

# The Children of the 1916 Rising

Children played an important role in the 1916 Rising. Many children, despite their young age, were encouraged to fight for their country. Many died as a result. Some were sent looting in search for food and killed, caught in the crossfire. Other innocent children were killed whilst playing.

One such child was Seán Healy. Sean was one of ten children in his family. He lived in Phibsboro in Dublin. When he was 14, he left school to train as a plumber with his father, Christopher. The same year, he joined Fianna Éireann, a military training organisation for young boys.

Seán chose to fight during the 1916 Rising, despite Fianna Éireann deciding that their young boys should not be called to action. He travelled to Jacob's factory on the Tuesday of the Rising. He was sent to deliver a message to the commanding officer at Phibsboro Bridge. On his way to the location he stopped to check on his mother. He died after being shot in the crossfire.

Another child who played a role in the Rising was Charles D'Arcy. Charles joined the Irish Citizen Army when he was 13. On Easter Monday 1916, he reported to Liberty Hall to fight. From here, Seán Connolly led his army to City Hall. Charles took his position on the roof of a nearby shop. A British sniper shot him and he died. In 1941, he received a service-medal, posthumously, which his mother collected on his behalf.

It was not only children who fought during the Rising that died. Maggie Veale was an inquisitive child who wanted to see what was going on around Dublin. She used binoculars to look out of her window at home in Haddington Road. A British soldier shot her through the window. He had mistaken her binoculars for a gun.

Many other children were injured or killed during the Rising. James Hoare was the first recorded child to be taken by ambulance during the Easter Rising. Glass fell on him in the city. He was 13. In total, 41 children were killed during the events.

## Questions

1. Name two ways that children died during the Easter Rising.
2. What organisation was Seán Healy a part of?
3. Why do you think Healy defied his organisation's wishes for their boys not to fight?
4. What army did Charles D'Arcy join?
5. How did D'Arcy die?
6. Why do you think it took many years before D'Arcy was awarded a service medal?
7. Why do you think Maggie Veale's binoculars caused her death?
8. How many children died during the Rising?
9. Use your dictionary to explain the word 'posthumously'.
10. Why do you think children were sent looting during the Rising?



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## The Easter Rising Answers

1. Pick two of: fighting as part of armies, killed in the crossfire when looting, innocently playing around Dublin.
2. Fianna Éireann
3. Opinion – possible answers: pride, pressure from family.
4. Irish Citizen Army
5. He was shot by a British sniper.
6. Opinion – possible answers: at the time, the Rising was a failure
7. Opinion – possible answers: A British soldier mistook them for a gun, they are both black, they covered her face.
8. 41
9. Meaning: When a person is given an award after their death
10. Opinion – possible answers: they were small and could loot with little detection, older members of the family were fighting.