

Irish Women Rise in 1916



"When they were going out to attack the nest of snipers she was in charge of the squad. William Partridge, a very famous man in the working class movement, was there and he and other members of the squad accepted that she was in charge" Nora Connolly, 1916

Margaret Skinnider

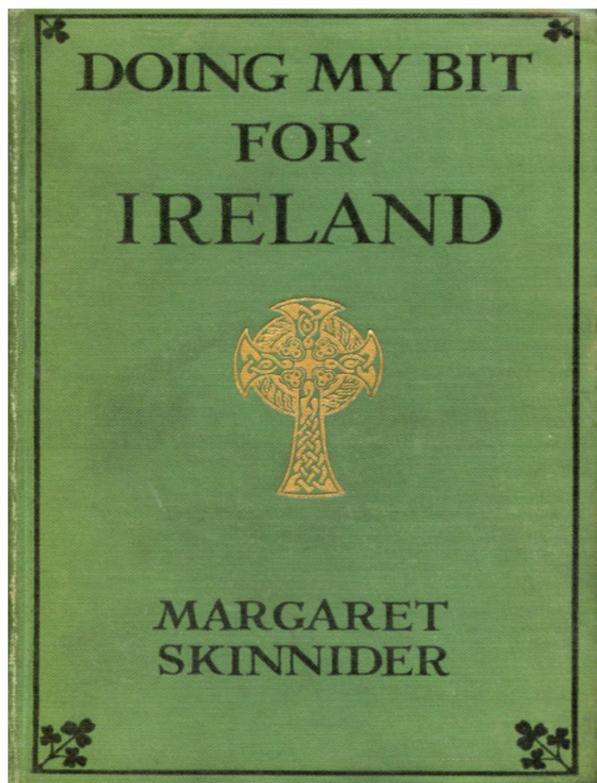
was a revolutionary and feminist. She fought during the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin. Her part in the Easter Rising was all the more notable because she was a woman, a sniper and the only female wounded in the action. She was mentioned three times for bravery in the dispatches sent to the Dublin GPO.

Operating variously as a scout, message runner (often dressed as a boy) and sniper Skinnider took part in action against the British Army at the Garrison at the College of Surgeons and St. Stephen's Green under the Command of Gen. Michael Mallin and Constance Markievicz.

Skinnider was reportedly an excellent marksman. She was seriously wounded when she was shot three times attempting to burn down houses on Harcourt Street to try to cut off the retreat of British soldiers who had planted a machine gun post on the roof of the University Church.

She offered a plan to dislodge the soldiers from the Roof. General Mallin thought the plan to was good but too dangerous. He was not willing to let a woman take this risk. Her reply was that women had the same right to risk our lives as the men; that in the Constitution of the Irish Republic, women were on a equality with men.

She was brought to St Vincent's Hospital where she was arrested and held in the Bridewell Police Station. She was interrogated until a surgeon from the hospital contacted the British authorities in Dublin Castle and said she was unfit for imprisonment.



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