

**DECADE OF CENTENARIES**

**ALL ISLAND HISTORY COMPETITION**

**REVOLUTION IN IRELAND – A STUDY OF A POLITICAL  
REVOLUTIONARY EVENT**

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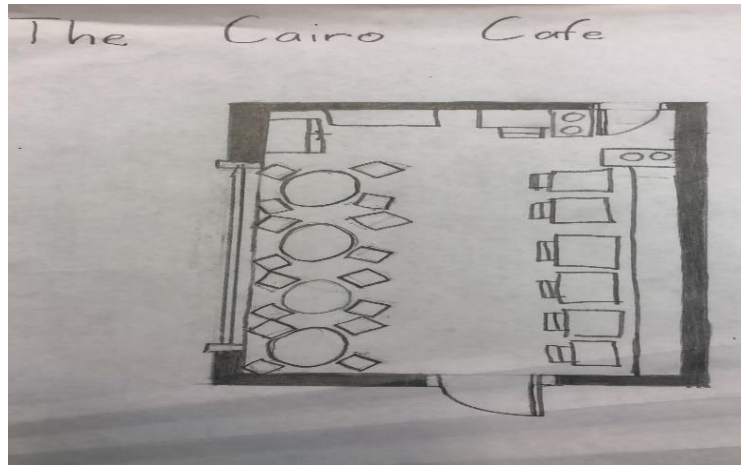
There were many momentous events that happened in Ireland during the 1920s but Bloody Sunday was a pivotal day in Irish history. It happened on November 21 during the Irish War of Independence. It started with a series of coordinated assassinations carried out on British agents by the IRA on that winter morning. The British forces retaliated at Croke Park that very same afternoon. The sequence of events was a turning point in Irish and English history because it struck the English authorities at their very core and made them realise just how vulnerable they were.

The British agents targeted by the IRA were known as the Cairo Gang.



The Cairo Gang

Apparently, they were known thus because they used to meet in a café of that name on Grafton Street.



Seating Plan of the Cairo Café by Eirinn Mooney

1920

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It was also believed that some of the gang had worked with British military intelligence in Cairo during the First World War.



Map of Cairo by Harry Quinn

In early November 1920, some high-ranking members of the IRA were almost captured. In another raid, the British forces located paperwork with the names and addresses of 200 IRA members. Michael Collins, the IRA Chief of Intelligence ordered the assassination of British agents because it

was feared that the British forces were planning to assassinate leading republicans. Michael Collins seemed to think that attack was the best form of defence.



Michael Collins

1920

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The Cairo Gang lived in addresses mainly on the Southside of Dublin. The addresses of the British agents were discovered from different sources, servants in the house, IRA informants and talk on the street. Originally there were 50 names on the IRA hit list but it was whittled down to 20 because there wasn't enough evidence to prove that all of them were members of the Cairo Gang. Diarmuid Ferriter is of the opinion that the number was reduced from 50 down to 20 because the fallout from targeting such a large group would be far ranging. Cathal Brugha had at least 15 names removed from the original list because "if to his mind there was the slightest loop-hole for uncertainty, then that individual could not be dealt with"

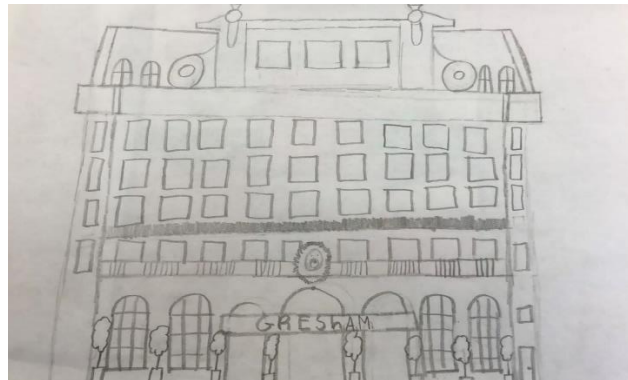


Cathal Brugha

Michael Collins had a secret squad of IRA members who were nicknamed 'The Squad' or "The Twelve Apostles'. The squad was a secret one because there would be serious repercussions if their true purpose was made known to others than those in the squad. The Twelve Apostles goal was to assassinate any members of the RIC, British agents or any informers. On November 20 1920 the leaders of the assassination teams (The Twelve Apostles and some of the IRA's Dublin Brigade) were briefed on their targets for the following morning, 20 agents at 8 different locations. Dick Mc Kee and Peadar Clancy attended the meeting but were both arrested in a raid a few hours later. Mc Kee's

attitude to the operation was “If we don’t get them they will get us” Also arrested was Conor Clune who had no connections to the IRA.

Early on the morning of November 21<sup>st</sup> the IRA teams started the operation. The majority of the assassinations took place within a relatively small area of South Inner-City Dublin but for 2 shootings at the Gresham Hotel on Sackville Street (now O’Connell Street).



Gresham Hotel by Darragh Carolan Keegan

1920

In all, 14 men were killed outright whilst another one died later from his wounds. Five others were wounded but survived their injuries. Collins justified the killings by his statement ‘By their destruction the very air is made sweeter. That should be the future’s judgement on this particular event. For myself, my conscious is clear’.

Lieutenant Peter Ames (32)	Lieutenant Peter Ames slept with a loaded pistol under his bed but wasn’t expecting to be attacked so early in the morning. He was shot dead at 38, Upper Mount Street. His engagement was announced the very day he died.
Lieutenant George Bennett (38)	Lieutenant George Bennett was also shot in his bedroom at 38, Upper Mount Street .
Captain William Newberry (45)	Captain William Newberry tried to stop his assassins at 92, Lower Baggot Street. His wife was heavily pregnant, saw him being murdered and lost her baby.
Lieutenant Leonard Wilde (35)	Lieutenant Leonard Wilde was shot dead in the Gresham Hotel.
Captain Patrick McCormack (47)	Captain Patrick McCormack was also killed in the Gresham Hotel because they thought he was a British spy.
Captain Geoffrey Baggallay (29)	Captain Geoffrey Baggallay had lost a leg during the First World War. He was shot dead at 119,

	Lower Baggot Street even though he tried to escape through his bedroom window.
Lieutenant Henry Angliss (28)	Lieutenant Henry Angliss was shot at 22, Lower Mount Street.
Captain John Fitzgerald (22)	Captain John Fitzgerald was shot dead at 28, Earlsfort Terrace.
Lieutenant Donald MacLean (31)	Lieutenant Donald MacLean was shot dead at 117, Morehampton Road.
Thomas Smith (47)	Thomas Smith was the landlord at 117, Morehampton Road and was shot even though he was totally innocent.
Major Charles Dowling (29)	Major Charles Dowling (29) was still in his pyjamas when he was shot at 28, Upper Pembroke Street

1920

Captain Leonard Price	Captain Leonard Price was still in his pyjamas when he was shot at 28, Upper Pembroke Street.
Temporary Cadet Francis Garniss (34)	Temporary Cadet Francis Garniss was responding to the shooting at Upper Mount Street when he was captured by the IRA ,interrogated and shot.
Auxiliary Cecil Morris (24)	Auxiliary Cecil Morris was responding to the shooting at Upper Mount Street when he was captured by the IRA ,interrogated and shot.
Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Montgomery (40)	Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Montgomery was shot in his lodgings at 28, Upper Pembroke Street and died from his injuries on December 10th.

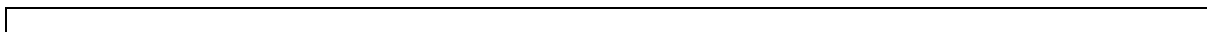


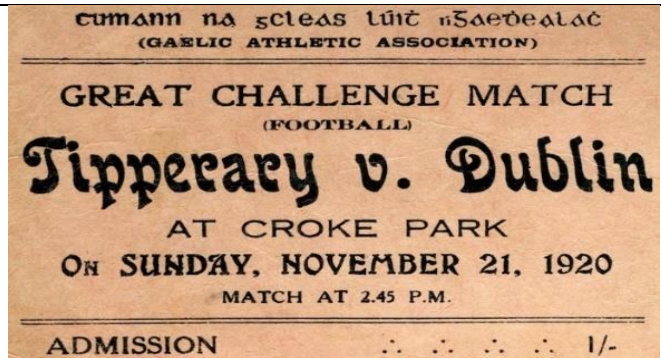
Officers Killed in Dublin

1920

The assassination had a daunting effect on the British forces. It made them feel really vulnerable and unsafe and shattered their sense of security. Many British agents fled to Dublin Castle for safety.

That afternoon there was more bloodshed in Croke Park. People often think that the actions there were a British reprisal for what happened that morning. Diarmuid Ferriter is of the opinion that the original plan was for officers to enter Croke Park where Dublin and Tipperary were playing a match, stop the game and search everyone in attendance; an estimated 10,000 people.





Ticket to Football Match



Dublin Team



Tipperary Team

Instead of that a mixed force of R.I.C., Auxiliary, Police and Military started shooting and total panic ensued. Several people died from crush injuries as they rushed to escape the shooting. The victims ranged from schoolchildren to married men. There was a total of 14 victims.





Jane Boyle was at Croke Park with her fiancé, she was shot in the back. She was due to be married the following Friday but was instead buried in her wedding dress.



James Burke was a father of five who was caught in the crush and it's thought he died of a heart attack.



Daniel Carroll was a 30-year-old bartender from Co. Tipperary who was shot as he walked away from Croke Park. He died 2 days later.



Michael Ferry was a 30-year-old unemployed father of one who had fought in World War One. While trying to escape the shooting he got stuck on a spike and died in a nearby house. What was really sad was the fact that he was wearing his old army clothing at the time of his death.



Michael Hogan was the corner back on the Tipperary team and he was shot in the back as he crawled along the pitch to escape the shooting.



Tom Hogan was a 19-year-old mechanic who was shot in the shoulder and had to have his right arm amputated. Gangrene set in and he died on 26<sup>th</sup> November.



James Matthews was a 48-year-old day labourer who died from a shot to the leg.



Patrick O'Dowd a 57-year-old labourer was shot as he helped people get over the wall on the east side of Croke Park to escape the shooting



Thomas Ryan, a 27-year-old married man was an IRA section commander who had been advised to stay away from the match in Croke Park. When Michael Hogan was shot, he went to help him but was then shot himself.



James Teehan was a 26-year-old who worked in a pub. He ended up being crushed by the crowds.



Joe Traynor, a 20-year-old keen footballer was shot twice in the back on the Canal End terrace behind the goals.



Jerome O'Leary a 10-year-old from Blessington Street was shot through the head as he was watching the match on a wall behind the goal on the canal end.



William Percy Robinson, a 11-year-old schoolboy had climbed a tree on Jones' Road to view the match. He was hit in the chest and right shoulder.



John William Scott, known as Billy, grew up on Fitzroy Avenue close to Croke Park. A ricocheting bullet ripped through his chest during the random shooting.

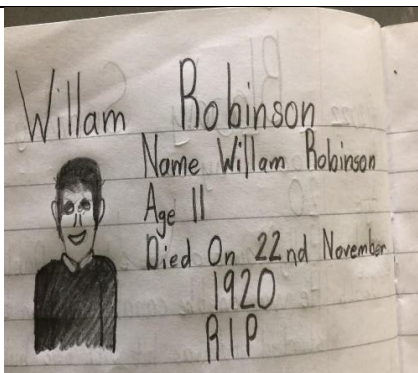
That evening, Dick Mc Kee, Conor Clune and Peadar Clancy were interrogated and shot dead. The official story was that they were shot whilst trying to escape.

We think that Bloody Sunday 1920 marked a turning point in that British Authorities felt a great deal more vulnerable after the Cairo Gang assassination, national and international opinion turned against the British after their reprisals and effort to cover up what actually happened. The Hogan Stand in Croke Park is a constant reminder of the fateful day as are Clancy Collins and McKee Barracks. History leaves a long shadow.

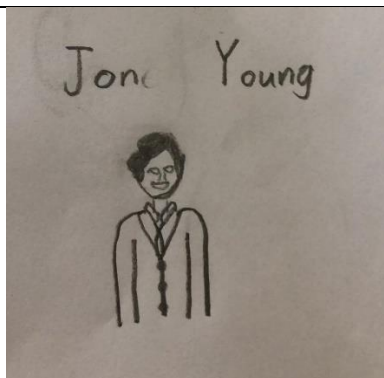
## WHAT I FOUND MOST INTERESTING ABOUT THIS HISTORY PROJECT

Andre Adao	How 'The Squad' were able to kill so many of the Cairo Gang and then just disappear without being caught.
Brodie Kelly Wood	How much power the English had over the Irish.
Eirinn Mooney	The part where the soldiers shot randomly into the crowd at Croke Park and none of the officers tried to stop them.
Ethan Kellett	The fact that the Cairo Gang were shot in their pyjamas because you're so defenceless when you just get up in the morning.
Harry Quinn	The account of Dick Mc Kee, Conor Clune and Peadar Clancy being interrogated in Dublin Castle and shot. The British official report stating that they were trying to escape.
Fionn Gill	I found the actual assassinations of the Cairo Gang interesting because of how they managed to coordinate the attacks without phones.
Shane Garvey	How Patrick O'Dowd risked his own life by helping people get over the wall at Croke Park.
Darragh Carolan Keegan	What I found most interesting is that there is a stand in memory of Michael Hogan in Croke Park.
Daniel Lynham Noble	I found the killings of Peadar Clancy, McKee and Conor Clune interesting because of the way the British tried to cover them up.

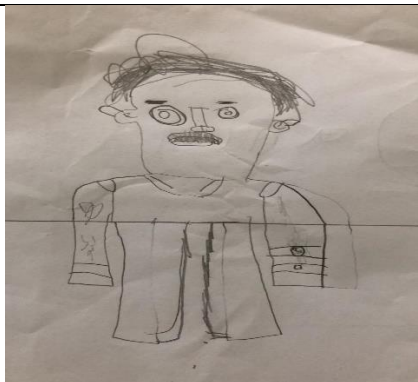
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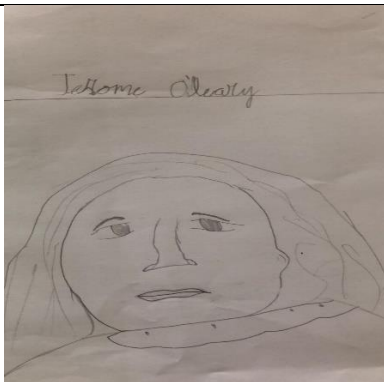
William Robinson by Eirinn Mooney



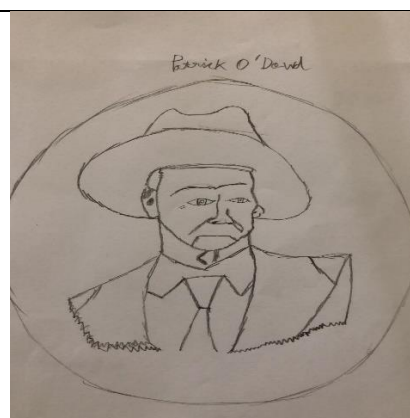
John Young by Shane Garvey



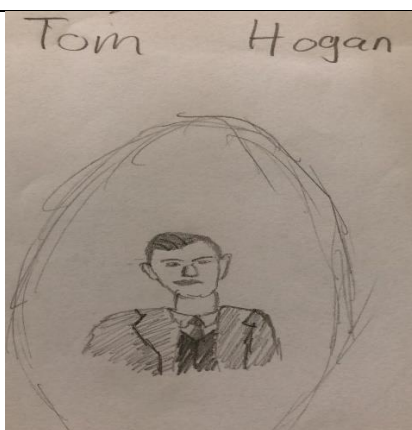
Lieutenant Ames by Daniel Lynham Noble



Jerome O'Leary by Harry Quinn



Patrick O'Dowd by Andre Adao



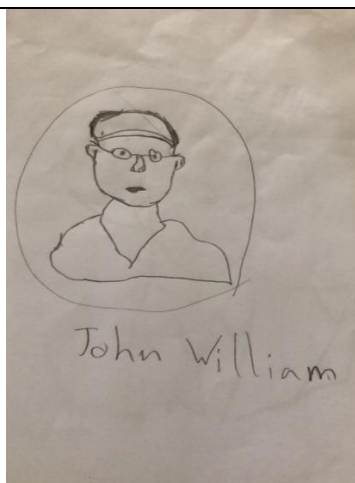
Tom Hogan by Darragh Carolan Keegan

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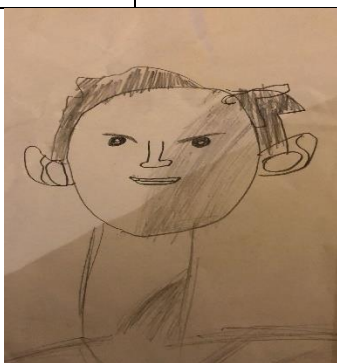
Daniel Carroll

Daniel Carroll by Fionn Gill



John William

John William by Ethan Kellett



Michael Hogan by Brodie Kelly Wood