



UCD DECADE *of* CENTENARIES



1912-1923 Events Timeline





UCD Commemorating the Decade of Centenaries

100 years ago, as the steps towards independence gathered momentum, many staff, students and graduates of University College Dublin played a pivotal role in the discourse and actions that took place.

Today, University College Dublin continues to value the ethos of justice and equality, alongside a sense of cultural identity that shapes our thinking and prompts our debate.

As a major holder of archives of national and international significance relating to the period 1912 to 1923, our vision for these commemorations is to inform national debate and understanding with an objective scholarly voice, in a manner that brings education and new perspectives to the fore.

We will achieve this through public engagement, scholarly output and promotion of our rich archives.

1912 – 1923 events timeline was compiled by Dr Conor Mulvagh, Lecturer in Irish History with special responsibility for the Decade of Commemorations, UCD School of History & Archives and UCD History graduate Colm O'Flaherty and details the key events for the period, highlighting some of the rich resources available in UCD. Translation into Irish by Cathal Billings PhD, lecturer, UCD de Bhaldraithe Centre for Irish Language Scholarship, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics.



Events Key

 UCD EVENT

 NATIONAL EVENT

 INTERNATIONAL EVENT

1912

1st January 1912

UCD EVENT

THOMAS MACDONAGH NEWLY APPOINTED AT UCD

After completing his MA, MacDonagh is appointed Assistant Professor of English at the end of 1911. Austin Clarke, a student of English at the time, recalls seeing him "making his way happily among the throngs of students... speaking vivaciously with quick gestures". Another student describes his lectures as "never relevant and invariably interesting".



Thomas MacDonagh (by Harris & Ewing - The Poetical Works of Thomas MacDonagh, via Wikimedia Commons)

31st March 1912

UCD EVENT

HOME RULE DEMONSTRATION ON SACKVILLE STREET

Most allegiances in UCD at this time lay firmly with the Irish Parliamentary Party, as witnessed at the Home Rule demonstration in March 1912. An estimated 100,000 supporters throng the streets of Dublin, gathering at four platforms to hear speeches from prominent nationalists, including John Redmond. The fourth platform, at the base of the O'Connell monument, is occupied by UCD. Staff and students, including the University's President Denis Coffey, speak in favour of Redmond's movement. The next day, the Irish Independent describes it as "one of the most imposing sections of the demonstration" and a "remarkably fine display".



John Redmond speaking at the Home Rule demonstration on 31st March, 1912 (National Library of Ireland, INDH7)

11th April 1912

NATIONAL EVENT

HOME RULE BILL INTRODUCED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith introduces the Third Home Rule Bill to the House of Commons. The Bill proposes to establish a greater degree of Irish autonomy, with a bicameral parliament to replace the British administration at Dublin Castle. Britain would still retain a strong degree of influence over Irish affairs, however, and Irish MPs would continue to hold seats in Westminster. The Bill is supported by Asquith's Liberal Party and the Irish Parliamentary Party, lead by John Redmond, on whom the Liberals rely for support. Those opposing the Bill include the Conservative Party and the Irish Unionist Party.



The Government of Ireland Bill, 1912

FIND OUT MORE:

• HISTORY HUB

Professor Michael Laffan, The Irish Revolution, lecture 1: The Home Rule Party
<http://historyhub.ie/the-home-rule-party-the-irish-revolution-lecture-1>

14th - 15th April 1900

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

SINKING OF THE TITANIC

The RMS Titanic collides with an iceberg during its maiden voyage. Over 1,500 lives are lost.



Willy Stöwer, Der Untergang der Titanic (The Sinking of the Titanic), 1912 (via Wikimedia Commons)

1912

9th May 2012

NATIONAL EVENT

HOME RULE BILL PASSES SECOND READING IN COMMONS

The Government of Ireland Bill, 1912, also known as the Third Home Rule Bill, passes through its second reading in the House of Commons with a majority of 101 MPs.



Members of the Irish Parliamentary Party, who pushed for ratification of the Home Rule Bill, at their table in Westminster (The Illustrated London News, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

28th September 1912

NATIONAL EVENT

ULSTER SOLEMN LEAGUE & COVENANT SIGNED

The firm opposition of a large proportion of Ulster's population is outlined in the form of the Ulster Solemn League & Covenant. Sir Edward Carson is the first of almost 240,000 Ulstermen to sign the Covenant, which declares the intention to use "all means which may be found necessary to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule Parliament in Ireland." A similar document is signed by roughly the same number of women. The day is declared as "Ulster Day" and is marked by a rally at Belfast City Hall.



Sir Edward Carson signs the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant (The Illustrated London News, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

FIND OUT MORE:

• HISTORY HUB

Professor Michael Laffan, The Irish Revolution, lecture 2, The Home Rule Crisis
<http://historyhub.ie/the-home-rule-crisis-the-irish-revolution-lecture-2>

1913

16th January 1913

NATIONAL EVENT

HOME RULE BILL READ A THIRD TIME IN COMMONS

The Bill passes by 367 votes to 257. At the end of the month, however, the Bill is defeated in the House of Lords on a vote of 326 to 69.



Sir Edward Carson, leader of the Irish Unionist Party in the House of Commons (The Illustrated London News, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

The Government of Ireland Bill, 1912

31st January 1913

NATIONAL EVENT

FORMATION OF THE UVF

The Ulster Volunteer Force is formed in Belfast by Sir Edward Carson. A unionist militia, the Ulster Volunteers make tangible the intentions of the Ulster Solemn League & Covenant by aiming to defend against any attempts to impose Home Rule on the province. At its height, the movement claims an estimated 80,000-110,000 members.



Sir Edward Carson walks amongst members of the Ulster Volunteers (The Illustrated London News, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

1913

9th - 19th February 1913

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

“LA DECENA TRÁGICA” (TEN TRAGIC DAYS), MEXICO

An escalation of violence in the Mexican Revolution results in over 5,000 deaths and the assassination of President Francisco Madeiro.



Rebel fighters in Mexico City during la Decena Trágica (via Osuna, Wikimedia Commons)

29th June - 10th August 1913

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

THE SECOND BALKAN WAR

Less than a month after the Treaty of London concluded the First Balkan War, conflict breaks out between Bulgaria and the combined forces of Serbia, Greece and Montenegro. The conflict ends with the defeat of Bulgarian forces and the signing of the Treaty of Bucharest on 10th August.



Serbian soldiers and their communication equipment (via Wikimedia Commons)

7th July 1913

NATIONAL EVENT

HOME RULE BILL PASSES HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Home Rule Bill once again passes the House of Commons, this time on a vote of 352-243, but is rejected a week later by the House of Lords.



Unionists in Leeds display their opposition to Home Rule (Irish Life, full collection available in the National Library of Ireland)

FIND OUT MORE:

- **CENTURY IRELAND**
Dr Conor Mulvagh, UCD School of History and Archives, discusses “Home Rule and British Parliamentary Politics”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfOZZ7DAEOg>

26th August 1913

NATIONAL EVENT

STRIKE OF DUBLIN TRANSPORT WORKERS BEGINS

On the first day of the Royal Dublin Horse Show, James Larkin leads a strike by the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (ITGWU). The strike follows a threat from William Martin Murphy, President of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Dublin United Tramway Company, that anyone who is a member of ITGWU will lose their job. The strikers demand a rise in their weekly wage of between 1-2s.



James Larkin, who lead the workers during the Lockout (The Illustrated London News, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

1913

31st August 1913

NATIONAL EVENT

HEAVY RIOTING ON THE STREETS OF DUBLIN

On Sackville Street, members of the police baton-charge a crowd listening to an address by James Larkin. Between 400 and 600 people are injured. Cavalry officers are deployed in an effort to contain rioting. Trade unionists returning from a rally in Croydon Park then attack the police. The day is later referred to as "Bloody Sunday".



Police baton charge a crowd gathered on Sackville Street (*The Illustrated London News*, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

7th October 1913

UCD EVENT

ESTABLISHMENT OF THOMAS KETTLE'S INDUSTRIAL PEACE COMMITTEE

At a meeting in the Mansion House, Thomas Kettle, Professor of National Economics at UCD, founds the Industrial Peace Committee with the aim of ending the Lockout. Kettle asks those attending the meeting, "Does anyone think that hatred and uncharitableness are foundations on which we can build a great city... We cannot live an eternity in a state of war." The Committee, which counts a few of Kettle's university colleagues amongst its numbers, is short-lived. In November, however, some of its former members go on to establish the Civic League, which in turn plays an important role in the formation of the Irish Citizen Army.



Thomas Kettle, Professor of National Economics at UCD (*Irish Life*, full collection available at the National Library of Ireland)



A labour demonstration on Sackville Street during the Lockout (*Illustrated London News*, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

2nd September 1913

NATIONAL EVENT

TWO TENEMENT HOUSES COLLAPSE IN DUBLIN

Two tenement houses on Church Street, nos 66 and 67, collapse, resulting in the deaths of seven people, including three children. The tragedy causes a public outcry, leading to a fundraiser which raised £2,000 and the establishment of a Housing Inquiry commissioned by Augustine Birrell, the Chief Secretary of Ireland.



Tenement houses in Dublin, including Church Street, as shown in *An Claidheamh Soluis* (National Folklore Collection, UCD)

1st November 1913

UCD EVENT

"THE NORTH BEGAN" PUBLISHED IN AN CLAIDEAMH SOLUIS

On 1st November, 1913, "The North Began", an influential article written by Eoin MacNeill, Professor of Early and Medieval Irish History at UCD, appears in *An Claidheamh Soluis*. MacNeill, until then primarily known for his academic work and as a co-founder of the Gaelic League, writes the article at the behest of Michael Joseph (The) O'Rahilly, the newspaper's manager. He opens the piece by declaring that "A wonderful state of things has come to pass in Ulster." He praises those who founded the Ulster Volunteers and suggests that a similar movement be assembled amongst the Irish nationalist community. The article is widely read by nationalists across Ireland and is met for the most part with an enthusiastic response.



Professor Eoin MacNeill, whose article, "The North Began", appeared in *An Claidheamh Soluis* on 1st November, 1913 (National Library of Ireland, KE 77).

FIND OUT MORE:

- **HISTORY HUB**
Profiles of Eoin MacNeill
<http://historyhub.ie/eoin-macneill-revolutionary-and-scholar>
- **HISTORY HUB**
Professor Michael Laffan on MacNeill's article:
<http://historyhub.ie/the-north-began>
- **RTE CENTURY IRELAND**
The North Began
<http://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/articles/the-north-began>

1913-14

11th - 25th November 1913

UCD EVENT

FOUNDATION OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS

After an initial meeting at Wynn's Hotel on Abbey St., the Irish Volunteer movement is launched at a public meeting in the Rotunda. A newspaper reports that "a large body of students – 350 of them – marched into the meeting in processional order from the National University and attracted a good deal of attention". Afterwards, a short-lived company of about forty students is formed.



*A Limerick branch of the Irish Volunteers
(National Library of Ireland, McManus Collection)*

25th November 1913

NATIONAL EVENT

IRISH VOLUNTEERS MOVEMENT IS PUBLICLY LAUNCHED

Following a keen public response to Eoin MacNeill's article "The North Began", a public meeting is held at the Rotunda, where the Irish Volunteer movement is launched. Over 3,000 men join the organisation on the night, including Patrick Pearse and Eamon de Valera. By the summer of 1914, numbers rise to an estimated 130,000-180,000.



A poster announcing the first public meeting of the Irish Volunteers (courtesy of Jennifer Geraghty-Gorman).

19th November 1913

NATIONAL EVENT

THE IRISH CITIZEN ARMY IS FOUNDED

The Irish Citizen Army (ICA), a workers' militia, is founded with the intention of defending striking workers from police baton charges. Captain Jack White, who will take charge of drilling the men, also claims that the ICA will "keep unemployed men fit and self-respecting".



Captain Jack White drilling the ICA in Croydon Park, Dublin. (An Claidreamh Soluis, National Folklore Collection, UCD)



Members of the Irish Citizens' Army outside Liberty Hall (National Library of Ireland, via Wikimedia Commons)

1914

18th January 1914

NATIONAL EVENT

DUBLIN TRANSPORT WORKERS RETURN TO WORK

Following a withdrawal of support from the British Trade Union Congress, and as starvation and desolation takes hold of strikers and their families, James Larkin advises workers to return to their jobs under the best terms possible.



James Larkin (The Illustrated London News, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

1914

20th - 21st March 1914

NATIONAL EVENT

THE CURRAGH MUTINY

At the Curragh military camp in Kildare, British Army officers voice their opposition to the suggestion that they might be forced into action against the Ulster Volunteers. They later receive a written assurance from J.E.B. Seely, Secretary of State for War, that they will not be sent on military operations in Ulster.



A postcard depicting the Curragh military camp (courtesy of Paul O'Farrell).

2nd April 1914

UCD EVENT

UCD AND THE FOUNDATION OF CUMANN NA MBAN

Agnes O'Farrelly, lecturer in Modern Irish at UCD, presides over the founding meeting of Cumann na mBan, an autonomous auxiliary to the Irish Volunteers and the pre-eminent Irish republican women's movement of the decade. Student Louise Gavan Duffy is on the first provisional committee, while UCD graduate Máire Ní Chinnéide also goes on to play an active role in the organisation.



Agnes O'Farrelly, who presided over the first meeting of Cumann na mBan (UCD)

2nd April 1914

NATIONAL EVENT

FOUNDATION OF CUMANN NA MBAN

At a meeting in Wynn's hotel, Abbey St., the revolutionary women's organisation Cumann na mBan is founded. Their constitution states the intention to "advance the cause of Irish liberty and to organise Irishwomen in the furtherance of this object". Prominent members in the organisation include Elizabeth O'Farrell, Mary MacSwiney and Constance Markievicz.



Cumann na mBan badge.



Sighle Humphreys, republican activist, in her Cumann na mBan uniform (UCD Archives, P106/1002)

24th - 25th April 1914

NATIONAL EVENT

LARNE GUN-RUNNING

Through the organisation of a secret committee of the Ulster Unionist Council, German guns and ammunition are smuggled into Ulster aboard the SS Fanny and the SS Clydevalley. An estimated 25,000 rifles and up to 5 million rounds of ammunition are deposited at Donaghadee, Bangor and Larne, where they are collected by Ulster Volunteers.



Artists' depictions of the Larne Gun-Running (The Illustrated London News, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

1914

23rd June 1914

NATIONAL EVENT

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND (AMENDMENT) BILL INTRODUCED

A Bill introduced in the House of Lords proposes the exclusion of an undefined number of Ulster counties from Home Rule, should it be implemented.



A cartoon depicting John Redmond, disguised as the third Home Rule Bill, being followed by Prime Minister Asquith and a line of amending bills (*Irish Life*, full collection available at the National Library of Ireland).

21st - 24th July 1914

NATIONAL EVENT

BUCKINGHAM PALACE CONFERENCE

As tensions mount between Irish Nationalists and Unionists and the threat of a civil war looms, King George V hosts a conference in Buckingham Palace to find a solution to the "Irish Problem." Despite the participation of prominent leaders on both sides, the Conference ends in failure.



Sir Edward Carson arriving at the Conference (*The Illustrated London News*, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

28th June 1914

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

ASSASSINATION OF ARCHDUKE FRANZ FERDINAND

Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne, is assassinated by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip while visiting Sarajevo. His assassination stokes already heightened tensions between Austria-Hungary and Serbia.



Archduke Ferdinand and his wife prior to their assassination. (*The Illustrated London News*, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)



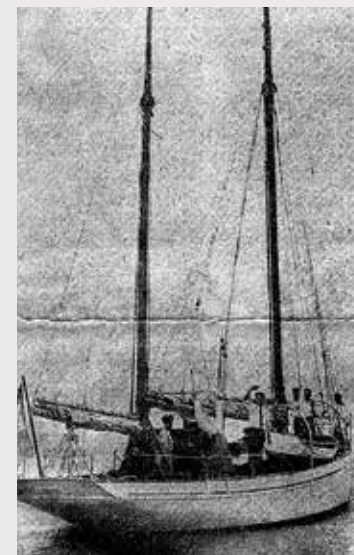
An earlier assassination attempt by Serb nationalists is foiled. (*The Illustrated London News*, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

26th July 1914

NATIONAL EVENT

HOWTH GUN-RUNNING AND BACHELOR'S WALK MASSACRE

The Asgard, a sailing yacht owned by Erskine and Molly Childers, carries 900 German rifles and ammunition into the harbour at Howth. They are collected by Irish Volunteers, who manage to hold onto the cargo despite the attentions of the police and military. Later in the day, a crowd heckles British soldiers on Bachelor's walk. The soldiers open fire on the crowd, killing four.



The Asgard. Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

1914

28th July - 4th August 1914

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

BEGINNING OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

After Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia on 28th July, a series of alliances are activated bringing the major European powers into conflict. Germany supports Austria-Hungary with a "blank cheque" and also declares war on Russia and France. Following the German invasion of Belgium on 4th August, Britain and the Dominions declare war on Germany and her allies. On the same date, Woodrow Wilson declares American neutrality. Despite the fear of war that had grown throughout the previous month, the week is marked by public demonstrations of patriotism throughout Europe, as citizens are encouraged to put themselves behind the war effort.



French newspaper Le Figaro (German language version) marks the beginning of the First World War (Full copies of Le Figaro are available in the National Library of Ireland)

FIND OUT MORE:

• HISTORY HUB

Dr William Mulligan, UCD School of History and Archives, explains the origins of the First World War <http://historyhub.ie/the-origins-of-the-first-world-war>

28th July - 4th August 1914

NATIONAL EVENT

IRELAND AND THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Unionist leaders immediately declare their support for the War, while John Redmond states that the Irish Volunteers will not be found wanting when it comes to defending the shores of Ireland. The first twelve months of the War saw the enlistment of roughly 80,000 Irishmen, who joined the 50,000 already serving as soldiers and reservists.



Irish Soldiers at the North Wall, departing for Europe (Irish Life, full collection available at the National Library of Ireland).

FIND OUT MORE:

• CENTURY IRELAND: Irishmen joined the British Army for a variety of reasons. Adam Darnell and David Molumby of UCD School of History and Archives examine the stories of two volunteers from different backgrounds, James Cecil Parke and James Rossiter <http://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/watch/james-cecil-parke-a-forgotten-legend-of-irish-sport> <http://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/watch/james-rossiter-the-gaa-or-the-great-war>

28th July - 4th August 1914

UCD EVENT

UCD AND THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

On 4th August, 1914, Britain declares war on Germany. Denis Coffey, President of UCD, offers to assist the War Office with the establishment of an Officers' Training Corp in the University. Although the offer is never fully realised, by 1916, around 450 staff, students and graduates have departed for Europe with the British Army, including Professor Tom Kettle. The War also affects those who chose to stay at home, as government censure and funding cuts put pressure on the day-to-day running of the University.



A scene from the Battle of the Aisne (Illustrated London News, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)



French soldiers at a roadside (Bibliothèque nationale de France, via Wikimedia Commons)

26th - 30th August 1914

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

THE BATTLE OF TANNENBERG

Having placed the vast bulk of their forces on the western front, the German army faced a Russian invasion of East Prussia. The battle of Tannenberg halts this invasion, leading to the rout of two Russian armies and marking the emergence of Paul von Hindenburg and Erich Ludendorff as two leading figures within the German military and politics.



A depiction of Field-Marshal Paul von Hindenburg leading the German Army during the Battle of Tannenberg (via Wikimedia Commons)

1914

5th - 12th September 1914

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE MARNE

On the banks of the River Marne, the French Army and British Expeditionary Force repel German forces, halting their advance to Paris. The Allied victory forces the German Army to the north-west, establishing the parameters of the Western Front.



A struggle for the Chateau of Mondement during the Battle of the Marne (ILN, NLI).

20th September 1914

NATIONAL EVENT

REDMOND PLEDGES IRISH VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

At a speech in Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow John Redmond implores the members of the Irish Volunteers to join the British Army and fight in Europe. He calls on those gathered to "account yourselves as men, not only in Ireland itself, but wherever the firing line extends, in defence of right, of freedom and religion in this war".



John Redmond inspecting Irish Volunteers at Woodenbridge, 20 September 1914 (Photo from Denis Gwynn, The Life of John Redmond (London, 1932)).

FIND OUT MORE:

• CENTURY IRELAND

A video from the UCD School of History and Archives detailing the events of September 1914
<http://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/watch/september-1914>

18th September 1914

NATIONAL EVENT

HOME RULE BILL ENACTED

The Home Rule Bill receives Royal Assent, but is suspended pending the end of hostilities in Europe and the resolution of the Ulster question. Nationalists in Westminster rejoice, while their Unionist counterparts walk out of parliament. There is a fireworks display in Parnell Square, though reaction in Ireland is otherwise muted.



The Government of Ireland Bill, 1912



An artistic commemoration of the enactment of the Home Rule Bill

24th September 1914

NATIONAL EVENT

SPLIT IN THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS

Eoin MacNeill leads a splinter group of Volunteers that repudiate John Redmond's call to enlistment. In a statement signed by Patrick Pearse, Joseph Plunkett and several other leading Irish republicans, the Provisional Committee of the Irish Volunteers repudiate John Redmond's influence over the organisation and declares that Ireland "cannot, with honour or safety, take part in foreign quarrels otherwise than through the free action of a National Government of her own". An estimated 12,000 volunteers side with MacNeill, while a majority of 158,000 support Redmond, reconstituting themselves under the name of the National Volunteers. Of these, however, only 25,000 actually join the British Army by February 1917.



A selection of the signatories of the Provisional Committee's statement (UCD Archives, LA 1/H/1 (6-7))

FIND OUT MORE:

• HISTORY HUB

Dr Conor Mulvagh, UCD School of History and Archives, examines the statement issued by the Provisional Committee of the Irish Volunteers
<http://historyhub.ie/statement-to-the-irish-volunteers>

• HISTORY HUB

Professor Michael Laffan, The Irish Revolution, lecture 3, Arthur Griffith, Sinn Féin, the IRB and the lead up to the Easter Rising:
<http://historyhub.ie/arthur-griffith-sinn-fein-the-irb-and-the-lead-up-to-the-easter-rising-the-irish-revolution-lecture-3>

1914-15

24th September 1914

UCD EVENT

VOLUNTEER SPLIT

After John Redmond calls on the Irish Volunteers to fight in the War, the provisional committee of the Irish Volunteers, headed by Chief of Staff Eoin MacNeill, leads a split in the organisation. It is noted that "less than two dozen students and about half a dozen junior members of the academic staff" support MacNeill in his stance. Nationally, 93% of the force side with Redmond.



Eoin MacNeill (Illustrated London News, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

19th October - 22nd November 1914

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

FIRST BATTLE OF YPRES

French, Belgian and British forces clash with the German Army around the Belgian coastal town of Ypres. The mobile period of the War ends as stagnation and trench warfare begins to set in. Ypres acts as a key tactical position during the War, becoming the focal point for a number of important battles over the coming years.



Painting by W.B. Wollen depicting the 2nd Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry defeating the Prussian Guard at Nonne Bosschen during the First Battle of Ypres (via Wikimedia Commons)

31st October 1914

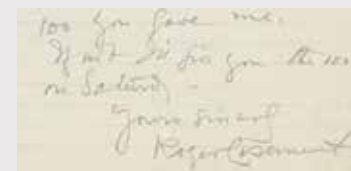
NATIONAL EVENT

ROGER CASEMENT ARRIVES IN GERMANY

Sir Roger Casement arrives in Berlin from America, where he had been rallying support for Irish nationalism and establishing contacts with the German embassy. In Germany, Casement meets with Arthur Zimmermann, Under Secretary of State in the Foreign Office, and Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg, the Imperial Chancellor. He elicits a broad declaration of support for the nationalist cause and sets about establishing an "Irish Brigade" amongst Irish prisoners of war.



Roger Casement (UCD Archives, LA30/PH/408)



Casement's signature in a letter, dated 3rd June, 1915, written to Captain Hans Boehm, who was assisting him during his time in Germany (UCD Archives, P127/4)

1915

20th April 1915

NATIONAL EVENT

PLUNKETT ARRIVES IN GERMANY

Joseph Plunkett arrives in Berlin, where he meets Roger Casement, who has been in Germany since the previous October. Plunkett meets high-ranking German Army officials, providing them with a report on the potential for a German aided rebellion in Ireland. The Germans tentatively agree to provide arms by spring of the following year, pushing the planned rebellion back from its intended start date in September.



Joseph Plunkett (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)



Limburg POW camp, one of the camps where Plunkett and Casement attempted to recruit Irish soldiers (UCD Archives, P127/17)

1915

24th April 1915

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

THE BEGINNING OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

In Constantinople on 24th April, Ottoman authorities round up 250 Armenian leaders and intellectuals. Over the following years, roughly 1.5million Armenian men, women and children die through massacres, concentration camps and death marches.



Armenian civilians are marched through the town of Kharpert in April 1915, accompanied by Turkish soldiers (via Wikimedia Commons)

25th April 1915 - 9th January 1916

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

After unsuccessful naval attacks in February and March, British, French, and Indian troops as well as the newly-formed Australian New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) launch a naval attack on the Ottoman Empire at the Gallipoli peninsula, followed by the landing of troops on the coastline. After 8 months of fighting, the Allied forces are eventually repelled. Both sides endure heavy casualties, with roughly half a million losing their lives. The 25th April, or ANZAC Day, is still a major day of national commemoration in Australia and New Zealand.



1st Australian Battalion at Steeles Post on the coast of Gallipoli (via Wikimedia Commons)

May 1915

NATIONAL EVENT

IRB REFORMS MILITARY COMMITTEE

The Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) establishes a new Military Committee, which supersedes its advisory committee, established the previous year. The committee is initially comprised of Eamonn Ceannt, Patrick Pearse and Joseph Plunkett, who are later joined by Thomas Clarke and Sean MacDiarmada.



The five original members of the IRB's Military Committee, later known as Military Council. James Connolly and Thomas MacDonagh join in 1916 (from The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated, April 1916 (original photographs by Keogh Bros and Lafayette), in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (4))

7th May 1915

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

THE SINKING OF THE LUSITANIA

The RMS Lusitania, which had been sailing from New York, is attacked by a German U-boat off the south coast of Ireland. The ocean liner, which had been carrying munitions, sank in 18 minutes, causing the deaths of 1,198 people.



A depiction of the Lusitania as it sinks (Bundesarchiv, DVM 10 Bild-23-61-17, via Wikimedia Commons)

1915-16

1st August 1915

NATIONAL EVENT

O'DONOVAN-ROSSA'S FUNERAL

The funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan-Rossa is held in Dublin. The occasion is used by republicans for propaganda purposes, most notably through Patrick Pearse's graveside oration at Glasnevin cemetery, written at the instigation of Thomas Clarke. At the end of his oration, Pearse declares: "They think that they have foreseen everything, think that they have provided against everything; but the fools, the fools, the fools! — they have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace."



Patrick Pearse (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)



Jeremiah O'Donovan-Rossa (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

26th October 1915

NATIONAL EVENT

ROBERT MONTEITH ARRIVES AT ZOSSEN POW CAMP

Captain Robert Monteith, a drill-instructor with the Irish Volunteers in Limerick, is brought by Roger Casement to Zossen POW camp, 20 miles south of Berlin, where he assumes his role as commanding officer of the Irish Brigade. Casement had failed to recruit an officer from amongst the POWs to lead the brigade, which numbers only 56 men.



Captain Robert Monteith
(via irishbrigade.eu <http://www.irishbrigade.eu/recruits/monteith.html>)

November 1915

UCD EVENT

MARY HAYDEN CO-FOUNDS THE IRISH CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY

Mary Hayden, the first professor of Modern Irish History in UCD, co-founds, along with Mary Louise Gwynn, the Irish Catholic Women's Suffrage Society. Hayden had been an ardent campaigner for women's university education and was also involved in the formation of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association, as well as chairing the first meeting of the Irish Women Workers' Union.



Mary Hayden, whose portrait hangs in the UCD School of History and Archives.

1916

21st February - 18th December 1916

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

BATTLE OF VERDUN

Under General Erich von Falkenhayn, the German army attacks a key fortified area on the banks of the River Meuse in the North-East of France. General Henri Pétain takes command of the French defence, which manages to repel the German offensive in what becomes the longest battle of the War, and one of the costliest, with roughly 1 million casualties.



Members of the French 87th Regiment at the Battle of Verdun (via Wikimedia Commons).

1916

Spring 1916

UCD EVENT

THE RISING IS FIXED FOR EASTER

Unbeknownst to Eoin MacNeill, the IRB fix Easter Sunday as the date for their planned insurrection. MacNeill's colleague Thomas MacDonagh takes an increasingly prominent role in proceedings, and is the last person appointed to the Military Council. Austin Clarke, a student of MacDonagh's at the time, later described how "abstracted and worried" he looked in the spring of 1916, recalling how "one day, during a lecture on the Young Ireland Poets, he took a large revolver from his pocket and laid it on the desk, 'Ireland can only win freedom by force' he remarked, as if to himself."



A Mark VI Webley, one kind of revolver used by the Irish Volunteers

21st April 1916

UCD EVENT

MACNEILL CONFRONTS PEARSE

Having learned of the impending Rising, Eoin MacNeill confronts Patrick Pearse at 2am on Good Friday. Following his graduation with a BL in 1910, Pearse had lectured intermittently at UCD, on one occasion running a course on the Irish language in parallel with one of MacNeill's Irish history courses. Pearse, along with MacNeill's colleague Thomas MacDonagh, convince MacNeill not to obstruct the Rising. However, following the failure to land arms in Kerry, MacNeill has a change of heart; UCD staff members Michael Hayes and Liam Ó Briain are amongst those he recruits to send despatches to Volunteer units around the country in an attempt to prevent the planned rebellion.



Eoin MacNeill (UCD Archives, P80/PH/176)



Patrick Pearse (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

20th - 21st April 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

AUD, CASEMENT AND GERMAN GUNS CAPTURED

The Aud, a disguised German ship carrying arms to be used in the rebellion, mistakes its rendezvous with Roger Casement in Kerry and is captured by the British Navy before being scuttled outside Queenstown by its captain Karl Spindler. When Casement arrives in Kerry, he is captured and arrested by the RIC. Captain Robert Monteith and Daniel Bailey, who had accompanied Casement, evade capture.



Roger Casement (from the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C. 20540 USA)

22nd April 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

EOIN MACNEILL COUNTERMANDS EASTER MANOEUVRES

Eoin MacNeill learns of the planned insurrection earlier in the week and, after much persuasion from MacDonagh and other leading IRB figures, reluctantly agrees not to interfere. After the failure to land arms in Kerry, however, he changes his mind and issues a countermanding order calling off Easter manoeuvres.



Eoin MacNeill (The Illustrated London News, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

1916

23rd April 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

MILITARY COUNCIL DECIDE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH REBELLION

Despite the appearance of MacNeill's countermand in the Sunday Independent, the IRB Military Council meets at Liberty Hall on Easter Sunday and decides to go ahead with the Rising, postponing it until the following day.



Six of the seven members of the IRB Military Council (from *The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated*, April 1916 (original photographs by Keogh Bros and Lafayette), in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (4))



James Connolly, who joined the Military Council in January, 1916 (from *The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated*, April 1916 (original photograph by Lafayette), in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (14))

24th April 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

FIRST DAY OF RISING

Approximately 1,250 members of the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Citizen Army and Cumann na mBan mobilise throughout the city. Many are unaware of what is to happen and are only informed of the impending insurrection upon their assembly. Key buildings are seized throughout Dublin, including the Four Courts, Boland's Mill, the Mendicity Institution and the GPO, which acts as the rebels' headquarters. Rebels make a brief attempt to seize Dublin Castle, but revert instead to the Evening Mail offices on the opposite side of the street. At the GPO, a flag emblazoned with the words "Irish Republic" is hoisted alongside a tricolour, beneath which Patrick Pearse reads the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.



Sackville street in 1916 (from *Dublin and the "Sinn Féin Rising"*, booklet by Wilson Hartnell & Co, UCD Archives, P30/47 (3))

FIND OUT MORE:

• HISTORY HUB

Professor Michael Laffan, *The Irish Revolution*, lecture 4, *The Easter Rising*:
<http://historyhub.ie/the-easter-rising-the-irish-revolution-lecture-4>

24th April 1916

UCD EVENT

FIRST DAY OF RISING

Rebel units gather throughout the city, including the "C" Company of the 3rd Battalion of the Irish Volunteers, which assembles on the grounds of UCD. Key buildings in the city centre are seized. Thomas MacDonagh, leading a depleted 2nd Battalion, takes control of Jacob's factory on Bishop Street. After hearing from a friend about the insurrection, Louise Gavan Duffy, another UCD staff member, approaches the GPO and takes up a post in the kitchen. Also in the GPO is Joseph Sweeney, an engineering student, and medical student James Ryan, who is appointed Medical Officer for the garrison. Ernie O'Malley, another medical student at UCD, considers helping some friends to defend Trinity College before deciding to join the rebels. Meanwhile, Liam Ó Briain, an assistant in the French department in UCD, joins the garrison at St Stephen's Green.



Thomas MacDonagh in his Irish Volunteers uniform (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

25th April 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

SECOND DAY OF RISING:

Martial law is declared as British Military forces take up positions throughout the city, including City Hall and the Shelbourne Hotel. At St Stephen's Green, the ICA comes under heavy attack, while skirmishes continue at other positions, including the South Dublin Union. Shops on Sackville St are looted and burned.



Images of the British Army and their vehicles taken in the aftermath of the Rising (from *The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated*, April 1916, in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (18))



St Stephen's Green, with the Shelbourne Hotel in the background (from *Dublin and the "Sinn Féin Rising"*, booklet by Wilson Hartnell & Co, UCD Archives, P30/47 (2))

1916

25th April 1916

UCD EVENT

SECOND DAY OF RISING

Liam Ó Briain and the other rebels under the command of Michael Mallin and Countess Markievicz at St Stephen's Green are forced to relocate to the Royal College of Surgeons after coming under heavy attack. At Portobello, Francis Sheehy-Skeffington, UCD alumnus and former auditor of the L&H Society, is arrested, detained and ultimately shot by British soldiers, under the instruction of Captain JC Bowen-Colthurst. Sheehy-Skeffington had taken no part in the Rising and had been organising a group of people to prevent shops and businesses from being looted.



Francis Sheehy-Skeffington and his wife Mary during their graduation.

26th April 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

THIRD DAY OF RISING

Fighting intensifies as British forces bring in heavy artillery. Liberty Hall, although unoccupied, is shelled by the battleship Helga. Volunteers attack Linen Hall barracks in the north of the city, while British soldiers marching from Dun Laoghaire come under attack from detachments of Eamon de Valera's Boland's Mill garrison at Mount Street.



Liberty Hall in ruins (UCD Archives, P80/PH/7)

26th April 1916

UCD EVENT

THIRD DAY OF RISING

Michael Hayes, an assistant lecturer in French at UCD, who initially sided with Eoin MacNeill upon the outbreak of the Rising and declined to participate, undergoes a change of heart and decides to join his friend and colleague Thomas MacDonagh in Jacob's factory. Although there is little in the way of out-and-out combat, sniping occurs around the factory during the night.



Some important buildings of the Easter Rising (clockwise, from top right): The Four Courts, Jacob's Biscuit Factory, Trinity College and the Royal College of Surgeons. All were occupied by rebels except for Trinity, which was defended by British soldiers and students (from Dublin and the "Sinn Féin Rising", booklet by Wilson Hartnell & Co, UCD Archives, P30/47 (11))

27th April 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

FOURTH DAY OF RISING

Heavy shelling on Sackville Street, causing fires and destruction. The South Dublin Union comes under attack from the Sherwood Foresters. Artillery is deployed in Sackville Street, while sniping occurs throughout the city. At the GPO, James Connolly is wounded in the arm and the leg. Fires and looting become more widespread.



A memorial postcard featuring a portrait of James Connolly (UCD Archives, P34/F/3)

1916

27th April 1916

UCD EVENT

FOURTH DAY OF RISING

Louise Gavan Duffy and the other women in the GPO are instructed by Pearse to evacuate the building, but they refuse, returning to their duties. Meanwhile, James Ryan, who had been completing his fifth year of medicine at UCD, treats a severely wounded James Connolly.



A copy of *Birth of Irish Republic* by Walter Paget (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons).

28th April 1916

UCD EVENT

FIFTH DAY OF RISING

Under increasingly heavy fire, the GPO is evacuated. Louise Gavan Duffy and James Ryan help to escort the wounded out of the building.



Dr James Ryan in the 1930s



Louise Gavan Duffy

28th April 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

FIFTH DAY OF RISING

General Sir John Maxwell arrives in Dublin to take control of the British military. Shelling intensifies and the GPO, now severely damaged by flames, is evacuated by the rebels, who establish a new headquarters in Moore Street. Michael (The) O'Rahilly, a prominent nationalist and volunteer, is killed during the evacuation.



General Maxwell and Major-General Sandbach (from Dublin and the "Sinn Féin Rising" (photographs originally by LaFayette), booklet by Wilson Hartnell & Co, UCD Archives, P30/47 (13))



Michael (The) O'Rahilly in his Volunteer uniform (UCD Archives, P106/104/3)

29th April 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

SIXTH DAY OF RISING:

Shortly after noon, Pearse and the other leaders in Moore St. decide to surrender. After meeting with General William Lowe, Pearse is taken to the British Army headquarters where he signs an unconditional surrender. The garrison at the Four Courts, led by Ned Daly, also surrenders. The prisoners are taken to the green outside the Rotunda Hospital, where they are held until the following morning



Commandant Ned Daly and the Four Courts (from The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated, April 1916, in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (7))



People walk by a gutted GPO (UCD Archives, P80/PH/2)

1916

29th April 1916

UCD EVENT

SIXTH DAY OF RISING

While dressing Connolly's wounds, Ryan "saw a sight I shall never forget. Lying dead on the opposite footpath of Moore Street were three elderly men..." Soon afterwards, Seán MacDermott tells Connolly and Ryan that it is the sight of these three men that convinces Pearse to surrender, in order to "save the lives of the citizens." In Jacob's factory, MacDonagh receives the order to surrender, but refuses to believe that it is genuine.



British soldiers take position amongst the ruins of a building (UCD Archives, P80/PH/9)

30th April 1916

UCD EVENT

SEVENTH DAY OF RISING

The garrisons at the Royal College of Surgeons and Jacob's factory surrender. Michael Hayes recalled that MacDonagh "was quite calm and spoke in simple serious language. I remember that he seemed to be quite a different man..."



A portrait of Michael Hayes in his later years (UCD Archives)

30th April 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

SEVENTH DAY OF RISING

The remaining garrisons at the South Dublin Union, Boland's Mill and Jacob's factory surrender and the rebels are taken prisoner. Over the course of the week, 466 lives have been lost, including 254 civilians.



Eamon de Valera's Third Dublin Battalion following their surrender (UCD Archives, P150/503/6, courtesy of UCD - Order of Friars Minor Partnership)



Photograph depicting the aftermath of the Rising in Dublin (UCD Archives, P80/PH/10, 12)

3rd May 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

RESIGNATION OF AUGUSTINE BIRRELL, CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND

On tendering his resignation to the House of Commons, Augustine Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland says "This is no Irish rebellion. I hope that, although put down, as it is being put down, as it must be put down, it will be so put down, with such success and with such courage, and yet at the same time humanity, displayed towards the dupes, the rank and file, led astray by their leaders, that this insurrection in Ireland will never, even in the minds and memories of that people, be associated with their past rebellions, or become an historical landmark in their history."



Augustine Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland (United States Library of Congress via Wikipedia Commons)

1916

3rd - 12th May 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

EXECUTION OF RISING LEADERS

Having been selected for trial, the seven signatories of the Proclamation and other rebels deemed to have played a significant role in the Rising are court-martialed and sentenced to death. 14 rebels are executed at Kilmainham Gaol and subsequently buried at Arbour Hill. The other prisoners are deported to internment camps. Thomas Kent was executed in Cork. Following detention in the Tower of London, Roger Casement is tried and sentenced and ultimately executed (see 3 August below). The executions evoke a mass of sympathy from the Irish public, turning many towards the cause of the rebels.



A postcard from the 1920s commemorating those who died during the Easter Rising (UCD Archives, P25/114)

4th May 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

EXECUTION OF RISING LEADERS

Joseph Plunkett, signatory of the Proclamation, served at the GPO, William Pearse, served at the GPO, Edward Daly, led the First Battalion of the Irish Volunteers in the Four Courts and Michael O'Hanrahan, joint second in command at Jacob's biscuit factory, are executed.



Joseph Plunkett (from The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated, April 1916, in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (4))



William Pearse (licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)



Edward Daly (from The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated, April 1916, in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (7))



Michael O'Hanrahan (from Dublin and the "Sinn Féin Rising", booklet by Wilson Hartnell & Co, UCD Archives, P30/47 (18))

3rd May 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

EXECUTION OF RISING LEADERS

Patrick Pearse, signatory of the Proclamation, Thomas MacDonagh, signatory of the Proclamation and commander of the Second Battalion of Volunteers, in charge of Jacob's biscuit factory and Thomas J. Clarke, signatory of the Proclamation and served at the GPO, are executed.



Patrick Pearse (from The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated, April 1916, in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (4))



Thomas MacDonagh (from The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated, April 1916, in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (4))



Thomas J. Clarke (from The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated, April 1916, in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (4))

5th May 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

EXECUTION OF RISING LEADERS

John MacBride, joint second-in-command at Jacob's biscuit factory, is executed.



John MacBride (from The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated, April 1916, in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (8))

1916

8th May 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

EXECUTION OF RISING LEADERS

Eamonn Ceannt, signatory of the Proclamation and commander of the Fourth Battalion of Irish Volunteers, in charge of the South Dublin Union, Michael Mallin, Chief of Staff of the Irish Citizen Army, in charge of St. Stephen's Green and the Royal College of Surgeons, Sean Heuston, leader of a section of the First Battalion of the Volunteers that occupied the Mendicity Institute, and Con Colbert, captain of F Company of the Fourth Battalion of the Irish Volunteers and in command at the Marrowbone Lane distillery, are executed.



Eamonn Ceannt (from *The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated*, April 1916, in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (4))



Michael Mallin, (photograph by Lorcan Collins, via irishcentral.com)



Sean Heuston, (from *Fianna Heroes of 1916*, in UCD Archives P34/F/64(1))



Con Colbert, captain of F Company of the Fourth Battalion of the Irish Volunteers and in command at the Marrowbone Lane distillery (from *Fianna Heroes of 1916*, in UCD Archives P34/F/64(1))

9th May 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

EXECUTION OF RISING LEADERS

Thomas Kent is executed. Kent did not participate in the Rising, but during the insurrection his house in Cork was raided by British forces. After a gunfight, he was captured, court-martialled and executed.



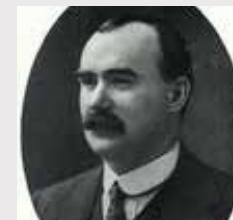
Thomas Kent (from *The Irish Rebellion, 1916*)

12th May 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

EXECUTION OF RISING LEADERS

James Connolly, signatory of the Proclamation and Commandant-General of the Dublin Division in the GPO and Sean MacDiarmada, signatory of the Proclamation, who served at the GPO, are executed.



James Connolly (from *The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated*, April 1916 (original photograph by Lafayette), in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (14))



Sean MacDiarmada (from *The "Sinn Féin" Revolt Illustrated*, April 1916, in UCD Archives, P104/1348 (4))

31st May - 1st June 1916

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

BATTLE OF JUTLAND

The major naval battle of the War occurs between the British and German navies off the coast of Denmark. The British fleet suffers more losses than its German counterpart, though not enough to undermine its authority in the seas.



HMS Warspite and HMS Malaya during the battle of Jutland (via Wikimedia Commons).

1916

4th June 1916

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

THE BRUSILOV OFFENSIVE

The offensive by Russian forces leads to significant territorial advances, but paradoxically it also weakens the Russian army, which loses many of its best troops and suffers from extended supply lines. The failure of the Habsburg army to repel the initial offensives compels Germany to come to its aid, though at a price— the effective subjugation of the Habsburg military to German commanders.



Russian general Aleksei Brusilov
(via Wikimedia Commons)

1st July - 18th November 1916

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

BATTLE OF THE SOMME

An Allied offensive fails to dislodge heavily entrenched German positions on the banks of the Somme. After a week of aerial bombardment, Allied soldiers are mown down by German machine guns when they attempt to cross no-man's-land- on the first day, the 36th Ulster Division suffer 5,000 casualties, including 2,069 fatalities. What follows is a long, drawn out battle of attrition which costs over 1 million lives.



Royal Irish Rifles, possibly the 1st Battalion,
in a trench at the Battle of the Somme
(via Wikimedia Commons)

8th June 1916

UCD EVENT

AFTERMATH OF THE RISING

In the aftermath of the rebellion, Augustine Birrell, the Chief Secretary of Ireland, chastises the "young fools from the National University" that were amongst the "instigators and inspirers of this mad revolt". On 8th June, UCD student Madge Calnan reports in a letter to James Ryan that "there are not half a dozen people in the College who are not Sinn Féiners."



Nelson's Pillar, as seen through the ruins of the GPO
(UCD Archives, P80/PH/1)

3rd August 1916

NATIONAL EVENT

EXECUTION OF ROGER CASEMENT

After a highly publicised trial, Roger Casement is found guilty of treason, and is hanged at Pentonville Prison.



Roger Casement

1916-17

9th September 1916

UCD EVENT

TOM KETTLE'S DEATH

Tom Kettle dies at the Somme, after leading his company during an assault on German positions at Ginchy. He had made several attempts to be permitted for front line duty before the Army authorities finally relented. He leaves behind him his wife Mary and daughter Elisabeth. A few days before his death, he writes a sonnet for his daughter, telling her that he and others "Died not for flag, nor King, nor Emperor/But for a dream, born in a herdsman's shed/and for the secret Scripture of the poor." Oliver St John Gogarty recalled that there were "many eyes wet with tears in Dublin when they heard of Tom's death".



Kettle in his younger years (UCD Library Special Collections, Curran Collection- Photographs, CUR P 41)



British soldiers climb out of their trench during the Battle of Ginchy (photograph by Brooks Ernest, from the collections of the Imperial War Museums, Q 1302, licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

FIND OUT MORE:

- CENTURY IRELAND: Life and Death of Tom Kettle
<http://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/watch/the-life-and-death-of-tom-kettle>

6th April 1917

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

US DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY

Following an attempt by Germany to form an alliance with Mexico, and in the aftermath of strong public anger at the sinking of the Lusitania, Woodrow Wilson declares war on Germany.



President Woodrow Wilson asks Congress to declare war on Germany, 2 April 1917 (via Wikimedia Commons)

1917

5th February 1917

NATIONAL EVENT

COUNT PLUNKETT WINS BY-ELECTION

George Noble Plunkett, who entered politics following the execution of his son Joseph in the aftermath of the Easter Rising, wins a seat in the Roscommon North by-election. Plunkett receives 3,022 votes, as against 1,708 for the Irish Parliamentary Party candidate and 687 for Jasper Tully, an independent. In May, Joseph McGuinness wins another seat for the party at the Longford South by-election.



George Noble Plunkett, with his wife Mary, in Dublin ("Count Plunkett" by Agence Rol, French National Library, via Wikimedia Commons)

10th July 1917

NATIONAL EVENT

ÉAMON DE VALERA WINS BY-ELECTION

Following the death of MP Willie Redmond, brother of the Irish Parliamentary Party Chairman, John Redmond, at the Battle of Messines Ridge in Belgium, a by election is held in East Clare. Eamon de Valera, running for Sinn Féin, defeats Patrick Lynch of the Irish Parliamentary Party by a majority of 2,975 votes.



Éamon de Valera (National Photo Company [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons)

1917

25th July 1917

NATIONAL EVENT

FIRST MEETING OF THE IRISH CONVENTION

The first conference of the Irish Convention meets at Regents House in Trinity College, chaired by Sir Horace Plunkett. The Convention is called for by David Lloyd George as an attempt to find solutions the problems surrounding Irish self-determination. The Convention is dominated by the Irish Parliamentary party after Sinn Féin refuse to participate.



Trinity College, with Regent House, where the Convention was held, in the central background ("Parliament Square from the Graduates Memorial Building (GMB) - geograph.org.uk - 1742048" by Eric Jones, licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons)

25th - 26th October 1917

UCD EVENT

MACNEILL - DE VALERA ALLIANCE

Although he took no part in the Rising, Eoin MacNeill was arrested and imprisoned along with those who rebelled. During his time in Lewes prison, he taught classes on Irish language and history. He also formed a friendship with Eamon de Valera, with whom he had discussions on "scientific matters". Upon his release from prison, and awaiting reappointment at UCD, MacNeill campaigned for de Valera during the East Clare by-election. The alliance formed over these months helps to avoid a split amongst their respective followers, and ensures that de Valera takes control of Sinn Féin ahead of George Noble Plunkett at the party's convention in October 1917.



A photograph of recently released prisoners of the Easter Rising, June 1917 (UCD Archives, LA30/PH/392)



Detail of photograph reveals MacNeill and de Valera sitting side by side

25th - 27th October 1917

NATIONAL EVENT

ÉAMON DE VALERA ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SINN FÉIN AND THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS

At a convention in Dublin, Sinn Féin undergoes a radical reinvention as it comes under the control of the republican movement. Éamon de Valera is elected President of the party, ahead of Arthur Griffith, who does not contest the election. On 27th October, de Valera is also elected President of the Irish Volunteers, while Cathal Brugha and Michael Collins are elected onto the national executive.



Éamon de Valera (National Photo Company [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons)

7th November 1917

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

Bolshevik revolutionaries, led by Vladimir Illich Lenin, seize Government buildings in Petrograd. Over the coming weeks, months and years, the Bolsheviks install a socialist government in Russia to create the Soviet state.



The Red Guards, under Bolshevik influence, outside a Vulkan factory in 1917 (via Wikimedia Commons).

1917-18

20th November - 7th December 1917

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

BATTLE OF CAMBRAI

British forces, under the command of General Sir Julian Byng, attack the German Hindenburg line. The British make substantial gains before being sent back. This battle marks the first large-scale use of tanks in the War.



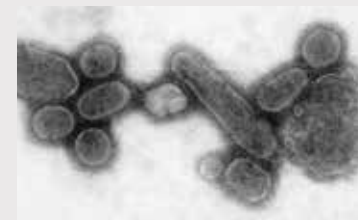
*A destroyed tank at the Battle of Cambrai
(Bundesarchiv Bild 104-0937A, via Wikimedia Commons)*

11th March 1918

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

SPANISH INFLUENZA

In a military base in Kansas, there are outbreaks of an unusually severe form of influenza, which are later understood to be amongst first recorded cases of the Spanish Flu. Over the coming year, this strain of flu kills an estimated 50,000,000 people.



The Spanish Flu Virus. Photograph by Cynthia Goldsmith, courtesy of Dr. Terrence Tumpey & Cynthia Goldsmith, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (via Wikimedia Commons)

1918

March 1918

UCD EVENT

MULCAHY APPOINTED IRA CHIEF OF STAFF

Richard Mulcahy, second-year medical student at UCD, is appointed Chief of Staff of the IRA. The increased responsibilities that came with the position force him to abandon his studies later in the year. However, he continues to hold an office in the Chemistry corridor of the Physiology Department in Earlsfort Terrace, from which he conducts his duties as Chief of Staff.



*Richard Mulcahy in uniform
(UCD Archives, P80/PH/164)*

21st March - 18th July 1918

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

THE SPRING OFFENSIVE

This was German military leaders' last gamble to win the war before the Allies, reinforced by American troops, became too strong. Despite making major gains, the German army fails to pierce the Allies' line. Weakened by the loss of their best troops and hampered by over-extended supply lines, the German army falls vulnerable to Allied counter-offensives. In mid-July, 1918, French and American forces start an offensive, followed by the British army's offensive in August 1918. This marks the military turning point of the war.



A German tank passes through the French town of Roye on the first day of the Offensive (Bundesarchiv Bild 183-P1013-316, "Westfront, deutscher Panzer in Roye" via Wikimedia Commons)

1918

21st April 1918

NATIONAL EVENT

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION PLEDGE SIGNED BY NATIONALISTS

In response to the passing of the Military Service Bill by the House of Commons, which empowers the British Government to enforce conscription on all Irish men of military age, an anti-conscription pledge is signed throughout the country. The pledge is brought about by Irish Anti-Conscription Committee, an alliance of leading Irish nationalists, including Eamon de Valera, John Dillon and Arthur Griffith. The move, which is supported by the Catholic Church in Ireland, reflects the mood amongst the Irish public towards what has become an increasingly unpopular war. Although the Irish Parliamentary Party spearheads opposition to the Military Service Bill at Westminster, Sinn Féin are the most vocal proponent of the anti-conscription movement and claim a large degree of support throughout the country.



John Dillon addressing an anti-conscription rally in Ballaghadreen, Co. Roscommon (Low resolution copy of original held at National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin; via Wikimedia Commons)

FIND OUT MORE:

• HISTORY HUB

Professor Michael Laffan, The Irish Revolution, lecture 5, Aftermath of the 1916 Rising and 1917 By-Elections:

<http://historyhub.ie/aftermath-of-the-rising-and-1917-by-elections-the-irish-revolution-lecture-5>

11th November 1918

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

ARMISTICE

As the threat posed by the Allied forces becomes insurmountable, the German command make moves towards ending the War. The armistice is formally signed in General Ferdinand Foch's railway carriage in the forest of Compiègne. Since the beginning of the War, over 16 million have died, including an estimated 7 million civilians.



French, German and British representatives outside the carriage of General Foch's train in the Forest of Compiègne, where the Armistice was signed. "Armistice train" in F.ex. Jan Dąbrowski, Wielka wojna 1914-1918, Warsaw 1937 (via Wikimedia Commons).

11th November 1918

UCD EVENT

ARMISTICE

In his report for 1917/18, UCD President Denis Coffey commemorates those fallen in the War, "I hope that a place may be found in our new buildings for those who, as we knew them, had the promise of high careers and included not a few of exceptional distinction. They are all gallant, good, true-hearted Irishmen."



Denis Coffey, UCD President, 1908-1940 (via ucd.ie)



A depiction of injured soldiers returning from battle (Illustrated London News, full copies available at the National Library of Ireland)

14th December 1918

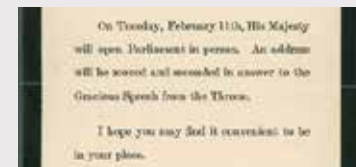
NATIONAL EVENT

SINN FÉIN WIN LANDSLIDE IN GENERAL ELECTION

After the victories in the 1917 by-elections, Éamon de Valera leads his party to victory in the first general election following the end of the First World War. The party wins 73 seats, leaving 26 seats for the Unionist Party and 6 seats for the Irish Parliamentary Party. The defeat spells the end for the Irish Parliamentary Party, and reflects the role of the Easter Rising in provoking a radical upsurge in the nationalist ambitions of the Irish Public. The election is also notable for the election of Constance Markievicz, the first woman to be elected to the British House of Commons. Markievicz does not take her seat in Westminster, however, as Sinn Féin choose to follow a policy of abstention.

Vote for Sinn Féin
AND SHOW THE WORLD THAT IRELAND
IS NOT A PART OF ENGLAND
DUILLEAG PHOINÍOCHTA SINN FÉINEACH, 1918

Detail of Sinn Féin election poster in 1918, quoting D. D. Sheehan MP, (Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)



The invitation extended to Dr James Ryan to attend the state opening of the British Parliament, following his election in 1918 (UCD Archives, P88/290/6)

FIND OUT MORE:

• HISTORY HUB

Professor Michael Laffan, The Irish Revolution, lecture 6, The 1918 General Election:
<http://historyhub.ie/the-1918-general-election-the-irish-revolution-lecture-6>

1918-19

14th December 1918

UCD EVENT

1918 ELECTIONS

A number of UCD staff and graduates are elected on the Sinn Féin ticket, including Kevin O'Higgins, James Ryan and Pat McCartan. In the election for the NUI's parliamentary seat, Eoin MacNeill defeats the Irish Parliamentary Party's candidate Arthur Conway by 1,644 to 813 votes.



The invitation extended to Dr James Ryan to attend the state opening of the British Parliament, following his election in 1918 (UCD Archives, P88/290(6))



A permit given by Dr James Ryan to a friend to be present at the meeting of the First Dáil (UCD Archives, P88/290(7))

8th February 1919

UCD EVENT

DE VALERA MADE VICE-PRESIDENT OF L&H

The Irish Times reports that at a meeting of UCD's Literary and Historical Society, "a resolution was passed, on a motion of Mr Sullivan, seconded by Mr J Sheehan, adding the name of Mr. de Valera to the list of Vice-Presidents of the Society. A copy of the resolution was afterwards sent to Mr. De Valera."



Crest of the L&H (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

1919

21st January 1919

NATIONAL EVENT

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE BEGINS

At the Mansion House in Dublin, Sinn Féin's elected representatives convene to form the First Dáil. In a session conducted through Irish, the Dáil ratifies its own Constitution and passes a Democratic Programme. In the absence of Eamon de Valera, who is under imprisonment, Cathal Brugha is elected as temporary President of the Dáil. On the same day, members of the Third Tipperary Brigade of the Irish Volunteers carry out an ambush on two RIC constables in Soloheadbeg, Co Tipperary. The attack is seen as the formal initiation of hostilities in the Irish War of Independence; two days later, the British government declare South Tipperary a Special Military Area and place it under the Defence of the Realm Act.



A photograph of the First Dáil taken on 10th April, 1919 (via Wikimedia Commons)



An invitation extended to Desmond Fitzgerald by George Noble Plunkett to attend the First Dáil (UCD Archives, P80/653)

FIND OUT MORE:

• HISTORY HUB

Professor Michael Laffan, The Irish Revolution, lecture 7, The War of Independence/Anglo-Irish War: <http://historyhub.ie/the-war-of-independence-the-irish-revolution-lecture-7>

March 1919

UCD EVENT

"RESURGAMUS" ARTICLE IN THE NATIONAL STUDENT

In the National Student, UCD's student magazine, an article entitled "Resurgamus" appears, calling on the members of the Students' Representative Council to "defy the forces of West Britonism in the University". At this time, the Student Representative Council co-opts IRA representatives from each faculty.



The National Student masthead (UCD Library)

1919-20

28th June 1919

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

TREATY OF VERSAILLES SIGNED

After five months of negotiations at the Paris Peace Conference, the Treaty of Versailles is signed. The Treaty places harsh conditions on Germany, reducing her territorial possessions and land mass. It is established that Germany will have to pay reparations to the victors of the war, the exact figure is later set at 132 billion gold marks.



Postcard depicting an imagined Irish entry at the Paris Peace Conference, where the Treaty of Versailles was negotiated (UCDA, P117/84)

25th February 1920

NATIONAL EVENT

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND BILL INTRODUCED INTO COMMONS

This new Bill proposes the establishment of two separate Home Rule parliaments in the North and South of Ireland.



Walter Hume Long, head of the British cabinet's Committee for Ireland, who pushed for the creation of two separate Home Rule parliaments in Ireland (from *The Thompson Yates and Johnston Laboratories Report V (I)*: vii. Liverpool University Press, London licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons)

1920

16th January 1920

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

PROHIBITION IN AMERICA

In the USA, the Eighteenth Amendment comes into effect, prohibiting the sale and production of alcohol. The measure stays in place until 1933, when it is repealed.



Liquor is poured down a drain following the introduction of Prohibition (via Wikimedia Commons).

25th October 1920

NATIONAL EVENT

TERENCE MACSWINEY DIES ON HUNGER-STRIKE

Terence MacSwiney, the Lord Mayor of Cork and commandant of the 1st Cork Brigade of the IRA, dies following a 74 day hunger strike. His death provokes an outpouring of condemnation, both at home and abroad. His predecessor, Tomas MacCurtain, had been killed earlier in the year, allegedly at the hands of the RIC.



Terence MacSwiney (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

1920

1st November 1920

UCD EVENT

EXECUTION OF KEVIN BARRY

20 year-old Kevin Barry, a medical student at UCD, is executed in Mountjoy Prison following his role in an attack on 20th September, in which three British soldiers were killed. After learning of his death sentence, he writes a letter to a friend, asking him to convey his "sad grath from me to all the girls in UCD". His execution comes a week after the death of Terence MacSwiney, and both become major rallying points for the republican cause.



A portrait of Kevin Barry (UCD Archives, P80/PH/175)



A typed copy of a letter he wrote to a college friend (UCD Archives, P93/21)

2nd November 1920

UCD EVENT

RAIDS ON UCD

Hostilities intensify in the aftermath of Kevin Barry's execution and the ensuing events of Bloody Sunday, 21 November, 1920. On the day after Barry's execution, Auxiliaries carry out a search in the College. John Mowbray, a first-year medical student at the time, recalls seeing fellow students, "whom I regarded as harmless callow youths, produce massive revolvers and sheafs of papers and hand them to even less guileful waitresses, who were, of course, members of the College Cumann na mBan". On another occasion, Professor Michael Hayes' house is raided. Although the authorities seize some classified documents, they narrowly miss out on capturing Richard Mulcahy, who escapes through a skylight.



Mulcahy in uniform (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)



Professor Michael Hayes in his later years (UCD Archives)

21st November 1920

NATIONAL EVENT

BLOODY SUNDAY

Following the assassination of 14 British secret service agents by a covert unit of the IRA, crown forces open fire at a Dublin-Tipperary football match in Croke Park. 12 people lose their lives.



A member of the Black and Tans in Dublin (National Library of Ireland, licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons)

28th November 1920

NATIONAL EVENT

KILMICHAEL AMBUSH

The 3rd Cork brigade of the IRA ambush a patrol of Auxiliaries in Kilmichael, Co. Cork. All 18 members of the patrol are killed.



A gutted house, which was burned by Auxiliaries as a reprisal for the Kilmichael Ambush (UCD Archives, P80/PH/16)

1920

11th December 1920

NATIONAL EVENT

CORK CITY BURNED

The Auxiliaries and the Black and Tans sack Cork city, reducing several buildings, such as City Hall and the Corn Exchange, to ruins. Two IRA volunteers are killed and damage estimated at £2 ½ million, approximately €150 million in today's money, is caused to the city.



A burnt-out tram on Patrick Street, Cork City (UCD Archives, P80/PH/17)



The ruins of Cork Town Hall (P80/PH/18)

23rd December 1920

NATIONAL EVENT

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND BILL ENACTED

The Government of Ireland Bill is enacted, bringing partition to Ireland. 6 Ulster Counties are governed by a Home Rule parliament at Stormont, while the Sinn Féin representatives continue their policy of abstention, leaving the Home Rule parliament in Dublin redundant.



The new Irish border

1921

10th February 1921

UCD EVENT

MULCAHY EVADES CAPTURE AGAIN

A raid on Paul Farrell's flat on South Frederick Street fails in its goal of capturing Richard Mulcahy. Mulcahy later recalls that he was "quite all right in UCD" on that particular evening. During this period of heightened tension in the conflict, Mulcahy frequently uses his office in Earlsfort Terrace as a base from which to conduct his role as IRA Chief of Staff.



A poster depicting Richard Mulcahy, "Brilliant Strategist of Easter Week" (UCD Archives, P104/1350)

14th March 1921

UCD EVENT

EXECUTION OF FRANK FLOOD

Frank Flood, an engineering student at UCD, is one of six IRA Volunteers to be executed for his part in an attack on the police in January. A "great chum" of Kevin Barry, the pair are the youngest Volunteers to be executed during the War of Independence.



A portrait of Frank Flood (by Keogh Brothers of Dorset Street, Dublin, via Wikimedia Commons)

1921

9th July 1921

NATIONAL EVENT

TRUCE CALLED BETWEEN IRA AND CROWN FORCES

A truce is called between the forces of Britain and Ireland, coming into effect as of noon on 11th July. Over 2,000 people have been killed in the conflict, including 550 IRA volunteers, 410 RIC members and over 700 civilians.



Éamon de Valera with members of the Irish delegation in London, July 1921 (Illustrated London News, from Ireland's Civil War by Calton Younger, London, 1968, p. 140)



A crowd at the Mansion House, Dublin, ahead of the announcement of a truce on 8th July, 1921 (National Library of Ireland on, licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

9th July 1921

UCD EVENT

O'MALLEY RECEIVES NEWS OF TRUCE

In south Tipperary, Ernie O'Malley, who had abandoned his medical studies in UCD during the Easter Rising, receives a message from the IRA Chief of Staff Richard Mulcahy, which states that, due to the commencement of peace negotiations, "active operations by our forces will be suspended as from noon, Monday, 11 July." O'Malley, who had made Tipperary something of an IRA stronghold during the conflict, later wrote that he was "bewildered" by the order, though he nevertheless conveyed the message to the five IRA brigades under his command.



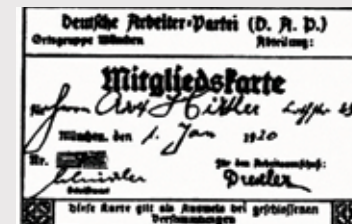
Ernie O'Malley (Helen Hooker, Public domain)

29th July 1921

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

HITLER BECOMES LEADER OF NAZI PARTY

Having become a full member of the German Workers' Party in the previous year, Adolf Hitler is elected as the leader of what has since been renamed the Nationalist Socialist Workers' Party. He will later create the title of Führer for himself, giving him a position of unchallenged authority.



Adolf Hitler's membership card for the German Workers' Party (DAP) (via Wikimedia Commons).

11th October 1921

NATIONAL EVENT

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND DÁIL REPRESENTATIVES LAUNCHED

Following talks between Éamon de Valera and David Lloyd George, a delegation of Irish plenipotentiaries led by Arthur Griffith arrive in London to begin talks with representatives of the British Government.



Arthur Griffith, leader of the Irish delegation (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)



Arthur Griffith, Art O'Brien and Michael Collins walk up the steps of 10 Downing Street, to begin the Treaty negotiations (Central Press Photos Ltd., from Ireland's Civil War by Calton Younger, London, 1968, p. 141)

1921

11th October 1921

UCD EVENT

UCD AT TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Charles Hubert Oldham, Tom Kettle's successor as Professor of National Economics at UCD, supplies financial briefings to the Irish delegation during negotiations of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. UCD law graduate Hugh Kennedy acts as legal adviser, while fellow graduates Jeremiah Joseph O'Connell and Fionán Lynch form part of the secretarial staff.



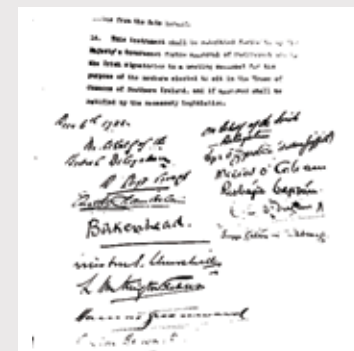
Fionán Lynch at an election rally in the 1920s (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

6th December 1921

NATIONAL EVENT

ANGLO-IRISH TREATY SIGNED

After two months of negotiations, the Anglo-Irish Treaty is signed by the British and Irish delegations. The Treaty grants Ireland the status of a dominion, placing it alongside countries such as Australia, Canada and New Zealand. However, Northern Ireland is given the option of withdrawing itself from the new set of arrangements. The British administration at Dublin Castle will cease, while crown forces are to withdraw from Ireland, although three ports remain under control of the British Navy. Although signed, the Treaty must be ratified by the elected representatives of both Britain and Ireland. The ambiguous status given to the Irish plenipotentiaries in advance of the negotiations causes problems in the ensuing Dáil debates.



The signatures page of the Anglo-Irish Treaty (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

FIND OUT MORE:

• HISTORY HUB

Professor Michael Laffan, The Irish Revolution, lecture 8, The Anglo-Irish Treaty:
<http://historyhub.ie/anglo-irish-treaty-the-irish-revolution-lecture-8>

19th November 1921

UCD EVENT

DE VALERA MADE CHANCELLOR OF NUI

At a formal reception at Earlsfort Terrace, Éamon de Valera is made Chancellor of the National University of Ireland. De Valera spent time as a postgraduate student in UCD prior to becoming a revolutionary.



The formal reception of Éamon de Valera as Chancellor of the NUI (from UCD, A National Idea: The History of University College Dublin, by Donal McCartney, Dublin, 1999, p. 41)



De Valera at his graduation (UCD Archives, P150/32, courtesy of UCD- Order of Friars Minor Partnership)

14th December 1921 - 6th January 1922

UCD EVENT

TREATY DEBATES AT EARLSFORT TERRACE

At the request of the 2nd Dail, the debates on the Anglo-Irish Treaty are held in the Senate Chamber of UCD at Earlsfort Terrace. The ruptures that emerge during the debates lead directly to the Civil War and have a lasting impact on Irish politics and society.

Panorama of UCD Earlsfort Terrace showing the arrival of deputies during the treaty debates, 3 January 1922 (UCD Archives, P80/PH/179)



1922

1st January 1922

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

BRITISH EMPIRE AT ZENITH

At the beginning of 1922, the British Empire is at the height of its territorial extent, covering one quarter of the globe and around 458 million people.



Imperial Federation, Map of the World Showing the Extent of the British Empire in 1886, (levelled) by Walter Crane (via Wikimedia Commons).

14th January 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND FORMED

The pro-Treaty wing of Sinn Féin take power under the name of the Provisional Government. Michael Collins serves as both the Chairman and Minister for Finance of the Provisional Government. Two days later, the British administration from Dublin Castle ceases at a formal "handing-over" ceremony.



The words "Rialtas Sealadach na hÉireann 1922" (Provisional Government of Ireland 1922) printed over a British 2 pence postage stamp (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

7th January 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

DÁIL RATIFIES TREATY

After a month of heated debates, the Dáil accepts the Anglo-Irish Treaty on a vote of 64 to 57. The debates are marked by several heated exchanges. Those against the Treaty suggest that it falls too far short of the sovereign republic that they had fought for; Michael Collins argues that the Treaty provides Ireland with "freedom, not the ultimate freedom that all nations desire ... but the freedom to achieve it." Following the result, Éamon de Valera and his supporters, who had spoken against the Treaty, walk out of the chamber. Two days later, Arthur Griffith is elected the new President of the Dáil.



Card admitting Dr James Ryan into the Dáil for the first day of the Treaty debates (UCD Archives, P88/290(15)).

FIND OUT MORE:

- HISTORY HUB
Professor Michael Laffan, The Irish Revolution, lecture 9, Reaction to the Treaty and lead up to the Irish Civil War:
<http://historyhub.ie/reaction-to-the-treaty-irish-revolution-lecture-9>

14th April 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

THE FOUR COURTS SEIZED BY REPUBLICANS

Rory O'Connor and around 200 anti-Treaty republicans take the Four Courts and a small number of other buildings, including the Ballast Office and the Freemasons' Hall on Molesworth Street. The occupation, which lasts for a period of over two months, fuels tensions between the Sinn Féin factions.



The Four Courts in 1922 (UCD Archives, P80/PH/22).

1923

1922

16th June 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

IRISH GENERAL ELECTION

The Irish general election is won by pro-Treaty Sinn Féin, who gain 58 seats to defeat anti-Treaty Sinn Féin's 36. In advance of the election, Collins and de Valera had drawn up a pact to ensure that Sinn Féin representatives on both sides of the divide would not run in opposition to each other.



Countess Markievicz campaigning for anti-Treaty republicans in Cork (Illustrated London News, from Ireland's Civil War by Calton Younger, London, 1968, p. 236)



Michael Collins speaking to a crowd at College Green in March, 1922 from Ireland's Civil War by Calton Younger, London, 1968, p. 173)

22nd June 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

SIR HENRY WILSON SHOT

Reginald Dunne and Joseph O'Sullivan, both IRA men, assassinate Sir Henry Wilson, security advisor to Northern Irish Prime Minister James Craig, outside his house in London. The British Government, believing the killing was the work of anti-Treaty republicans, pressures Collins to attack the Four Courts.



Field Marshall Sir Henry Hughes Wilson (from Library of Congress Prints and Photographs online collection. (<http://www.loc.gov/r/print/catalog.html>), licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

26th June 1922

UCD EVENT

KIDNAP OF JJ O'CONNELL

JJ (Ginger) O'Connell, former engineering student at UCD and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Free State Army, is captured by forces under the command of fellow UCD graduate Rory O'Connor and held at the Four Courts garrison. O'Connell's kidnap provides Michael Collins with a justification to launch an attack on the Four Courts and begin the fighting phase of the Irish Civil War.



Rory O'Connor (Illustrated London News, from Ireland's Civil War by Calton Younger, London, 1968, p. 237)



The Four Courts, view across Usher's Quay and Usher's Island (UCD Archives, P80/PH/25)

28th June 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

FREE STATE ARMY ATTACKS THE FOUR COURTS

Supplied with arms and ammunition by the British Government, the Free State Army bombards the Four Courts. Michael Collins uses the kidnapping of JJ O'Connell, the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Free State Army, as a justification for the attack. The republican garrison holds out until 3 July, when the Four Courts is overwhelmed by flames, forcing Rory O'Connor and his men to surrender. During this time hostilities break out around the country; clashes occur between pro- and anti-Treaty forces in Kerry, Donegal and Sligo, amongst other places. This period marks the beginning of the Irish Civil War.



Soldiers of the Free State Army fire at the Four Courts (UCD Archives, P80/PH/23)



Smoke billows out of the Four Courts (UCD Archives, P80/PH/26)

FIND OUT MORE:

• HISTORY HUB

Professor Michael Laffan, The Irish Revolution, lecture 10, The Irish Civil War: <http://historyhub.ie/the-irish-civil-war>

1922

12th August 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

DEATH OF ARTHUR GRIFFITH

Arthur Griffith, whose health had been deteriorating over the course of the Civil War, dies at his home in Dublin, suffering a brain haemorrhage. He is buried in Glasnevin cemetery.



*Arthur Griffith's funeral procession
(UCD Archives, P80/PH/173)*

9th September 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

WT COSGRAVE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THIRD DÁIL

With the two primary leaders of Pro-Treaty Sinn Féin now dead, WT Cosgrave is chosen as the President of the Third Dáil. He simultaneously holds the role of Chairman of the Provisional Government.



WT Cosgrave (photograph by George Grantham Bain, available from the United States Library of Congress' Prints and Photographs division under the digital ID ggbain.35309, licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

22nd August 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

DEATH OF MICHAEL COLLINS

While travelling to Bandon, Michael Collins and his convoy are ambushed by republican soldiers at Béal na Bláth. Collins is fatally wounded during the attack. An estimated 500,000 people attend his funeral in Dublin.



*Pallbearers carry Michael Collins' coffin is
(UCD Archives, P197/185)*

28th October 1922

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

MUSSOLINI LEADS THE MARCH ON ROME

Benito Mussolini, leader of the Italian Fascist Party, leads 30,000 men in a march on Rome. Although the marchers pose little military threat, King Victor Emmanuel III summons Mussolini to become Prime Minister two days later.



Benito Mussolini, accompanied by Emilio De Bono, Italo Balbo and Cesare Maria De Vecchi during the March on Rome.

1922-23

17th November 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

REPUBLICANS EXECUTED BY FREE STATE

James Fisher, Peter Cassidy, Richard Twohig and James Gaffney become the first of 77 republicans to be executed by the Free State between November 1922 and May 1923. Such prominent figures as Erskine Childers, Liam Mellows and Joe McKelvey are amongst those killed. The executions prompt several reprisals from the anti-Treaty IRA, including the killing of Sean Hales, TD and the burning of WT Cosgrave's house.



Erskine Childers, executed 24th November, 1922 (Central Press Photos, from Ireland's Civil War by Calton Younger, London, 1968, p. 172)



Liam Mellows, executed 8th December, 1922 (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

6th December 1922

NATIONAL EVENT

IRISH FREE STATE ESTABLISHED

The provisions of the Anglo-Irish Treaty are adopted by the government and Ireland officially becomes a dominion of the British Empire. WT Cosgrave becomes the President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State.



WT Cosgrave, back row, first on the right, representing the Irish Free State at the 1926 Imperial Conference in London (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

8th December 1922

UCD EVENT

THE EXECUTION OF RORY O'CONNOR

Rory O'Connor is executed in retaliation for the assassination of Seán Hales, a pro-Treaty TD. The execution warrant for O'Connor, who had controlled the republican garrison at the Four Courts earlier in the year, is signed by his former friend and fellow UCD alumnus Kevin O'Higgins. Just a year previously, O'Connor had served as best man at O'Higgins' wedding, making a toast to those who died in the Easter Rising. Under pressure from Richard Mulcahy, O'Higgins is the last member of the cabinet to put his name on the warrant. In retaliation, O'Higgins' father is murdered and his house burned down, while O'Higgins is himself assassinated by republicans in 1927.



A photograph taken at Kevin O'Higgins and Birdie Cole's wedding. O'Connor stands to O'Higgins' left, Éamon de Valera to his right (UCD Archives, P197/184, courtesy of Lafayette).

FIND OUT MORE:

• HISTORY HUB

A toast made by Rory O'Connor at Kevin O'Higgins' wedding:
<http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ivrla:30877>

1923

11th January 1923

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

FRANCE AND BELGIUM OCCUPY RUHR VALLEY

French Prime Minister Raymond Poincaré initiates the military occupation of the Ruhr Valley, a key location for German industry, in an effort to speed up the repayment of Germany's war debt. The move is criticised by Britain and Germany.



French troops and a German civilian during the occupation of the Ruhr Valley (Bundesarchiv Bild 183-R09876, via Wikimedia Commons).

1923

7th March 1923

NATIONAL EVENT

BALLYSEEDY MASSACRE

Eight republicans are killed by the explosion of a landmine in Ballyseedy, Co. Kerry. It is one of several incidents that contributed to a high death toll in the last weeks of the Civil War.



A memorial for those who died at Ballyseedy, Co. Kerry (Photograph by "GiollaUidir", licensed under CC BY-SA 2.5 via Wikimedia Commons)

24th May 1923

NATIONAL EVENT

REPUBLICAN MILITARY CAMPAIGN ENDS

Frank Aiken issues orders to cease-fire and dump-arms, ending the Civil War. However, deaths such as those of Noel Lemass in 1924 and Kevin O'Higgins in 1927 demonstrate that political violence had not fully ended. The War has cost an estimated 1,000-4,000 lives and leaves an indelible mark on the Irish political landscape.



Frank Aiken in later years (UCD Archives)



Free State soldiers carry the coffin of a comrade (UCD Archives, P80/PH/121)

10th April 1923

NATIONAL EVENT

LIAM LYNCH SHOT

Liam Lynch, the commanding general of the anti-Treaty IRA, is shot during a raid by the Free State army on his hideout in the Knockmealdown Mountains. He is succeeded by Frank Aiken.



Liam Lynch, fourth from left, standing with a group of IRA leaders before the outbreak of the Civil War (l-r, Sean MacEoin, Sean Moylan, Eoin O'Duffy, Lynch, Gearoid O'Sullivan and Liam Mellows) (Illustrated London News, from Ireland's Civil War by Calton Younger, London, 1968, p. 237)

27th August 1923

NATIONAL EVENT

CUMANN NA NGAEDHEAL WIN VICTORY IN GENERAL ELECTION

Cumann na nGaedheal, the party formed from Sinn Féin's pro-Treaty wing, wins the first general election of the Irish Free State. WT Cosgrave's party wins 63 seats, with Éamon de Valera's Sinn Féin claiming 44. Sinn Féin's representatives abstain from taking their seats until 1927.



A wall in Ennis, Co. Clare, adorned with posters for the 1923 general election (Central Press Photos Ltd from Ireland's Civil War by Calton Younger, London, 1968, p. 333)

1923

27th August 1923

UCD EVENT

IRISH GENERAL ELECTION

After the tumultuous events of the preceding decade, the election of 1923 marks something of a new beginning for the Irish state. The majority of the people reaffirm their support of the treaty by voting for Cumann na nGaedhal, paving the way for a new state in which UCD would continue to play an important role. Professor Eoin MacNeill is the Free State's first Minister for Education. Alongside him in the cabinet are Minister for Justice and Deputy President Kevin O'Higgins and Minister for Lands and Agriculture Patrick Hogan, both UCD graduates. Fellow graduate Hugh Kennedy, who had already become the State's first Attorney General, is made the first Chief Justice of the Irish Free State. He is the first of several UCD law graduates to hold a prominent position in the judiciary, including Supreme Court judges James A. Murnaghan and Cecil Lavery, and President of the High Court Cahir Davitt.



Kevin O'Higgins, Vice-President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State, 1922-1927 (UCD Archives, P197/190)



Hugh Kennedy, first Attorney General and Chief Justice of the Irish Free State (Licensed under Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

10th September 1923

NATIONAL EVENT

IRISH FREE STATE ENTERS THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

WT Cosgrave heads an Irish delegation at Geneva, where the Free State is admitted into the League of Nations. The admission confirms international recognition of the Free State's status.



The Irish League of Nations delegation, Geneva, 1923 (UCD Archives, LA/PH/396)

8th - 10th December 1923

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

BEER HALL PUTSCH, MUNICH

Hitler's Nazi party launch an attempted coup against the Weimar republic in Germany. The revolt is quickly suppressed, resulting in 16 Nazi deaths and the 8-month imprisonment of Hitler.



Participants in the Beer Hall Putsch (Bundesarchiv Bild 146-2007-0003, via Wikimedia Commons).

15th December 1923

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

HYPER-INFLATION IN GERMANY

Inflation reaches its highest point at 4,200,000,000,000 Papiermark to the dollar.



A 50 million mark bank note, printed in September, 1923 (via Wikimedia Commons).

THE PROJECT TEAM WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CO-OPERATION AND PROVISION OF SOURCES FROM:

- UCD Archives
- UCD Library
- UCD Special Collections
- UCD National Folklore Collection
- National Library of Ireland
- Jennifer Geraghty-Gorman
- Paul O'Farrell
- UCD History Hub
- Century Ireland
- Dr Maria Falina, Professor Erik Eklund and
Dr William Mulligan, UCD School of History and Archives

Produced by UCD University Relations and UCD Research.

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