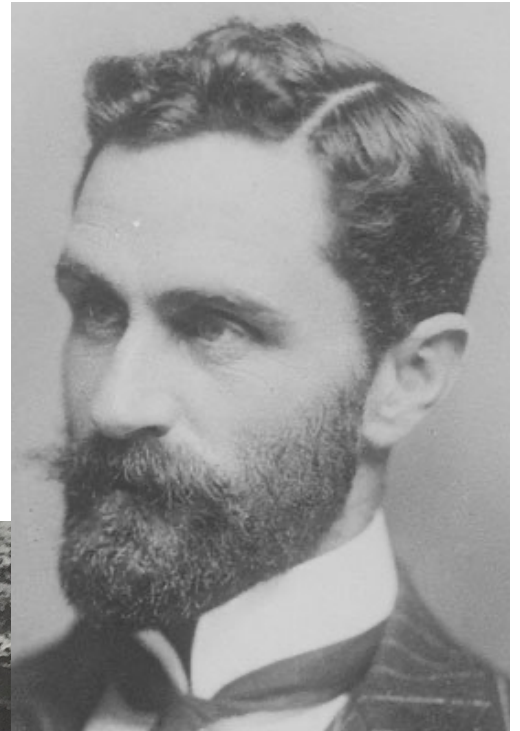


Ruling Passions: The story of Roger Casement



A group of prisoners in a German prison camp in Limburg. 26 November

In 1914 Roger Casement travelled to a German prisoner of war camp to speak to a group of Irishmen being held during the first world war. His motivation for this was to try and recruit the men to join his revolution, in an attempt to free Ireland from British rule.

This chapter of history was dramatized in a script by Michael Eaton called *Ruling Passions: The Story of Roger Casement*. In an exert below, Casement has already had an initial attempt to address the Irish prisoners, but they laughed, heckled and were so offended by his suggestion to rebel that Casement had to be removed from the meeting for his own safety. Roger is then pondering what to do next when there is a knock on the door...

Your task

Please read the script below then change it into another genre of writing, for example a short story, a news article, a comic, a poem, a rap, the choice is yours... Try your best to stick to the main essence of the story, so it is still recognisable.

Roger sits in the drab office of the German Commandant Major, his coat draped around his shoulders. A decrepit OLD SOLDIER is leaving. Roger writes down his name, trying to preserve his optimism. The Prince looks on.

A knock on the door and a GUARD enters leading a cocksure, good-looking young man, DANIEL BEVERLEY, who speaks in broad Dublin tones. Roger rouses himself:

ROGER

What can I do for you, lad?

Beverley looks around, awkward that the Germans are there.

BEVERLEY

I'd like to offer my services, sir.

Roger's spirits are instantly lifted.

ROGER

Well, well. What's your name?

BEVERLEY

Daniel Beverley.

ROGER

You want to join us, Dan?

BEVERLEY

Well . . . you know how it is . . . I want to be my own man
again, sir.

Roger looks into the young man's eyes, struggling to make contact:

ROGER

Quite right. Every man was born to be free.

BEVERLEY

Aye, I reckon.

(a pause, then:)

I was thinking, sir, you don't happen to have a smoke on
you?

Roger reaches into his pocket and pulls out a cigarette case. He empties the contents into his hands and passes them over to Beverley.

ROGER

Indeed I do, Dan. Ireland won't forget you for this.

Roger writes down his name. As Beverley lights up:

BEVERLEY

You see the thing is, sir, it's so terrible cold here. You
wouldn't have such a thing as a drink . . . To warm me
starving spirits, now would you?

Reluctantly Roger hands over a flask. Beverley takes a deep pull and is gone. The Prince laughs cynically.

ROGER

Perhaps it would be best if I could talk to each of the men
alone.

ZU LEININGEN

(not entirely without feeling)

Perhaps it would be best if I were to take you back to Berlin

Eaton, Michael. "Ruling Passions: The Story of Roger Casement." *Critical Quarterly* 41.1 (1999): 82–126; 41.2 (1999): 105–152; 41.3. (1999): 71–117.