

Who were the 'Extremists'?

Pierce Beasley (Piaras Béaslai) (1881-1965) was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and the Irish Volunteers. He worked as a freelance journalist, having been sacked from the Evening Telegraph in 1914 due to his separatist activities. He was also the producer of na h-Aisteoirí, a company of Gaelic amateur actors heavily involved in the IRB. During the Rising, he was deputy commanding officer of the 1st Dublin Battalion under Edward Daly. He went on to become a Sinn Féin MP in 1918, but left politics following independence. Bealsai is mentioned in 108 of the 251 reports.

Thomas Byrne (1877-1962) was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and a captain in the Irish Volunteers. A veteran of the Second Boer War, where he had fought in the Irish Brigade with Major John MacBride, he led the Maynooth Volunteers to the GPO during the Easter Rising. Following independence, Byrne was appointed Captain of the Guard at Dáil Éireann by Michael Collins. Byrne is mentioned in 108 of the 251 reports, primarily as a frequent visitor to the shop of Thomas J Clarke.

Thomas J Clarke (1858-1916), known as Tom, was a central figure in the leadership of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and helped to found the Irish Volunteers in 1913. A key figure in planning the Rising, he was the first to sign the Proclamation of the Irish Republic and was shot in the first round of executions at Kilmainham Jail on 3 May 1916. Clarke lived at 10 Richmond Avenue, Fairview and owned a tobacconist's shop at 75a Parnell Street which was a hub of IRB activity in the city. Clarke is mentioned in almost every report in the series and his shop is one of the key locations under surveillance.

Con Colbert (1888-1916) was a member of both the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He was also an active member of the Gaelic League and

the Na Fianna Éireann, the national boy-scout organisation, and acted as a part-time drill instructor at St Enda's. He was involved in the secret drilling of IRB members at the National Foresters Hall, Parnell Square, and in the training and development of Volunteer Officers. Colbert was one of the 16 men executed following the Rising in 1916. He is mentioned in 105 of the 251 reports.

Con Collins (1881-1927) was a member of both the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Republican Brotherhood. Arrested with Austin Stack in County Kerry on Easter Saturday 1916, he spent the week of the Rising in Tralee Barracks and on Spike Island in County Cork. Collins went on to become a Sinn Féin MP in the first Dáil but retired from politics in 1923. He is mentioned in 28 of the 251 reports.

James Connolly (1868-1916) was a prominent socialist leader and republican. In 1915, he was head of the ITGWU (Irish Transport and General Workers Union), leader of the Irish Labour Party and Commandant of the Irish Citizen Army. He also oversaw the publication of the socialist newspaper *The Workers' Republic*, multiple issues of which are found in the collection. Connolly directed military operations in the GPO during the Rising and was executed at Kilmainham Jail on the 12 May 1916. He is mentioned in 34 of the 251 reports.

Edward Daly (1891-1916) was a member of both the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He was the nephew of the prominent republican John Daly and the brother of Tom Clarke's wife, Kathleen. Daly worked at a wholesale chemists, May Roberts and Company, and lived in Fairview with Tom and Kathleen Clarke. During the Rising, he was stationed in the Four Courts as Commandant of Dublin's 1st Battalion and, at 25, he was the youngest of the rebels to be executed in its aftermath. He is mentioned in 83 of the 251 reports in the series.

Éamon de Valera (1882-1975) was a member of the Irish Volunteers and also became a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood during the months preceding

the Rising. He worked as a mathematics teacher in Blackrock and was an Irish language activist and member of the Gaelic League. As Commandant of the 3rd Battalion, he led the occupation of Boland's Mill during the Rising and was the only leader not to be executed. De Valera went on to found Fianna Fáil and held the offices of both Taoiseach and President of Ireland. He is mentioned in 59 of the 251 reports. The report from 2 September 1915 (CSO/JD/2/77) contains the first reference to him and includes various details about his background, profession and role as Staff Officer in the Sinn Féin Volunteers.

Frank Fahy (1879-1953) was a founding member of the Irish Volunteers and an active member of the Gaelic League. He worked as a teacher in St Vincent's College, Castleknock, Dublin. As captain of C Company, 1st Battalion, Dublin Brigade, under Edward Daly, he commanded the contingent that occupied the Four Courts during the 1916 Rising. He went on to have a career in politics as a member of Sinn Féin and Fianna Fáil. Fahy is mentioned in 65 of the 251 reports.

John Fitzgibbon (d. c1947), also known as Séan, was a member of the Irish Volunteers, the Gaelic League and Sinn Féin. He is mentioned in 55 of the 251 reports.

Arthur Griffith (1871-1922) was a journalist, the leader of Sinn Féin and a member of the Irish Volunteers and the Gaelic League. Griffith had worked as editor of earlier nationalist newspapers *The United Irishman* and *Sinn Féin*. In June 1915, he began producing the weekly publication *Nationality*, many issues of which are found in the series. Although he did not take part in the Rising, he was, like many other nationalists, arrested in its aftermath. He went on to head the Irish delegation in the negotiations surrounding the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921. He is mentioned in 74 of the 251 reports.

Bulmer Hobson (1883-1969) was a member of the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He was a close friend of Tom Clarke until a split in the Volunteers in 1914. He co-founded Na Fianna Éireann, a republican scouting movement, with Constance Markievicz. Hobson was unaware of the plans for the Rising and, on hearing about it, informed Eoin MacNeill. He was subsequently kidnapped by the organisers. He is mentioned in 129 of the 251 reports and was most frequently observed at the Volunteer Office, 2 Dawson Street.

George Irvine (1877-1954) was a Protestant republican from Fermanagh. He was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and the Irish Volunteers and took part in the Rising as Captain of the B Company, 4th Battalion. Irvine is mentioned in 38 of the 251 reports.

John T Kelly (Seán T Ó Ceallaigh) (1882-1966) was a member of both the Irish Republican Brotherhood and the Irish Volunteers, and joint honorary secretary of Sinn Féin. He held a seat in Dublin Corporation for the Inns Quay Ward and was also a member of the Gaelic League, becoming general secretary in 1915. He was active in the Rising in the GPO as a staff officer and aide-de-camp to Patrick Pearse. He went on to have a long career in politics culminating in his election as the second president of Ireland in 1945. Ó Ceallaigh is mentioned in 109 of the 251 reports.

Edmund Kent (Éamonn Ceannt) (1881-1916) was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Irish Volunteers, Sinn Féin and the Gaelic League. From 1901 to 1916, he worked as an accountant for Dublin Corporation. Ceannt was one of the signatories of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic and was executed at Kilmainham Jail for his role in the Rising as Commandant of the 4th Battalion. He is mentioned in 69 of the 251 reports.

Diarmuid Lynch (1878-1850), sometimes referred to as Jeremiah, was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood Supreme Council, the Irish Volunteers and the

Gaelic League. He was involved in planning the Rising, attending meetings of the IRB Military Council and selecting Fenit beach, County Kerry, as a landing site for arms. During the Rising, he acted as aide-de-camp to James Connolly in the GPO and due to his American citizenship, he had his death sentence commuted to ten years penal servitude. Lynch is mentioned in 71 of the 251 reports.

Major John MacBride (1865-1916) was a member of Sinn Féin and the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He worked as a water bailiff for the Port Authority in Dublin. Having fought against the British in the Second Boer War, he was known to the authorities, but played a marginal role in the republican movement. MacBride was not involved in preparations for the Rising but joined the second Battalion, led by Thomas MacDonagh, in Jacob's Biscuit Factory and was executed on 5 May 1916. MacBride is mentioned in 37 of the 251 reports.

Frank J McCabe (1891-1969) was a member of the Irish Volunteers from 1913. He took part in the Rising as part of F Company, 1st Battalion, Dublin Brigade but evaded arrest. He is mentioned in 41 of 251 reports.

John McDermott (Seán MacDiarmada) (1883-1916) was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Irish Volunteers and Sinn Féin, as well as being involved in the Gaelic League, the GAA and the Celtic Literary Society. In 1915, MacDiarmada spent four months in prison in Mountjoy Jail under the Defence of the Realm Act. Following his release, he was instrumental in planning the Rising as a member of the Military Committee of the IRB. As one of the seven signatories of the Proclamation, he was executed in the aftermath of the Rising on 12 May 1916. Mac Diarmada is mentioned in 113 of the 251 reports.

Thomas MacDonagh (1878-1916) was a member of the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Republican Brotherhood and the Gaelic League. He was a lecturer in English at University College Dublin, as well as a poet and a playwright. MacDonagh was one

of the seven signatories of the Proclamation and was active in the Rising as Commandant of the 2nd Battalion at Jacob's Biscuit Factory. He was executed on 3 May 1916. He is mentioned in 85 of the 251 reports.

Seán McGarry (1886-1958), referred to as John, was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and the Irish Volunteers. In September 1914, he was among those informed by MacDiarmada and Clarke of the proposal to stage an armed rebellion. He was in the GPO during the Rising, acting as aide-de-camp to Clarke. Following the Rising, he remained a key IRB activist and became a prominent member of Sinn Féin. He is mentioned in 100 of the 251 reports.

Joseph McGuinness (1875-1922) was a member of the Irish Volunteers and the Gaelic League. He owned drapery shops in Camden Street and Dorset Street. McGuinness fought in the Four Courts during the Rising as part of C Company, 1st Battalion, and during his subsequent imprisonment he was elected as a Sinn Féin candidate for Longford. He is mentioned in 105 of the 251 reports, including a special report about his background and political associations which describes him as 'pro-German' and 'a Sinn Feiner' (CSO/JD/2/33).

John McNeill (Eoin MacNeill) (1868-1945) was co-founder of the Gaelic League and Chief of Staff of the Irish Volunteers. He worked as a professor of early Irish and medieval history at University College Dublin. Opposed to the idea of armed rebellion, he was not involved in preparations for the Rising, and on hearing of the plans he issued the countermanding order which delayed the Rising by one day and severely reduced the number of Volunteers who took part. He is mentioned in 45 of the 251 reports.

Herbert Mellows (1896-1942), known as Barney, was the younger brother of revolutionary Liam Mellows and appears to have been a member and organiser of the Irish Volunteers. During the Rising, he acted as aide-de-camp to Frank Fahy in

the Four Courts. Mellows is mentioned in 123 of the 251 reports and was most frequently observed at the Volunteer Office, 2 Dawson Street.

James Murray (1891-1981), also known as Séamus, was a member of A Company, 3rd Battalion, Irish Volunteers, which was active in Boland's Mill during the Rising. Murray is mentioned in 59 of the 251 reports.

James Joseph O'Connell (1887-1944), known as 'JJ' or 'Ginger', was Chief of Inspection in the Irish Volunteers. With two years' experience in the United States Army, he was heavily involved in the organisation and training of the Volunteers. Prior to the start of the Rising, he was dispatched to Cork by Eoin MacNeill to convey the countermanding order and, despite not participating, he was arrested and interned. O'Connell went on to become a General in the Irish Defence Forces. He is mentioned in 71 of the 251 reports.

Eimar O'Duffy (1893-1935) was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and the Irish Volunteers. A dramatist and novelist, he was also one of the chief contributors on military affairs to the *Irish Volunteer* newspaper, issues of which can be found within the collection. Prior to the start of the Rising, he was sent to Belfast by Eoin MacNeill to convey the countermanding order. He is mentioned in 56 of the 251 reports.

Michael O'Hanrahan (1877-1916) was a member of Sinn Féin, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Irish Volunteers and the Gaelic League. He worked as a freelance journalist and contributed articles to various nationalist newspapers, including the *Irish Volunteer* and *Nationality*. He was employed as an administrator at the Volunteers headquarters. During the Rising, he fought at Jacob's Biscuit Factory under the command of Thomas MacDonagh and was executed at Kilmainham Jail on 4 May 1916. Due to his almost daily attendance at the Volunteer Office, he is one

of the most frequently mentioned suspects in the series, appearing in 125 out of 251 reports.

John O'Mahony (1864-1934), known as Seán, was a tea merchant and the proprietor of John O'Mahony and Company on Middle Abbey Street. It is not known whether he was a member of the Irish Volunteers or the Irish Republican Brotherhood, but he took part in the Rising and was subsequently arrested. He went on to become a Sinn Féin politician. O'Mahony is mentioned in 38 of the 251 reports.

Michael Joseph O'Rahilly (1875-1916), known as 'The O'Rahilly', was a founding member of the Irish Volunteers and was active in the Gaelic League. Serving as Director of Arms in the Irish Volunteers, he was central to gun-running and arms procurement in 1914 and 1915. O'Rahilly was not a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and was not party to plans for the Rising, but he joined the Volunteers in the GPO. He was mortally wounded in the fighting and died in Moore Lane (now known as O'Rahilly Place). He is the second most frequently mentioned suspect in the reports, appearing in 134 out of 251.

Michael William O'Reilly (1889-1971) was a member of the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He was Captain in the Dublin Brigade of the Volunteers and in early 1916 was appointed Deputy Adjunct. He took part in the Rising in the GPO and surrounding areas and was arrested in its aftermath. He is mentioned in 39 of 251 reports.

Patrick H Pearse (1879-1916) was one of the most prominent nationalist figures of his time, a member of the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Republican Brotherhood and the Gaelic League. He worked as a teacher at St. Enda's, a bilingual school, which he had founded. He was also a qualified barrister. From 1914, Pearse was the Director of Military Organisation for the Volunteers, and, by 1915, he was on both the Supreme Council and Secret Military Council of the IRB. Pearse read out the

Proclamation of the Irish Republic, which he had drafted, outside the GPO on Easter Monday 1916. He was executed at Kilmainham Jail on 3 May 1916. He is mentioned in 62 of the 251 reports.

James Stritch was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He was also on the Executive Committee of the Irish National Foresters' Society and was responsible for building a large hall at the back of their headquarters at 41 Parnell Square, which was used for meetings and drilling by the IRB. He is mentioned in 34 of 251 reports.

JJ Walsh (James Joseph Walsh) (1880-1948) was one of the key figures under surveillance in June and July 1915. He was an active member of the Gaelic Athletic Association in his native Cork, and was a member of the Irish Volunteers and Sinn Féin. He served in the GPO during the Rising, under the command of James Connolly. He was sentenced to death but was reprieved. He was released from prison in August 1917. Walsh was elected to the first Dáil for Cork City in 1918 and supported the Anglo-Irish Treaty. He became Post Master General in the provisional government of WT Cosgrave and was made Minister for Posts and Telegraphs in 1923. Following his departure from Cumman na nGaedhael, he supported Fianna Fáil in the 1930s and became a successful businessman. He is mentioned in 121 of the 251 reports.