**Easter Monday April 24, 1916.**

**EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT**

*\*Mary Louisa Hamilton Norway's husband Arthur was Secretary of Dublin's General Post Office and had overseen its refurbishment. She kept an account of events in Dublin that week. On the Monday, She joined the curious onlookers in O Connell Street to see what was happening.*

 "At about 4 p.m. N. returned from a tour of inspection, and told me all was quiet in Sackville Street, and begged me to go out with him and see the G.P.O. I quaked rather, but we set off and reached Sackville Street safely. Over the fine building of the G.P.O. floated a great green flag with the words "Irish Republic" on it in large white letters. Every window on the ground floor was smashed and barricaded with furniture, and a big placard announced "The Headquarters of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic." At every window were two men with rifles , and on the roof the parapet was lined with men. H's [Her husband Hamilton] room appeared not to be touched, and there were no men at his windows. We stood opposite and were gazing, when suddenly two shots were fired, and, seeing there was likely to be an ugly rush, I fled again, exhorting N. to take refuge at the club.'

**Tuesday 25 April, 1916**

**EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT**

\*James Stephens recorded some of the rumours sweeping Dublin on Tuesday.

"On this day the rumours began, and I think it will be many a year before the rumours cease The *Irish Times* published an edition which contained nothing but an official Proclamation that evily-disposed persons had disturbed the peace, and that the situation was well in hand. The news stated in three lines that there was a Sinn Fein rising in Dublin, and that the rest of the country was quiet.

No English or country papers came. There was no delivery or collection of letters. All the shops in the City were shut. There was no traffic of any kind in the streets. There was no way of gathering any kind of information, and rumour gave all the news. ...... It was believed also that the whole country had risen, and that many strong places and cities were in the hands of the Volunteers. Cork Barracks was said to be taken while the officers were away at the Curragh races, that the men without officers were disorganised, and the place easily captured. It was said that Germans, thousands strong, had landed and that many Irish Americans with German officers had arrived also with full military equipment."

- James Stephens *The Insurrection in Dublin*

**Wednesday 26 April, 1916**

**EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT**

\*Mary Louisa Hamilton Norway described the first introduction of artillery on to the streets of Dublin

*Wednesday, April 26th, 9.30 a.m. -* While we were dressing a terrific bombardment with field guns began - the first we had heard - and gave me cold shivers. The sound seemed to come from the direction of the G.P.O., and we concluded they were bombarding it. It went on for a quarter of an hour - awful! big guns and machine-guns - and then ceased, but we hear they were bombarding Liberty Hall, the headquarters of Larkin and the strikers two years ago, and always a nest of sedition. It is now crammed with Sinn Feiners. The guns were on H.M.S. Helga, that came up the river and smashed it from within about three hundred yards. It made me feel quite sick.

**Thursday 27 April, 1916**

**EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT**

\*Mary Louisa Hamilton Norway described accounts of the looting

Yesterday afternoon [Thursday], when the firing in Grafton Street was over, the mob appeared and looted the shops, clearing the great provision shops and others. From the back of this hotel you look down on an alley that connects with Grafton Street, - and at the corner, the shop front in Grafton Street, but with a side entrance into this lane, is a very large and high-class fruiterer. From the windows we watched the proceedings, and I never saw anything so brazen!

The mob were chiefly women and children with a sprinkling of men.They swarmed in and out of the side door bearing huge consignments of bananas, the great bunches on the stalk, to which the children attached a cord and ran away dragging it along. Other boys had big orange boxes which they filled with tinned and bottled fruits. Women with their skirts held up received showers of apples and oranges and all kind of fruit which were thrown from the upper windows by their pals; and ankle-deep on the ground lay all the pink and white and silver paper shavings used for packing choice fruits. It was an amazing sight, and nothing daunted these people. Higher up at another shop we were told a woman was hanging out of a window dropping down loot to a friend, when she was shot through the head by a sniper, probably our man; the body dropped into the street and the mob cleared.

**Friday 28 April, 1916**

**EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT**

\*Mary Louisa Hamilton Norway staying in the Hibernian Hotel in Dawson Street wrote about the danger from snipers.

"Today about lunchtime a horrid machine-gun suddenly gave voice near us. We thought it was in this street, but it may have been in Kildare Street; also the sniper reappeared on the roofs, and this afternoon was opposite my bedroom window judging from the sound. I pulled down my blinds. A man might hide for weeks on the roofs of these houses among the chimney stacks and never be found as long as he had access to some house for food. When we were working in my room this afternoon he fired some shots that could have not been more than twenty yards away."

**Saturday 29 April, 1916**

**SURRENDER**

**EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT**

\*On Saturday, James Stephens wrote

The rifle fire was persistent all day, but, saving in certain localities, it was not heavy. Occasionally the machine guns rapped in. There was no sound of heavy artillery. The rumour grows that the Post Office has been evacuated, and that the Volunteers are at large and spreading everywhere across the roofs. The rumour grows also that terms of surrender are being discussed, and that Sackville Street has been levelled to the ground.

At half-past seven in the evening calm is almost complete. The sound of a rifle shot being the only heard at long intervals.

**Saturday 29 April, 1916**

**SURRENDER**

**EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT**

\*On Saturday, Joseph Sweeney was one of those who surrendered

We filed out onto Moore Street and were lined up into fours and were marched up O'Connell Street and formed into two lines on each side of the street. We marched up to the front and left all our arms and ammunition and then went back to our original places. Officers with notebooks then came along and took down our names. A funny incident happened there. One of the officers just looked at one of our fellows and without asking him anything wrote down his name and then walked on. After he had gone a certain distance, somebody asked this fellow, 'Does that officer know you?' 'That's my brother,' he said.

The following morning we were put into formation and marched down O'Connell Street, past the GPO, which still had the tricolour flying from it, and past Clery's, which still had the Plough and the Stars. We got a very hostile reception along the way. At this stage we had very little sympathy in the country as a whole.