher Andrews age 14 | Bridget Allen age 16 |
| Mary Anne Brunswick age 15 | Eugene Lynch age 8 |
| Christina Caffrey age 2 | Bridget McKane age 15 |
| Christopher Cathcart age 10 | John Henry McNamara age 12 |
| Charles Darcy age 15 | William Mullen age 9 |
| Moses Doyle age 9 | Joseph Murray age 14 |
| Patrick Fetherston age 12 | William O'Neill age 16 |
| Sean Francis Foster age 2 | 'Male' O Toole age 14 |
| James Fox age 16 | Mary Redmond age 16 |
| William Fox age 13 | Patrick Ryan age 13 |
| Neville Fryday age 16 | George Percy Sainsbury age 9 |
| James Gibney age 5 | Walter Scott age 8 |
| Sean Healy age 14 | Bridget Stewart age 11 |
| Christopher Hickey age 16 | William Lionel Sweny age 14 |
| Patrick Ivers age 14 | Margaret 'Madge' Veale age 13 |
| Charles Kavanagh age 15 | Philip Walsh age 11 |
| James Kelly age 15 | Eleanor Warbrook age 15 |
| Mary Kelly age 12 | Christopher Whelan age 15 |
| Patrick Kelly age 12 | Boy unidentified |
| John Kirwan age 15 | Infant unidentified. |



No. 10

Letter source
National Library of
Ireland
NLI44319-6-1

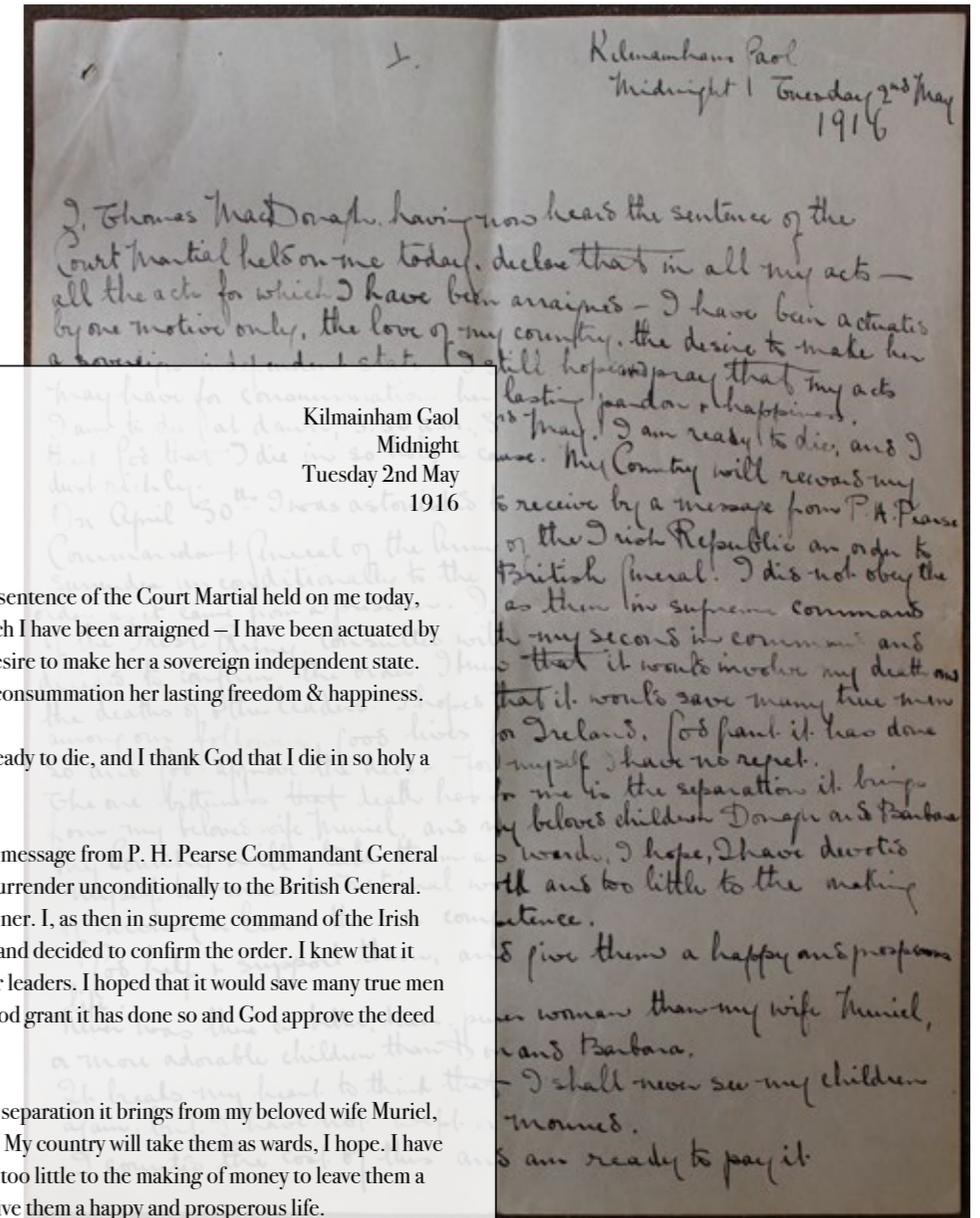
“Copy of last letter
and statement by
Thomas MacDonagh,
2nd May 1916”.

Letters of 1916
Schreibman, Susan,
Ed. Maynooth
University: 2016.

This is the last letter and will of Thomas MacDonagh. MacDonagh wrote the letter after hearing his sentence of death by firing squad. The letter outlines the details of his surrender, his thoughts on the failure of the Rising and his death sentence. MacDonagh reiterated his motive for his part in the 1916 Rising was “the love of my country, [and] the desire to make her a sovereign independent state.” It also details his wishes regarding his estate and the letter concludes on a personal note with words to his family. Thomas MacDonagh was one of the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation and a leader of the Easter Rising. He was convicted and sentenced to death by firing squad in Kilmainham gaol on 3 May 1916, with Padraig Pearse and Thomas Clarke, the first three of the Rising’s leaders to face execution.

(continued)

This is one of several copies of MacDonagh’s last letter and will. This copy was written out by Muriel MacDonagh (MacDonagh’s wife) and finished, by one of Plunkett’s sisters (probably Fiona). It was based on the letter given to Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca, another of MacDonagh’s sister’s.



Kilmainham Gaol
Midnight
Tuesday 2nd May
1916

I, Thomas MacDonagh, having now heard the sentence of the Court Martial held on me today, declare that in all my acts – all the acts for which I have been arraigned – I have been actuated by one motive only, the love of my country, the desire to make her a sovereign independent state. I still hope and pray that my acts may have for consummation her lasting freedom & happiness.

I am to die at dawn, 3.30a.m., 3rd May. I am ready to die, and I thank God that I die in so holy a cause. My Country will reward my dust richly.

On April 30th I was astonished to receive by a message from P. H. Pearse Commandant General of the Army of the Irish Republic an order to surrender unconditionally to the British General. I did not obey the order as it came from a prisoner. I, as then in supreme command of the Irish Army, consulted with my second in command and decided to confirm the order. I knew that it would involve my death and the deaths of other leaders. I hoped that it would save many true men among our followers, good lives for Ireland. God grant it has done so and God approve the deed –for myself I have no regret.

The one bitterness that death has for me is the separation it brings from my beloved wife Muriel, and my beloved children Donagh and Barbara. My country will take them as wards, I hope. I have devoted myself too much to national work and too little to the making of money to leave them a competence. God help & support them, and give them a happy and prosperous life.

Never was there a better, truer, purer woman than my wife Muriel, or more adorable children than Don and Barbara. It breaks my heart to think that I shall never see my children again, but I have not wept or mourned. I counted the cost of this and am ready to pay it.

(continued overleaf)

(continued)

Kilmainham Gaol
Midnight
Tuesday 2nd May
1916

Muriel has been sent for here I do not know if she can come. She may have no one to take the children while she is coming if she does —

My money affairs are in a bad way, I am insured for £200 in the New York life Co but have borrowed £101. I think I am insured for £100 in the Alliance Co but have a bank debt for £80. That leaves less than £120 from those sources if they produce anything. In addition I have insured my two children for £100 each in the Mutual Co of Australasia. Payments of premium to cease at my death, the money to be paid to the children at the age of twenty one.

I ask my brother Joseph MacDonagh and my good and constant friend David Houston to help my poor wife in these matters. My brother John who came with me and stood by me all last week has been sent away from here, I do not know where to. He, if he can will help my family too. God bless him and my other sisters and brothers.

Assistance has been guaranteed from funds in the hands of Cumann na m'Ban and other funds to be collected in America by our fellow countrymen there in provision for the dependants of those who fall in this fight. I appeal without shame to the persons who control these funds to assist my family. My wife and I have given all for Ireland.

I ask my friend David Houston to see Mr W.G. Lyon, publisher of my latest book, *Literature in Ireland*, and see that its publication may be useful to my wife and family. If Joseph Plunkett survives me and is a free man I make him with my wife, my literary executor. Otherwise my wife and David Houston will take charge of my writings. For the first time I pray that they may bring in some profit at last. My wife will want money from every source.

Yesterday at my court-martial in rebuffing some trifling evidence, I made a statement as to my negotiation for surrender with General Lowe. On hearing it read after it struck me that it might sound like an appeal. It was not such. I made no appeal, no recantation, no apology for my acts.

3.
who fall in this fight. I appeal
persons who control these funds
My wife and I have given all
I ask my friend David Houston
publisher of my latest book, *Literature*
and see that its publication may
and family. If Joseph Plunkett
man I make him with my wife
Otherwise my wife and David
charge of my writings. For the
they may bring in some profit
want money from every source.
Yesterday at my court-martial
trifling evidence, I made a statement
for surrender with General Lowe. On hearing it read after
it struck me that it might sound like an appeal.
It was not such. I made no appeal, no recantation,
no apology for my acts. In what I said I merely
claimed that I acted honourably and thoroughly in all
that I set myself to do. My enemies have, in return,
treated me in an unworthy manner. But let
that pass. It is a great and glorious thing to die
for Ireland and I can well forget all petty annoyances

to you I do
I have just heard that they have not been able to
reach you. Perhaps it is better so. Yet Father
Aloysius is going to make another effort to
do something. God help and sustain you,
my love. But for your suffering, this
would be all joy and glory. Goodbye.
your loving husband

Thomas MacDonagh.
I return the darlings' photographs.
Good bye, my love

(continued)

Kilmainham Gaol
Midnight
Tuesday 2nd May
1916

In what I said I merely claimed that I acted honourably and thoroughly in all that I set myself to do. My enemies have, in return, treated me in an unworthy manner. But let that pass. It is a great and glorious thing to die for Ireland and I can well forget all petty annoyances in the splendour of this.

When my son, Don, was born I thought that for to him and not to me would this be given. God has been kinder to me than I hoped. My darling little boy, remember me kindly. Take my hope and purpose with my deed for your sake and for the sake of your beloved mother and sister. I would wish to live long, but you will recognise the thing I have done and see this as a consequence. I still think I have done a great thing for Ireland, and with the defeat of the her enemy, won the first step of her freedom. God bless you, my son.

My darling daughter, Barbara, God bless you. I loved you more than ever a child has been loved. My dearest love, Muriel, thank you a million times for all that you have been to me. I have only one trouble in leaving life — leaving you so. Be brave darling. God will assist and bless you. Good bye. Kiss my darlings for me. I send you the few things I have saved out of this war. Good bye my love, till we meet again in Heaven. I have a sure faith of our union there. I kiss this paper that goes to you.

I have just heard that they have not been able to reach you. Perhaps it is better so. Yet Father Aloysius is going to make another effort to do something. God help and sustain you, my love. But for your suffering, this would be all joy and glory. Good bye.

Your loving husband,
Thomas MacDonagh.

I return the darlings' photographs.
Good bye, my love



No.11

A letter sent by Máire Ní Catháin (b. 1875) to Mabel FitzGerald (1884-1957). Máire sympathizes with Mrs FitzGerald on her husband's imprisonment but, as she writes, at least he is alive, unlike The O'Rahilly. Mabel was the wife of Desmond FitzGerald (1888-1947), an Irish Volunteer who served in the GPO garrison during the Easter Rising. He was subsequently arrested, court-martialled and sentenced to 20 years penal servitude, later commuted to 10 years. Mabel Washington McConnell FitzGerald, born 1884, was the daughter of a Belfast Presbyterian. Having met Desmond FitzGerald at Gaelic League classes, they married in 1911. They chose to live in Kerry, in a former coast guard station in Ventry. Here, together with Blythe and 'The' O'Rahilly, they established a local branch of the Irish volunteers.

Letter Source
University College
Dublin, Archives

FitzGerald Papers,
P80/1599

"Letter from
Máire Ní Catháin to
Mabel FitzGerald
3rd June 1916"

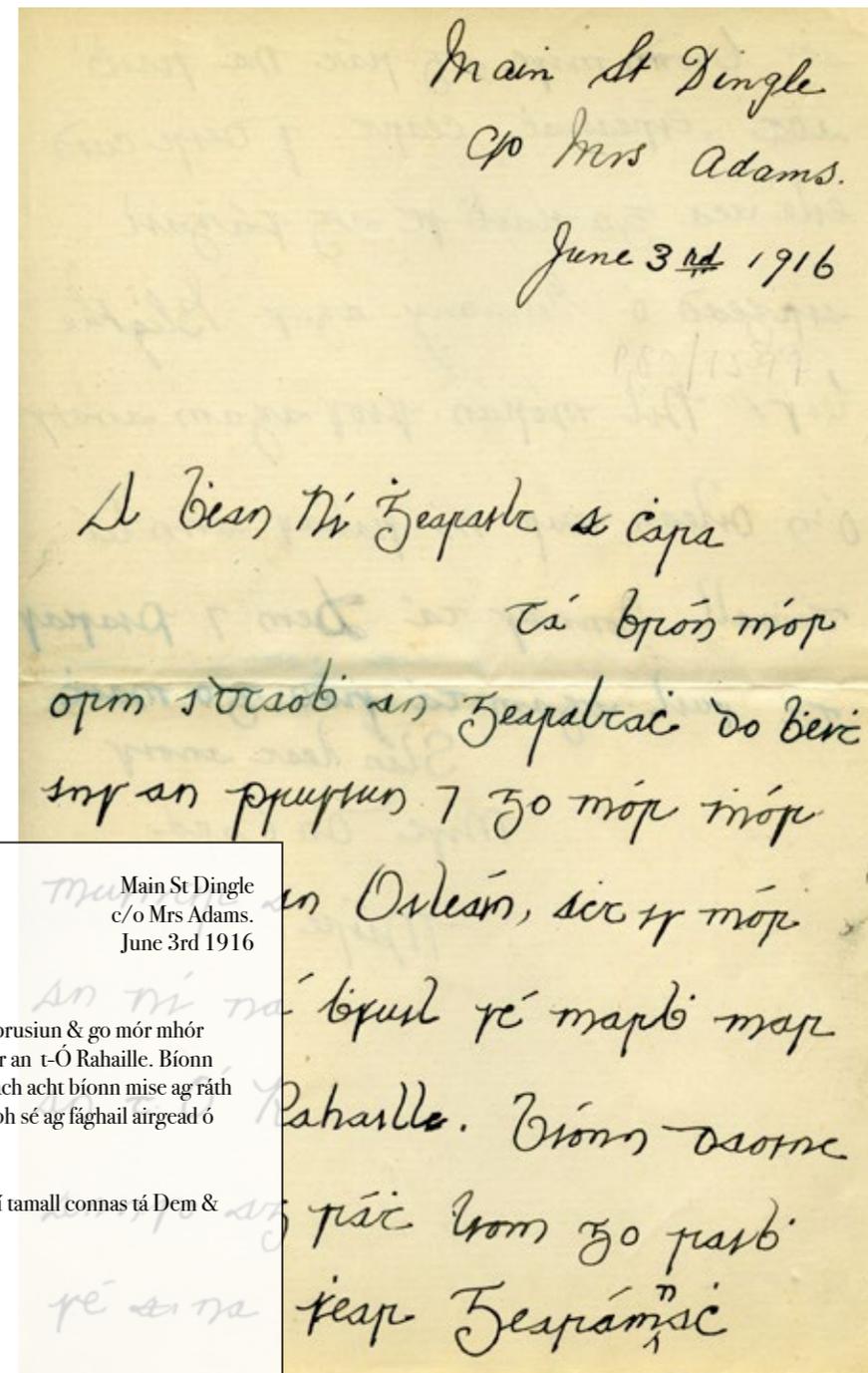
Letters of 1916
Schreibman, Susan.
Ed. Maynooth
University : 2016

(continued)

Mabel embraced country living and kept hens. She read in a Department of Agriculture pamphlet that 'hens productivity would be enhanced if fed late in the day'.

This action led the Royal Irish Constabulary to suspect FitzGerald of signalling to German submarines. An official order signed by the Chief Commanding Officer of the British Army in Ireland subsequently instructed them to leave Kerry.

The FitzGerald had four sons. The youngest, Dr. Garrett FitzGerald, would go on to serve as Taoiseach of Ireland on two occasions in the 1980s.



A bhean Ní Ghearrailt a chara,

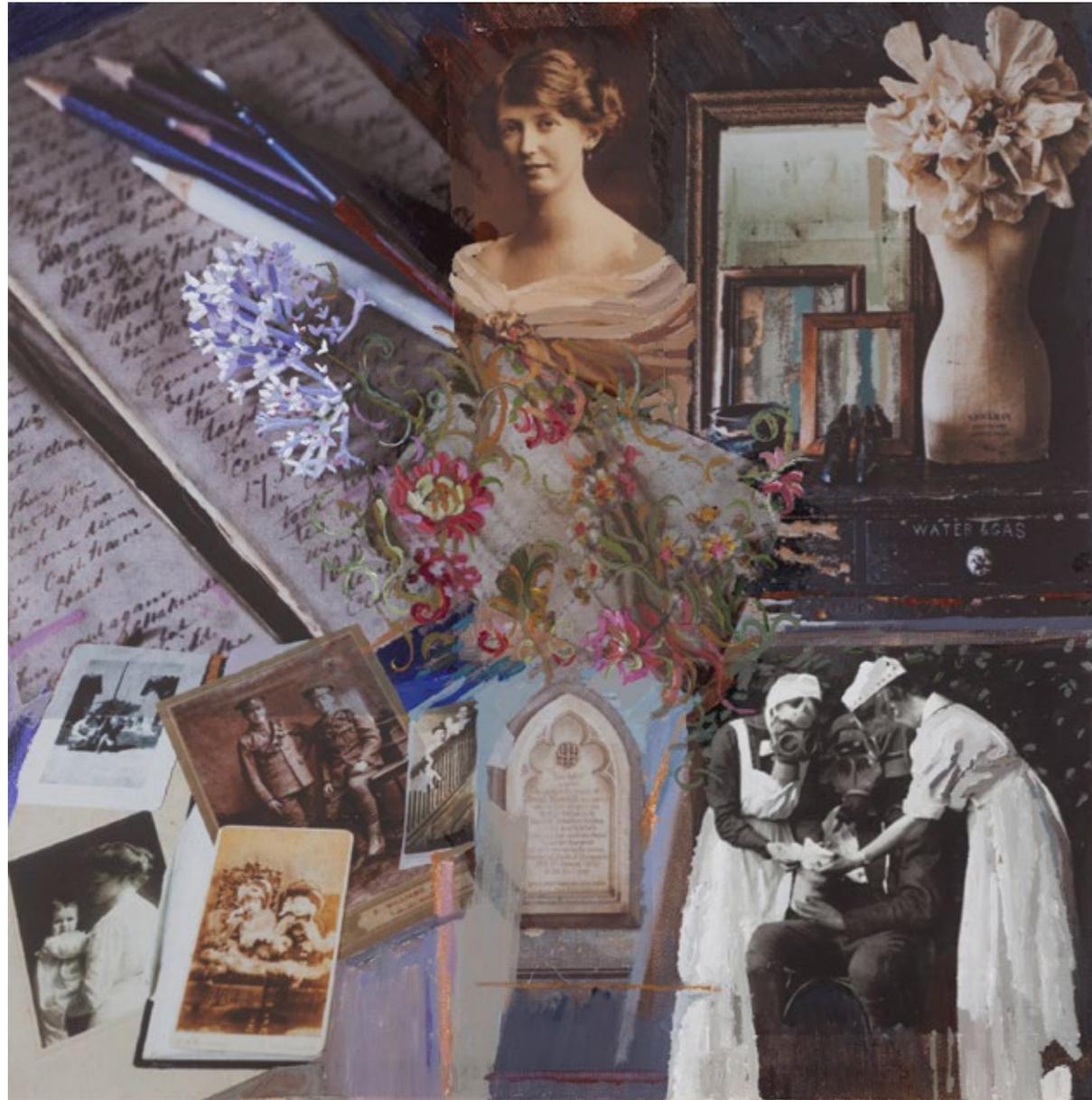
Tá brón mór orm i dtaobh an Gearaltach do bheith ins an prusiun & go mór mhór muintir an Oileáin, ach is mór an ní ná bhfuil sé marbh mar an t-Ó Rahaille. Bíonn daoine annso ag ráth liom go raibh sé a na fhear Gearámnach acht bíonn mise ag ráth ná raibh acht Éireannach ceart, & deir cuid eile aca go raibh sé ag fághail airgead ó Germany agus Bli gthe leis.

Níl mórán fios agam anois ó n Oileán mar ní rabhas ann leí tamall connas tá Dem & Piaras tá súil agam tá siad go maith.

Slán leat anois,
Mise do Chara,

Máire Ní Catháin

Main St Dingle
c/o Mrs Adams.
June 3rd 1916



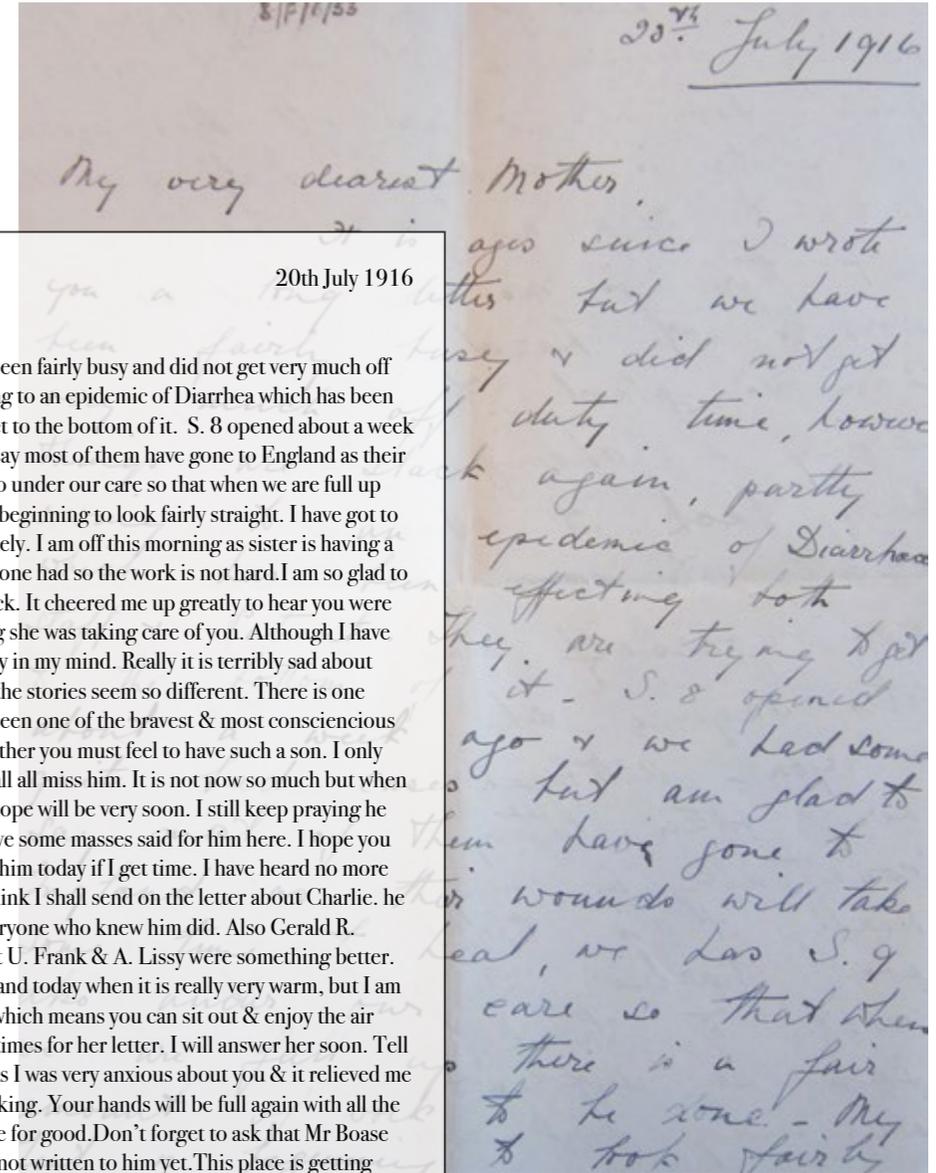
No.12

Letter Source
Medical
Missionaries of Mary

"Letter from
Marie Martin to her
mother, Mary Martin,
20th July 1916"

Letters of 1916
Schreibman, Susan.
Ed. Maynooth
University : 2016

Marie Helena Martin later known as 'Mother Mary', was a volunteer nurse during the First World War. She served in field hospitals in Malta, Leeds, and France, working for the British army and later went on to become the founder of the Medical Missionaries of Mary (MMM). Letter from Marie Martin (1892-1975) to her mother Mary Lewis Martin (1866-1955). Marie begins by writing that this is the first long letter she has written in some time. She describes the work conditions in the medical tents. She also writes about her sadness at the death of her brother, Charlie who had been missing in action since December 1915.



20th July 1916

My very dearest Mother,

It is ages since I wrote you a long letter but we have been fairly busy and did not get very much off duty time, however things are slack again, partly owing to an epidemic of Diarrhea which has been affecting both staff and patients. They are trying to get to the bottom of it. S. 8 opened about a week ago and we had some quite bad cases but am glad to say most of them have gone to England as their wounds will take some time to heal. We have S. 9 also under our care so that when we are full up there is a fair amount of work to be done. My Tent is beginning to look fairly straight. I have got to the stage of leaving flowers in it so it looks quite homely. I am off this morning as sister is having a half & will have to keep an eye on S.7 but there is no one had so the work is not hard. I am so glad to think you are having a change, don't be in a hurry back. It cheered me up greatly to hear you were feeling more yourself also to get A. Mays letter saying she was taking care of you. Although I have not written very often lately, you have been constantly in my mind. Really it is terribly sad about poor Charlie. I really do not know what to think. All the stories seem so different. There is one thing we may feel sure of & that is he seems to have been one of the bravest & most conscientious the way he stuck to his duty & men. How proud a mother you must feel to have such a son. I only know how I feel about him. Poor Charlie, how we shall all miss him. It is not now so much but when we all gather together when the war is over, which I hope will be very soon. I still keep praying he may turn up, although it looks so hopeless. I shall have some masses said for him here. I hope you have had good news of Tommy. I must try & write to him today if I get time. I have heard no more of Gerald G. but hope also to write to him to-day. I think I shall send on the letter about Charlie. he was so fond of him. How the men all loved him as everyone who knew him did. Also Gerald R. How is he. I was so glad to hear in your last letter that U. Frank & A. Lissy were something better. The heat really has not been very trying til yesterday and today when it is really very warm, but I am really glad to think of you having such fine weather, which means you can sit out & enjoy the air without tiring yourself. Please thank A. May a 1000 times for her letter. I will answer her soon. Tell her she could have done nothing to please me more as I was very anxious about you & it relieved me to hear from someone who say you how you were looking. Your hands will be full again with all the boys home. I suppose Ger & Jack will remain at home for good. Don't forget to ask that Mr Boase out, He is quite nice & I am sure plays tennis. I have not written to him yet. This place is getting quite (fu) lively, as a great number of French people are opening their houses. Certainly the B.O do have a time with the french girls. I think I must close now, Time is getting on. I only got off at 10.30 & must be ready for dinner at 12 0'ck I want to write several letters, one to Dinnie Fitzgerald asking him to send Red Cross stuff.

So au-revoir, with my very fondest love to you & all,
Your ever loving & faithful daughter,
Marie x



Letter Source
University College
Dublin, Archives
George Gavan Duffy
Papers, P152/14

"Letter from John
Quinn to George
Gavin Duffy,
9 September, 1916".

Letters of 1916
Schreibman, Susan,
Ed. Maynooth
University: 2016

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archives.

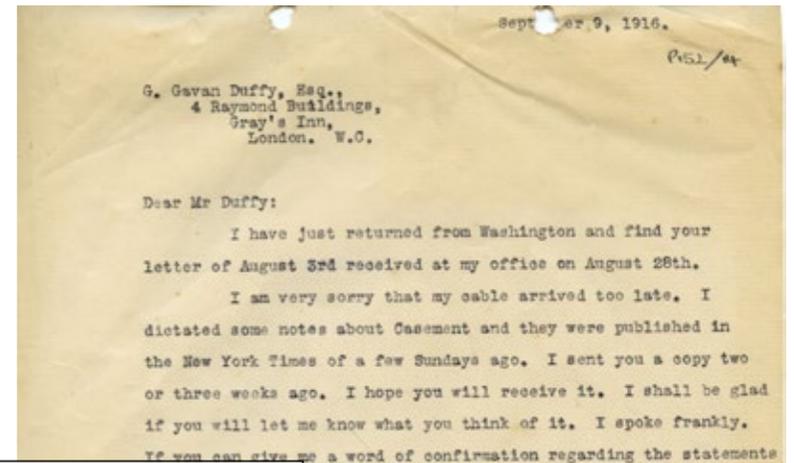
No.13

This is a copy of a letter from American lawyer John Quinn (1870-1924) to George Gavan Duffy (1882-1951). The letter concerns an article published by Quinn in the 'New York Times' on 9 September 1916, a month after Casement's execution. He informs Duffy that he dictated notes about Casement which were published by the New York Times a few weeks previously and states that he spoke frankly but would like Gavan Duffy to confirm his statement about Germany. He also notes that the English have been circulating reports on Casement's degeneracy and admits that he was shown what's purported to be photographic copies of his diary and the handwriting looked like his. Declares that it was a dirty piece of business to circulate such reports, that even if the statements were true his private life had nothing to do with his public acts.

(continued)

Quinn was a successful Irish-American lawyer in New York city, art collector and friend and patron of many of the leading Irish literary and political figures of the twentieth century. He commissioned paintings by John Butler Yeats and Jack Yeats, and he supported literary figures such as J.M. Synge, W.B. Yeats, Lady Gregory and James Joyce. He corresponded with Joseph Conrad and Ezra Pound and amassed an art collection featuring Seurat, Picasso and Matisse.

Quinn was a supporter of the Irish nationalist cause and associated with John Devoy and Roger Casement. George Gavan Duffy was an Irish politician, barrister and judge. He unsuccessfully defended Roger Casement at his trial for high treason after the Easter Rising.



September 9, 1916
G. Gavan Duffy, Esq.,
4 Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, London, W.C.

Dear Mr Duffy:

I have just returned from Washington and find your letter of August 3rd received at my office on August 28th. I am very sorry that my cable arrived too late. I dictated some notes about Casement and they were published in the New York Times of a few Sundays ago. I sent you a copy two or three weeks ago. I hope you will receive it. I shall be glad if you will let me know what you think of it. I spoke frankly. If you can give me a word of confirmation regarding the statements in the last paragraph against Germany, I should much value it and would promise not to quote you directly, but I should like to be fortified by a statement from you in that respect. Kuno Meyer has threatened to "show me up" and prove the falsity of that statement, which I made on the very best direct evidence. Shane Leslie told me of your courageous act in defending Casement. You did a fine courageous thing. It was an act that I would expect of a man of your name and blood. The English have been circulating reports on Casement's degeneracy. They came to me from all quarters. I was finally shown what was purported to be photographic copies of his diary and the handwriting looked like his. But I wrote to the Ambassador and to the Naval Attache stating that I thought it was a dirty piece of business to circulate such reports, that even if the statements were true his private life had nothing to do with his public acts, and that if this stuff or semi-official Scotland Yard business were continued, I would open up again, would re-tell the whole story of the Pigott forgeries, would point out the fact that they had this diary for months, that if they had used it when he was in Germany it would have prevented his return to Ireland, and would have made him literally a man without a country, but that they held it until they had him within their power, until he could not fight back or take any action or vindicate his name, and that I would let the American people judge as to its genuineness and authenticity and as to the baseness of the motives of those who were circulating it. A few days went by and the Naval Attache told me that he had received a peremptory cable from Gray under no circumstances to show the diary. I think that my word of warning worked.

Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr Duffy:
I have just returned from Washington and find your letter of August 3rd received at my office on August 28th. I am very sorry that my cable arrived too late. I dictated some notes about Casement and they were published in the New York Times of a few Sundays ago. I sent you a copy two or three weeks ago. I hope you will receive it. I shall be glad if you will let me know what you think of it. I spoke frankly. If you can give me a word of confirmation regarding the statements in the last paragraph against Germany, I should much value it and would promise not to quote you directly, but I should like to be fortified by a statement from you in that respect. Kuno Meyer has threatened to "show me up" and to prove the falsity of that statement, which I made on the very best direct evidence. Shane Leslie told me of your courageous act in defending Casement. You did a fine courageous thing. It was an act that I would expect of a man of your name and blood. The English have been circulating reports on Casement's degeneracy. They came to me from all quarters. I was finally shown what was purported to be photographic copies of his diary and the handwriting looked like his. But I wrote to the Ambassador and to the Naval Attache stating that I thought it was a dirty piece of business to circulate such reports, that even if the statements were true his private life had nothing to do with his public acts, and that if this stuff or semi-official Scotland Yard business were continued, I would open up again, would re-tell the whole story of the Pigott forgeries, would point out the fact that they had this diary for months, that if they had used it when he was in Germany it would have prevented his return to Ireland, and would have made him literally a man without a country, but that they held it until they had him within their power, until he could not fight back or take any action or vindicate his name, and that I would let the American people judge as to its genuineness and authenticity and as to the baseness of the motives of those who were circulating it. A few days went by and the Naval Attache told me that he had received a peremptory cable from Gray under no circumstances to show the diary. I think that my word of warning worked.



Letter Source
 University College
 Dublin, Archives
 Collection:
 Dr James Ryan
 Papers, P 88/34

“Letter from Michael
 Collins to James
 Ryan, 23 August
 1916”.

Letters of 1916
 Schreiberman, Susan,
 Ed. Maynooth
 University: 2016

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 archives.

No.14

A letter written from Michael Collins (1890-1922) to James Ryan (1891-1970). The letter was written to Ryan from Frongach internment camp. Ryan had already been released and Collins reports to him about changes in the camp and the conditions and morale of his fellow prisoners. James Ryan studied medicine in UCD. He was appointed chief medical officer in the GPO during the Easter Rising. After the Rising he was imprisoned in Stafford and, later, Frongoch and was released in August 1916. Ryan was later a founder member of Fianna Fáil and a government minister. Michael Collins who was born in Woodfield, Clonakilty, West Cork served as aide-de-camp to Joseph Plunkett in the GPO during the Rising and was imprisoned in Frongach.

(continued)

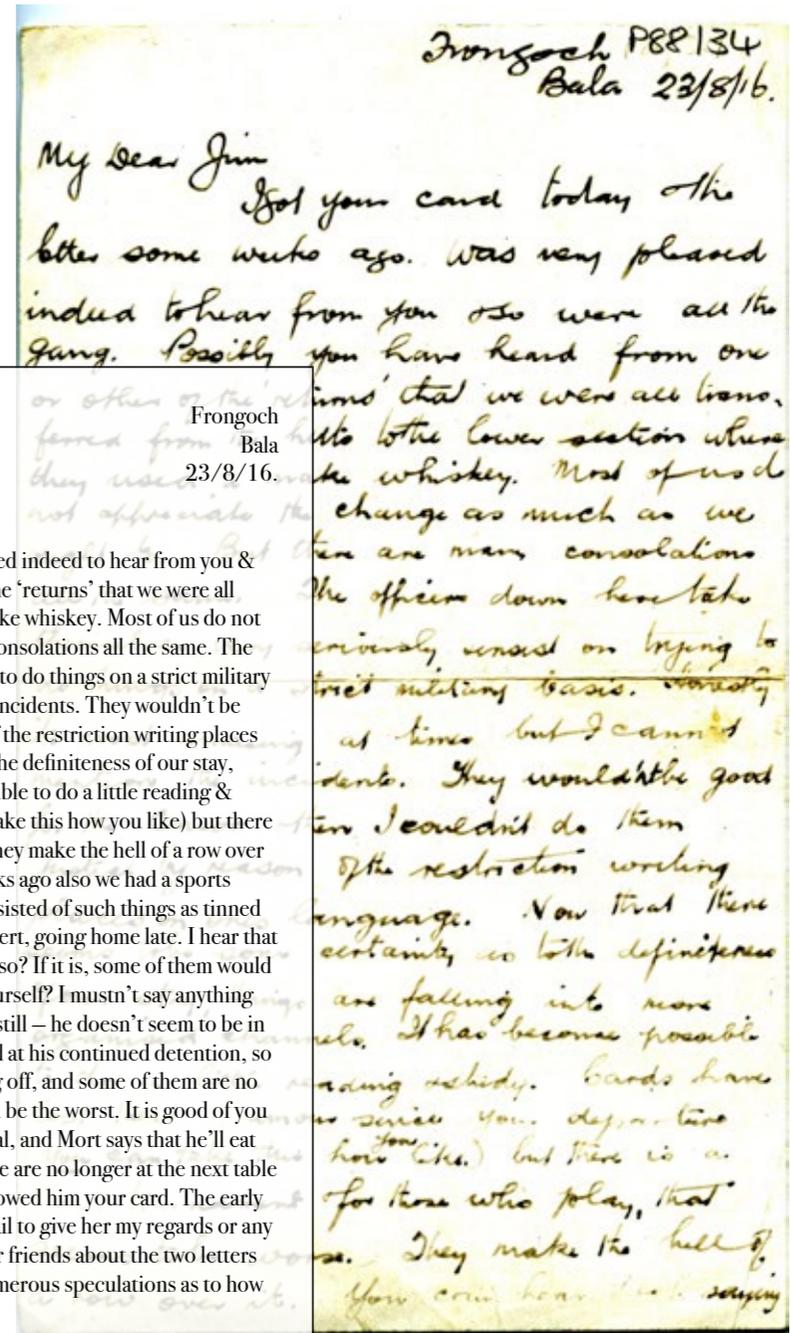
He went on to become Minister for Finance in the First Dáil, IRA Director of Information and President of the Provisional Government. President of the Irish Republican Brotherhood from November 1920 until his death, and member of the Irish delegation during the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations.

Subsequently, he was both Chairman of the Provisional Government and Commander-in-chief of the National Army. Collins was shot and killed in an ambush in August 1922 during the Irish Civil War.

My Dear Jim,

I got your card today and the letter some weeks ago. Was very pleased indeed to hear from you & so were all the gang. Possibly you have heard from one or other of the ‘returns’ that we were all transferred from the huts to the lower station where they used to make whiskey. Most of us do not appreciate the change as much as we ought to. But there are many consolations all the same. The officers down here take themselves very seriously & insist on trying to do things on a strict military basis. Honestly its most amusing at times but I cannot mention the incidents. They wouldn’t be good for the censor and then I couldn’t do them justice by reason of the restriction writing places on ones language. Now that there seems to be some certainty as to the definiteness of our stay, things are falling into more organized channels. It has become possible to do a little reading & study. Cards have lost their glamour since your departure (you can take this how you like) but there is a chess tournament for those who play, that seems to be worse. They make the hell of a row over it. You can hear Dick saying magnificent play on my part: a few weeks ago also we had a sports meeting, a great day high tea for the prize winners afterwards It consisted of such things as tinned pears jam & pudding. We gorged ourselves & ended up with a concert, going home late. I hear that most of the men who have gone home are still unemployed – is that so? If it is, some of them would be as well off here – that is in a way. What do you think of things yourself? I mustn’t say anything as so many of my letters have been returned lately! Old Dan is here still – he doesn’t seem to be in such good form as when he used to. I think he is rather disappointed at his continued detention, so too are others, although generally that feeling appears to be wearing off, and some of them are no longer gloomy when they are told that the first couple of winters will be the worst. It is good of you to think about that cake. We are eagerly looking forward to its arrival, and Mort says that he’ll eat any—thing you send. Of course he may not have an opportunity as we are no longer at the next table to them. Doras damned in a most whole-hearted manner when I showed him your card. The early rising has sent him be damned entirely. When you see May do not fail to give her my regards or any addition you think suitable. Of course you can explain to any of your friends about the two letters weekly. Have you recovered from the weddings yet? There were numerous speculations as to how must have been enjoying yourself on the occasions.

Best wishes from self & all the C.
 Mick Collins





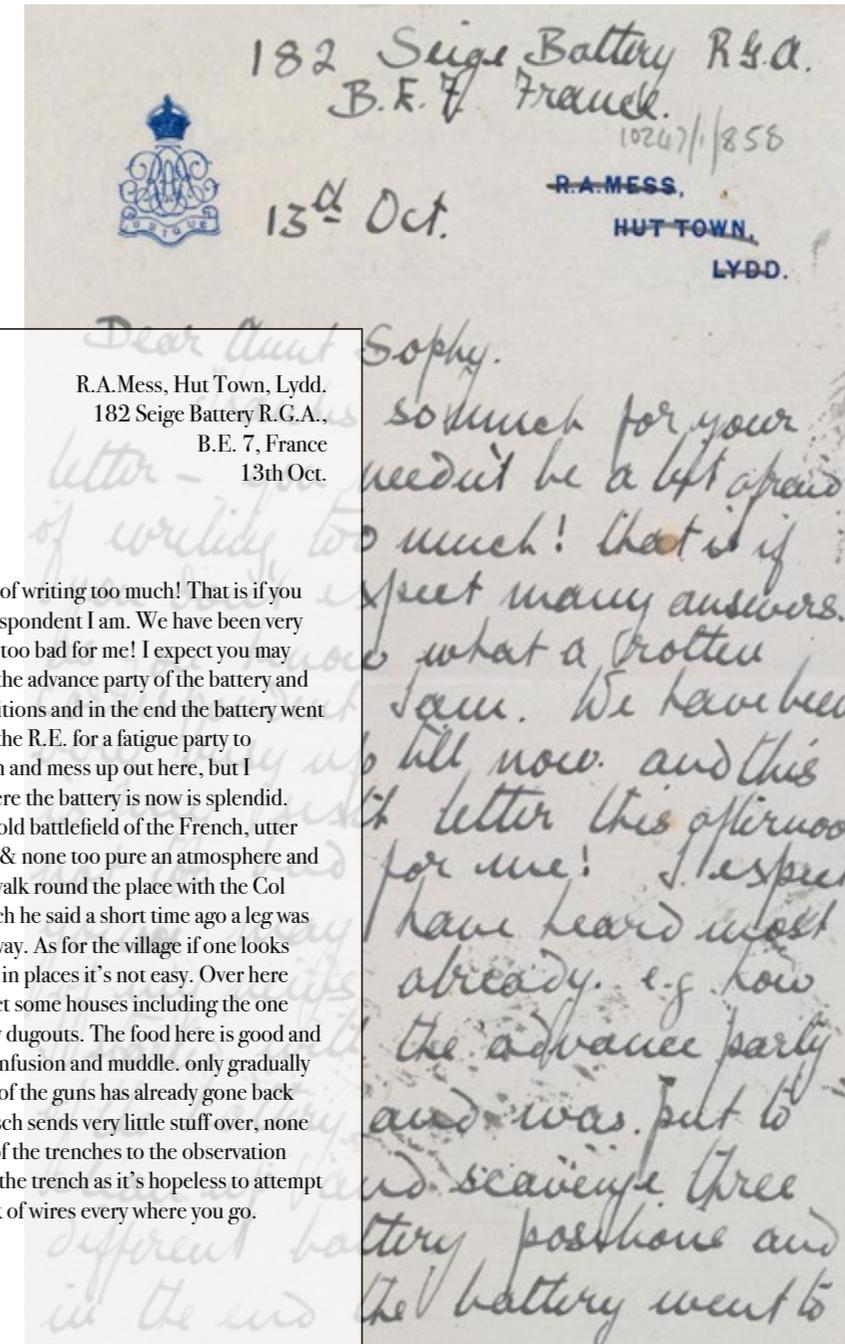
Letter Source
Trinity College,
Dublin
TCD MS
10247/1/858, TCD
MS 10247/1/858

“Letter from Charles
Wyndham Wynne to
his aunt, Sophia Sarah
Wynne, 13 October
1916”.

Letters of 1916
Schreibman, Susan,
Ed. Maynooth
University: 2016.

No.15

A letter from Charles Wyndham Wynne (1895-1917) to his aunt, Sophia Sarah Wynne. Charles describes life with the 182 Siege Battery in France, of terrible mud in the trenches and the barbed wire. Charles also makes mention of the morbid method of signposting in wartime, that ‘a leg was sticking out a mark used as a sign post...’. Charles Wynne served as a captain in the Royal Garrison Artillery during the First World War. His application to the Royal Flying Corps was denied in 1916 due to his poor eyesight. Charles ultimately died of wounds received at Armentieres, June 1917.



R.A. Mess, Hut Town, Lydd.
182 Siege Battery R.G.A.,
B.E. 7, France
13th Oct.

Dear Aunt Sophy,

Thanks so much for your letter – you needn’t be a bit afraid of writing too much! That is if you don’t expect many answers, as you know what a rotten correspondent I am. We have been very busy up till now and this is my sixth letter this afternoon not too bad for me! I expect you may have heard most of my news already, e.g. how I started with the advance party of the battery and was put to clean up and scavenge three different battery positions and in the end the battery went to an entirely different position and my party were taken by the R.E. for a fatigue party to rejoin the battery in three weeks! There is terrible confusion and mess up out here, but I suppose in the end things gradually get done. The place where the battery is now is splendid. The other place where I went first is by no means ideal – an old battlefield of the French, utter desolation & plenty of legs & arms and bones and old boots & none too pure an atmosphere and digging in same place is by no means amusing. I went for a walk round the place with the Col General when I first arrived and he showed me a boat in which he said a short time ago a leg was sticking out a mark used as a sign post for pointing out the way. As for the village if one looks carefully in the grass one may find where the walls stood but in places it’s not easy. Over here things are much better the village is more or less intact in fact some houses including the one we’re in actually have roofs a very pleasant change after dirty dugouts. The food here is good and we’re as comfortable as princes but everything is in awful confusion and muddle. only gradually emerging. We have not been doing much shooting and one of the guns has already gone back broken to England. This part of the line is very quiet the Bosch sends very little stuff over, none has yet come near me. You’re right about the mud in some of the trenches to the observation posts one has to walk with a foot stuck against either side of the trench as it’s hopeless to attempt to walk along the bottom. – The country is an awful network of wires every where you go.

Now I’ll stop for the present
Your ever affec nephew,

C. W. Wynne



Letter Source
The Crean Family
Archive,
Kerry Museum

No.16

Thomas "Tom" Crean (Irish: Tomás Ó Croidheáin; 25 February 1877 – 27 July 1938), was an Irish seaman and Antarctic explorer from Annascaul in County Kerry. He was a member of three major expeditions to Antarctica during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration, including Captain Scott's 1911–13 Terra Nova Expedition. This saw the race to reach the South Pole lost to Roald Amundsen and ended in the deaths of Scott and his polar party. During this expedition, Crean's 35 statute miles (56 km) solo walk across the Ross Ice Shelf to save the life of Edward Evans led to him receiving the Albert Medal for Lifesaving. Crean had left the family farm near Annascaul to enlist in the Royal Navy at the age of 15. In 1901, while serving on Ringarooma in New Zealand, he volunteered to join Scott's 1901–04 Discovery Expedition to Antarctica, thus beginning his exploring career.

(continued)

After his Terra Nova experience, Crean's third and final Antarctic venture was as second officer on Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, on Endurance. After Endurance became beset in the pack ice and sank, Crean and the ship's company spent months drifting on the ice before a journey in boats to Elephant Island. He was a member of the crew which made an open boat journey of 800 nautical miles (1,500 km) from Elephant Island to South Georgia, to seek aid for the stranded party.

Crean's contributions to these expeditions sealed his reputation as a polar explorer, and earned him a total of three Polar medals. After the Endurance expedition, he returned to the navy; when his naval career ended in 1920 he moved back to County Kerry. In his home town of Annascaul, Crean and his wife Ellen opened a pub called the "South Pole Inn", where he lived quietly and unobtrusively until his death in 1938.

Emily Shackleton was Sir Ernest Shackleton's wife, she is writing to Tom Crean who has returned from the Antarctic Expedition in advance of her husband Sir Ernest Shackleton. She is encouraging him in his effort to advance his career within the Navy.

4 Milnthorpe Road,
Eastbourne,
Nov 12th 1916

Dear Mr Crean,

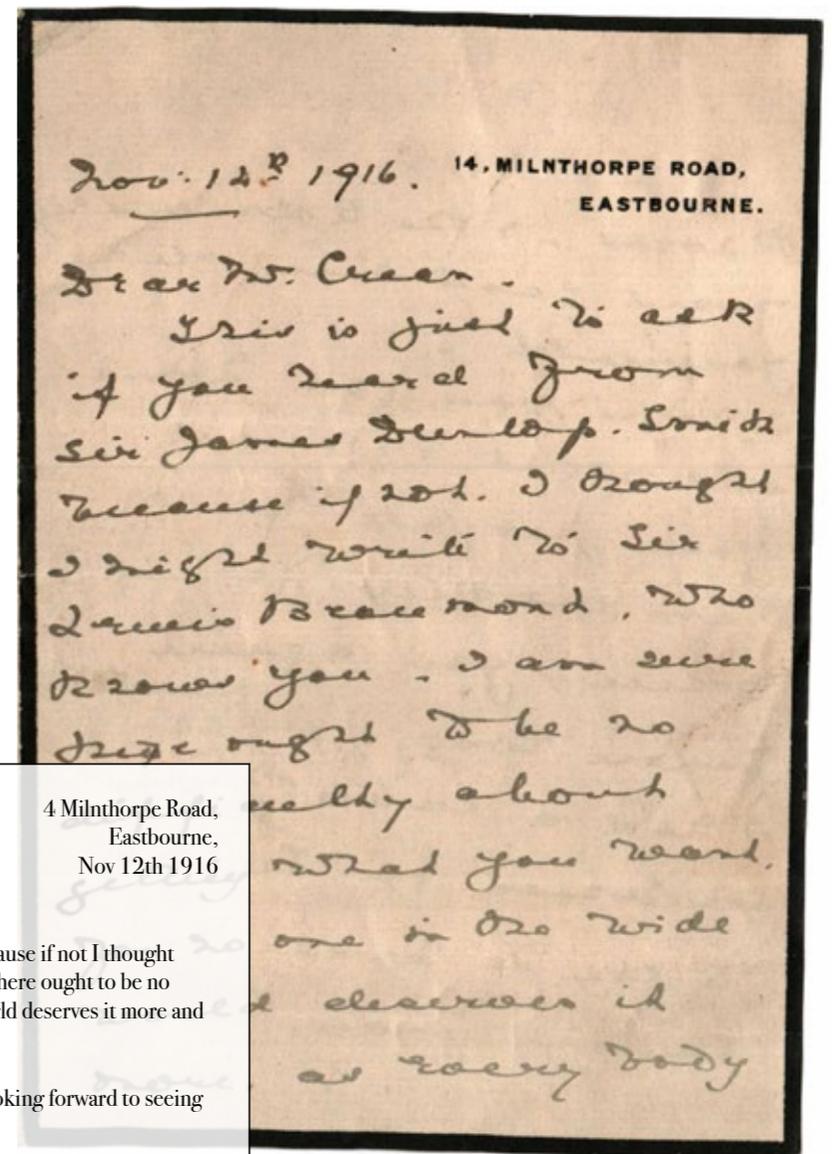
This is just to ask if you heard from Sir James Dunlop Smith because if not I thought I might write to Sir Lewis Beaumont who knows you. I am sure there ought to be no difficulty about getting what you want for no one in the wide world deserves it more and everybody knows the Admiralty needs good men like yourself.

I hope you got home alright and found your people well. I am looking forward to seeing you again before long if you can manage it.

I had a cable from Sir Ernest on Sunday to say he was then sailing from San Francisco so I expect he sailed on Saturday. I was glad to see in the paper that the "Orissa" had arrived safely with the film.

With best wishes,
Yours always sincerely,

Emily Shackleton





16 LETTERS

In acknowledgment and commemoration of this historical year in Irish history, the collection of 16 letters and lifescapes are available to purchase as limited edition archival quality prints, presented in a hand-made box lined in Irish linen. This unique heirloom is limited to an edition of 50. The hand-made presentation box may be personalized with your name or with your own message.

The prints of Geraldine O’Sullivan’s artwork have been made utilizing the best quality colour process available for fine art printmaking. The prints itself are of archival quality allowing it to last for generations. Like any artwork, the prints should not be exposed to direct sunlight.

Price: \$ 600 (incl. shipping). Size: 11 x 10 x 1 1/2 inches.

You can order directly from Geraldine (geraldine@geraldineosullivan.com) or from Geraldine’s website www.geraldineosullivan.com



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IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION TO

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I6 LETTERS