

REVOLUTION 1916 THE ORIGINAL & AUTHENTIC EXHIBITION



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Éamonn Ceannt was born in the police barracks at Ballymoe, County Galway, the son of a Royal Irish Constabulary Officer James Kent and his wife Joanne Galway. His father's posting meant that Éamonn (originally Edward Thomas Kent) spent his childhood in different parts of Ireland, firstly in Ardee, and then Drogheda, County Louth, before the family finally settled in Dublin.

The commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the 1798 rebellion attracted Éamonn to a nationalist path and in 1899 he joined the Gaelic League where he met Pádraig Pearse. A talented musician, Ceannt set up the Dublin Pipers Club with Edward Martyn in 1900. He played uilleann pipes for Pope Pius X in Rome during a visit there in 1908.

By now working in Dublin Corporation he set up the Dublin Municipal Officers Association. Ceannt joined Arthur Griffith's new party Sinn Féin in 1907 and was eventually elected onto the National Council. Seán MacDiarmada swore him into the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) in December 1912. And Ceannt attended the preliminary meeting of the Irish Volunteers in Wynns Hotel on 11th November 1913 and played an active role at both gun runnings at Howth, County Dublin and Kilcoole, County Wicklow.

Ceannt became Commandant of the 4th Battalion of the Irish Volunteers in March 1915 and shortly after was accepted onto the Military Council of the IRB. In 1916 Ceannt was one of the signatories of the Proclamation and commanded the 4th Battalion at the South Dublin Union Garrison alongside his vice-Commandant Cathal Brugha. This sprawling workhouse on 50 acres saw lots of action during the Rising including engaging the Sherwood Foresters 'D' Company who had missed out on the Mount St action having been delayed at Liverpool in England.

There was intense fighting around the Volunteers' Headquarters at the Nurses Home. Cathal Brugha was severely injured and was released by the British after the Rising as they thought him unlikely to survive. Ceannt surrendered his position when word came through from Pearse of the surrender.

Ceannt was executed by firing squad on May 8th 1916 in the Stone Breakers Yard at Kilmainham Jail and was survived by his wife Áine, son Rónán and his brother William, a sergeant major in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

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Rugadh Éamonn Ceannt i mbeairic na bpóilíní i mBéal Átha Mó i gContae na Gaillimhe agus b'oifigeach i Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann a hathair agus b'í Joanne Galway a máthair. De réir mar a athraíodh postáil a athar lonnaigh Éamonn (ar báisteadh Edward Thomas Kent) agus an clann i gceantair difiúla ar dtús i Baile Átha Fhirdhia agus ansin Droichead Átha i gContae Lú agus ansin chuireadar fútha i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Mheall Comóradh 100 bliain Éirí Amach 1798 Éamonn ar bhealach an náisiúnachais agus in 1899 chuaigh sé le Conradh na Gaeilge áit inar chuir sé aithne ar Phádraig Mac Piarais. Ceoltóir cumasach é agus bhunaigh sé Cumann Píobairí Bhaile Átha Cliath le Edward Martyn in 1900. Sheinn sé a phiobaí uilleann don Phápa Pius X sa Róimh le linn dó bheith ar cuairt ann in 1908.

Faoin am seo bhí Ceannt ag obair le Bardas Átha Cliath agus ghlac sé páirt lárnach sna ceardchumainn ann. Chuaigh sé le páirt nua Arthur Griffith, Sinn Féin i 1907, agus toghadh ar an gComhairle Náisiúnta é. Chuir Seán Mac Diarmada faoi mhionn é i mBráithreachas Phoblacht na hÉireann i Nollaig 1912.

D'fhreastail Ceannt ar réamhchruinniú bunadh Óglaigh na hÉireann in Óstán Wynn ar an 11ú Samhain 1913 agus bhí páirt ghníomhach aige i dTuirlingt na nGunnai i mBinn Éadair, Contae Átha Cliath agus i gCill Chomhghaill, Contae Chill Mantáin.

Ceapadh Ceannt mar cheannfort ar 4ú Cathlán Óglaigh na hÉireann i Márta 1915 agus go gairid ina dhiaidh glacadh ar Chomhairle Mhíleata an Bhráithreachas é. Bhí Ceannt ar dhuine de shínitheoirí Forógra na Poblachta agus i gceannas ar 4ú Cathlán ag Gharastún Aontas Bhaile Átha Cliath Theas in éineacht lena leas-cheannfort, Cathal Brugha.

Tharla cuid mhór den chomhrac le linn Éirí Amach na Cásca i dteach na mbocht fairsing seo ar 50 acra, mar a ndeachas i ngleic le Comhlacht 'D' dena Sherwood Foresters, dream a bhí ró-dhéanach don comhrac ar Shráid an Mhóta toisc orthu ag fágaint Learpholl, Shasana mall. Bhí troid dhian ann thart ar Cheanncheathrú na nÓglach ag Teach na nAltraí agus gortáodh Cathal Brugha chomh holc sin gur scaoil na Sasanaigh saor é ina dhiaidh an Éirí Amach toisc gur mheas siad nach dtiocfadh sé slán. Ghéill Ceannt nuair a tháinig an scéala amach gur ghéill an Piarasach.

Le linn na harmchúirte míleata bhí easaontas ann maidir leis an áit a dheimhnigh na Sasanaigh go raibh Ceannt ag troid. Luiagh 'G'man [bleachtair] gur aithin sé Ceannt i measc Óglaigh de chuid, Garastún Mhonarca Jacobs.

Chuir scud lámhaigh Ceannt chun báis ar an 8ú Bealtaine i gClós na mBristeoirí Cloch i bPríosún Chill Mhaighneann. Mhair a bhean chéile Áine, a mhac Rónán agus a dheartháir, William a bhí ina mhaorsháirsint le Fiúsailéirí Ríoga Átha Cliath.

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