7.0 Príomhshuímh na Gníomhaíochta

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist

Ba í Ard-Oifig an Phoist ar Shráid Sackville (Sráid Uí Chonaill) an príomhshuíomh a bhí le gabháil, áit a ainmníodh mar cheanncheathrú an Rialtais Shealadaigh. Bhí cúigear ball den Rialtas Sealadach lonnaithe ansin: An Piarsach, Ó Conghaile, Ó Cléirigh, Mac Diarmada agus Ó Pluingcéad Bhí thart ar 350 fear agus bean sa gharastún—Óglaigh na hÉireann, Cumann na mBan, Arm Cathartha na hÉireann agus na Raidhfilí Ibeirneacha ina measc. Ina measc siúd a bhí in Ard-Oifig an Phoist ag tráth éigin le linn na seachtaine bhí Harry Boland, Winifred Carney, Michael Collins, Rory Connolly (mac le Séamas a bhí cúig bliana déag d'aois), Éamonn Duggan, Desmond FitzGerald, Louise Gavan Duffy, Julia Grenan, Seán Lemass, Diarmuid Lynch, Finian Lynch, Seán McGrath, an tAlra Elizabeth O'Farrell, Seán T. Ó Ceallaigh, Liam Mac Piarais, James Ryan, Arthur Shields, Michael Staines, Oscar Traynor, Domhnall Ua Buachalla.

Ba í an tuiscint a bhí ann nuair a bheadh an Forógra léite amach agus Poblacht na hÉireann bunaithe, go gcuirfí Óglaigh na hÉireann agus Arm Cathartha na hÉireann le chéile mar arm Phoblacht na hÉireann. Mar ard-cheannfort ar Bhriogáid Bhaile Átha Cliath d'arm úr Phoblacht na hÉireann, bhí Séamas Ó Conghaile i gceannas ar chosaint Ard-Oifig an Phoist agus stiúir sé oibríochtaí chomh maith ar fud na cathrach go dtí gur gearradh an chumarsáid níos déanaí sa tseachtain.

Chuir garastún Ard-Oifig an Phoist baracáid ar chuid de na sráideanna máguaird agus ghabháil sé seilbh ar roinnt foirgneamh taobh leis chomh maith, lena n-áirítear roinnt foirgneamh trasna na sráide. Tráthnóna Dé Luain chuir an garastún ruaig ar ionsaí marcra ó ghrúpa Lannairí a thug faoi ruathar meargánta síos Sráid Sackville Uachtarach thar Ghallán Nelson faoi lámhach ceannairceach ó na foirgnimh ar an dá thaobh den tsráid. Thit riail agus reacht as a chéile agus rinneadh creachadh ar a lán siopaí agus stóir i Sráid Sackville agus sna sráideanna máguaird ón Mhairt ar aghaidh.

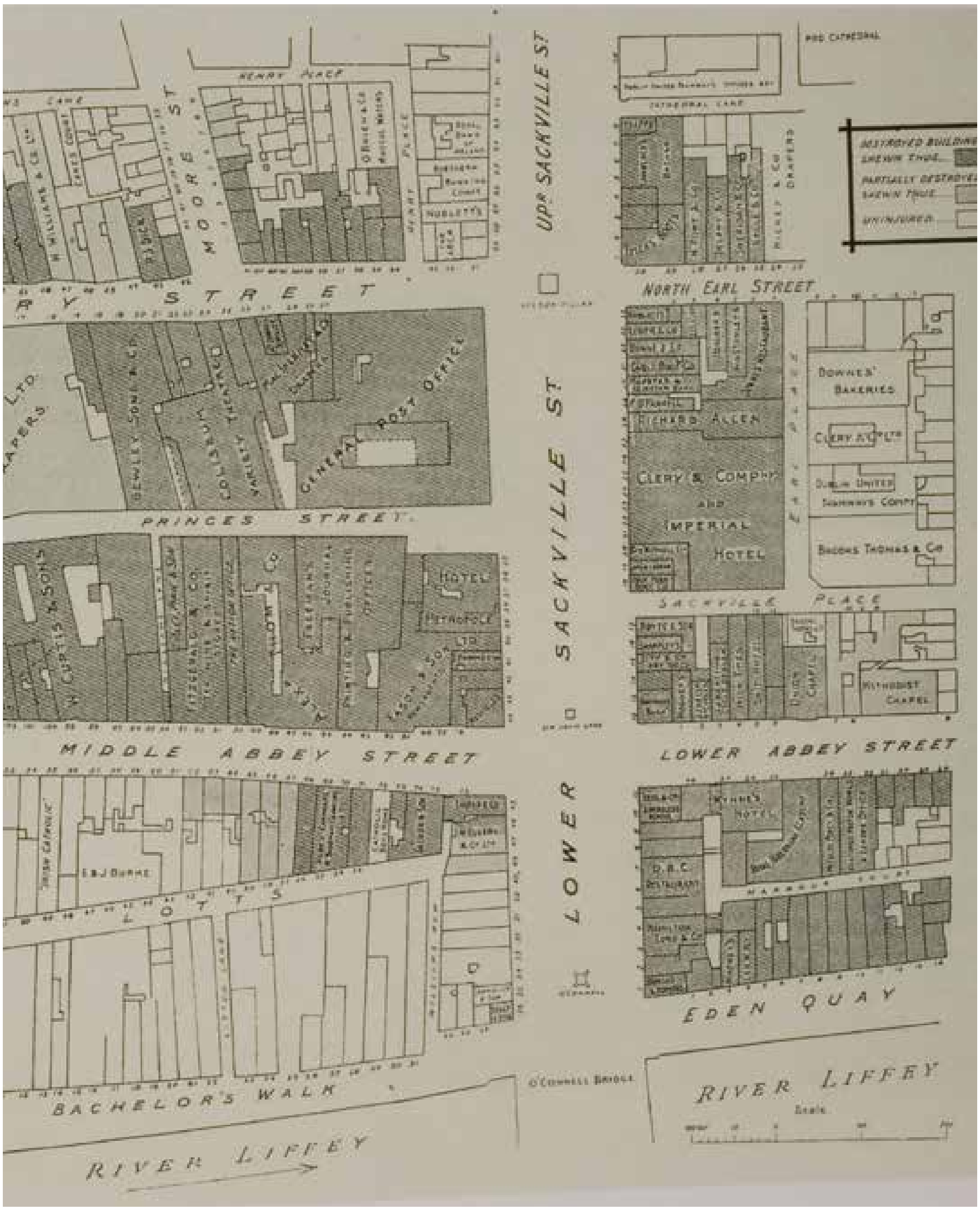
Ón gCéadaoin ar aghaidh, bhí Halla na Saoirse, Ard-Oifig an Phoist agus foirgnimh eile i Sráid Sackville faoi lámhach gunnaí móra agus loiscneach, ón mbád gunna Helga a bhí ar ancaire sa Life go príomha. Bhí an tÓstán Imperial a bhí os cionn siopa ilrannach Clery's, trasna na sráide ó Ard-Oifig an Phoist, ar cheann de na chéad fhoirgneamh a cuireadh trí thine; ní raibh sé i bhfad ansin go raibh formhór na bhfoirgneamh idir é sin agus an Life faoi bharr lasrach. Chreid Ó Conghaile go soineanta nach n-úsáideadh arm na Breataine gunnaí móra i gceantair na cathrach toisc go mbeadh drogall orthu maoin ar bith a scrios de bharr gur chaipitlithe a bhí iontu.

Ar an Déardaoin, sheol Ó Conghaile an Leifteanant Seán McLoughlin le páirtí 30 fear chun urphost a bhunú in áitreabh an Irish Independent agus an Nation ar Shráid na Mainistreach Láir. Ba bhall é McLoughlin, a bhí bliain is fiche d'aois, de chuid chomplacht Seán Heuston, a ghlac páirt sa ghleo san Institiúid Déircíochta, agus bhí an Piarsach agus Ó Conghaile tógtha leis cheana. Ina dhiaidh sin, gortaíodh rúitín Shéamais Uí Chonghaile go holc taobh amuigh d'Ard-Oifig an Phoist; cé go raibh sé sáinnithe ar shínteán, lean sé air i mbun oibríochtaí a stiúradh.

Faoi thráthnóna Dé hAoine bhí Ard-Oifig an Phoist ar thine, agus ag an bpointe sin cinneadh an garastún a aslonnú agus bogadh ó thuaidh trí Shráid an Mhúraigh, a raibh criathar á dhéanamh di le rois piléar ó raidhfilí agus meaisínghunnaí, go dtí monarcha Williams & Woods i Sráid na Breataine Móire (Sráid Parnell). Stiúir Ó Rathghaille ruathar ina raibh 30 Óglach páirteach ann chun an bealach a réiteach. Rinneadh lot marfach air agus ar roinnt dá fhear.

Toisc go raibh Ó Conghaile ar éagumas, fágadh stiúradh an aslonnaithe faoi McLoughlin. Dearbhaíodh an fhreagracht sin lena ardú céime go ceannfort ní ba dhéanaí an tráthnóna sin. D'aslonnaigh an garastún ansin agus ghlac siad suímh úra, i dtithe feadh Shráid an Mhúraigh go príomha. Maidin Dé Sathairn, mhol McLoughlin go dtroidfeadh an garastún a bhealadh trí Shráid Anraí agus trí Shráid an tSéipéil chun nascadh le 1ú Cathlán an Cheannfoirt Daly i gceantar na gCeithre Chúirteanna. Ó ba rud é go gcuirfí a lán sibhialtach i mbaol dá ndéanfaí amhlaidh, cinneadh ag cruinniú chúigear ball an Rialtais Shealadaigh a bhí i láthair go ndéanfaidís géilleadh a idirbheartú chun tuilleadh básanna a sheachaint.

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist

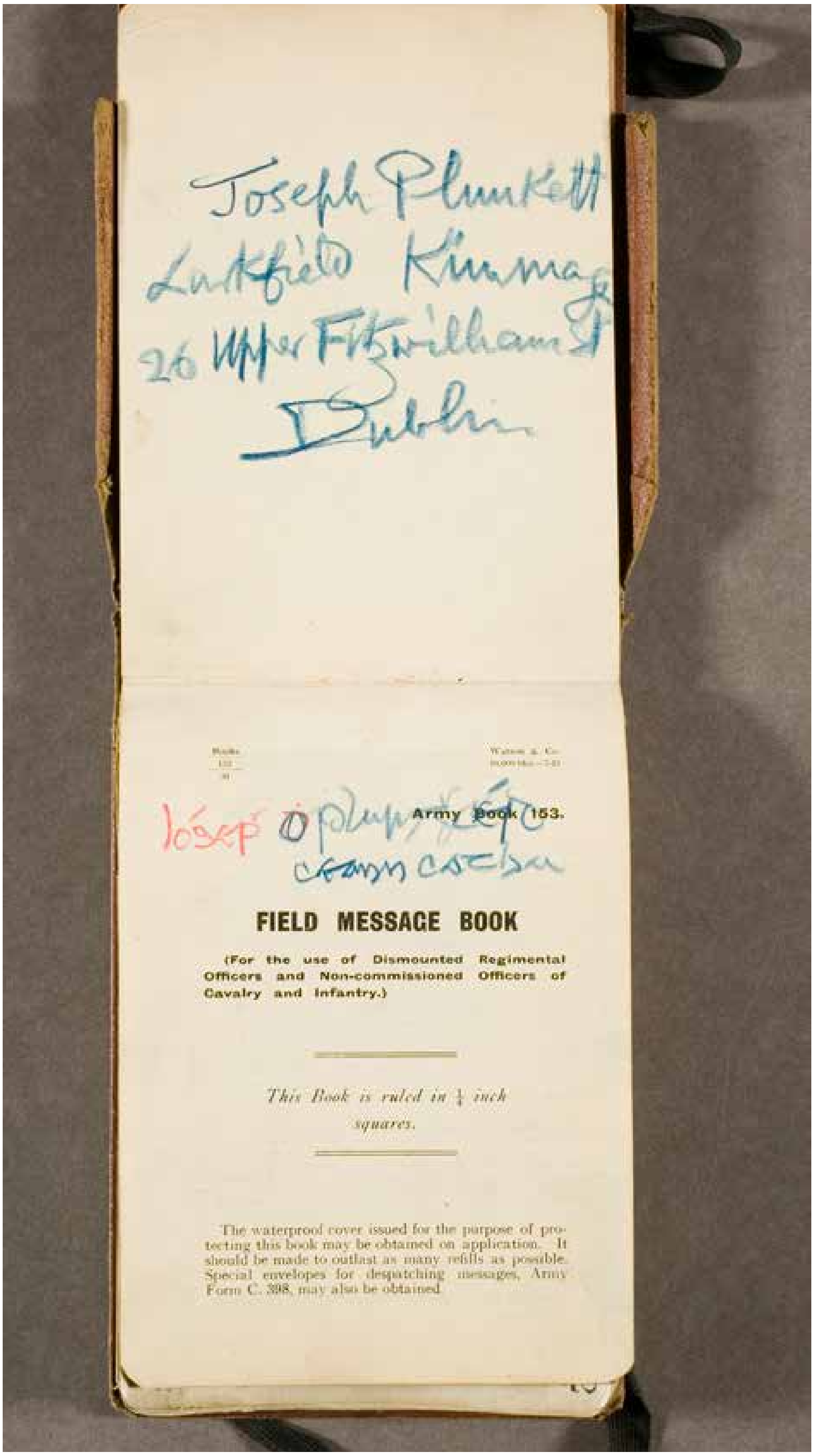


The General Post Office area as shown on a map issued by the Hibernian Fire and General Insurance Company shortly after the Rising. (O'Mahony Collection).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist

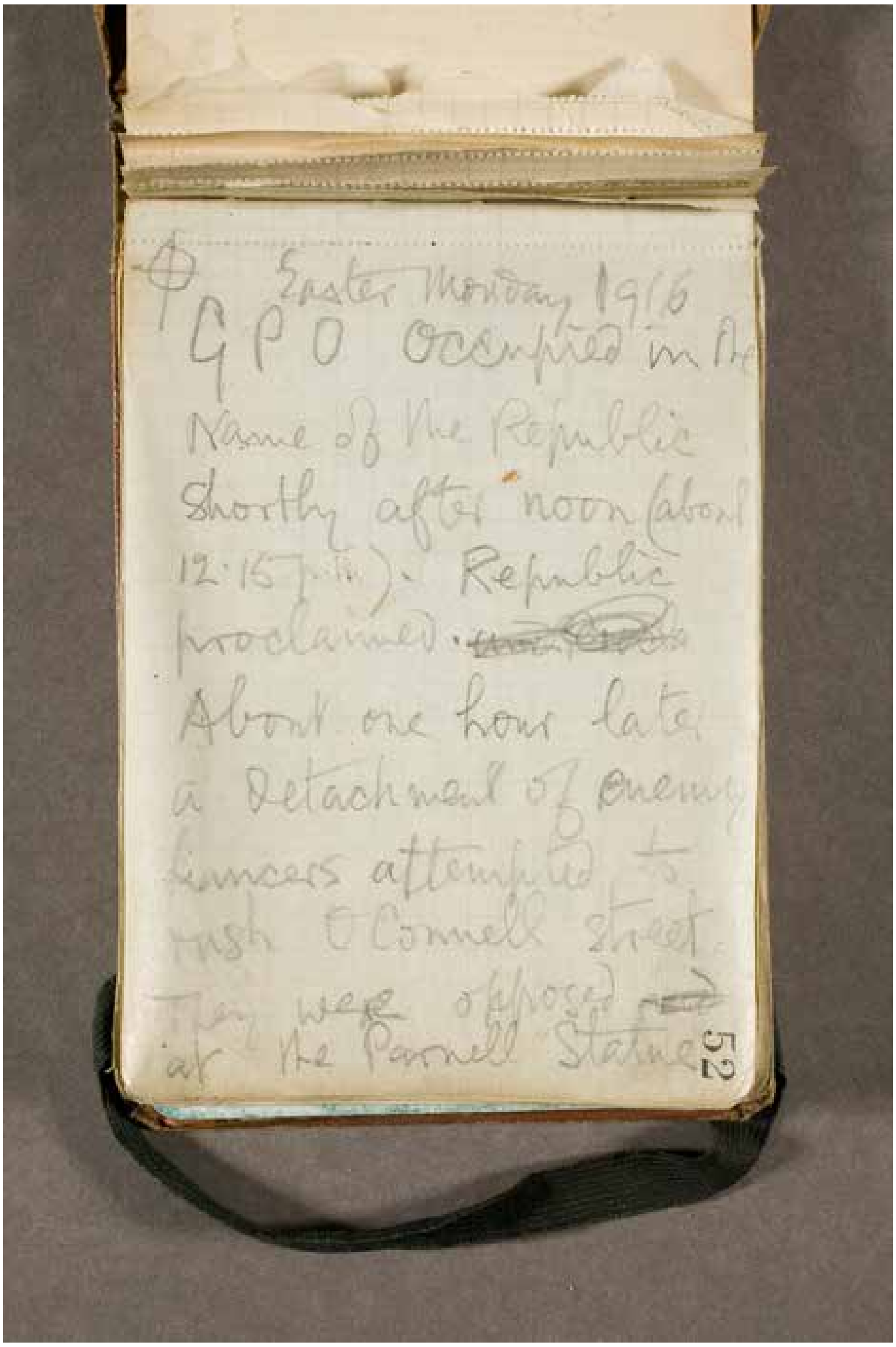
The GPO and Nelson's Pillar as they appeared about a decade before the Rising. (Lawrence CAB1).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist



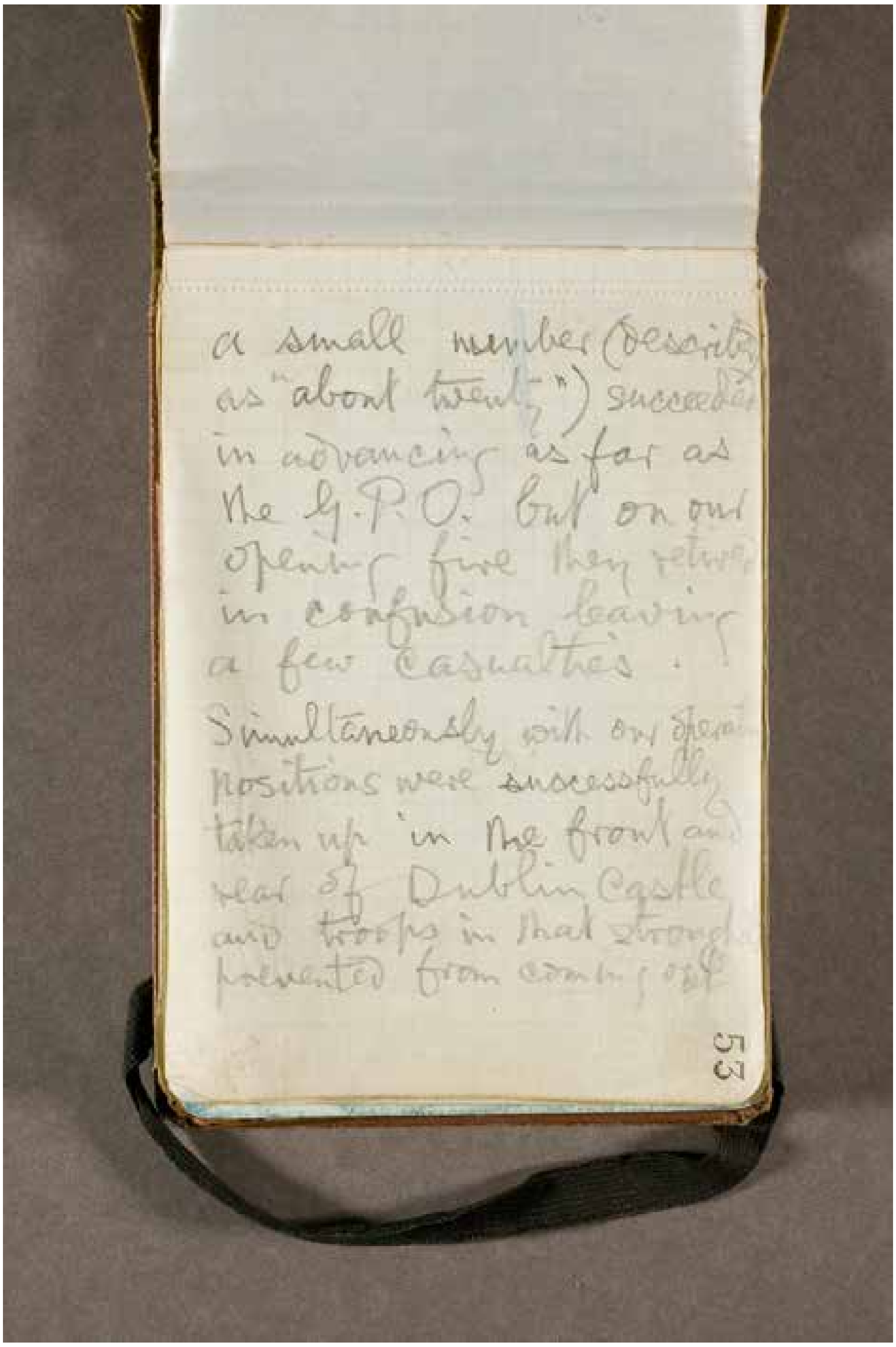
Pages from Joseph Plunkett's field notebook for the week of the Rising. (Ms. 4,700).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist



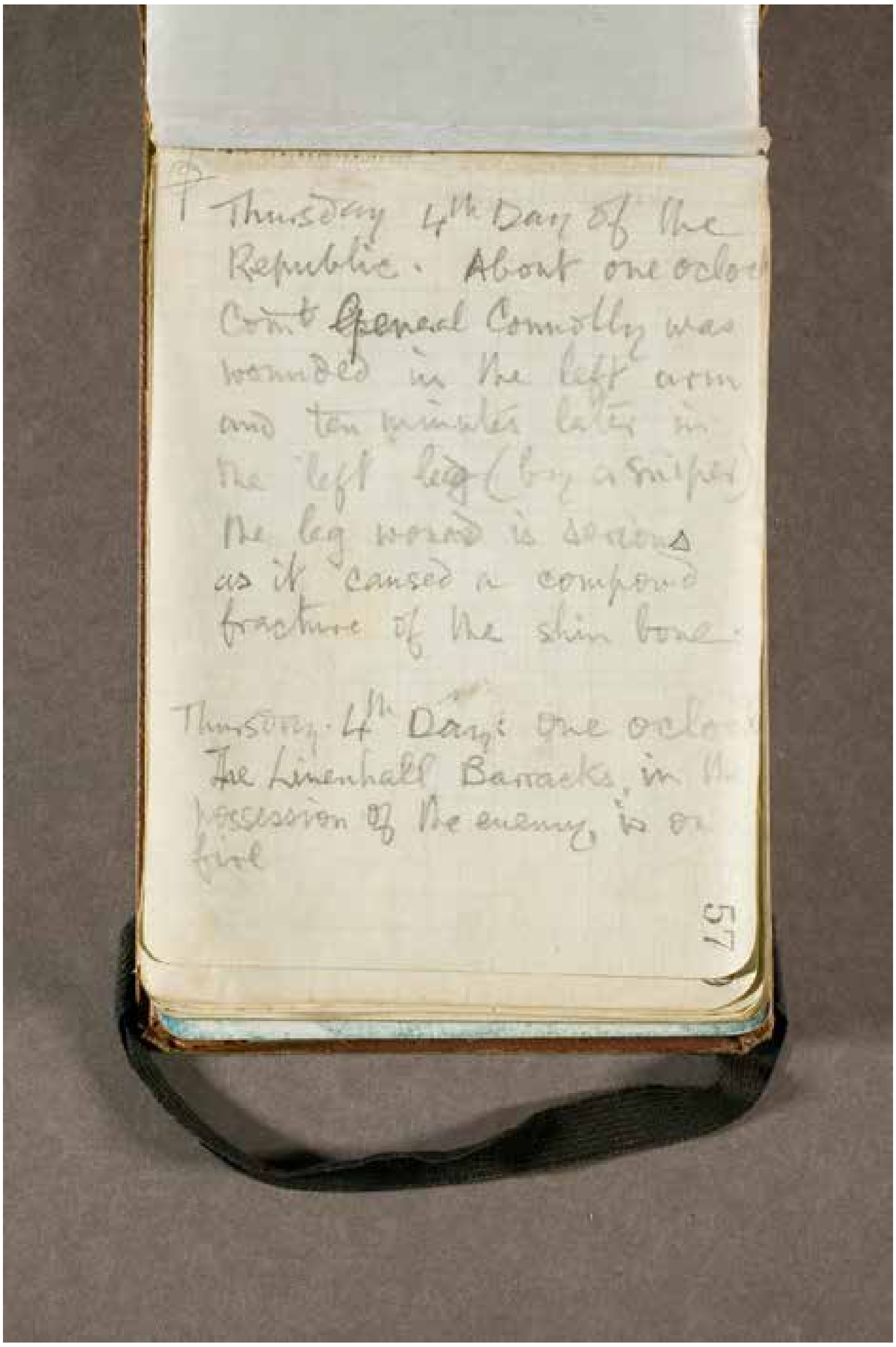
Pages from Joseph Plunkett's field notebook for the week of the Rising. (Ms. 4,700).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist


a small number (describ
as "about twenty") succeede
in advancing as far as
the G.P.O. but on our
opening fire they retire
in confusion leaving
a few casualties.
Simultaneously with our opera
positions were successfully
taken up in the front an
rear of Dublin Castle
and troops in that strongh
prevented from coming out
53

Pages from Joseph Plunkett's field notebook for the week of the Rising. (Ms. 4,700).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist


Thursday 4th Day of the
Republic. About one oclo[ck]
Comdt General Connolly was
wounded in the left arm
and ten minutes later in
the left leg (by a sniper)
the leg wound is serious
as it caused a compound
fracture of the shin bone.

Thursday 4th Day: one oclo[ck]
The Linenhall Barracks, in th[e]
possession of the enemy, is on
fire

57

Pages from Joseph Plunkett's field notebook for the week of the Rising. (Ms. 4,700).

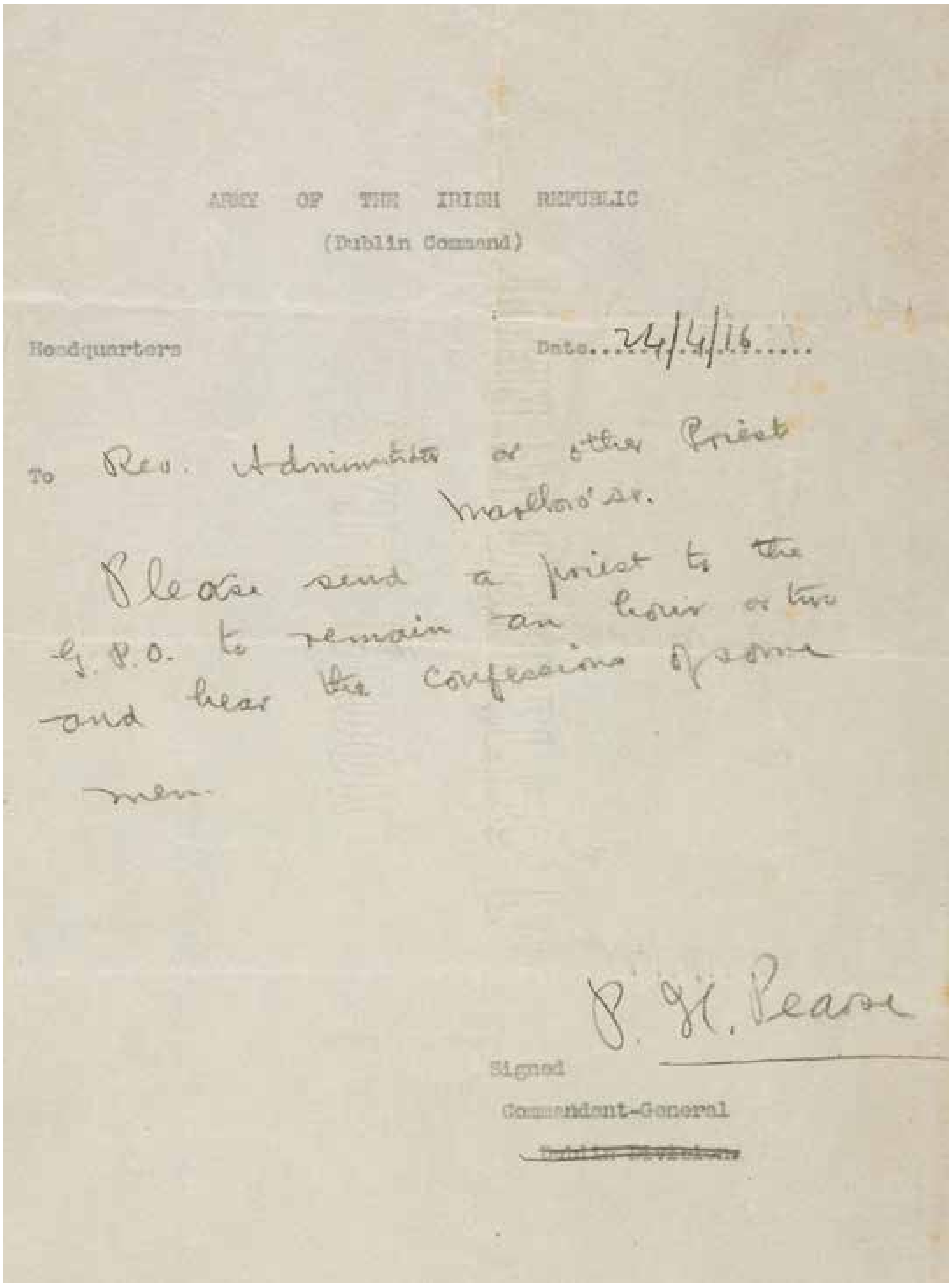
7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist

A photograph taken in the GPO during the Rising. Formerly in the custody of a member of the garrison who emigrated to the United States, it was provided for use in the film An Tine Bheo (The living flame) directed by Louis Marcus and produced by Gael Linn for the fiftieth anniversary in 1966. From left: Des O'Reilly, T. Nolan, P. Byrne, Jack Doyle, Tom McGrath, Hugh Thornton, P. Twamley, Murphy (?). All are Irish Volunteers except Nolan and Twamley who have been identified as ICA. (PC06 Lot 6).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist

Two Volunteers in the GPO during the Rising. From the same source as the previous item. (PC06 Lot 6).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist



ARMY OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC
(Dublin Command)

Headquarters Date..24/4/16.....

To Rev. Administrator or other Priest
Marlboro' St.

Please send a priest to the G.P.O. to remain an hour or two and hear the confessions of some men.

P. H. Pearse

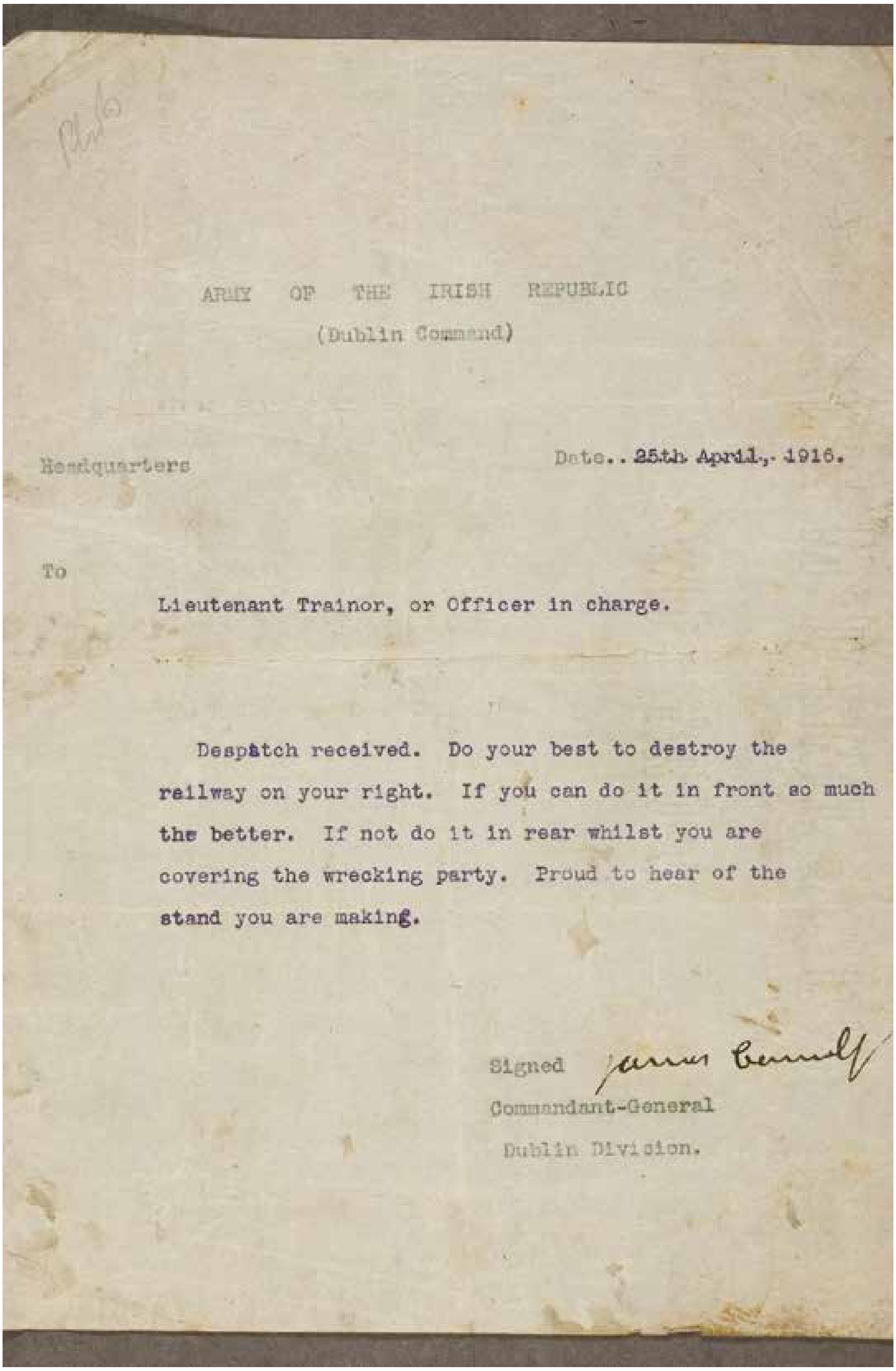
Signed
Commandant-General
~~Dublin Division~~

Request by Pearse to the administrator at the Roman Catholic church in Marlborough Street for a priest to hear the confessions of members of the garrison; the request was made on Monday afternoon or evening sometime after the occupation of the GPO. (Ms. 15,002, de CourcyWheeler Papers).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist

Michael Collins (1890-1922) was born at Woodfield, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. He went to London at the age of sixteen as a clerk in the Post Office. In the Rising he was aide-de-camp to Joseph Plunkett. His experience of the Rising taught him that it was unwise to take on the British army from static positions: he later planned and directed the guerilla warfare that was to prove so successful in the War of Independence (1918-21). (Keogh 16).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist



ARMY OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC
(Dublin Command)

Headquarters Date..25th April,. 1916.

To

Lieutenant Trainor, or Officer in charge.

Despatch received. Do your best to destroy the railway on your right. If you can do it in front so much the better. If not do it in rear whilst you are covering the wrecking party. Proud to hear of the stand you are making.

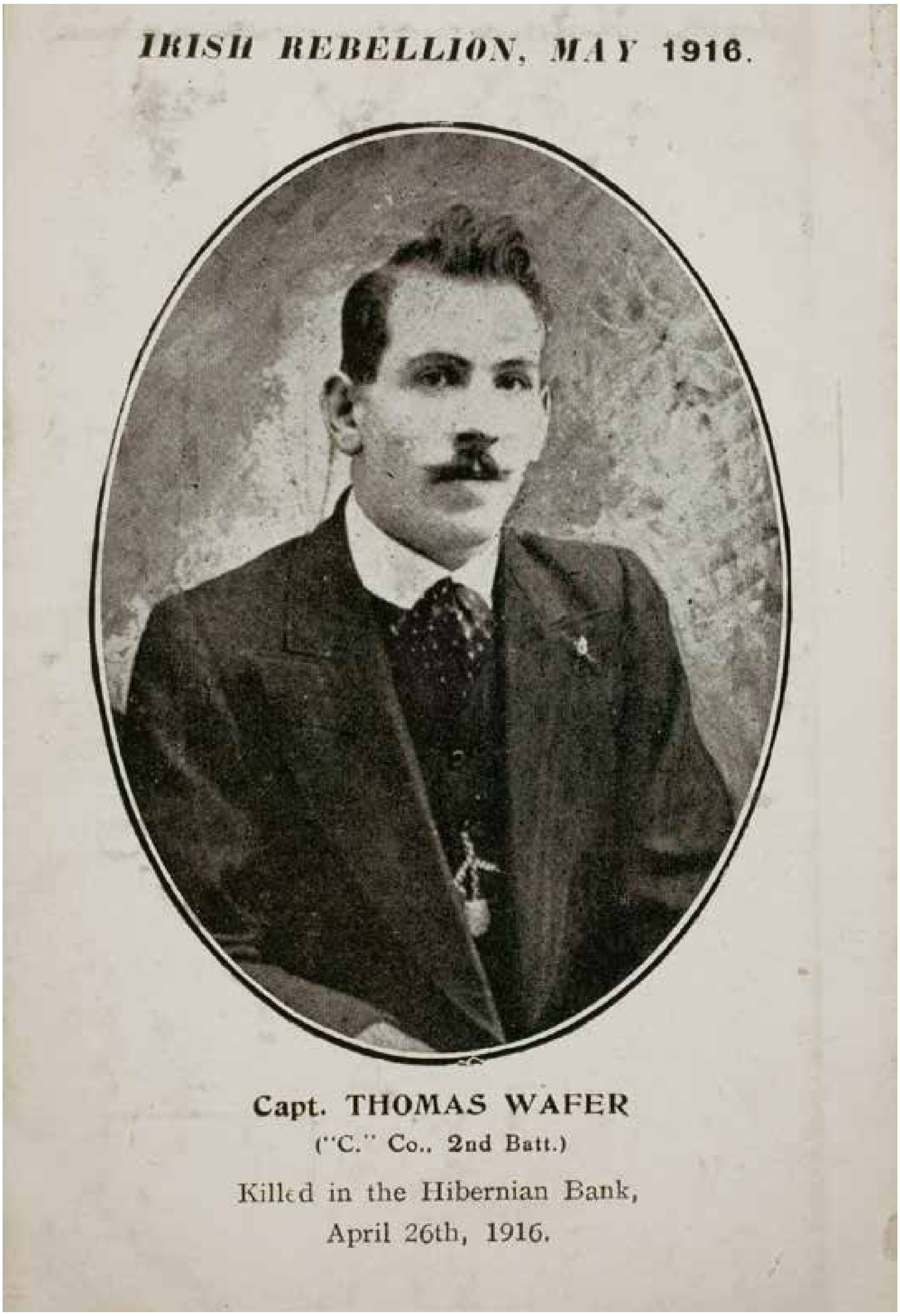
Signed James Connolly
Commandant-General
Dublin Division.

Order by Connolly to destroy the railway line, probably to the north of Amiens Street station, Tuesday 25 April 1916. (Ms. 15,002 (2), de Courcy-Wheeler Papers).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist

Winifred Carney; a member of Cumann na mBan and the ICA, she was James Connolly's secretary.

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist



A commemorative postcard for Capt. Thomas J. Weafer, from Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford who commanded the Hibernian Bank outpost diagonally across the street from the GPO at the corner of Lower Abbey Street. He controlled the approach from Amiens Street station. Aged twenty-six, he was shot dead on Wednesday 26 April. (Album 113).

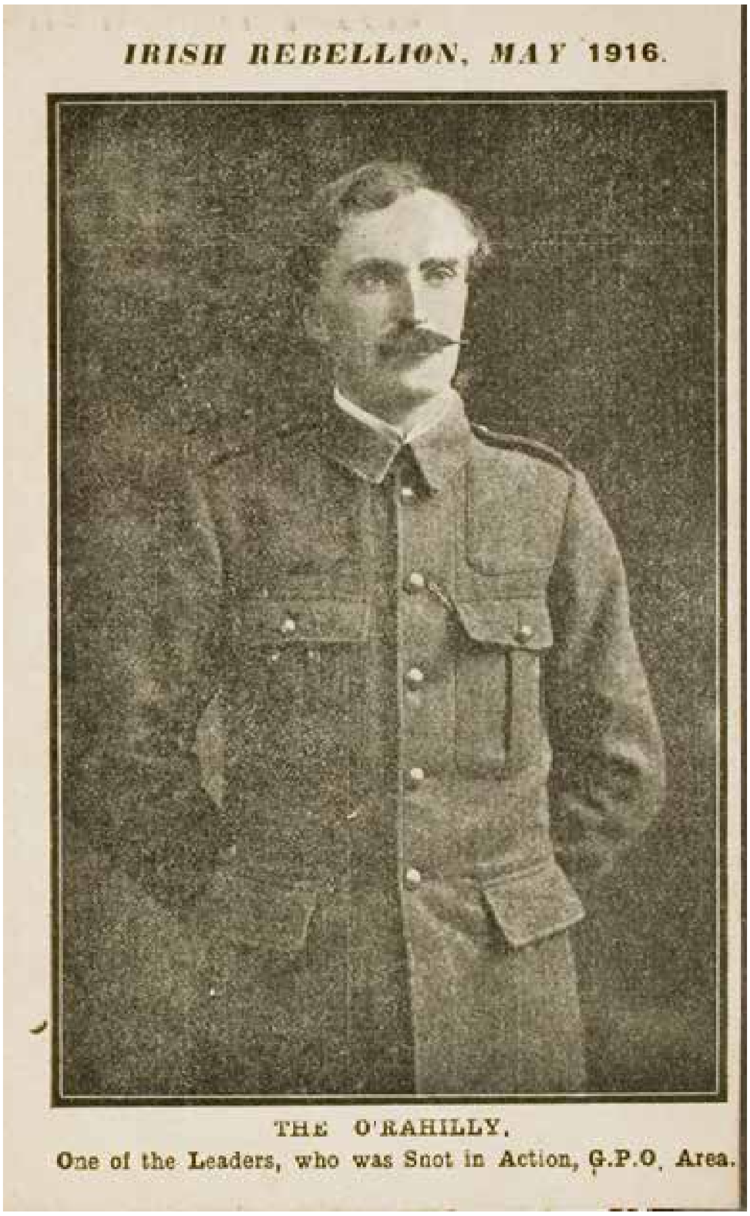
7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist

Commandant Seán McLoughlin (1895-1916) was a son of Patrick McLoughlin, an ITGWU activist. Socialist and radical in outlook, he was a member of the Gaelic League, Fianna Éireann, the IRB and the Irish Volunteers. As a commandant, his life was at risk following the surrender, but the authorities overlooked his rank probably because a British captain had removed his tabs. (Camillian Post, Spring 1948).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist

An artist's impression of the scene in the GPO shortly before the evacuation. (A print by T. Kiersey of the painting by W. Paget in the National Museum of Ireland; P&D HP (1916) 2/A).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist



A commemorative postcard for O'Rahilly who was shot leading a charge in Moore Street. Born in Ballylongford, Co. Kerry, Michael Joseph O'Rahilly (1875-1916) was prominent in Sinn Féin and was treasurer of the Irish Volunteers. He supported MacNeill's countermand, but joined the garrison in the GPO, supposedly saying 'I helped to wind up the clock, so I might as well hear it strike'. (O'Mahony Album).

7.2 Ard-Oifig an Phoist

Looking down from the Nelson Pillar, Dublin, on to the portico of the gutted Post Office.
[Central News.

The GPO viewed from the top of Nelson's Pillar at the end of the Rising. (Manchester Guardian History of the War, 16 Aug. 1916).