

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 1916

This is the fifth day of the Sinn Féin Rebellion. It is now a few minutes past 7 a.m. & I have just opened the bolts & unlocked the gates to let the work-people in. Since Monday morning, Irish Times we have had no authentic news of the outside world - no newspapers, no letters, except a few local ones. I propose to jot down a brief record of rumours & events - mostly the former - which have come within my knowledge in these fateful days.

Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup>. Adela & Eddie had intended to start early this morning for Dublin for the Spring Show. They were going to motor to Bagenalstown, leave the motor there, & take the up-train. But the baby was ill in the night with some sort of choking symptom, & they gave up the idea. The first intimation we received that anything was wrong came from the post-man, who arrived late without

any newspapers except Monday morning  
Irish Times - no English mail. He said  
there had been a disturbance in Dublin,  
& that the line had been broken up.  
This was to Adela. To the servants he  
was more communicative, & said that  
the Sinn Feiners had taken the Post-  
office & that the <sup>and another building</sup> Green Flag of Ireland  
floated over Dublin Castle. Meanwhile  
Eddy & Maggie went to Dr. Kelly about  
the baby & to send a wire to Johnny  
to say that he was not to expect him  
& Adela as the baby was unwell.  
Miss Kehoe at the Post-Office said that  
no telegrams could be accepted; that was  
the order - & in answer to enquiries:  
No, the wires were not broken, they were  
open for service-messages, but there  
had been a disturbance. What sort of  
disturbance? Oh a Sinn Fein disturbance  
she supposed.

In the afternoon Jansson & Betty Budgen  
came over to see us & confer together. They  
had started on ~~Monday~~ Monday evening for  
Dublin & got as far as Bagnalstown, but  
there was no train from Kilkenny, & the  
station-master, on his own responsibility,

sent the train back to Palace. Budgen had  
sent off his steward in the morning with two  
bulls for the show, but could not find out  
what had become of either man or beasts.  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> we sent Blackburn  
into town for a load, but on hearing rumours  
of disturbances in Enniscorthy Eddy & Maggie  
went off in the motor to turn him back,  
if the rumours were true. They heard  
that all was quiet, so far, in Enniscorthy,  
& so let Blackburn go on. They went  
on themselves into Enniscorthy. Mr.  
West of the Bank of Ireland had been in  
Dublin on Tuesday night, but left by  
motor at 7 a.m. Wednesday morning.  
His chauffeur told Eddy that he passed  
the bodies of dead horses & men on the  
Donnybrook R.D. coming out, & that he  
drove like blue smoke. Mr. West said  
he lay down in the car & saw nothing.  
There were any amount of rumours  
The Post Office & the Bank & Wickham Row  
station were in the hands of the Sinn  
Feiners. The station-master at W.R.  
had <sup>been</sup> shot for refusing to give up the keys.  
A body of Lanciers had been cut to pieces  
by machine guns. There was a  
machine gun on the top of Nelson's pillar.

There were risings in Cork Limerick  
C Clare & everywhere. Germans were  
landing in Kerry. Credat Judaeus  
Blackburn got back all right & said all  
was quiet in Enniscorthy.  
Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup>. We were told that the  
Sinn Feiners had seized Enniscorthy Post Office  
& the Bank of Ireland there, & the Police  
Sergeant had been shot. That Donoghue's  
shop & Hayes' had been blown up, & Bolger's  
looted. All carts from the country were  
stopped outside the town & sent back. The  
shops were all shut. Canon Cooper & Mrs.  
Vi came over for comfort, but we could  
give them little. They are greatly distressed  
about Theo who was to be married on  
May 2. The wedding is not likely to  
come off now. Sisson Cooper left for  
the mail at Kingstown on Tuesday  
evening, but whether he got across or  
not cannot be known. Little certain  
is known of the present & nothing of the  
future. Blackburn went to P. William  
for coal, but c'd. only get out of provisions.  
We heard too that gun-boats had  
gone up the Liffey & shelled 'Liberty Hall'.  
This was in a note from Alys at Woodbrook

Saturday 29 April 6<sup>th</sup> Day of Isolation

So much I wrote on Friday morning, just  
after opening lock & bars, for we have every  
possible entrance to the house & yards  
closed as effectually as we can. But the  
modern house is not easy to barricade,  
though this house is better than most.  
If this sort of thing goes on we shall  
have to go back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century keep  
& bawn. Yesterday there were more  
rumours. There is no doubt that the Sinn  
Feiners hold Enniscorthy. It was they  
that turned back the carts. The country  
folk are getting alarmed, as they don't  
know where to get provisions. Mrs. Conran  
at Rathmore will soon run out, if she  
has not done so already. Her cart she  
was stopped <sup>in her trap</sup> on Thursday & sent back.  
So was Mrs. Leary's of the Gate Lodge,  
& many others. It is now said that  
the D.I. was wounded at Enniscorthy,  
but the sergeant was not shot. The  
police seem still to hold the barracks,  
as the rebels are said to be firing at  
them from the heights over the river.  
Henry Roche is afraid they will take  
his castle - no new count for that historic  
building. Other rumours flooded in  
in the afternoon. The Germans did not  
land in Kerry, but a boat full of  
ammunition was sunk. There was

heavy firing at Arklow, & 3000  
soldiers are said to be marching from  
Gorey toward Enniscorthy. Flash  
lights were seen at Wexford. We were  
up on the roof with a strong binocular,  
but could see nothing, though we thought  
we heard the boom of an occasional gun.  
We have made such preparations as  
seem advisable in case of a visit from  
the Sinn Féiners, but this utter absence  
of authentic news as to what is going  
on about us, coupled with the feeling that  
we can place confidence in no one - except  
the scattered gentry who are as powerless  
as ourselves - is very wearing to the mind.  
This is a beautiful morning. The swallows  
have come & are occupying their old  
nests under the eaves. The beech trees  
are beginning to show green, & the  
grass in the lawn is springing fast.  
"Earth keeps up her terrible composition,  
while big wars are probably happening  
all over the world as well as in our own  
little island, and we know nothing  
of them."

Finnor's news this morning is that  
'Drover' (i.e. Grothuis, an old Dutch  
name which the neighbours have  
thus assimilated) Mrs Moffat's  
steward, has come back from Dublin

whither he went with a bull to the  
show. The bull was seized & slaughtered  
& 'Drover' wounded. 10000 soldiers  
have landed in Dublin & 2000 are  
marching down here. New Ross  
is quiet. The police & National Volunteers  
have the Sinn Féiners there in control.  
150 'nurses' were shot in Dublin when  
bringing supplies to the Sinn Féiners.  
All the beasts for the Show were allowed  
in & then seized. Mr Courant's horse  
has been taken, & they are now taking  
all horses that come near Enniscorthy.  
What are they doing that for? Well if  
anything went wrong, they would be  
very useful - for flight I suppose.

We have sent Blackburn off to Ballyanne  
with a cart to try to get flour & provisions  
there. We have no great store, & our work-  
people will be short of food in a day or two.  
There is a rumour that New Ross has  
risen, & Blackburn has been cautioned  
not to go further than Ballyanne, & not  
so far unless he hears that all is quiet  
there. It is also rumoured that in Ennis-  
corthy the National Volunteers are going  
to join the Sinn Féiners. This may be doubtful,  
but in any case the N.V. are a weak reed  
to trust to. One of the maids brought news  
from the Chapel that conscription had been

enacted, what a small matter that seems now!

We got out our telescope today & fixed it on Killyanne Police Barracks. We could see people occasionally appearing & even recognize some of them. In the afternoon we noticed three motor cars which came and appeared to bring the police with their rifles away from the barracks in the direction of New Ross. We sent Finlan on a bicycle to find out what was happening. He came back & told us that all the police were concentrating at Ballywilliam and that there was not one soldier of them left at Killyanne. He also heard that the Sinn Féin "had all been run out of Enniscorthy" but that a rising was expected in New Ross. Some of them had gone to the hit men's of Gurrann & demanded the young Whitney's motor bicycle. He was away & Mrs. Whitney said she knew nothing about it. They searched the place & pulled about things & damaged them. Later we heard from George Roe at second hand that Woodbrook had been visited for motors &c. They are none there. D. Kelly's motor car [for [unclear]] said to have been taken back but came back a little past 8.00 p.m. He had got a load of flour

& coal &c at Ballyanne. He confirmed the news as to the concentration of police at Ballywilliam, but the Serjeant then told him that all was quiet at New Ross. He brought back a note from Janssen to say that he had seen a Prudgen <sup>Daily Mirror</sup> to say that Sir Roger Casement had been taken <sup>on the Kerry coast</sup> by land arm <sup>from a German vessel</sup> & ammunition, & was now a prisoner in the Tower. Wolfe Tone redivivus, et etiam, Dei gratia, moriturus! There has been a raid by the German Fleet on the east coast of England, & Lowestoft has been shelled. Also three air-raids. But not a word about Ireland in these papers! This is presumably due to the Censor. Janssen also says that he hears there are soldiers in Wexford, & that things in Dublin are not so bad. He saw today's Free Press. 12 [soldiers?] were killed on Monday [?] & 12 more taking Stephen's Green. The cattle at Ball's Bridge, so far as he can hear, are all right.

Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>  
Today will complete the first week of  
the Rebellion, & we are still with little or  
no authentic news from the outside world  
- we who used eagerly to read the papers  
English & Irish, & discuss each item.  
It gives us some idea of the life of  
bygone ages when news travelled slowly  
& only at long intervals, but when rumors  
in times of stress was, I suppose, as busy  
as now. This house has seen many  
such times of stress. In '98 the family  
had to fly for their lives & the house was  
gutted. In '48 & again in '67 windows  
& doors were strengthened with iron bars  
which we have brought into use again.  
In 81-82 iron lurches were set up  
over the hall door & at the N.W. angle  
& these may become useful again.  
But several weak points have arisen  
since, & stopping all possible entrances  
is like stopping an old rabbit warren.  
Last night we had every living <sup>thing</sup> except the  
two donkeys, housed & within walls. This  
morning I had the four foals <sup>let out</sup>. They at least  
have no military value. The reports by  
the people coming from Mass are to the  
effect that no word was said by the  
priest of information, advice, warning.

or guidance of any sort, though some  
words about the state of the country were  
expected. The talk was to confirm the  
Sinn Fein visit to Woodbrook, Whitney,  
& Deacon of Belmont. That after  
10 of yesterday business was going on  
as usual in Ennis cottle, but nothing  
definite was known - not even if there  
were any soldiers there. There were  
rumours that the National Bank had  
been robbed or even blown up. The  
Sinn Feiners had taken possession of  
the <sup>Castle</sup> Athenaeum, & turned it into a  
barracks. <sup>There were rumours of a settlement</sup>  
<sup>in Dublin</sup>

The day wore slowly on without  
anything happening or our receiving any  
more definite news until about 3.20  
Alys arrived on her bicycle from Wood-  
brook. She mockingly held up her hands  
on dismounting, as I unlatched the postern  
door to welcome her. It appears that two  
motorcars, the first containing an unrecog-  
nised man & woman, the second containing  
6 six Sinn Feiners armed, drove rapidly  
along the road from the direction of  
Kiltalee towards Killanno, when the  
Sinn Fein car broke down opposite  
Davis's cottage. About this time T.D. Kelly

came in his car from Ballinduggan & was held up by the Sinn Féiners. He was asked to help with the faulty engine, & while doing so four of the Sinn Féiners got into his car & drove up to Woodbrook. They knocked loudly at the door, & immediately opened it & burst in. Meeting Alys, they held a revolver to her head & demanded all arms ammunition & petrol in the house. Alys, not losing her presence of mind, asked in the name of what Government did they make this demand? They replied "in the name of the Republican Army of Ireland: they had done with King George; and they showed a paper signed by Rafter & others. Alys said "I shall give you what we have. Wait till I call Thomas." They followed her closely, while she called Thomas & told him <sup>to give us</sup> the guns & ammunition. He brought two fighting pieces &c. & the men departed with them without further trouble.

Meanwhile Eddy Blacker came up with the broken motor, & Dr. Kelly, & was hurrying up the avenue when the Sinn Féiners drove past him. The first motor car had given word to the police at Killanne, but they merely enquired whether there had been a raid on Woodbrook or not. This was on Saturday at about 12.30 & the police left Killanne at 3.30. The Sinn Féiners returned to Enniscorthy in Dr. Kelly's motor, but it has we have been returned to him. The people say that had their motor car not broken down the Sinn Féiners would have visited us next.

I should have noted that before Alys came Quigley appeared at my library window, evidently with a message of some sort. He told me that the Sinn Féiners had been to Woodbrook & got arms & ammunition, which was all they wanted, & he advised me to give them some, if they came, which he thought they surely would. This is practically what we have resolved to do, for though we might fairly sell a motor car full of Sinn Féiners, to do so in the present deplorable state of the district would bring an overwhelming force of them down upon us, & our last state would be worse than the first.

Alys's general news was to the effect that Martial Law had been proclaimed all over Ireland, that 600 soldiers had landed at Rosslare, that Wexford was quiet & that police had gone to New Ross. It is clear however that the Sinn Feiners rule Enniscorthy uncontrolled & that there are no police either at Killanne or Clonroche, and probably none nearer than New Ross where they have their hands full.

Monday May 1.

Fiolan had been as far as the Still near Enniscorthy, & the news from Rackard who had got out of the town, was that the soldiers had got as far as Ederville, & had given the Sinn Feiners 24 hours to surrender. There had been a "sitdown" at Dublin, & time was given the Enniscorthy rebels to communicate with the leaders there. Time was to expire at 4 o'clock this morning. As we heard no guns we may infer that the surrender has taken place. Probably 12 hours not 24 was given? Mr Bennett, Mr Bolger of Enniscorthy & Pat Neill, the auctioneer, appeared to have received the military summons, but as they are not Sinn Feiners they probably acted as intermediaries.

At 11 o'clock Thomas from Woodbrook & a companion (Fanny?) arrived on bicycles with a letter from Alys of which the following is a copy:

"The Inspector General wires: -  
Please give widest and most immediate publication to the following document by the leader of the Rebels



Document runs: —

"In order to prevent the further slaughter of unarmed people and [in] the hope of saving the lives of our followers now surrounded and hopelessly outnumbered, the members of the provisional Government present at the head-quarters have agreed to unconditional surrender, and the Commanders of all sections of the Republican Forces will order their followers to lay down their arms.

(Signed) P. H. Pearce

April 29<sup>th</sup> 1916.

This proclamation is put up on all telegraph offices, and was put on Killanne at 1.30 Today (Sunday)

This looks like the ending of everything. Pearce is a professor in an Irish College. Shan Macneill refused to move with the Sinn Feiners for some reason and was promptly made a prisoner by them.

This proclamation seems genuine & has greatly relieved the tension here, but unless the soldiers have surrounded Ennisworthy they will hardly get all the arms. Frilan says they'll never give up their arms, but perhaps both sides will give them up. Irishmen have no appreciation of the difference in status between Rebels & the Kings' troops. The people here ask what will be done with the leaders? Will they be punished? Their sympathies will quickly now veer round to them — They don't like the substitution of "unconditional surrender" for "settlement".

There are no police at Killanne yet, & so far as I can find out, the proclamation has not been posted up there —

Tuesday May 2.

To-day we were able to take up the threads of our ordinary life, to some extent at least. I wrote a long account of the whole week's experience here to Johnny, & asked him to send the letter on to Tom & the others. I do not know when it can be posted. Then we worked in the garden &c.

The Enniscorthy S. I. appears to have surrendered. "They have em all swif" was Finlan's way of expressing that the leaders were carried off in custody.

In the afternoon Miss Vi' cycled over. She brought an account of Enniscorthy from Mrs Moffat junr. It appears that Tom Moffat had to get a pass from the leaders to bring his wife out, & they went to Ballyhighland, having first locked up their house. On Monday they went back, Tom to stay in his house, & Mrs M. to return to Ballyhighland. Mrs M says she arrived in time to see some of the soldiers march in. She cheered them & they saluted. There were piles of rifles & pikes outside the Athenaeum - Six of the leaders

were carried off as prisoners, Rafter, Etelingham, James Doyle, & 3 others. It was said they asked the guard "Where are you bringing us?" "To Hell" was the gruesome reply. Dr. Furlong was walking along the street with his hands in his pockets. "Hands up!" shouted an urchin with a rifle. The doctor took no notice. "Hands up" the youth shouted once more, and on getting no reply fired a shot over the doctor's head. Through many people suffered indignities of various sorts so far as I can learn the only actual bloodshed was confined to three cases. Grace the Head Constable was wounded in the face, a constable was shot in the leg, & a girl was killed by a shot intended for the police.

The postman came about 4.00 but he brought no newspapers, nor any letters, except a few belated ones written before the outbreak. I gave him my letter to J.R.O.

Wednesday May 3. Police not yet  
back in Killarney & until they come we  
cannot be sure that all danger is over  
in this District. There are rumours of  
more arrests in Enniscorthy. Wrote  
a line to Mr. Delafield to ask if he got  
my letter posted on Tuesday 25 April  
Little news of any sort today

Thursday May 4. Sent Lenny in to  
Enniscorthy. Eddie & Maggie motored  
in afterwards. They brought out an  
Irish Times of this morning which  
contained the news that three of the  
rebel leaders in Dublin had been shot  
viz. P. H. Pearse, T. MacDonagh & T. J. Clarke  
They were tried by Court-martial & shot on Wednesday.  
Also the Freeman of Monday which told  
us a good deal about the fighting in  
Dublin up to Saturday - mostly obtained  
from English sources. It appears that  
it was on Good Friday that Sir Roger  
Casement was taken & the German  
vessel with ammunition sunk or rather  
scuttled by its own crew. On Saturday  
Apr. 22. Eoin MacNeill Chief of the Staff  
Irish Volunteers issued the following official  
announcement: Owing to the very critical  
situation all orders given to Irish Volunteers  
for tomorrow (Easter Sunday) are hereby  
rescinded, and no parades, marches or  
other movements of Irish volunteers will

take place. Each individual volunteer  
will obey this order strictly in every particular

I strongly suspect that ~~Easter~~ the Rising  
was planned for Easter Sunday <sup>or Monday</sup> & that at  
the last moment, owing to the failure of  
Roger Casement & German assistance,  
Eoin MacNeill endeavoured to put it off,  
but Pearse & some of the other leaders  
refused to obey.

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> there was an attempt to  
wreck a train near the Curragh.

On Monday at noon the Rising took place  
in Dublin. The G.P.O. Four Courts Daily  
Express Offices Some Railway Stations &  
many houses in Sackville St. & elsewhere  
were taken & Stephen's Green occupied.  
The attempt on the Castle seems to have  
failed. Tuesday: martial law proclaimed  
in Dublin. Wednesday Liberty Hall shelled  
from the river. Troops arrived from England  
Risings at Ardee Swords & Rush - as  
well as at Enniscorthy. Continuous  
fighting in Dublin streets. Thursday & Friday  
disturbances in Galway Killarney Connel  
Gory & Enniscorthy. Genl. Sir John Maxwell  
takes command in Dublin - Saturday  
unconditional surrender in Dublin

Many more arrests were made  
in Enniscorthy today (Thursday 4) &  
yesterday. But it is said that at the  
time of surrender many dispersed with  
their arms. There may be more trouble yet.