

# Constance Markievicz

## IN THE CAUSE OF IRELAND

### Revolutionary

688 375 482.

SUPERINTENDENT, D. DIVISION.

The Countess Marcovitz has, according to the newspapers, made two appearances at unannounced meetings in the city. One last night, the other a few days ago. I must again impress on all Superintendents the grave importance of securing this woman's arrest and to this end a force sufficiently strong to secure her arrest must be held in reserve at each Divisional Headquarters to-night and to-morrow night. The moment an unannounced meeting is discovered a message must be sent by the quickest ~~most~~ method available to the nearest Divisional Headquarters and to the D. Division, Dublin Castle. The Police on the spot must act firmly and promptly, as the Countess never remains at a meeting for more than a few minutes and may possibly be heavily veiled and, therefore, difficult to recognise.

A motor van will be kept in waiting at the Castle and will be sent out promptly if her arrest is reported.

Superintendents will have, at least, three cyclists on duty in their Divisions on the look out for suddenly convened meetings and the presence of the Countess or other suspects. They will report at once to their Divisional Headquarters and the Castle any information obtained.

W. J. Connelley

Chief Commissioner.

14th January 1920.

D.M. Police Office,  
Dublin Castle.

Bridewell noted at H.P.S.  
Connelley noted J. Shanahan's  
Is not for compliance  
H. J. O'Sullivan

Arrest warrant for Constance Markievicz  
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Constance Markievicz in Dublin  
© RTE Cashman Collection

The signatories of the Proclamation of Independence met and agreed to start the rising on Easter Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 1916. The countermanding of the manoeuvres had the effect of radically reducing the manpower that assembled on Easter Monday. That morning Constance Markievicz went with James Connolly and the Citizen Army (of whom 220 fought in Easter Week out of a membership estimated to be 300). They marched to Dublin Castle where they occupied City Hall at the entrance to the Castle. Constance then went to St. Stephen's Green where Michael Mallin had already assembled his forces mainly composed of members of the *Citizen Army* with

some members of *Cumann na mBan* to occupy the Green. On Easter Monday afternoon Geraldine Fitzgerald, district nurse, described the shooting of unarmed Constable Michael Lahiff coming down the path from Harcourt Street "... he had only gone a short way when we heard a shot and then saw him fall forward on his face. The Countess (Constance) ran triumphantly into the Green saying "I got him"". Constable Lahiff later died from the wound. Barricades were put up around the green to stop traffic.

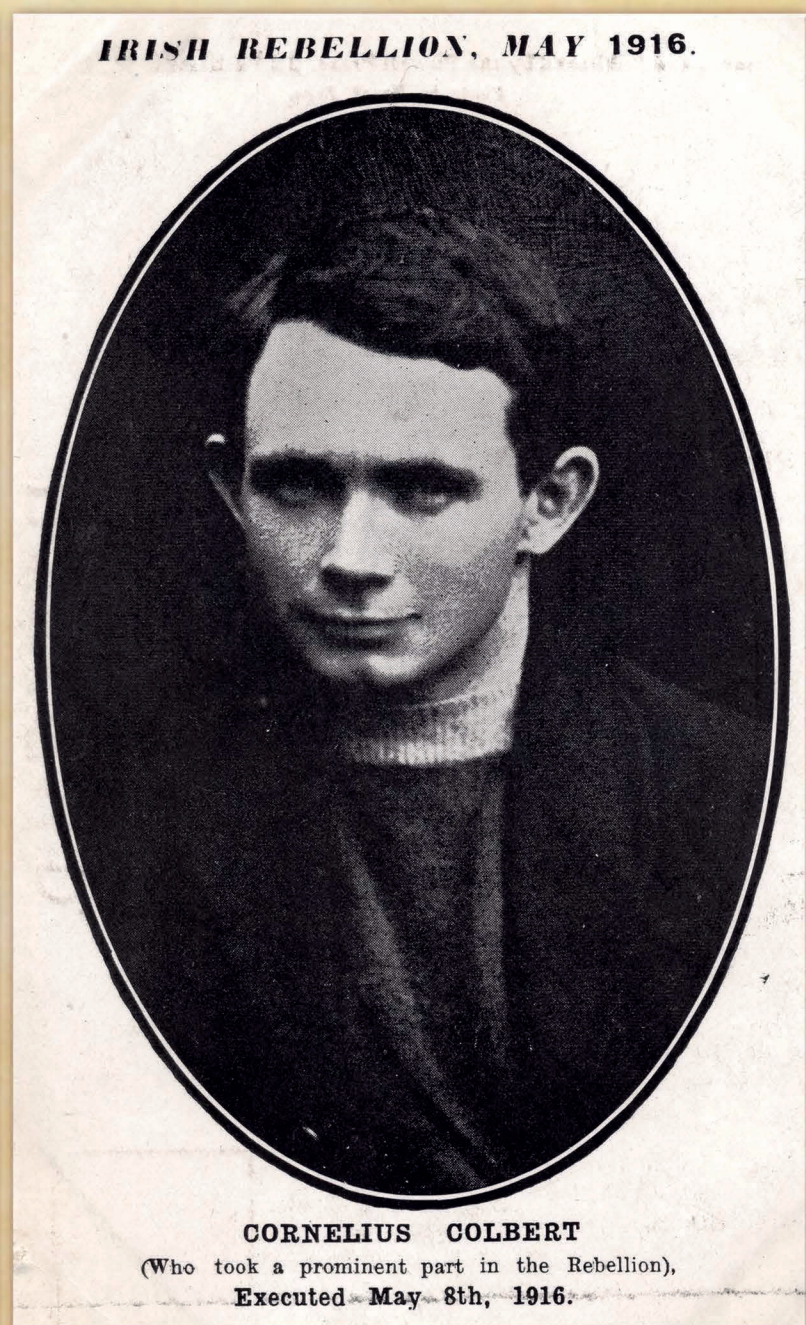
On Tuesday one hundred soldiers with a machine gun occupied the Shelbourne Hotel overlooking St. Stephen's Green and the rebels under continuous fire were forced to retreat to the College of Surgeons. There they barricaded the windows and manned the roof. On Wednesday Martial law was declared. All over the city rebel forces now began to be pinned down and the supply of food and communications began to break down. On Thursday the occupants of the College of Surgeons discovered the college arsenal and the sixty four rifles were pressed into service. However artillery and the gunboat "*Helga*" now began to bombard rebel held positions and on Friday negotiations began for the surrender. On Sunday morning the surrender, signed by Padraig Pearse and James Connolly was brought to the College of Surgeons. The occupants of the College of Surgeons had little hope and felt that imprisonment or death was before them.

Constance was sentenced to death but was reprieved 'solely and only on account of her sex'. Among the many executed after summary court martial were 'two Fianna boys' Con Colbert and Seán Heuston on May 8<sup>th</sup>. On May 12<sup>th</sup> it was the turn of James Connolly, wounded and unable to stand, he was tied to a chair and shot. With no real news except after the event one woman likened the executions to 'watching a stream of blood coming from beneath a door'.



J. J. HEUSTON,  
One of the leaders of the Rebellion,  
Executed May 8th, 1916.

Sean Heuston  
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CORNELIUS COLBERT  
(Who took a prominent part in the Rebellion),  
Executed May 8th, 1916.

Con Colbert  
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