

Letter written by
Elsie McDermid
to her mother
while in Dublin to perform at
the Gaiety Theatre
with the
D'Oyly Carte Opera Company,
Easter 1916



32. MERRION SQUARE.

DUBLIN.

Easter Tuesday
25th April.

My dearest Mother —

We are having
a stirring times. I am writing
this to be posted if there is any
post office left & will keep it till
I know if it will go. We arrived
safe to home on Sunday but
had a very rough crossing &
Daisy's brother & Aunt (the Honble
Anna) met us at Kingstown with
the motor. All was peace & quiet
Well I didn't get up until 11-30
as I felt rather sick with the
boat & when Daisy was dressing
she drew my attention to a body

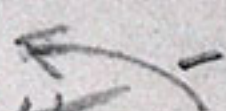
32. MERRION SQUARE,

DUBLIN.

Well as we got up Lytton St we heard shots - Daisy said there's the beggars procturing in Stephens Green (a very pretty little park quite small). & when we got up to the corner there we found a lot of our people & a crowd who said the place was in the hands of the "Sinn Feiners" (Shinn Fainers pronounced). There they were with fixed bayonets & digging trenches in the Green! We said we were going to the Shelburne & they told not to go as a man had just been shot & killed on the St. steps! & we saw the ambulance tearing up it had passed us. Well we went to the theatre & then thought we'd better get home. The next we heard from Lytton staying at the Gresham that they'd taken the post office in Sackville

street & cut off all communications (3)
also they have the G.P.O. in their
hands also is the Westland Row
station & the line up. After lunch
I got on to the theatre by phone &
the girl said they were all shut up
in the theatre. if I rang up about
6 she'd tell me if there would be a
show (all the seats were sold out).
Well the next that happened a Miss
Hol: Harman were here in a car &
it was commandeered by 5 doctors
in the square to go to Beegans Bush
on the left of my sketch to attend
to wounded in that place they've
taken Bolans Flour mills & are entrenched
there well, the car came back & they
(the Sinn Feiners) wouldn't let them
pick up the wounded & men of the
G. R. & national defence were
lying wounded on the road

at within (W) a stones throw of us!
I got lost the Catholic Bishops were
St. Donnelly & they let him carry them
in. They daunt touch him well
as the afternoon wore on I felt I
ought to find out if I had to go
& we went next door to Lady Myles
her husband is Sir Thomas Myles a
big surgeon & he had phoned
from the hospital on no account
let anyone go out of doors - there
was terrible work going on & 5 of
the wounded brought in to him
had died & there were 9 more &
the doctors couldn't get through
the work! All this time there
wasn't a sign of a policeman
or a soldier. I phoned to Lytton
& he said he Bellington & Miss
Lewis were not going to the theatre
they'd heard there was martial law
& it wasn't safe to be near Stephens

green. so Daisy & I took our courage
in our hands & went to the Square
to police & asked if there was martial law
the inspector said no but there might
be. I asked if it was safe to go up &
he said it'd be alright - going but there
would be dirty work before night if
the military were called out. So back
we came & I got on to the theatre &
the message from Bellamy was yes you
must come there will be a show - this
was about 6. ~~the~~ the trams were all
stopped early in the day - so we set
off to walk Daisy wouldn't let me go
alone & we found an outside car
(a funny car) he wouldn't take us
at first when we told him where to!
but we said we'd go round &
broke Lynton street so we went up
behind (where I've put the big  -
well we came out at the other
end of King Street near the

St. James Hospital & there we were (6
stopped by a crowd who prayed
us for the love of God lady don't
go down in the car. ^{for he shot.} they were
all round a taxi which had just
come along & they'd shot a lady
& gentleman in it. ^{coming from the races.} they were in
the hospital - you could see the
bullet hole & the smashed glass & the
taxi was full of blood. So we got
off the car & walked down King
St to the theatre - we found the local
manager of the theatre talking to Johnston
he said he wouldn't open the theatre
was just waiting for Bellamy to tell
him. He said by about 11 a.m. there'd
be thousands killed & Dublin running
with blood. Well I did a bit of talking
& told him it wasn't safe for us to be
in the streets. We waited for Bellamy
& he said you can all go home we'll
have no show. I was the only
principal who'd had the liver

to turn up! Well everything was
quiet - we kept hearing of all
the country people in for the day who
couldn't get home so on one of the
maids came home & told us 2 girls
were shot near her in Sackville
street & they were digging trenches
there. We went to bed & then just
as we were dozing off about 12-30
it began & oh what a night!!
You would have thought you
were at the war. Shot after shot -
volleys after volleys, until
about 3 & then we slept until
about 4-30 & we heard tramp
tramp & out of bed we got -
a beautiful morning & there were
hundreds of soldiers all marching
along in the square with fixed
bayonets guards were posted
near us & they stayed about

hours (8) we heard great work
going on at the Green - by the calls
of then tremendous lot of firing
then about 8 they all came
back past our house & on towards
the bottom (Ugh there's more shots now)
of Grafton Street. It's now
10-30 & I'm having my breakfast
in bed having had about 2 hrs
sleep. It has been very quiet
since 8 although the streets are
full of people wandering about
What a night have we had
the whole square has been up
with heads out of windows! It
sounded awful in the dark
all that firing. However the
soldiers will have them in the
end. but there'll be a lot of
deaths I'm afraid & nobody

knows what it is for!
Daisy & I are going out for a
little walk but we won't venture
too far.

We are all wondering if you
have the news in England by
wireless - because you can't
wire or phone they've cut
wires & all trunk calls off!
It's funny to hear the curses
on them - "May the curse of God
be on them" - "may they be
all cold meat by the
morning!" They say there
are 2,000 out & it will start
in different parts of the country
& Germany is at the bottom of
it. I think the head of them
is a man called O'Neill a

Professor at the University! ⑩
Well I've about got Cramp - so
will end now - I hope you
receive this. I think the
only danger for us is a
stray shot.

I was about finished up
last night with the strain
of the day on top of the
bad crossing! I wasn't ill
on board but felt it
yesterday.

With much love to all.

Yours lovingly
Alice.

I don't suppose we'll play
tonight.

32, MERRION SQUARE

DUBLIN

There's one thing the common
people in the street are
against the ruffians - we
were afraid they would riot
when the military was called
out. They say they are bringing
up big guns from the Curragh
(14 miles away) & they are going to
blow them up out of the p. office!
The Sinn Feiners have 4
maxim guns in the green - we saw
a rolley load of ammunition
going in yesterday morning!

[Box] way to Barracks
 blocked up by
 the S. &
 railway bridge taken
 & they put of anyone
 coming from
 Barracks there.

~~Pool~~ mills
 Haddington Rd.
 Fighting

M. Sq.

M. Sq.

32
 (32)

Dublin Mountains

St. John's Green

Fighting

Shelbourne

Fighting
 (Fighting)

River

DUBLIN

ST. MARY'S SQUARE

Fighting
 (Fighting)

32 MERRION SQUARE,

DUBLIN.

At noon ~~Wednesday~~ Tuesday.

Just heard that there has been
immense losses to soldiers
at the Green & the S. F. are
winning have taken possession
of Sackville St & have machine
guns bombs & grenades
belonging to the military.

~~was in the year~~
The Siege of Dublin!! continued

Tuesday - later -

①

Daisy & I walked up to the
Green before lunch but could
see nothing - no sign of any
soldiers - we looked down Baginbun
street ~~down~~ towards the Shelbourne
Hotel & could see an overturned
cart & 2 trams & a grey motor
all standing. All afternoon
there have been shots from the
Green - Bolans Mills & behind us at
Westland Row or Sackville Street
& while I was lying down
during afternoon heard 2 heavy

gun shots & then a regular fusillade
of firing behind us. we hear it. ②
is the artillery arrived with big
guns from England & a war ship
in the river & they've blown down
a house with a gun on top belonging
to a "bookie" called Henry James -
occupied by the Sinn Féiners -
about - 6 - papers published with 2nd
proclamation - martial law - anybody
out at their own risk. so I have
no thought of going to theatre.
no movement at all until 10 o'clock
when shots sounded out in the
square & we rushed upstairs
putting out all lights there seems
to be a picket at the side of

our house (Hollis Street) leading down
to Liberty Hall (headquarters of S. Y's) &
we heard ^{52. MERRION SQUARE.} someone challenged. There
was a ^{DUBLIN.} fierce lot of firing until about
11 all in the direction of the Green &
Bolan's Mills on our left & the firing
~~we thought~~ was in the Square must have
been from our soldiers on top of the
Shelburne, which they have barricaded
with mattresses etc. The military also
have Trinity College & will probably try
to open a p. office in the ~~Green~~ College
Green. They ^{S. Y's} have O'Connell's Bridge
leading up Sackville Street & so Lytton
& Billington & Lewis up in the Gresham
are isolated!

Wednesday morning — slept the
whole night from about 12. & how
8 o'clock tremendous big gun firing
& crashes of falling buildings. We
have been up listening & now Mary
has been with our tea & says she &
cook have been to Mars & then went
up over O'Connell's Bridge & up to
Nelson's Pillar opposite the P.O.

a Sinn Féiner came at Cook & told
her she must go back or he'd shoot. Many told us Cook said -
oh say she who's caring for yez
& they had to go come back all by
back streets were not allowed back
over the Bridge. All the windows
are out of houses & 3 shops are
burned to the ground other 2 a
book shop & a sweet shop
absolutely sacked by the people
we heard last night the shops were
on fire & these two have seen it.
People seem to be going about as usual
but you can't get up that part of
the Town at all. Daisy & I are going
to buy to get to the theatre as our
laundry is there & we have no
blouses clean! They say the military
are going to starve them out of the
Green all streets are blocked &
barbed wire so that no one can

take food to them. But they'll ⁽⁵⁾
have to level Boland's Mills &
we'll be in the thick of that! The
S.F.s have enough food for 6
months they say. Daisy has gone
now to talk to Jimmy Frank's
chauffeur - to get the latest news.
He is a Sinn Féiner but he
hasn't gone out with them. I say
he's probably a spy!
I expect Lyttons 2 boys are out
they are stationed here in Irish
Rifles & the S.R.s have been out
since Monday morning one of
their officers was killed Monday
he is to be buried here tomorrow.
Sir Thomas Miles hasn't been home
since Monday morning he has
phoned to Lady M. they are in the
thick of it behind the G.P.O. at

the Richmond Hospital. ⑥. W
It was considerate of them to ~~give~~
us a rest last night - or we
should all be wrecks today!!

Just hear that the guns at
8 o'clock levelled Liberty
Hall. & the military is in
possession of Stephens Green
& the Sinn Féiners escaped & the
amount of dead & dying in the
Green appalling. no news in
the paper that is published
Irish Times except all public
houses & the closed except between
2 and 5 o'clock.

Wednesday afternoon.
This morning Daisy & I took an
outside car & went towards Grafton
Street met Gordon & Granville etc

6). who advised us to walk we found
~~ourselves~~ at the corner of Grafton & (the)
McConnell Street & Australian soldiers
on top of the College. We saw a
wounded Tommy with a revolver
in his hand accompanied by an officer
evidently on his way to hospital.
6 of our people isolated at 12
Eden Quay in the midst of the
warst of it. 500 soldiers had
just passed before we got there.
Went up to ~~College~~ ^{Stephens} Green which is
evidently emptied of the S. F. & T
all we saw was a horrible dead
horse killed by them! Came in for
lunch have had it & am not
venturing at open window listening
to the fighting on our left. at
Bolands Mills. They say 5000
soldiers are coming in from
Kingstown & there are shots
being fired from a house in
Grafton Street 100 yds from us it

is most exciting - Daisy is out -
below I have just come in. (8)
Mr. Bellamy told me this morning
Johnstone had gone to Kingston
to try & get back to England - I
expect they'll take us back as soon
as possible.

Shots are being fired all the
time but we are quite accustomed
to them now!

Thursday morning

We had a terrible afternoon &
evening yesterday. All day
long the soldiers bombarded
a house or two in Llan William
Place within about a hundred
houses distance from us. It
was simply awful as the soldiers
crept up to the bridge over the
Canal they were potted by the
S.F. & we could see them out

of our top windows making rushes
& falling fall ST. MERRION SQUARE. ⑨
The V.A.D. women carrying them in on
stretchers. the slaughter was dreadful
50 wounded 20 killed 14 officers
Killed. Derry & notes men & Stafford
Then about ~~7~~ ⁸ o'clock we went out & suddenly
heard cheering. Daisy & I rushed
down towards it & saw a crowd
running & they had one of the S.Y.'s
who'd jumped for his life out of a
house. I was close to him as he took
off his puttees & the crowd helped him
to escape. a boy of 14 or so white
faced & all black with grime &
simply terrified. Then we heard a
terrific report & crash & the house
was down & on fire - it burned
all night & is out now I think. well
we were ^{half way} down watching the fire
when cheering began & we saw
6 soldiers at the double lead by a

man in mufti Captain Burke home
on sick leave. ~~these~~ near he planted
in Hempsey's house & we came in &
^{marked a}
shut the door - hadn't been in more
than 10 minutes when there was a
knock & we said who's there -
open please it's Burke & we
were loaded with 4 Tommy's - &
then 6 more came & they were
put on the roof. 10 of them &
3 others one in a back bedroom one
in a top lavatory & one in the
back drawing room (1st floor).
It was quiet enough for us to
sleep till 3 o'clock when they
brought the 6 Tommy's & took
them on the roof. we slept till
8 & have been out getting
cups for our Tommy's & now
the whole afternoon they are
shooting from our roof at

ome some snipers they see on (1)
~~the~~ ~~Polands~~ it is awful I hear it
in on our house. we go & talk to the
Tommy's & give them information as
they know nothing of the City at all
There is a huge fire near the
Nelson Pillar we can see from the
back now we are watching
at the front a hospital a few
doors up from Dr. Dempsey they've
taken a house & crowds of mattresses
blankets etc & Red X workers are
going in. I am about bewildered
with this excitement! It is funny
to see every house being besieged
by V.A.D.s & things taken out -
Daisy has just gone across with
blankets etc. & they going on just
now There are sentries all along
our street 1 at every few houses

Thursday midnight I was called
away to the back to see the tower of
the distillery blown down the S. & F's
had a big gun there & were sniping
too. It was terrifying to see the tower
flying into the air & falling & we
were in terror lest the S. & F's would
point their gun on us we being
right in their line of fire. The
artillery soon had it down the S. & F
spoke flag with it. There seemed to
be snipers in the houses on our
side and the Germans kept firing
at them - the whole side of our
regt is covered with soldiers & we
talk to the Kuntz on the step!
Capt Burke brought Capt
Shepherd of the 5th Staffs to
see our roof. He was awfully well
said goodbye to his men on the
roof & now they are separated
from their batt; all the men outside
are 6th Batt Staffs. The snipers

was terrible all evening we had
great excitement during the (13)
Lommes. 10 came to sleep in our
bathroom & now 9 o'clock Sunday

they have slept all night - we
slept from 12 till 7 this morning.
The soldiers were outside all night
& we could hear them challenging
people coming up Holmes Street.
They won't let a soul pass &
even the milk cart was held up
& the Lommes came in here for
our jugs! They say the North side
of the city is ~~still~~ there are no
batteries there & the bread & milk
vans run risks of being shot. They
are still ~~staying~~ here it seems probable
that a whole Battalion should be kept
from advancing because of 1 or 2 men
like this. One Capt told us he's not
been ~~in~~ bed for 5 nights & they are
all footsore & weary - we've been
hanging out of the window since 7
now we are getting dressed. The
city is absolutely destroyed. The

big fire last night" was the (14) hour
D. Bread C. we think quite hours
near to 12 when I was when 6. The
of our people are - I do hope adv
they are safe. We hear the soldiers Rou
in Frank Coppinger's room above wa
our heads - hope they don't come in mo
here before we are dressed. We hear men
the whole of Lynton street is looted then
by the poor people.

12 o'clock today mid day.

The North Staffs are now here St
& are running past the alley where Sta
the snipers are - each little co^y a
goes past at the double & so far wid
have seen none of our men down. the
The men S. Staffs on our roof are W
now separated from their regiment re
& the snipers are at the side of Q
Sq. opposite to us now I have A
seen a man on Miss McDonnell's the
roof myself. The guard at our us
door has seen him too - but he has d
disappeared again - the S. & S

(14) have been firing direct at our (15)
house from the convent opposite.

There are 1000 of men waiting to
advance up here to get to Walland
Row - that battle will be worth

watching. The men are now
moving up at the double. I am
sitting on my dressing table

there's a man at a house in Holles
St. I am sure is giving the signals
to all these people. Now they've

started firing again using a
machine gun (our men) there's
a whole company outside
with machine guns. Louis guns
they call them.

We all expect the on starvation
rations soon. I've got a bottle
of malt!!

A Corporal has just been for
the men in the bathroom & tells
us they have got 100 S. Flinders
& will be marching some part

us here. so we are watching &
they are sending a relief in
here.

(16)

Saturday morning
What a night we have had. God
preserve us we'll all be finished
off before long! Last night about
8 an officer came & asked
permission (saw the marks) to put
a machine gun in the hall - well
of course it arrived in 10
minutes & the brought 7 men
& a corporal & they all lay in
the hall & one at a back landing
window & the next at a lavatory
window & then 6 on the roof.
we were told our safest place was
within 2 walls of the street so we
all camped on the back staircase
below the man at the landing
window we took up our position
about 9 o'clock & stayed till 12.30
there. All the time they were firing
at each other off our roof & when

they fired from the landing above (14)
as it was dreadful. At 12:30 Daisy &
I retired to the landing outside our
bedroom & brought out rugs & blankets
& our fur coats & lay down dressed
on them. we slept at intervals but
the Germans coming in & out & the
firing all round was terrible at
about 4 we had tea & took in
our blankets thinking we'd
undress & go to bed for a little
when a terrible row started at
the front & Daisy & I dropped
flat & sheltered behind dressing
table & big chair we could hear
bullets hitting the wall & then
thru the open window we could
see 3 S.F.s & they shot a Tommy
& a D. came out of the hospital
opposite & I watched him carry
in the poor fellow. Our hall door
is wide open & the machine
gun in position ~~but~~ but they
haven't fired it yet. when it
does go off well all shriek I'm
sure - our nerves are getting a little
bit upset although by now

we are quite accustomed to the (18) The
rifle shots. I've had a peep out ~~and~~
of the window & the Tommies are he a
all flat opposite our house nigh
facing into the gardens. There's they
a run up now - they're fetching in -
a gun Daisy says. The street a
at our side (Holler st.) is all now
barricaded with big boxes full off
of clay & the seats out of the food
gardens. I am sitting on the floor mil
behind the bed writing this. 1.
Daisy is doing her hair - I've
just had a lovely bath but had no
to get out in a hurry as they in
started at the back & the bathroom
has a big window & I could hear
their bullets hitting the side of
our house. Even the lavatories to
are full of soldiers. 3
The artillery are coming up
now - no it's not - it is ammunition
simply flying up. my! what
shocks we are getting!

(18) The latest is that the soldiers (19)
are bombing Dr. Dempsey's opposite
he went off & left it empty the
night they put in the soldiers &
they say they are Sinn Féiners
in it!

11-30 Saturday

A whole transport has arrived
now - field kitchens pack horses
officers on horses ammunition &
food - thank goodness. we have no
milk & bread in this house!!

1 o'clock. We have now the Lincoln
in the house & they are firing at people
in Holles Street otherwise it is fairly
quiet - we have had the officer in
who is trying to get us an order
to go out & find food. we are going
to have the only meat we have at
3-30 today!

Have just seen the whole where
a bullet came into here through
the hall-door - it came in when
the poor fellow was shot outside

He went thro' a curtain & is buried
in a plaster & lath wall. The pavement
in front of our door is drenched in
blood.

(20)

Sunday morning

There was nothing fresh at all
last night. We went to bed
without undressing altogether - a
H of us on mattresses on the
landing outside our bedrooms.
We had a good night's sleep & are
waiting for today to pass - we
got a little milk this morning but
have got no bread for 2 days.
The Red + have just brought 6
wounded up Holles Street. One
had the Volunteer uniform but the
others were only in civilian dress.
The first was dead! We are getting
heartily sick of this. I am knitting
socks for something to do.

2-30 Sunday

Order suddenly given to
stop firing - 104 men

from. Bolands have surrendered.

We have watched them march ⁽²⁰⁾ up Lynton Street & now they are being searched in the road - their rifles on the ground & our men are getting up their equipment etc.

It was great to hear the cheers of the Tommies - "God old Lincoln" etc! The men carried a white flag & "hands up". A big car has just gone past with a soldier first on a motor cycle, 2 or 3 officers in the car & 2 "Sinn Feiners" in green slouch hats (like Boer hats). I wonder if they are leaders & where they are

being taken. It is not over yet - but we ought to be ~~22~~ ~~20~~ ~~21~~ ~~22~~ ~~23~~ ~~24~~ ~~25~~ ~~26~~ ~~27~~ ~~28~~ ~~29~~ ~~30~~ ~~31~~ ~~32~~ ~~33~~ ~~34~~ ~~35~~ ~~36~~ ~~37~~ ~~38~~ ~~39~~ ~~40~~ ~~41~~ ~~42~~ ~~43~~ ~~44~~ ~~45~~ ~~46~~ ~~47~~ ~~48~~ ~~49~~ ~~50~~ ~~51~~ ~~52~~ ~~53~~ ~~54~~ ~~55~~ ~~56~~ ~~57~~ ~~58~~ ~~59~~ ~~60~~ ~~61~~ ~~62~~ ~~63~~ ~~64~~ ~~65~~ ~~66~~ ~~67~~ ~~68~~ ~~69~~ ~~70~~ ~~71~~ ~~72~~ ~~73~~ ~~74~~ ~~75~~ ~~76~~ ~~77~~ ~~78~~ ~~79~~ ~~80~~ ~~81~~ ~~82~~ ~~83~~ ~~84~~ ~~85~~ ~~86~~ ~~87~~ ~~88~~ ~~89~~ ~~90~~ ~~91~~ ~~92~~ ~~93~~ ~~94~~ ~~95~~ ~~96~~ ~~97~~ ~~98~~ ~~99~~ ~~100~~ ~~101~~ ~~102~~ ~~103~~ ~~104~~ ~~105~~ ~~106~~ ~~107~~ ~~108~~ ~~109~~ ~~110~~ ~~111~~ ~~112~~ ~~113~~ ~~114~~ ~~115~~ ~~116~~ ~~117~~ ~~118~~ ~~119~~ ~~120~~ ~~121~~ ~~122~~ ~~123~~ ~~124~~ ~~125~~ ~~126~~ ~~127~~ ~~128~~ ~~129~~ ~~130~~ ~~131~~ ~~132~~ ~~133~~ ~~134~~ ~~135~~ ~~136~~ ~~137~~ ~~138~~ ~~139~~ ~~140~~ ~~141~~ ~~142~~ ~~143~~ ~~144~~ ~~145~~ ~~146~~ ~~147~~ ~~148~~ 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He told us Eden Quay is levelled
~~(22)~~ so I do hope our people got (23)
away. The Lusham is still
safe he says. He & his wife saw
us perform at Manchester.

10 o'clock - we have just taken
a photo of about a dozen Tommy's
with an officer - asleep in the
hall - 2 more are in the
bathroom & some on the roof.
There is not a sound now - I
do hope we have a quiet
night. We have no bread in the
house at all so hope we get
some tomorrow.

1st May. Monday.

We all slept on landing last
night - had a quiet night - there
seems to be very little going on just
now. We got milk & 1 loaf this
morning (there are 20 in the house)

Have given Mother's address to a Tommie
enclosure to his people to send a card
to say I'm well hope it gets through (24)
Just seen a ^{closed} car pass with some
officers - a bullet hole in the window
papered over! It is such beautiful
weather - all this week - lots of sun
shine each day. Going to wash my
hair now for something to do.
hear that there is to be no
more fighting - the S. F's
have surrendered all round.
in the principal places
Sir Thos Myles got us some
bread & margarine - but we
couldn't eat the margarine it
was horrible. Had more soldiers
sleeping in the hall & one on
guard on the roof. The suppy
still goes on - sleeping in
our bedroom - very quiet

night. (25)
Tuesday morning.
Had good night - woke up to find crowds
of soldiers coming in with platoons. Got
an Irish Times which publishes the fall
of the S.F. Revolt. We can go out Daisy.
I have bread & marmalade for breakfast.
Went out on an outside car to Theatre -
Saw Gordon & he says we are to go to Town
immediately - met Budge & Lunks - their
house 12 Eden Quay completely levelled -
Armit & Smith & the men also Turnbull &
Miss Bull - have nothing left - but what
they stand in. except Budge. Lunkie -
found her basket in the ruins. They
spent 4 days in Police Station 15 in one
cell only bread & water for 2 days.
We then went to Sackville St - Innes
Saw such a sight - only the 4 walls of the
post office left - the D.B.C. Metropole &
Imperial Hotels all levelled. we tried to
go up to the Lyresham but couldn't - met
Ston & Bertha. & then went along Eden

past "Liberty Hall" which is wrecked - up back
streets to the Ipsham - we found Billington
who is very shaky with all the shocks & noise.
He says Mr. Carte is going to pay us 2 salaries
& we may go to London Opera House instead
of Cork & Belfast - I personally feel like a
holiday instead - have caught cold through
sleeping on the floor. Saw Frank Steward
who took 2 letters for us to England
Came back had a jolly good lunch at the
Hibernian & came back for tea then walked
round to Haddington Row & Bagott Street
Bridge - the houses there are saddled with
shots & the pavements covered in blood.

Wednesday.

Everything quiet last night - saw Bellamy
gave me pass try to get us away tomorrow.
Thursday. have an awful cold.

Thursday.

Staying in bed today - Daisy gone to theatre &
for doctor. Bellamy says company to be at station
by 2 o'clock - I must stay behind. D. very
nice - says I'd better not cross before now
still some sniping round here tonight.

(24) Friday morning May 5th

very wet day — letters from
Mother posted 27th April & from
Married Cooper Belfast — posted 24th
I feel my cold better but
ache all over with coughing
Daisy gone out to post letter
to Gordon for me & to go to
Bank. Everything seems more
normal — yesterday & today
some trams are running!

Mother's letter "opened by
censor."

Elsie M. McDermaid
Greenbank, Eslā
Yorkshire.

Sister of D'Oyly Carte No 1. Co. during
World War I.