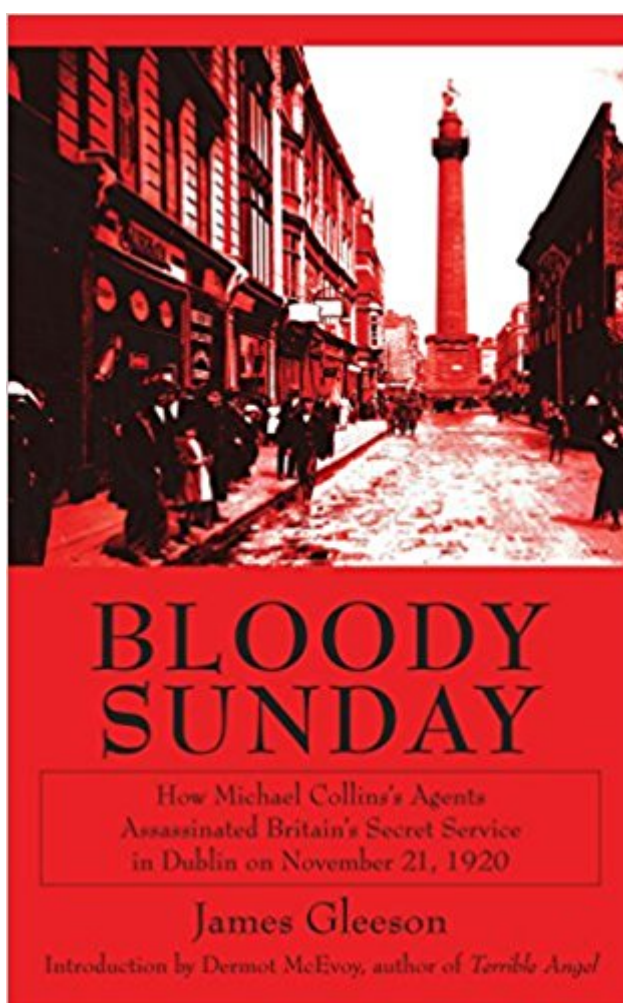


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Bloody Sunday: How Michael Collins's Agents Assassinated Britain's Secret Service In Dublin On November 21, 1920



Synopsis

This is the story of one of the most terrifying operations ever carried out by one secret army against another. Sunday, November 21, 1920, was a decisive day in the Irish nation's long, bloody struggle for independence from Great Britain. It was on that day that fourteen British secret agents in Dublin were assassinated, an act that shattered the British intelligence system in Ireland and made it possible for a small, ill-equipped force of irregulars to impose its will on its centuries-old oppressor. The operation was carefully and secretly organized, and it was the crucial culmination of a decades-long undercover struggle. *Bloody Sunday* tells the exciting behind-the-scenes story of the events that led up to the operation and gives a completely new appraisal of "the troubles." It shows Michael Collins as the brilliant leader that he was, and it dispenses the fables and fiction that have grown up around Ireland's War of Independence. Author James Gleeson saw the "Black and Tans" and "Shinners" in action. He spoke to men who had taken part in the operation—not only the leaders but also the rank and file—as well as men from the British side. His unbiased, factual account is an extraordinary resource for anyone interested in Irish history.

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Customer Reviews

This is the story of one of the most terrifying operations ever carried out by one secret army against another. Sunday, November 21, 1920, was a decisive day in the Irish nation's long, bloody struggle for independence from Great Britain. It was on that day that fourteen British secret agents in Dublin were assassinated, an act that shattered the British intelligence system in Ireland and made it possible for a small, ill-equipped force of irregulars to impose its will on its centuries-old oppressor.

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James Gleeson was director of the London News Agency and a journalist and BBC script writer. He coauthored the postwar best-seller *The Frogmen and Now It Can Be Told*.

A good account of the events (with some tidbits) leading up to and immediately following the events of Nov 21, 1920, from a mostly fair-minded Nationalist's perspective. Has some interesting personal accounts from varied sources on both sides. Keep in mind it was written about 1960.

I am a student of Irish history and I have read many accounts of Nov. 21, 1920; with chilling clarity, James Gleeson captured the mood of the times and the blunt reality delivered by Michael Collins' squad. Well done!

This is not just about wiping out the Cairo Gang and the revenge of the British terrorist units (it's hard to call the Black and Tans anything else). This goes into the background of Michael Collins formulating strategy of the first modern asymmetrical war, the British response and some notable events outside Dublin. From there it moves to the Cairo Gang and how effective they were. Collins took them down just in time - and for some too late. Gleeson leaves little doubt he would have been happy to be involved but still does a good job of laying out the facts of the struggle.

Excellent!

The Irish struggle for independence from Great Britain still stirs great passion and controversy. Michael Collins's successful strategy to achieve Irish independence from Great Britain has served as a model for similar insurrections for others across the world, particularly the Jewish struggle for independence in Palestine. James Gleeson's *Bloody Sunday* puts the struggle for Irish

independence in a broad historic context and provides personal accounts that make the historical perspective come alive. By adding lesser-known anecdotes to the larger narrative, Gleeson captures the emotions and mentality of the time to explain the actions and motives of all the key forces: the I.R.A., the Royal Irish Constabulary, and the Black and Tan as well as insights into the motives and mentality of the key players. With this more personal perspective, *Bloody Sunday* nicely complements more academic histories, such as *Michael Collins's Intelligence War* by Michael Foy, that examine the same events.

I love it!

Prior to being sent to Eireann, the "Cairo Gang" had been stationed for a while in Cairo, Egypt (This was at a time when the British thought they owned most of the planet). During the Great War (W.W.I), Egypt, and especially Cairo, was teeming with smugglers, assassins, revolutionaries, telemarketers and other "undesirables" who weren't very respectful to British interests. Egypt was critical to British control of the region and thus the situation called for experienced and capable agents. The "Cairo Gang" as they became known was the cream of the British intelligence agencies. They had been handpicked for their skill and it was in Cairo that they established a reputation that rivaled the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for 'getting their man'. It seems that Michael Collins and his flying columns were producing feelings of consternation in Dublin Castle (the seat of British power in Eireann) which the local agents had been unable to remedy. The local agents had also developed a tendency of being found dead thus more stringent measures were obviously needed. Enter the "Cairo Gang". The Cairo Gang was suspicious of everyone in Eireann and kept to themselves but Collins had cultivated a spy network of incredible reach. Michael Collins was a master at what he did and it was only a matter of time before he got the lowdown on the Gang. On 21NOV1920 the Cairo Gang went bye-bye. I intend to buy this book for the history of Eireann, circa 1916-1923, is simply incredible.

So happy to see this in print. I originally bought this book from a second hand book sale and it started a love and admiration of Michael Collins that took me all the way to Ireland. I still have the original hardback signed by Gleeson himself. Amazing true story that reads like a novel.

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