



Image courtesy of NLI

Michael Collins

Revolutionary, Politician and Military Leader

Michael Collins was born 1890 in Woodfield, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

- Aged 16, he emigrated to London and joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood in 1909.
- During the Easter Rising he was stationed under Joseph Plunkett in the GPO. On his release, Collins became prominent in Sinn Féin and the Irish Volunteer Force (later becomes the Irish Republican Army).
- Collins was appointed Minister of Home Affairs in the first Dáil and later Minister for Finance.
- During the War of Independence, Collins was Director of Intelligence, organising weapons and a system of spies.
- The War of Independence ended with a truce on 11 July 1921. Collins was chosen as one of the delegates to **negotiate** a treaty with the British government.
- The Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed on 6 December 1921; Collins considered the Treaty as a stepping stone towards obtaining a fully independent 32-county republic.
- During the Civil War that followed, he became commander-in-chief of the new National Army of the Irish Free State.
- In August 1922, Collins was killed in an ambush at Béal na mBláth in Co. Cork. He was 31 years old.



JC LINKS

2.4 examine the rise and impact of nationalism and unionism in Ireland, including key events between 1911 and 1923.



LC LINKS

Modern Ireland Topic 3: The pursuit of sovereignty and the impact of partition, 1912-1949.

LC HISTORY

Why were the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations controversial? (L.C. H.L. History 2009)

View the Census

View the 1901 census record for Michael Collins here:

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Cork/Coolcraheen/Woodfield/1162061/>

It is estimated that over 300,000 people lined the streets of Dublin city as the funeral of Collins made its way to Glasnevin Cemetery. The image on the right captures some of the crowd.

Can you identify where this image was taken?

The statue in the background (of the founder of Glasnevin Cemetery) is still there today!

Image courtesy of NLI





Working as a Historian

Primary Source



Pictured is the grave of Michael Collins, after his burial on 28 August 1922. When you visit Glasnevin Cemetery you will be able to compare this scene with the cemetery in the present day.

Image courtesy of the NLI

371818

(1) Head Office No. **372738** Sexton's No. 36.
 Order *on* *(Bealnabla)*

ORDER
TO SEXTON, PROSPECT CEMETERY.

Inter Remains... *General Michael Collins*
 of *Portobello Barracks County Dublin*
(near Bealnab, between Bandon and Wickham)

Aged... *30* Years... Months... Weeks...
 Grave... *6 d* Latitude... *82* Longitude... *South* Section...

Died... *22* day of... *August* 19... *22* Sex... *Male*

Religion... *Catholic*

Rank or Occupation... *Commander-in-Chief of Irish*
 Married, Single, or... *Single* Parents' Names, etc. *Free State Army and*

Disease... *Killed by gunshot* Trauma of the Provisional
in ambush at junction of Government

Informant... *John Patrick Stafford*

Residence... *Portobello Barracks County Dublin*
Funeral at 3.30 o'clock on 28th Inst.

Coffin Length... *6* ft. *5* in. Width... *2* ft. *3* in. Depth... *1* ft. *5* in.

Undertaker... *Corrigan*

Fee, £... *5. 10. 0* Extra charge for not having given the requisite Notice Removing and Replacing Covering Stone £...

The Interment is to be made in above Grave, and Entry to be made thereof in Registry of Interments.

DUBLIN CEMETERIES' OFFICE, 4 RUTLAND SQUARE, EAST.
 Issued... *10* o'clock... *11* M. on... *25* day of... *August* 19... *22* Clerk.

I certify the funeral of the above-named deceased arrived at the Cemetery at... *3.30* o'clock... *3* M. and that the Remains was interred in the Grave above specified this... *28* day of... *August* 19... *22*

The depth to which the Grave was excavated for said Interment, as per entry certified by Superintendent in Registry of Depths, was... feet... inches.

Signed... *John P. Stafford*

Examine

Examine the Burial Order of Michael Collins and answer the questions below:

01

Identify

Can you identify the occupations listed for Michael Collins?

02

Cause

What is recorded as the cause of death?

03

Knowledge

Drawing on your own knowledge, where was Collins ambushed in August 1922?

04

Address

What address is given for Michael Collins?

Did You Know?

Portobello Barracks was later renamed Cathal Brugha Barracks. Cathal Brugha is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery and was an Irish revolutionary and politician.