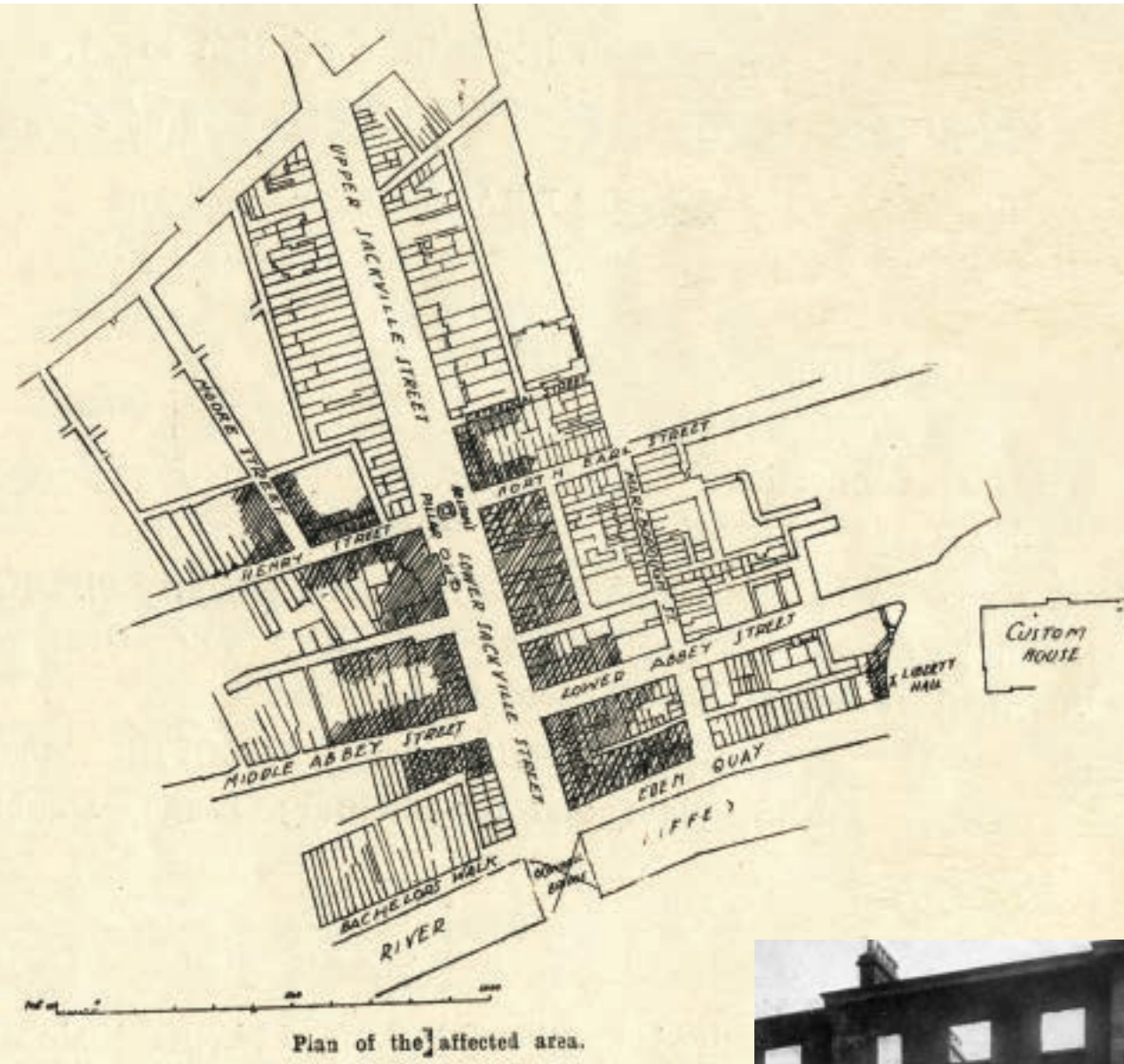


# O'Connell Street, Lower, 1916

Nothing save a personal inspection gives any idea of the general ruin in the area affected.

IRISH BUILDER, 13 MAY 1916, P. 197



Map of destroyed area  
Irish Builder, 13 May 1916, p. 205



No. 9 O'Connell Street, Lower, May 1916  
Irish Builder 8 July 1916, p. 302



No. 34 Abbey Street, Lower, the home of the Irish Builder and Engineer  
Irish Builder, 13 May 1916, p. 196



The remains of The O'rahilly's De Dion-Bouton car used as a barricade to GPO courtyard  
Irish Builder, 27 May 1916, p. 222



Henry Street, viewed from the top of Nelson's Pillar  
IAA Westropp Collection, 96/57 Vol. 10 p. 50 1



The Post Office Dublin Directory and Calendar, 1916, p. 532



The Post Office Dublin Directory and Calendar, 1917, pp. 554-556

Damage, major and minor, was caused to buildings across Dublin in Easter Week 1916, but most dramatic and extensive was the 'area of destruction' in O'Connell Street (Sackville Street until 1924) and the surrounding streets. Some 22,300 m<sup>2</sup> of properties on the east side of the street were completely gutted, and 28,400 m<sup>2</sup> on the west. The Captain of the Dublin Fire Brigade estimated over 200 buildings had been affected, and put the property loss – building and stock – at £2,500,000. Bad as this was, the Irish Builder reflected that 'destruction has been confined within comparatively narrow areas and all things considered, matters in this respect might easily have been worse'.



Junction of O'Connell Street, Lower, and Abbey Street, Middle, with the tower of Arnotts in the background  
IAA Westropp Collection, 96/57 Vol. 10 p. 49 1

The greatest cause of property loss was fire. An absence of fire-resistant construction was recognised as having facilitated the spread, but as to what had caused the fires in the first place, there was much debate. According to Rudolf Maximilian Butler, architect and editor of the Irish Builder, it was not the rebels: they 'did not seem to have committed any wanton destruction of property'. The 'hooligan element' had certainly contributed by looting buildings and setting fires, but 'the extent of the

looting was not nearly as great as might have been feared'. Rather it was 'the military measures undertaken, which directly or indirectly involved the destruction of so much property'. Could other methods have been used? Butler thought not – rifle fire alone would not suffice for clearing buildings, nor was starvation a practical weapon. 'The general opinion seems to be that the methods adopted were inevitable in the circumstances'.



Metropole Hotel and GPO, O'Connell Street, Lower, May 1916  
IAA Photographic Collections, 12/32X4