



7.0 The Main Sites of Activity During the Rising.

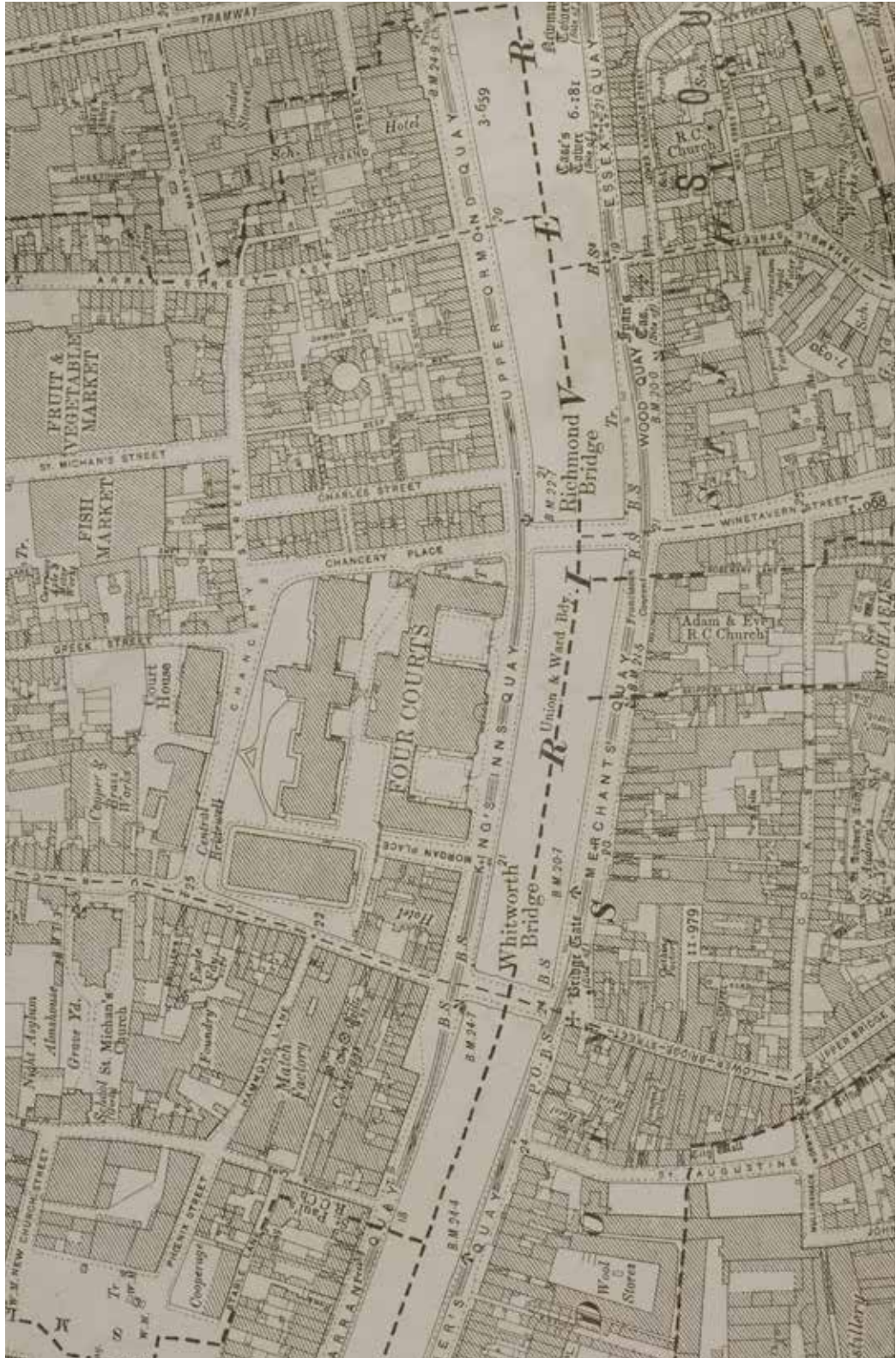
7.4 The Four Courts area

The 1st Battalion of the Dublin Brigade led by Commandant Edward Daly occupied the Four Courts (law courts) and the adjacent streets on the north bank of the river Liffey, almost a mile to the west of the GPO. This was a strategic area as it controlled the main route between the military barracks to the west of the city and the GPO. While his battalion normally numbered 400, only 150 turned out on the day, but the numbers grew over the following days as word of the Rising spread. Headquarters were at the entrance to the North Dublin Union (later St Laurence's Hospital) on North Brunswick Street (to the north of the area shown on the map).

The 1st Battalion was involved in some of the fiercest fighting of the Rising, the first skirmish occurring on Monday afternoon when Volunteers in the Four Courts got the better of a party of Lancers (cavalry) escorting lorries loaded with munitions. On Wednesday the Volunteers captured two enemy positions in the area, the Bridewell which was held by police and Linenhall Barracks, which was occupied by unarmed army clerks.

By Thursday the area was effectively cordoned off by the South Staffordshire and Sherwood Forest regiments. Fierce fighting ensued, particularly in the North King Street area, where a number of civilian men were murdered by soldiers of the South Staffordshire Regiment. The fighting continued until Saturday evening when the news of Pearse's surrender filtered through. Commandant Daly is said to have shown great concern for the civilian community; he took over Monks's bakery and arranged for the distribution of bread to the local community.

7.4 The Four Courts area



Map showing part of the Four Courts area. (Ordnance Survey, 1:2,500 (25 inches to mile), Dublin, sheet XVIII, 1911; scale altered).

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The Four Courts as viewed from across the Liffey. (Lawrence, R1655).

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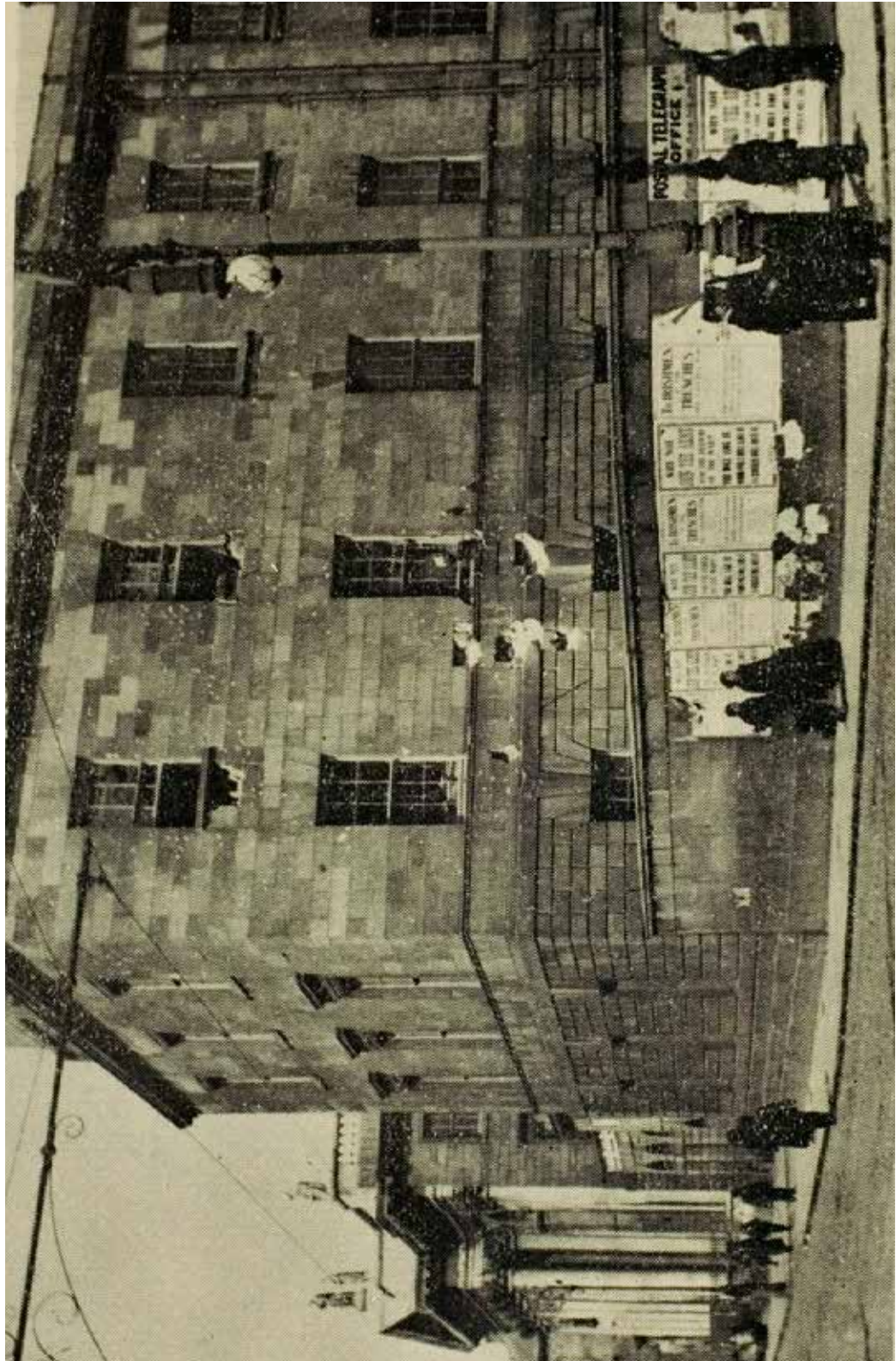
The Four Courts. (Dublin and the "Sinn Féin" Rising, Wilson Hartnell & Co., 1916).

7.4 The Four Courts area



Commandant Ned Daly. (Keogh 24)

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The pock-marked walls of the Four Courts testify to the fighting. Recruiting posters for the British army were plastered on the walls. (Capuchin Annual, 1966).

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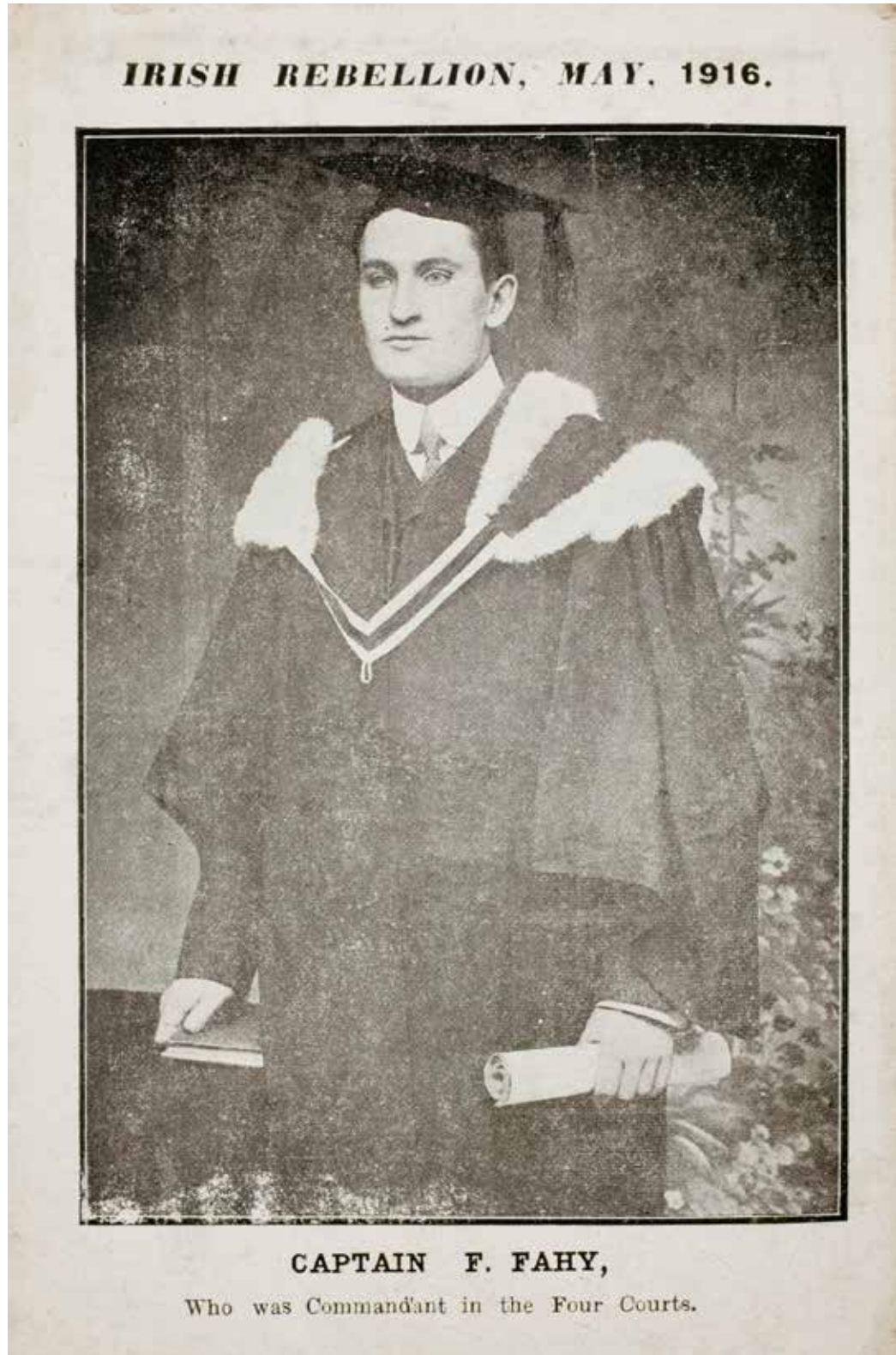
An entrance to the Four Courts barricaded with furniture as seen after the surrender.
(Manchester Guardian History of the War, 16 Aug. 1916)

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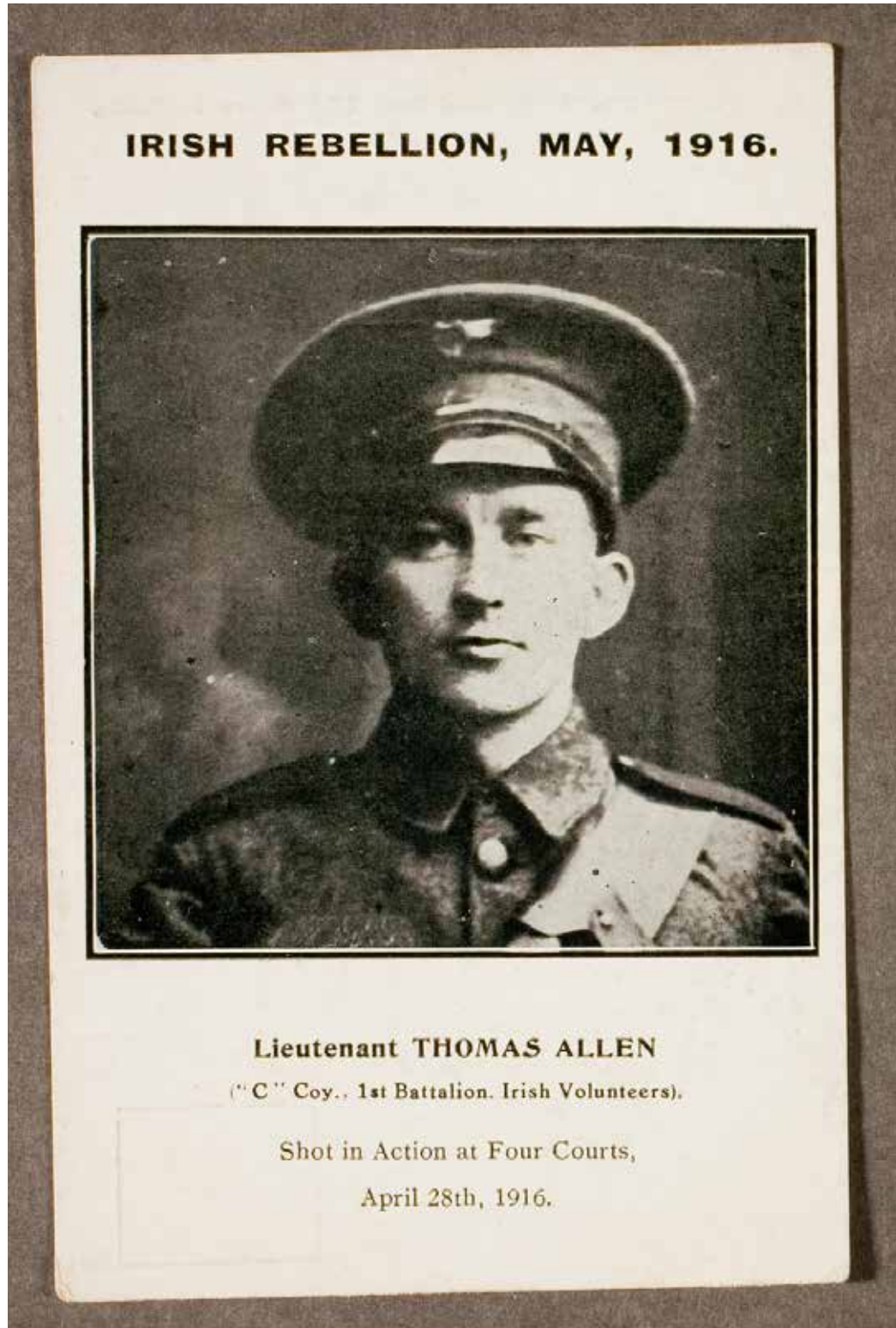
Lieutenant Peter Clancy was attached to the 1st Battalion and was in action in the Four Courts area. (Keogh 10).

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A commemorative postcard for Frank Fahy. He was sentenced to ten years penal servitude. (Album 113).

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A commemorative postcard for Lieutenant Thomas Allen. He was a native of the Moyvalley area of Co. Meath. Aged twenty-nine, he was wounded at the Four Courts and died in the Richmond Hospital. He was survived by a widow and three children. (O'Mahony Album).