



## Gerald Anthony Keogh

Gerald was shot in front of Trinity College on Tuesday 25 April 1916 during the Easter Rising.

### Rationale for memorialisation:

Gerald Anthony Keogh was perhaps not a typical twenty-two year old. He was the youngest of nine children, the family home located at 109 Ranelagh, Dublin. A former student of Patrick Pearse's at St Enda's, Gerald was a prominent member of Fianna Éireann and the Hibernian Rifles. He acted as Section Commander of Óglaigh na hÉireann from 1 April 1916 to 25 April 1916, and on Easter Monday 1916 was sent by Pearse to run an errand. Some accounts claim that Pearse had sent him to Larkfield Mill Kimmage to deliver dispatches, while others claim he was returning from delivering a message to Countess Markievicz in St Stephen's Green. Whatever his errand, when cycling back towards the General Post Office at 4am on Tuesday 25 April 1916 with two comrades, Gerald's fate and that of Trinity College became irrevocably intertwined. There were approximately twelve to fifteen soldiers on the roof, at the windows and in front of Trinity College that morning, and they opened fire on the cyclists. Gerald was hit by two bullets to the head and one to the right lung, while a fourth bullet wounded one of the other cyclists. Yet while his comrades managed to escape to safety, Gerald was not so fortunate. He was one of sixty-five rebels killed during the Easter Rising. His father had been an IRB member, three of his brothers were also rebels in the Rising, and another brother, John, had been killed in World War One.

In a letter from Gerald Fitzgibbon to William Hugh Blake dated 10 May 1916, Fitzgibbon wrote regarding Gerald's body that 'we planted him out later on to fertilise the Provost's daffodils'. Daughter of Provost John P. Mahaffy, Elsie Mahaffy, recorded in her diary that Gerald's body lay in the college in an empty room for three days, before being interred in the grounds of Trinity. He was then buried in one of the parks on campus amidst the springtime daffodils, before his body was later disinterred and brought to the city morgue. Gerald's finally resting place was Glasnevin Cemetery. At a ceremony held on Saturday 5 August 1916 in the Provost's garden, the men involved in Trinity's defence were awarded a small silver cup by the college with the engraving 'Defence of T.C.D – Sinn Féin Rebellion– Easter 1916'. The presentation made by the Provost was extended to the five members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who had participated in defence of Trinity, including Corporal John Garland from Auckland, New Zealand and Corporal Finlay McLeod from Milton, New Zealand. Both Garland and McLeod later claimed to have fired the shots that killed Gerald. Gerald may not have been a student at Trinity, nor was he involved in the college throughout his short life. But a fatal encounter on a Tuesday morning meant that the interaction between this individual and this institution would not be forgotten by history.

One brave Irish Volunteer, two New Zealanders, three bullets, and Trinity College Dublin. This is a story that deserves to be memorialised.