

# Stories of the Revolution Project

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## Stories from the Revolution

My grandfather's father knew a very important person called James Connolly. My grandfather said that he was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1868 in Dublin. My grandfather also said that James Connolly was an Irish Republican and Socialist leader. He was a member of the Industrial Workers of the World.

James Connolly also said to his people "If you remove the English army tomorrow and hoist the green flag over Dublin Castle, unless you set about the organisation of the Socialist Republic your efforts would be in vain. England would still rule you. She would rule you through her landlords, through her financiers, through the whole array of commercial and individualist institutions. She has planted in this country and watered with the tears of our mothers and the blood of our martyrs!" I knew that because my grandfather had a plaque about him. James Connolly died on May 12<sup>th</sup> 1916.

There is a statue of James Connolly in Dublin. He died because he was sent to death by the firing squad for his part in the rising. On 12<sup>th</sup> May 1916 he was taken by military ambulance to the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, across the road from Kilmainham Jail and from there he was taken to the jail where he was to be executed. He was so badly injured that a doctor said that he had no more than a day or two to live. He was tied to a chair and then shot. James Connolly was put in a mass grave without a coffin along with the other soldiers such as Pádraic Pearse, James Larkin, Tom Clarke and Michael Collins. The Irish people thought that it was wrong to shoot James Connolly because he and Patrick Pearse were the leaders of the 1000 men who started the Rising.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> 1916 the Monday after Easter the small group took over several buildings in Dublin. On this day 1916 in Dublin the Irish Republican Brotherhood a secret organisation of Irish nationalists led by Patrick Pearse launches the Easter Rebellion an armed uprising against British rule.

By Holly Brickley