

# An Phoblacht

## REPUBLICAN NEWS



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# NIGHT OF TERROR

**DRUNKEN BRITS** in their last week in the North went on a rampage last Sunday night in the nationalist Ballygawley housing estate in Dungannon, County Tyrone. Men, women and children were terrorised and homes ransacked by the soldiers of the Royal Artillery Regiment who practically curfewed off several streets in the two-hundred-and-thirty house estate.

Eye-witnesses have confirmed that a British soldier standing outside the home of the Hill family in Windmill Court fired a burst of shots into the air — an incident which served as a pretext for the follow-up raids.

A lying statement from the British army headquarters at Thiepval barracks in Lisburn, issued at midnight on Sunday, stated that soldiers were ambushed and in a subsequent search two soldiers were injured in a booby-trap explosion. But local people categorically denied that shots were fired at soldiers, no-one heard an explosion and no site of an explosion has been traced or identified by the British army.

The Tyrone Brigade of the IRA has stated that the IRA was not involved and that the Brits are attempting to cover up for their night of terror against the nationalist people.

Shortly after 9.15 p.m. on Sunday two brothers, Raymond (18) and Jeffrey Hill (19) sat watching television in their home in Windmill Court in Dungannon. Jeffrey heard a 'metal click' outside the window before an extremely close burst of shots made them both dive to the floor.

Soldiers in Woodburn Crescent (a street below Windmill Court) then opened fire into the back of the Hills' house.

One bullet tore its way through the door and ricocheted off three walls, smashing through a photograph of Pope John Paul II before embedding itself in the fridge. Another bullet tore a chunk out of the gable wall of the house.

At the front the two brothers heard English voices screaming "Get the bastards in the end houses". Their front door was kicked off its hinges by soldiers who then rushed in and put the point of their rifles to the lads' heads before trailing Jeffrey out to the back and Raymond out to the front.

Raymond, now terrified, was made to kneel down on the road with his hands in the air. The street was full of soldiers. Armoured vehicles brought in reinforcements and a helicopter hovered overhead.

Out at the back Jeffrey was forced to clear out the coal-shed. His Brit guard said: "If I get blown up you'll get blown up with me."

He was then taken into the house and made to stand erect while a soldier punched him in the stomach, head-butted him on the nose and threatened him with his rifle. This soldier pointed to the bullet-holes in the walls and boasted, "I done that".

Jeffrey was then taken out of the house and without being placed under arrest both brothers were then taken to Dungannon barracks where they spent four hours before being released.

### GIRR

Twenty-four-year-old Geraldine Girr who lives in the next block was minding a four-year-old girl when the Brits broke down her door. She was in the living-room when she heard a metal click outside followed by a burst of gun-fire and Brits



"Their front door was kicked off its hinges by soldiers who then rushed in and put the point of their rifles to the lads' heads ..."

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# NIGHT OF TERROR

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shouting "Get the bastards at the end houses".

She was lying on the floor when the door was kicked in. A soldier ran in and put his gun to her face.

Another ran in frothing at the mouth and screaming "Shoot the bastards".

The first soldier told him that there was only a girl in the room and his colleague replied, "If I'd my way every Irish Catholic, man woman or child, would be shot."

Other soldiers ran up the stairs. Geraldine followed them, picked up the child who had been in bed, and ran into the street for help.

## KILLORAN

Just prior to shooting into Windmill Court in response to gunfire from another section of their patrol British soldiers had rushed into the home of Mrs. Alice Killoran in Woodburn Crescent.

Mrs. Killoran had answered her door to a neighbour's knock when a soldier ran into her house shouting, "I'm being shot at, I'm being shot at."

A Labrador pup promptly grabbed him by the heel but the Brit continued through the back door and then opened fire.

Another soldier searched the house and then they both left without giving any explanation.

"They were in a hysterical state," said Mrs. Killoran.

## HILL

Around 9.45 p.m. Mrs. Hill and her young daughter were coming back home. Mrs. Hill saw Brits around the house and her front door lying wide open. She tried to get into her house but the Brits would not let her. She was verbally abused and her daughter was terrified.

She asked about the whereabouts of her two sons (Raymond and Jeffrey, who had in fact been arrested, and taken to the barracks), but the Brits would not tell her.

She said that she had the right to get into her home but a soldier screamed at her, "You have no fucking rights. Now Fuck off!"

She then went to a neighbour's house. When her husband Kenneth arrived home around midnight he too was refused entry and verbally abused.

At 1.30 a.m. the Hill family were eventually allowed into their home. They found that it had been

ransacked. Drawers had been pulled out and overturned. The wardrobes were in disarray, clothes were strewn around and there were boot-marks on the sheets and over the mattress of the child's bed.

A tape-recorder was smashed, floorboards in the bathroom were pulled up and in the kitchen the Brits had made themselves tea. Dozens of cigarette ends had been stubbed out on the floor.

## OTHER

In other incidents two old-age pensioners in Windmill Drive had their door kicked in because they could not answer quickly enough.

Mrs. Madeline O'Neill was not at home when the Brits broke down her front door.

Eighty-year-old Mrs. Skeffington was stopped at one of the many road-blocks thrown up around the estate and she was forced out of her car which her grandson, Sean Hart, was driving. The Brits were foul-mouthed and abusive and Mrs. Skeffington has been in a distressed state since.

In Woodburn Crescent fifteen people, among them men and women coming home from a concert, were held in the Russell home under house arrest and were forced to stay there until 2.30 a.m.

On the Donaghmore Road groups of youths returning from a snooker match were made to lie on the ground.

One man, Sean Hughes, was made to stand in the freezing night air in his shirt. The Brits would not let him put on his jacket which was in his car, and from it they stole an eight-track cassette tape.

## ATTACK

This British army terrorist attack on the nationalist people of Dunganon is typical of the poor state of their morale.

There were several finds of empty vodka bottles and beer tins in gardens in the estate where the Brits had been in wait. With this injection of courage they then went on the rampage in the safe knowledge that within a few days they would be out of it all.

Perhaps in Germany they'll be landed with a reminder of Ireland, but they can be guaranteed that if, or when, they return to Ireland resistance to their presence will be as intense as ever.



# NO PROPS FOR APARTHEID

BY CATHAL McCORMACK

OVER THREE HUNDRED anti-apartheid demonstrators marched to Lansdowne Road rugby ground in Dublin last Saturday, where Ireland were playing Wales, to protest against the proposed Lions tour of South Africa.

The Lions team which is made up of both British and Irish players will begin the tour in May and will play sixteen matches, half of which will be against all-white teams, of the rest; one will be against a 'coloured' team and one against an African team.

Some of the remaining matches will be played against mixed sides and thus the Irish Rugby Football Union hypocritically claim that this indicates a move towards 'multi-racialism' in South Africa.

## SATURDAY

But the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement, which organised Saturday's march, point out that this 'multi-racialism' in some of the sides is deliberately contrived to gain a degree of international credibility. The institutionalised racism of apartheid is still very much in existence in South Africa.

The South African Rugby Board is still a racially organised body — strictly segregated, in accordance with government policy, into white

(twenty bodies), black (one body) and coloured (one body). It has no mixed clubs belonging to it.

On the other hand, the non-racial South African Rugby Union, which is struggling against apartheid in sport in the face of government disapproval and intimidation of its players, is ignored by the Lions tour.

## APARTHEID

Under the apartheid system the different 'races' live in different areas and black and 'coloured' people have to apply for special permits to play sports or watch matches in areas to which they do not belong.

The vast majority of the population, the Africans, cannot travel, eat or drink where they want and must carry 'pass-books' with them at all times or run the risk of arrest. They have no vote and are prevented by law from holding skilled jobs in 87% of their own country.

Apartheid policies affect every area of life. It was the all-white

South African government, not the Anti-Apartheid Movement, which introduced politics into sport by segregating sports players. South Africa, alone in the world, has enshrined racial discrimination in its laws. No black person can escape the consequences of their skin colour.

## PLAYERS

The IRFU have muzzled the Irish rugby players preventing them from commenting on the issue. But several players expressed their inability to go on the tour, giving a variety of reasons. Five Irish players have however been selected for the Lions' tour and the tour is receiving enthusiastic backing in rugby circles as well as from sports journalists and broadcasters.

However last Saturday's march which included contingents of trade unionists and students, did not attract much hostility from rugby supporters on the way to the match and at one stage large numbers of beset fans joined the protest.

If the tour goes ahead it will be a triumph for white South Africa. The IRFU must be forced to withdraw and the tour stopped.

BY PAT DUGGAN

WHAT A red face Gene Fitzgerald, Free State Minister for Labour must have had after launching the booklet 'Ballyfermot Now' at a press conference in the Department of Labour in Dublin on Thursday 6th March.

He had not seen a copy prior to the launching and in his introduction he made a glowing speech about Fianna Fail's record in improving social welfare, attracting investment and its plans for youth employment — all of which are heavily criticised and contradicted in the pages of the booklet!

In 1978 the Ballyfermot Employment Action Group were given a grant to carry out a survey of the 5,433 households of this estate on the southern outskirts of Dublin. Some of the group were able to use the grant to work on a full-time basis as community workers and they and forty unemployed young people carried out a survey of nine out of ten of the households in the estate.

Their survey is reported in this booklet 'Ballyfermot Now' which they intend to distribute free to all households in the estate.

Bar the presence of rampaging Brits on their streets, the people of Ballyfermot are as socially deprived as the people in any Northern nationalist ghetto.

Unemployment, which is steadily increasing, presently runs at about one in six of the labour force and the action group says that the Free State industrial development policy is to blame. Reliance on foreign controlled multi-national firms at the expense of traditional

# BALLYFERMOT NOW —



industries has led to the motor assembly business, and the textile industry being run down and almost completely eliminated, whilst in other industries 'such as the paper mills, concrete manufacturing, modernisation has been introduced, leading in both situations to increasing redundancies.'

Of those at work approximately three out of four are in unskilled jobs, the majority of young people having left school at or before sixteen years of age. There are few facilities for the old or young in the estate.

Parks, playgrounds and other amenities are non-existent. High youth unemployment and lack of social facilities have consequently led to a major vandalism problem.

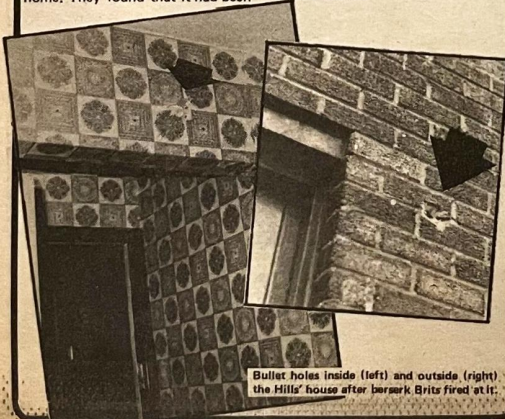
In the 330 houses in the Cloverhill part of the estate the use of sub-standard materials and faulty construction has begun taking its toll — roofs are leaking, drainage and sewerage is generally inadequate and walls are beginning to crack.

The action group says: "We are entitled to more than 'survival' — we have rights to an education which is relevant and meaningful to our whole lives, to decent employment which will allow us decent living, to houses for our families, to contribute and organise our own lives and our community."

The booklet outlines a way forward through short-term requirements and says:

"People in Ballyfermot, particularly those who were active in the street committee, have a lot of experience and knowledge of organising and fighting for change in the area, e.g. the battle for the swimming pool, the opening of the new community college, the closing of the dump at Rossmore Road, all the result of direct militant action."

"It is only through this approach again, by organising at street level and in the estates that the major changes required will be brought about."



Bullet holes inside (left) and outside (right) the Hills' house after berserk Brits fired at it.



# JOURNALISTS BANNED

## Desperate cover-up

RUSSIAN JOURNALISTS have been banned from entering the occupied six-counties because of British fears that they would internationally expose Britain's denial of human rights, especially the draconian emergency legislation enforced by thousands of armed troops and the degrading H-block and Armagh prison conditions.

This scandalous ban on the Russians, which they claim is in breach of the 1975 Helsinki Agreement on facilities for foreign journalists, is expected to back-fire on the Brits as other foreign journalists fly into Ireland to update their coverage and to discover what Britain is so eager to cover-up.

Direct-ruler Atkins, embarrassed by the excesses of British rule, apparently advised the Westminster government to make the ban. (Russian diplomats and journalists in Britain — given that it is such a free country! — have to have permission to travel more than thirty-five miles from where they are based.)

The Russians, who had applied for permission to visit the North, are Vladimir Skossyrev of the official Soviet newspaper 'Izvestia', and Alexander Shalnev of the official Soviet news agency 'Tass'.

In typical hypocritical Foreign Office jargon the journalists were told that "the British authorities

were unfortunately unable to make available the facilities for interviews at this time which they had requested."

According to the Belfast 'Irish News': "Obviously, no 'special facilities' would be needed for Soviet — or any other — journalists to interview the heads of the warring political parties or to visit both Republican and Loyalist areas and it is understood that the Russians had asked to be allowed inside both the Long Kesh and Armagh jails and to be permitted to speak to some of the protesting prisoners." Apparently the Russians' interest had been sparked by the failure of Atkins' constitutional conference and by the news which is emerging from

Armagh jail of Britain's despicable treatment of women political prisoners.

The newspaper 'Izvestia' has stated that its own correspondent and the 'Tass' agency correspondent have been refused permission to go to the North in an act of discrimination. 'Izvestia' added, "It is not difficult to guess the reasons for the refusal."

"Northern Ireland has been, effectively, turned into occupied territory, with English troops terrorising the population of Catholic areas and hundreds of fighters for civil rights languishing in prison."

"All this, London is striving to hide from the world public. This is what freedom of the press, British-style, means."

## Friends or Enemies?

FURTHER international pressure for a 'political initiative' on the North from the British government came in a St. Patrick's Day statement issued by fourteen leading American politicians which included Presidential candidate, Edward Kennedy; speaker of the House of Representatives, Tip O'Neill; Governor Hugh Carey of New York; and Senator Daniel Moynihan.

Apart from the ritual condemnation of violence (though, unusually this took up only one paragraph out of sixteen) which these four politicians have issued every St. Patrick's Day since 1977, they concentrated more on urging the British government to open up talks with the Free State government on Irish unity and said that "the solution offering the greatest promise of permanent peace is to end the division of the Irish People". They expressed concern at the British government's continued rejection of recommendations made by its Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, the existence of which the British internationally boast as one of the major safeguards on human rights in the North.

Whilst any international embarrassment on Ireland caused to the



TOP LEFT: Hugh Carey  
TOP RIGHT: Daniel Moynihan  
BOTTOM LEFT: Ted Kennedy  
BOTTOM RIGHT: Tip O'Neill

British is sound, there is a real danger that these four politicians are increasingly establishing their credentials as 'friends of Ireland'. With this image they could at some stage in the future, perhaps when there is a British withdrawal, attempt to make more direct interventions against the Republican Movement on behalf of American interests and cause confusion.

## ALLIANCE COMPLIANCE

THE ALLIANCE PARTY presented a six-point programme of anti-republican repressive measures to direct-ruler Atkins at the secondary 'parallel' Stormont talks on Wednesday 12th March.

On its front page the Belfast 'Irish News' warned that the proposals "would leave the law in Northern Ireland bearing only the vestige of similarities to that in the rest of the United Kingdom."

The paper stated, however, that "little Alliance Party support is expected to be forfeited on foot of the party's submissions 'to see the law strengthened' " because "the 'middle-of-the-road' party is now firmly established as the middle-class party and any remaining links with the working-class ghettos are very tenuous." In defence of the SDLP whose line the 'Irish News'

slavishly pursues through all its various twists and turns, the paper spoke of a 'holier than thou' attack on the other political parties by the Alliance Party.

The Alliance six-point programme — which sounds like a British army officer's fantasy 'solution' — called for: the removal of an interrogation victim's right to silence; making failure to give an account of one's movements an offence; introducing a new offence of 'promotion of terrorism'; extending the ban on 'paramilitary organisations'; tougher sentences for arms and membership charges; and admissibility as evidence of film and tape recordings of incidents.

The sentiments of the Alliance Party as a supposedly 'reasonable' pro-Brit party can often be a good indication of Brit thinking itself, so these latest proposals strengthen

the likelihood of a package of Brit repression (coupled with a limited strengthening of local government) after the collapse of the main Atkins' Stormont talks.

The Ulster Executive of Sinn Féin said of the proposals that they are "intended to give even greater powers to the British Army and the RUC in order that they might further terrorise the nationalist community and thus force it into submission."

"If we cut away the political jargon and examine the reality, what we are seeing is Alliance compliance with the inevitable need for repressive legislation in order that British rule be maintained."

### H-BLOCK VICTIM

Former Alliance Party hack Lord Dunleath secretly resigned three months ago as president of the Brit-backed Northern Ireland



Alliance leader Oliver Napier calling for further repression.

Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders following an attack on the H-Blocks by the association, according to the Hibernia magazine. Dunleath had been president of the Association for ten years but the Alliance Party firmly backs Brit inhumanity in the H-Blocks and when the association's December newsletter criticised the H-Blocks, he strenuously objected and resigned shortly afterwards. The attack on the H-Blocks was the first to come from an 'official' body and caused considerable embarrassment to the British government.

## ELECTRIC SHOCK

FOLLOWING recent sharp increases in Housing Executive rent and central-heating charges in the six-counties, a shocking increase of at least 17% in the price of electricity has been announced. This increase, callously imposed by the British government, and to be followed by a further 5% increase in the autumn, is despite the fact that Northern electricity is already a quarter dearer than in Britain, and the North is the poorest part of the EEC. These increased charges are sure to bring in their wake increased attempts at bully-boy tactics by the Electricity Service determined to screw every last penny out of impoverished families faced with impossible bills.

The Brits have also refused to financially assist Belfast Gas, despite projected British Gas Corporation profits in the next year of £600 million, thus closing off an alternative source of power for many people. The increased electricity charges will not only hit working-class people hard in the pocket directly but through increased production costs will mean higher consumer prices as business men seek to maintain current profit levels. In the past month due to increased coal, oil and electricity charges the price of cement has already spiralled by 21% pushing up building costs, thus further restricting new house-building and industrial expansion, and meaning a cut back in the construction industry, which will particularly hit hard the job prospects of the already grossly under-employed nationalist work-force.

## BIGOTS BAN BINS

The Unionist controlled Lisburn Council has re-affirmed its sectarian opposition to plans to build two thousand houses at Poleglass, near Dunmurry, Belfast, as a much-needed over-spill for the nationalist people of West Belfast.

The Housing Executive has started work on the first phase of the scheme, building three-hundred houses, but the council has withdrawn £12,000 set aside to cover bin collections in the estate. When the figure appeared in the estimates for the coming year Alliance Councillor John Cousins said it gave recognition to the Poleglass scheme and meant an about turn by the council who were previously against the plan.

Then at a meeting of the Council's Works and Public Health Committee on Thursday 13th March the decision was taken not to spend the money. Former Mayoress Elsie Kelsey and the deputy Mayor William Beshaw stated that opposition means that the council should not be involved in Poleglass either through bin collection or otherwise. One bigot, councillor Maureen McKinney, said a clear distinction should be made between the Poleglass development and the Poleglass geographical area, that is, Catholics should not have their bins emptied, whilst Protestants should.

## BY PASS REJECTED

AN ATTEMPT, at a meeting in Belfast a week last Wednesday, to divert the campaign by Divis Residents to have the complex demolished, was foiled when angry residents learned that a proposed 'liaison committee' was the brain-child of the Housing Executive, as their method of by-passing the militant Demolition Committee.

The meeting's organisers — the previously unheard of 'Lower Falls Housing Action Committee' — proposed acceptance of Housing Executive plans for only partial demolition. Equally significant they supported the construction of a multi-million pound ring road, which would pass a mere twenty yards from Divis dwellings. Without this, they argued (echoing Housing Executive threats), no re-development would take place in the area. Furthermore, they said, the Housing Executive had asked for a new 'liaison committee' to be set up, to negotiate development plans. This attempt to defuse the militant (total demolition no ring road) campaign, and replace it with a bogus committee amenable to the Housing Executive, was decisively rejected as the meeting broke up after forty minutes, with people walking out in disgust.

## UDR in the frontline

AS PART of the Brit strategy of Ulsterisation there has been a further steady reduction in the level of British troops in the North over the last year according to a military spokesman. There are now 12,000 British troops in the North compared with more than 13,000 last year. The heavily-armed RUC is being pushed into the front-line (the 'primacy of the police') and the other loyalist militia the UDR is also being pushed to the fore. The Brit spokesman admitted: "We are relying more on the UDR."

Meanwhile UDR soldiers in rural areas are 'using illegal guns' according to the 'Sunday News'. (It is of course common knowledge that many sectarian murders have been carried out by UDR members using such guns.)

"We don't give a damn what politicians or anyone think about it," said one gunman. "I have two guns plus my service weapon. No they're not legal and I have no intention of handing them in."

The 'Sunday News' naively comments: "Loyalist politicians were surprisingly undisturbed by the illegal arms disclosure."

However, one was disturbed: "One Fermanagh councillor who went visiting a relative who was attached to the UDR mistakenly entered the house without warning to be greeted with a blast from a shotgun. The shot embedded in the door less than a foot from his head."

The paper also reports on UDR demoralisation, that "during the last two years as many as 350 men handed in their uniforms — a resignation rate far in excess of recruitment during the same period."

## BRIT SHOT DEAD

IRA VOLUNTEERS ambushed a four-man British army foot-patrol in Crossmaglen, South Armagh last Saturday afternoon. The Brits, members of the 1st Kings Own Royal Border Regiment, were raked with gun fire whilst on patrol in Newry Road. One Brit was fatally wounded and died a few minutes later. No enemy fire was returned and the Volunteers returned safely to base. The Brits in Crossmaglen undoubtedly continue to feel the pressure of the war. A fortnight ago a bomb seriously injured a Brit on foot-patrol and four days later in the barracks a Brit shot himself dead.



# duirt siad

"Viewers in Northern Ireland will have been appalled that the production included one scene, clearly with a Belfast setting, in which soldiers attempting to arrest a reluctant civilian, were administering some physical encouragement."

Belfast 'News Letter' editorial expressing loyalist concern that the BBC Television programme 'Gone for a Soldier' might help expose to the British people their troops' violent role in propping up the six-county statelet.

"'Gone For a Soldier' (justifiably denounced by Admiral Easton in a letter on this page this morning) does, on the one hand, represent one regrettable strand in national thinking about war and as such invited not suppression but another programme to counter its pacifist bias."

Brit war-mongering in Daily Telegraph editorial.

"I was brought up to believe that the partition of Ireland was a crime against the Irish people. I have said so on many occasions."

Tony Benn, former British Labour Cabinet Minister and aspiring Prime Minister, speaking at a debate in London last Monday.

"A cheap political trick that all decent Orangemen can see through."

Paisley's lieutenant, Peter Robinson, on last Saturday's poorly-attended Orange Order march in Belfast, which many loyalists saw as an Official Unionist attempt to out-flank Orange King Paisley.

"What we must call for today from this massive gathering is... for an investigation into the Republican moles in the BBC. It would be important to all licence holders to nail the Queen Bee."

Orange Order leader Thomas Orr demonstrating loyalist paranoia about the anti-Republican BBC, at last Saturday's Belfast rally.

"The pathetic creatures long to kneel at the feet of this middle-aged foreign housewife and hear the magic words 'Arise Sir Billy' or 'Arise Sir Sammy'."

Home column, Andersonstown News, on the aspirations of Belfast Lord Mayors.

"Shall the Starry Plough, a truly rural emblem, be replaced by an RTE camera in the masthead of the new party paper?"

Tom Luby Sidelines column in Hibernia posing a question for the Sticks whose paper is to change its name from the (embarrassingly republican) 'United Irishman' to 'Workers Life' whilst simultaneously turning its back on rural issues and providing a platform for the Sticks clique of aspiring trade union bureaucrats in RTE.

"Ireland which had been slipping away from the English grasp for over a century, finally drifted back to its aboriginally squalid freedom."

English historian Colin McEvedy in the Penguin Atlas of Medieval History (page 82) giving an unashamedly racist and chauvinistic view of Ireland in 1430.

# ARMAGH HEALTH THREAT

## But morale remains good

BY TERESA O'DWYER AND SEAMUS BOYLE

"THE PICKET on Saturday was a great morale - booster since most of the girls could hear the crowd shouting from our cells. We banged the doors." And "despite the desperate conditions, especially the threat to our health, morale remains good."

So says the O/C of the thirty-two Republican women prisoners 'on the protest' for political status in 'A' wing, Armagh jail, in her latest smuggled-out note describing the current conditions of the women and their reaction to the five-hundred-strong International Women's Day picket at the jail a fortnight ago.

It is now six weeks since the prison regime denied washing and toilet facilities to the women in Armagh and inflicted twenty-three-hour daily lock-up on them in this latest attempt to break the women's protest. Male warders remain on 'A' wing, but not in direct contact with the prisoners, and they are hiding out of the sight of the occasional visiting priest or welfare worker.

Reports from prisoners and relatives indicate that personal belongings such as spare clothes taken off the women, which they were told would be sent out to their relatives, have not been received, and all the indications are that items have been stolen, maliciously destroyed, or deliberately lost by the wardresses.

Relatives have also been subject to a step-up in petty harassment going to and from the monthly visits.

### NOTE

Conditions in the women's cells remain grim and the food is terrible, as the latest smuggled-out note from the women reports:

"We remain confined to our cells 23 hours per day. The only time we leave our cells is for one hour's exercise and to collect our meals."

"When the meals arrive on the wing they are left sitting for over an hour before being distributed by screws. When we are unlocked to collect the meal it is one at a time, therefore another hour has passed before all receive the food. By this time the food is freezing and inedible."

"It is distributed in a manner unfit for animals, such as cornflakes on plates, whereas the dinner is served in bowls with spoons as eating utensils. This is deliberate harassment by the screws."

"Since we have no access to toilet facilities all bodily functions have to be carried out in the cells. Some POWs were supplied with chamber pots, others have to make do with the floor."

"Our cells are covered with urine and excreta. When our chamber pots were full we used to be able to empty them out of the window, but now the windows have been boarded up."

"Little air circulates in the cells. The stench is overwhelming, no light penetrates the boarding. One would think it was continual nightfall here in Armagh."

"The risk of disease is obvious. The danger of infections is ever present, especially with monthly menstruation."

There can obviously be a very serious impact on women's health by the denial of toilet and washing facilities - the health threat is even worse than that posed to the 'blanket men' in the H-Blocks.

The most obvious stress results from the denial of adequate quantities of sanitary towels during menstruation. A ration of any sort, as has been imposed by the prison regime, is not only a cruel attempt to degrade which can be used only against women, but is physically inadequate. And since the women have been wearing the same clothes since February 7th and cannot change their clothing, the risk of infection rises alarmingly.

Even apart from menstruation, poor hygiene can quickly lead to a variety of infections, all extremely painful, and many of which if left untreated could easily lead to complications.

### INFECTION

Anyone in generally poor health has a low resistance to infection, and the women in Armagh on protest, on lock-up under such conditions in their cells, and after months and years of poor nutrition, are run-down. Once any of these infections are established even in the otherwise healthy woman, the best of treatment can be lengthy before it is finally successful.

In a run-down person treatment is even more difficult. Kidney and liver complications affect one's entire system and often require notoriously slow treatment under the best of conditions. Proper hygiene is an immediate pre-requisite for treatment.

In addition to these common infections, the possibility is that rare but more serious conditions, will probably go undetected because the early warning signals are so mild. Even women with full confidence in their doctors fail to report these early symptoms precisely because they do seem minor.

In Armagh jail, where proper medical attention of all sorts, even treatment for colds, has been routinely denied unless women come off their protest, and where the doctor, Dr. Cole, has done so much to earn the contempt and hatred of the prisoners, women may be more reluctant to report any serious matters may go undetected and untreated.

### MC CONVILLE

One prisoner in need of medical treatment is twenty-two-year-old Eileen McConville from Ballymurphy, Belfast. She suffers from nervous asthma and a nervous rash which has got worse since she was imprisoned in October 1978.

She finds it difficult to sleep and her rash is very itchy and has obviously been worsened by the unhygienic conditions in which she is now held.

### MC CLENAGHAN

Another prisoner in need of medical treatment is twenty-four-year-old Maria McClenaghan from Ardoyne, Belfast who suffers from ulcers.

LEFT: Maria McClenaghan.  
BELOW: Eileen McConville.

She is in urgent need of a special diet which prison doctor Cole refuses to give her.

From December 1973 to January 1977 Maria McClenaghan was a sentenced prisoner in Armagh jail with political status. She never had any stomach trouble before she was imprisoned but in the summer of 1974 she first began to suffer severe stomach pains.

Cole indifferently diagnosed her as suffering from 'nerves', 'constipation' and 'imagination' and plied her with valium for her 'nerves'. She was continually suffering pain, often of such intensity that she would be groaning aloud, and on several occasions medical attention had to be called to her after evening lock-up.

When she was released, having completed her sentence, Maria continued to suffer stomach pains and went to her own doctor, but he also failed to diagnose her illness.

Then in the early hours of April 1st 1977, just a few weeks after her release from jail she was taken seriously ill.

An ambulance was called to her Ardoyne home and she was taken to Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital, where she was immediately rushed as an emergency case to the operating theatre. She was found to have a perforated duodenal ulcer and the surgeon informed her parents that in another hour she would have been dead. (If she had still been in jail she would probably have died through medical neglect.)

She spent a fortnight in hospital recuperating and then was put on a special non-greasy diet by the hospital. She was due for a check-up at the hospital in November but before then she was arrested in June and again incarcerated in Armagh jail, where she is now serving a six-year sentence.

### DIET

Maria was once more to suffer at the hands of Dr. Cole. He stated that she could not get a special diet without permission from the Northern Ireland Office. In fact it took them two years to say that she could have a special diet of steamed and grilled food which included two pints of milk daily.

From February 7th this diet has been denied to Maria. Dr. Cole now apparently claims that there is no such thing as a special gastric diet and has told her 'to go to hell'. Maria's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth McClenaghan, was up at the jail seeing her on her monthly visit at the end of February.

She says: "We nearly died, she had lost so much weight. Her features were so sharp, she was a yellow colour and very nervous. Her stomach is murdering her now. She can't eat the food and I don't know how she is going to survive. She is getting very bad treatment and I am very worried about her."

Maria still suffers stomach pains and has to eat what she can of the standard, or rather sub-standard, meals which all the protesting prisoners get.

What she eats daily amounts to little more than cornflakes for breakfast; maybe a few potatoes for dinner; usually nothing for tea and one pancake for supper. Obviously this is totally inadequate and consequently Maria is steadily losing weight and her health is continuing to deteriorate.

### MC LAUGHLIN

The prisoner whose health is worst remains Pauline McLaughlin from Creggan, Derry. Because of her alarming weight loss she is officially 'on the sick' and thus gets a parcel and a visit per week, but apart from this is in exactly the same conditions as the other protestors.

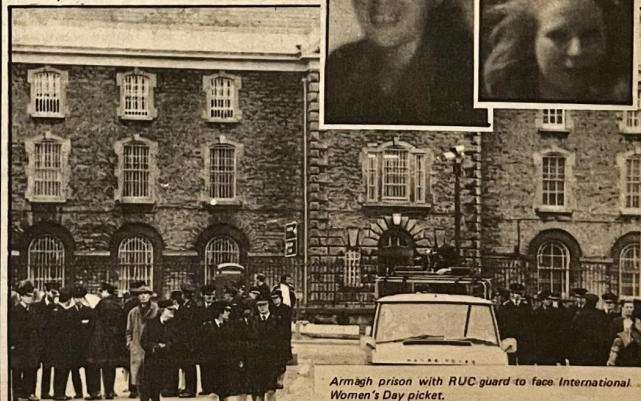
She has not been allowed to wash, slop out, change her clothes or use the toilets since February 7th. She is locked in her cell with another protestor, Patricia McGarry from Ardoyne, Belfast.

At the beginning of the month Dr. Cole threatened to put Pauline off the sick unless she stopped throwing vomit out of her cell, but has not carried out this threat although she still continues to throw it out.

Despite her emaciated state Pauline does not have anorexia nervosa. She has a healthy appetite and always did, but cannot keep food down, vomiting after meals and during the day.

Her weight has dropped dramatically since February 7th and she now weighs only 6 st. 4 lbs. although she is five feet five inches tall.

Her illness remains undiagnosed. Pauline, however, is reported to be determined to maintain her staunch solidarity with her comrades on the protest, whatever her physical condition, and states that she would refuse any early release on health grounds: "The only way I am leaving Armagh is when I've done my time or in a general amnesty."



Armagh prison with RUC guard to face International Women's Day picket.



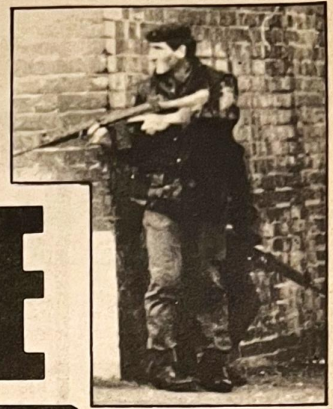
**HARDLY** surprising blatant bias of the Northern judiciary towards the uniformed gunmen of the British government was unashamedly exposed in the aptly-named crown court in Belfast on Wednesday 12th March when the long-standing practice that no British soldier will serve a day of imprisonment for shooting an Irish person was once more upheld.

A be-wigged and be-robed (and well-paid) loyal servant of the crown William Doyle released three of her Majesty's gunmen — one of whom had seriously wounded a man in west Belfast when attempting to randomly murder him; and two of whom had gone on an armed, thieving and car hi-jacking spree around County Down.

Brit gunman Gary Gibson of the 1st King's Regiment ran out of Fort Monagh in West Belfast on June 24th of last year and fired his rifle wildly at the first group of men he saw — who happened to be walking past a shop on the Glen Road. One of his unfortunate victims, Brendan Flynn, was gravely wounded and another man was slightly wounded.

Gibson, who seems to have only slightly exceeded the official Brit brief in shooting down a nationalist civilian unprovoked, was given a suitable slap-on-the-wrist

# BRITISH INJUSTICE



## A life of pain

While Brit gunman Gibson was released from a Belfast court a week last Wednesday to carry on his normal life, and presumably to perform more dirty work for the British government in Ireland, one of the two men he injured is trying to adjust to the devastating injuries he suffered which have left him virtually bed-ridden.

Since being shot on June 25th last year, twenty-three-year-old father-of-one Brendan Flynn, from Ballymurphy in nationalist West Belfast has not spent one day free from pain.

The bullet which hit him passed through his back, came out of his stomach and cut through his arm at the wrist before grazing one of his friends on the stomach, and hitting a wall behind him.

For several weeks Brendan Flynn remained dangerously ill and doctors said he survived the shooting because he carried some extra weight. At the time he was eleven stone; today he is less than eight stone. Of the last nine months he has spent six in and out of different hospitals undergoing intense medical treatment.

The force of the bullet fired from a very short distance almost tore the inside out of his body. A large portion of his stomach has been removed, he has lost one kidney, and his spleen has also been removed. The base of his spine has also been damaged causing the nerves there to be exposed, which produces excruciating pain. He will be on pain killers for the rest of his life.

Initially Brendan Flynn was completely paralysed but through personal perseverance he can now walk a distance of seventy paces, although this leaves him completely exhausted. Lack of mobility is a major problem which he has overcome by the use of a wheel-chair, although he can only sit on it for a short period of time because of the pressure this puts on his damaged spine.

His left leg is completely paralysed and is strapped up.

When the bullet passed through his left arm it destroyed several nerves and sinews affecting the control he has over hand movements. His hand has virtually lost its power to grip.

Specialists say there is little prospect of any major improvement in Brendan Flynn's condition in the foreseeable future.



BRENDAN FLYNN  
— before he was shot

punishment last week — a two-year suspended sentence.

There was none of the usual suggestions of 'phantom gunmen' and

the apologetic judge complained to Gibson: "You had no motive and no axe to grind and from that point of view your conduct becomes more

difficult to explain."

Nevertheless the judge said he was satisfied that it was a 'one-off' incident caused by the stress of the war situation and

therefore Gibson must be released.

Two other Brits suffering from 'war weariness' took off from their Bessbrook barracks in a jeep last June with their weapons and used them to hi-jack two cars.

In one case they smashed up the car after stealing the driver's wallet, and in the other case the driver's wife fled but was forcibly brought back by one of the Brits.

Privates Kevin Wilkie and Wayne Dedman of the 3rd Queen's Regiment pleaded guilty to charges of hi-jacking, unlawful possession of rifles, robbery and criminal damage but were freed by Judge Doyle who described their crimes by no stronger term than 'misguided' and sentenced each to suspended terms of six months, fined them £75, and banned them from driving for a year!



Ballymurphy girl ELIZABETH O'BRIEN  
— dragged screaming from her father by Liverpool police.

## CHILD FORCIBLY REMOVED

**AN** eight-year-old Belfast child, Elizabeth O'Brien, was forcibly removed from her father Joseph O'Brien and her uncle Michael Forgoine on Tuesday 11th March when they were arrested by the English police at Liverpool under the notorious anti-Irish Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Elizabeth who suffers from a rare illness which restricts her diet to gluten-free food was dragged from her father screaming. Despite having a relative close-by who could have looked after her, she was held for almost twenty-four hours in a children's hospital in Liverpool until her father was released.

The arrest took place when the three were returning to Belfast after collecting furniture from the Forgoines' former home in Leyland, Lancashire. They had entered England unmolested the previous day and had already passed through the security check to get back

on the boat home, when they were approached by policemen.

When Joseph O'Brien quizzed the police as to what was to happen to his daughter he was told she could either be sent back home on her own on the boat or else be held at a children's home. When he strenuously objected to this and gave the police a phone number and the address of his aunt, they agreed to place the child in her care, and lied to him during his imprisonment that she was with his aunt.

The two men were held at the Bridewell barracks for less than twenty-four hours during which time for about fifteen minutes they were asked questions which could easily have been asked of them on the boat.

When Joseph O'Brien next saw his daughter she was in a terrified state; and since the incident the child has been having nightmares and wakes up screaming for her father at night time.



# THE WAR FOR THE REPUBLIC 1918-1921

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE REPUBLICAN STRUGGLE FROM 1918 to 1921.

BY GERRY McNALLY

**MUCH HAS BEEN SAID** and written of the handful of men and women who proclaimed the Irish Republic in Dublin in 1916. It has been said they were fools and dreamers and their 'Republic' was a myth and a failure.

Taken at face value it would appear just so, a failure. After all, the city was in ruins, the leaders were executed, thousands were jailed and interned, martial law was introduced.

Where was the dream and the Republic?

But however dead the Republic may have seemed, the seed was sown and for a few short years, 1918 to 1921, the Republic lived and became a reality and the fight continues to the present day to re-establish it. The only failure of the men of 1916 was that they were men before their time, it was the country and not them that was unprepared.

## RISING

Had the execution of the leaders not taken place there can be little doubt that 1916 would have influenced the next phase of history to no great extent.

There can be no doubt at all

that the average Irishman and woman of the day would not have realised that to take up arms and proclaim their country a sovereign and independent country is the greatest revolutionary act they could make.

But, as they had done so many times before, the British determined to rid the Irish of the silly notion that they were a free nation and so the leaders were executed.

This act in effect made the 1916 Revolution a success. For to Pearse success meant that their blood would re-ignite the Irish spirit. The country was shocked and almost immediately the ballads

songs and poems appeared.

Copies of the last letters of the leaders were re-printed and sold by their thousands. Photographs and pictures were hung on walls. Flags began to appear and political meetings and gatherings sprung up in the most unlikely of places. Letters and articles about the executions and the situation in Ireland began to appear in the foreign press.

The post-1916 remnants of the movement were not slow to recognise the wave of nationalism sweeping the country and began to pick up the pieces and re-organise.

## PRISON

The men in the prison camps had not been idle either. They spent all their time educating themselves and each other. Lengthy discussions and analysis were held and with the Rising of 1916 behind them they could view it in retrospect and plan for the future.

Contact was made between the prisoners and the movement in Ireland and a two-way flow of information was established.

The British in their haste to crush the revolution had rounded up thousands of men — many of them semi-literate — and had unwittingly provided the means for them to become politically educated soldiers. Perhaps realising what was happening inside the camps, and most certainly to defuse the growing support for the prisoners, the British began releasing small batches of prisoners.

## COLLINS

The largest batch was released in December 1916 and amongst them was a man who was to play a very big part in the vital years

to follow — Michael Collins. This influx of politically educated Republicans was all that was needed to completely re-organise and re-structure the movement and Collins as organiser, set about this.

The leadership and rank-and-file of the movement comprised various outlooks and ideals, ranging from extreme socialism to extreme nationalism but all were agreed on the means to destroy British rule in Ireland and more importantly in the revolutionary sense 'to establish the Republic with an Irish government'.

The early months of 1917 were spent in this preparation and training, and more internees and prisoners were released to bolster the ranks.

Against all these happenings the British — true to form — were holding a 'Convention' to discuss the Irish situation. This convention, just as all the subsequent farces, had no bearing on the reality of the times, as the people who mattered refused to attend.

Establishment politicians failed to keep pace with the changes in the country and Sinn Féin, winning council elections etc., emerged as grass-roots leaders of the people.

## SINN FEIN

By October 1917 the movement had firmly established itself and knew what it was and where it was going. The Sinn Féin Ard Fheis of that month saw changes in leadership: Eamonn de Valera was elected leader and Arthur Griffith took a secondary position to him.

The following month the Irish Volunteers were restructured and de Valera was also elected President, which meant he was leader of both the political and military wings.

The main reason perhaps for so much confidence being put in one man was due to the fact that de Valera was the senior surviving leader of the Rising.

At the same time, Michael Collins was elected Director of Organisation for the Volunteers and immediately began to lay the plans of the movement — to make Ireland ungovernable by the British. The guerrilla army was equipped — money, arms and ammunition and dumps were found.

The war was not to be fought in the same manner as the 1916 rising: no stand was to be made, no buildings seized and no open warfare. The Volunteers were trained as ten to fifteen men strong 'Flying Columns' to strike the enemy where and when they could.

This tactic was part of the plan that the guerrilla war was to make the country ungovernable, thus giving the opportunity to establish an Irish government.

The year 1917 drew to a close with Britain pursuing its usual bankrupt policies of arrests, searches and censorship.

## ARROGANCE

Either by ignorance or arrogance, Britain made an attempt in 1918 to conscript Irishmen to the British army. The conscription bill became the major political issue of the day and the country rallied behind Sinn Féin who organised opposition to it.

This one issue brought Sinn Féin to the fore as the leaders of the people and middle-class politicians and gormen hacks fell by the wayside.

As well as rallying opposition, Sinn Féin turned the issue to its own advantage using slogans like 'if you must fight — fight for Ireland.' So successful was the Sinn Féin propaganda that not alone was there no conscription but ordinary recruitment for the British army almost ceased by mid-1918.

Once again the British reacted predictably. The Volunteers were proclaimed illegal and almost all the leaders of Sinn Féin were arrested and interned in England. Once again however, the British policy backfired.

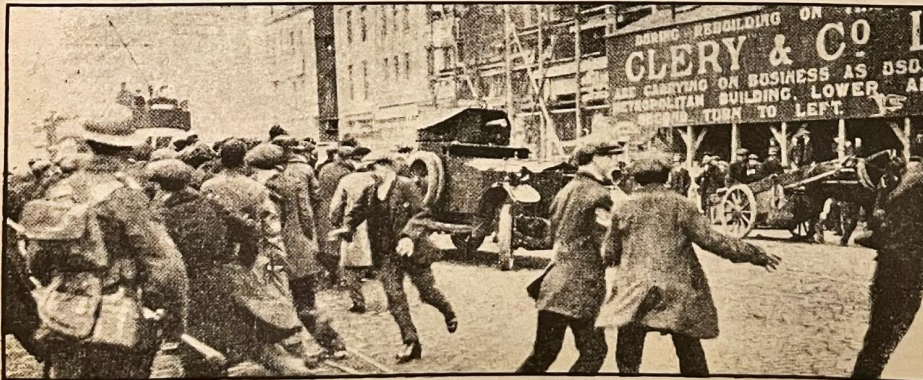
The cause of the Irish prisoners in England was turned into a massive propaganda exercise at home and abroad. Michael Collins was the only important leader to escape the round-up of May 17th and he organised the political prisoners campaign.

The reality of the situation at last filtered through to the dim corridors of Whitehall, and in July a proclamation was issued from the newly appointed military commander Lord French, declaring Sinn Féin and all its followers as 'suppressed'.

A clear indication of the strength and popularity of the movement was that it grew from strength to strength despite the fact that its leaders were in prison and every effort was made to suppress them. As the year drew



British officer searching pedestrians in a Dublin street.



British terror: an armoured car is driven at a group of people held at bayonet point in Dublin's O'Connell Street.

to a close, a general election was held in Ireland. Sinn Féin contested the 1918 general election and won a landslide victory. The 106 Sinn Féin members elected, voted in by the sheer feeling sweeping the country, claimed easily substantial fact that 34 of those still in prison. It must also be that this was an Westminster and Sinn Féin on an abstinent

A wildly enthusiastic internment camp





A Flying Column from the Fifth Battalion of the Third Tipperary Brigade, I.R.A.

a general election was

in contested all seats  
constituencies and won  
the victory with 73  
ected. Sinn Féin was  
the other nationalist  
eping the country, a  
substantiated by the  
of those elected were

n, also be remembered  
was an election for  
and Sinn Féin fought  
abstentionist policy,

shattering any claims that the vote was merely against the policies of the government of the day. So, in December 1918 Ireland had a nationalist government, avowed to the destruction of British rule in Ireland — the Republic was a living reality.

#### ALTERNATIVE

As they had stated, Sinn Féin refused to take up their 'seats' in the Westminster parliament.

Instead they met for the first time in January 1919 in Dublin. This first Dail Eireann, declared itself the legitimate government of the Irish Republic, formed a provisional constitution and reasserted the principles of the Proclamation of 1916.

In February, Eamonn de Valera escaped from prison in England and was elected President of the First Dail. He appointed Ministers and formed Departments with specific responsibilities.

The Republican alternative was fast becoming a reality.

The British, still stunned by the election results, hesitated, not sure how these startling events should best be handled.

It was the lull provided by this hesitancy that allowed the Dail to spread its influence to all parts of Ireland. Because of its grass-roots origins and organisation the new government had no difficulty in reaching the people with its proclamations.

Long-established plans for Republican courts, tax collections and police force were put into effect. The Volunteers were restructured into the Army of the Irish Republic — the IRA — and organised into Brigade areas.

A formal command structure was established, with lines of communications. Despite this reorganisation, the army was still to remain a guerrilla force.

#### RIC

One proclamation issued was that the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) was to be completely ostracised by the Irish people. This was an important proclamation and the reasons for it were soundly based. The British government refused to admit publicly that a potential state of war existed in Ireland and claimed that the 'unrest' was caused by a handful of unrepresentative people.

Lloyd George declared that the RIC could cope with the problem and attempted to use them to this end. Secondly, the RIC moved freely amongst the people and knew everyone and everything of local life. They were the eyes and ears of the British in Ireland. Thirdly, the RIC were not a civilian police force, but rather a heavily-armed para-military force.

#### SHOTS

The first shots of the war for

independence were fired on the same day as Dail Eireann first met, 21st January 1919. Although the IRA was now an established force, there was not enough equipment to go round.

In Tipperary the local brigade under the command of Sean Tracy launched an attack on an RIC escorted convoy of gelignite in order to get supplies. Amongst those taking part with Tracy in this raid was another legendary figure of the period Dan Breen. Two RIC men were shot dead and the gelignite was seized.

The rest of the year was to continue in a similar fashion. There were skirmishes between the IRA and RIC and occasionally the military. The RIC became demoralised and recruitment fell.

The Republican government continued to undermine the British system in Ireland. There were thousands of searches and arrests, political prisoners went on hunger-strike, there were baton and bayonet charges on public meetings.

Dail Eireann was declared illegal in August and military operations were intensified. Unlike 1916, the

country was well prepared for war by 1920.

#### TANS

From the start of 1920 the guerrilla war commenced. The previous years of planning and intelligence-gathering used to full effect. Roads and bridges were blown up, communications were severed, arms and ammunition were seized, attacks on the RIC and military were intensified, and barracks were left as burnt-out shells.

The Republican policy of making Ireland ungovernable was well under way.

By now the RIC was to all purposes a depleted and demoralised force. Britain realised that their face-saving policy of 'police versus criminal' could no longer be applied.

It was decided to recruit an auxiliary force to bolster the ranks of the RIC. These were recruited in England and were paid a pound a day. These were to be the military and intelligence spear-head of the RIC.

It was also decided to recruit a para-military force as a back-up to the auxiliaries and RIC. These were recruited in England also and were to be paid ten shillings a day.

This force was neither civilian nor military and their uniform was half police, half army — thus earning them the name 'Black and Tans'. These two forces were sent to Ireland with a free hand to crush the resistance by waging a war of terror and destruction.

The war in Ireland was fought between the IRA on one hand and the Tans on the other. The Tans spread terror from one end of this country to the other by murder, arson and torture. The IRA retaliated with ambushes and attacks on barracks and convoys.

#### OPERATIONS

The aim of the Republican Movement remained the same, to make Ireland unmanageable and the operations carried out to this end and the military history of this period are a book unto themselves.

However, some operations of note stand out. In Easter week 1920 tax offices in towns and cities throughout Ireland were raided and all records and the buildings themselves destroyed. This was a major blow to the British administration in Ireland. On the same night a staggering 315 abandoned RIC barracks were burned to the ground.

In November 1920 IRA Intelligence broke the British spy system in Dublin. Eight teams of Volunteers from the 3rd Dublin Brigade executed fourteen British agents.

The Black and Tan policy was intended to break the spirit of the people and spread fear and panic.

Amongst the most notorious of their deeds was the killing of the Lord Mayor of Cork in his bed, the burning of Cork City to the ground, the shooting dead of fourteen people at Croke Park and the torture and mutilation of McKee and Clancy, the two men who had led the assault on British Intelligence in Dublin.



Peadar Clancy (above) and Dick McKee (below) were brutally murdered in Dublin Castle.



The war raged right up to the last minute of July 11th 1921 when a bi-lateral truce came into force. The British had called for peace meetings mainly due to the fact that they were stale-mated.

This stale-mate in effect meant a victory for the IRA as they had achieved what they had set out to do. The Movement was not kept fully informed of what was happening at the treaty talks in London and continued to train and organise, certain they would be resorting to armed conflict against the British.

Alas this was not to be so and the next stage in Irish history saw the struggle for the Republic — compromised first by the signing of the 'Treaty' in December 1921 — undermined and then viciously repressed by the Free Staters.



Two of the notorious Black and Tans at the Curragh in 1920.



Enthusiastic welcome-home for prisoners released from British camps in December 1916.



# Postmhála

All letters should be addressed to the Editor -  
An Phoblacht/Republican News, 170a Falls Rd.  
Belfast or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin

## Harrisburg AOH

A chair,

I am writing to you on behalf of our local Ancient Order of Hibernians movement, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to express total solidarity with your just revolutionary struggle against imperialism. We are disgusted with our government's contradictory stand against the occupation of Afghanistan whilst ignoring or worse, condoning, Britain's terrorist military occupation of Ireland.

Our executive board has decided that we should take steps to get political status for the prisoners in Long Kesh. We have initiated a letter writing campaign to Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State, asking him to grant political status to the prisoners connected with the present phase of the conflict. Regardless of what is said it is a war of Independence that exists; and the prisoners are entitled to Prisoner-of-war status.

The reports we get from Long Kesh tell us of the deplorable conditions that exist: the Primate of all Ireland has told us they are worse than the sewers of Calcutta. I hope he doesn't think they have gotten any better since his tour eighteen months ago?

Even though reports in the prejudiced Free State press would have you believe there is chaos in the Irish American support base for revolutionary republicanism, let me assure you that we co-operate on all major issues such as 'Brits out', 'No Magna Carta for the RUC', 'POW status', 'End torture' and 'End Free State collaboration with British Imperialism'.

Perhaps when the reconquering ambitions of Whitehall are seen as they overfly to Dublin in so-called 'hot pursuit', the plain people of Ireland will rear out the cancer of Laitheir House and reaffirm the inspired word and deed of the proclamation of Independence.

Just by chance I came across a Mercier paperback the other day: 'Days of Fear' - a diary of a hunger strike by Frank Gallagher. Scene: Mountjoy jail, Dublin in 1920. Purpose of protest: to gain political status. Result: Victory. History only repeats itself for the reactionary classes. Revolutionaries change history.

Donal de Roiste, Chairman, Harrisburg Ancient Order of Hibernians, Freedom for All Ireland Committee, Pennsylvania, USA.

## National Anthem

A chair,

Please allow me some space to comment on a matter which has caused me considerable concern.

While attending an H-Block protest meeting recently one Saturday in Dublin, I was most surprised to hear our National Anthem being played (sung on tape) - in English.

Occasions where the National Anthem is sung in English in this country are very rare, and the least likely of these, one would imagine, would be at a gathering

organised by the Republican movement.

Upwards of 60,000 people attend football and hurling finals every year and the National Anthem comes across loud and clear from the crowd - in Irish.

It is said in 'Eire Nua' to be the policy of the Republican Movement to foster the Irish language at all times - and so it should be. It is one of the very few marks of identity which we have left, and it would be a shame to have to say that the Republican Movement was neglecting it, in accordance with all other political parties.

The National Anthem of any country is a very basic matter, and if it is worth singing at all, then surely the language to sing it in is that which is native to the people who sing it.

Can anyone just imagine for one minute a group such as the English National Front or any other political group in England going to the trouble of translating and then singing 'God Save the Queen' - in Irish?

Well in my opinion it is just as ridiculous to hear 'Amhrán na bhFiann' being sung in English, particularly at a gathering called to protest against - among other things - English interference in Ireland - English interference in Ireland.

I would sincerely hope that steps would be taken by those in a position of prominence to see that such a thing will never again take place.

Aine Mc Murchadha, Rine O'Garra, Dungarhan, Co. Portlaine.



## Women of Sinn Fein

A chair,

I have been reading *AP/RN* for nearly a year and find it most informative. It compensates for the inadequacy of our national newspapers and the system of teaching history in our schools (which I am presently subjected to).

I admire and agree with the ideals of Sinn Fein and in what they are seeking to achieve for Ireland. Yet as I read about the women of Sinn Fein I become increasingly depressed. These ladies seem very eager to voice their opinions on contraception, divorce etc etc - on which they obviously agree that both should be easily available.

Why do they insist on alienating themselves from many people who could not conform to this way of thinking?

I believe that the women in Sinn Fein should instead be assisting in the growth of Irish in the movement or in spreading the ideals of Sinn Fein. In this way they would be constructively useful.

We must repeatedly ask ourselves what are we fighting for. Without our language, culture, upkeep of our moral beliefs, we

may as well rejoin Britain under a similar union as that of 1801.

We are looking for an identity of our own as well as complete independence from Britain. May I pose this very important question?

What is the point in seeking independence?

What is the point of seeking total freedom from England if we are just going to turn around and adopt BRITISH MORALITY?

I ask these ladies for God's sake never to forget that God must be considered at all times.

Nora Ni Choichlin, Baile Atha Cliath.



Housing activists Declan Byrne (left) and Mick Raftery (right).

## DUBLIN HOUSING

Dear Editor,

The Housing Action and Resources Campaign is a group of individuals who feel that housing should be taken out of the sphere of profit for a few and that the needs of the community should be the major factor in all housing plans.

In the Dublin area the Corporation has declared a housing emergency. This is the second time in recent years that this declaration has been made and the present declaration seems to be as meaningless as the previous one. There seems to be no effort to substantially increase the number of houses being built and with the forecast of further government cut-backs the situation is looking even worse than before.

The housing crisis has reached such a stage, inflicting untold misery on thousands of Dublin's citizens, that only radical policies and a determined political will will ease the situation in the coming years. Both the policies and the political will seem missing from the majority of our councillors. They hoped that by making a show declaration they could, like Pontius Pilate, wash their hands of the problem.

It is the aim of our group to formulate policies and to agitate for their implementation. Now that the councillors have put themselves on the hook we hope to make sure that they do not wriggle off it.

So far we have held a demonstration calling on the Corporation to declare a housing emergency. After they had done so we held a one day conference (where over two hundred people turned up) to show that now that the Corporation has admitted that there is a housing emergency what steps must be taken to alleviate the problem.

The conference was divided into two parts. In the morning we had workshops where people shared their experiences and where valuable information was gathered. In the afternoon we discussed general tactics for furthering our aims.

It was decided that the work of the workshops would continue after the conference ended and that we would still meet in the workshop setting and also on a regular basis to discuss the changing situation.

We would invite any of your readers who are interested in this problem to get involved at either level.

The next meeting of the workshops will be held at 7 p.m. in 8 Charlemont Street on March 20th. Details of our open

meetings can be had at any time by ringing 723502.

Declan Byrne, PRO, Housing Action and Resources Campaign, C/O 20 Summerhill Parade, Dublin.

## South Wales Cumann

A chair,

On Saturday 1st March the Drumm-Markiewicz cumann of Sinn Fein was formed in South Wales. At a meeting addressed by Jim Reilly from Luton Sinn Fein decisions were taken to prepare the work of Sinn Fein in the South Wales area in the coming year.

A big effort is to be made by the new cumann to highlight the conditions of prisoners of war in English goals and to work particularly hard towards the victory of the blanket prisoners in the H-Blocks and the girls in Armagh.

Over the year as well it was agreed to organise educational work on Republican ideals and programme with a particular decision to bring Sinn Fein's economic and social programme before the people so that they may learn of the changes Sinn Fein will bring about when British Imperialism is defeated and expelled from Ireland.

In the run up to the launching of the cumann two successful meetings were held to publicise the Irish struggle and promote the Republican Movement in Wales.

The first in Newport on Thursday 28th February presented a showing of 'The Patriot Game', a documentary on the Irish war. At the meeting the urgency of the H-Block and Armagh situation was brought home by Padraig Bolger, who described vividly the latest twists in the screws/perverted attempts to break the POWs.

Two members of the audience later asked for Sinn Fein to bring the film and a speaker to their colleges in the next few months.

On Friday a meeting and showing of the film was put on in Pontypridd at the Polytechnic of Wales. It was presented by the Welsh Republican Society and the Students Union and addressed by Jim Reilly from Sinn Fein and a representative of ZANU (PF) (Robert Mugabe's wing of the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe).

Jim Reilly explained the history of the present war in Ireland and expressed his hope that a Celtic alliance, taking up the problems of the Welsh, Scottish and Irish People would emerge challenging the common enemy British Imperialism.

He also spoke of the Zimbabwe struggle and the similar attacks which have been made on the Zimbabwe liberation movements (such as the bombings by the Rhodesian forces which were based on the Zulu freedom fighters) as have been made on the Irish Republican Movement.

The same points were made by the speaker from ZANU (PF) who stressed his movement's support for the Provisional Republican Movement and particularly the Irish Republican Army - the Irish Revolutionary Army as he said it could be described.

In a statement of ZANU attitudes and policies he made it clear that he saw the Irish struggle as part of his own country's struggle (as the Zimbabwe war is part of the Irish).

To emphasise this he pointed out the close connections between the former British soldiers who butchered in the North of Ireland and then went to his

country to serve in the racist settler regime's armies.

If he had any critical comments to make to the Irish comrades he said it was that the IRA had not killed more of the soldiers before they could later go on to Rhodesia.

He called for support for the Irish Republican Movement and the ZANU (PF) movement and for the defeat of British imperialism. Clearly Sinn Fein in South Wales will do all in its power to bring this about.

Drumm - Markiewicz Sinn Fein cumann, South Wales.

## London Labour Conference

Dear Editor,

The newly-formed Labour Committee on Ireland is to hold a conference on 'The Labour Party and Ireland' on March 29th between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. at Islington North Library, Manor Gardens in London.

The committee consists of Labour Party members committed to breaking the silence inside the Labour Party on the question of Ireland, and to developing an independent Labour Party policy on Ireland, free from the present bi-partisanism.

The committee was established after last year's Labour Party conference by activists in the constituency parties who had put forward motions on Ireland at the conference. The campaign is now widening its support inside the constituency parties, and has the support of a number of M.P.s, including Jack Stallard and Joan Maynard.

The Committee has produced the following draft statement of aims:

"1. In 1921 a special Labour Party commission declared that: '... so far as Ireland itself and Irish affairs are concerned, the Labour Party is unequivocally prepared to allow Ireland to assume whatever form of self determination the great mass of the Irish people desire, with whatever constitution under whatever designation and with whatever arrangements for local autonomy, and thereby allow Ireland to face its own difficulties in its own way.'"

"2. After 60 more years of British involvement which have achieved nothing, we believe that the Labour Party should return to the essence of its 1921 policy and declare its commitment to a complete and unconditional British withdrawal from Ireland."

Labour Committee on Ireland, C/O 5 Stanford Hill, London N16.

P.S. Further details are available from Rosemary Sales, telephone 01-802-1709.

## Tameside Trades Council

Dear Editor,

Attempts to raise the question of Ireland in the British working class in the Manchester area suffered a setback over the weekend March 1st/2nd. A conference called by Tameside trades council and due to take place on March 1st was called off at the last moment when the organisers received by telephone a threat from the Trades Union Congress (TUC) to disaffiliate the trades council if the conference went ahead.

The TUC call was preceded by an almost unprecedented media



campaign to discredit the conference. A week before, the *Daily Mirror* alleged that a member of the INLA (a proscribed organisation under the PTA) was due to speak at the conference. In response to this the National Front threatened a counter march and rally.

On Tuesday 28th February questions were asked in the House of Commons about the conference and Margaret Thatcher 'deplored' the fact that the conference was being held. No doubt she 'deplores' any attempt by republicans and socialists to raise the question of Britain's oppression of Ireland.

The following day it was the turn of the Labour Party to put the boot in. The local (Labour) council banned the conference from council property. Meanwhile the press campaign hotbed up.

When the papers cottoned on to the fact that members of the RCT had played a prominent role in helping to organise the conference they used this to try and discredit it.

"The Revolutionary Communist Tendency is using trade union organisations as a front for a talk-in by supporters of Irish terror groups," ran one story. The press was incensed by the fact that speakers had been invited from the Belfast RAC and from the IRSP as well as the Women Against Imperialism group. It reacted to seeing comments such as 'Smash the Prevention of Terrorism Act' and 'Support the Irish people' on leaflets advertising the conference.

After the engineering union, the AUEW, cancelled an emergency booking, the conference was due to go ahead at a secret venue. The TUC then stepped that, although it did not deter about 75 people from turning up on the day, most of whom had not been informed of the ban.

An impromptu rally was held at which speakers condemned the role played by the TUC leaders and called for renewed efforts to get the issue of Ireland discussed in the labour movement.

Those present then moved to a site nearby where they witnessed a march by National Front supporters. There were a number of incidents.

Judith Harrison, due to speak at the conference on behalf of the *Smash the PTA* Campaign, (Organised by the RCT), said at the rally:

"This incident and the recent decision of the executive of the National Union of Students to drop their demonstration against the PTA shows that we cannot rely on reformists in the Labour movement to give any support to the Irish struggle. We must do everything in our power to ensure that this conference is re-called at a later date."

Smash the Prevention of Terrorism Act Campaign  
BM RCT, London WC1V 6XX



# SELF-DESTRUCTION, ULSTER JUSTICE, AND ULSTER'S DISREPUTABLE RIOTERS

Evenin' all,

And first may I say how disturbing the current trend of self-destruction amongst members of the security forces is. Recently I had to point out that the habit of diving onto one's head from moving army vehicles might be injurious to the health, but, it appears, my words have gone unheeded.

Last week two UDR men blew their brains (?) out, one in Strabane and one in his motor car, and what is the army's response?

Private Owen Pavey of the Kings own Scottish loonies goes and shoots himself to death in Crossmaglen. At first I thought that this was because he was upset and distressed about the retirement of Rats, Crossmaglen's Quisling terrier, but, on further investigation I think it may have something to do with the fact that young Pavey came from Barnsley.

Recently the poisoned dwarf of Barnsley, Roy Mason, has been threatened with the boot by Arthur Scargill and his bullyboy miners, and, obviously, young Pavey felt that life in Barnsley without the mad midget wasn't worth living. What a tragedy then that he didn't live long enough to read that a wealthy local businessman has offered to put up £2,000 a year and pay Mason's election expenses just to keep him in the constituency.

Private Pavey may well have asked why a leading Tory should put up money to keep an alleged socialist in office, but, ours not to reason why.

## JUSTICE

Meanwhile congratulations are due to that fine upholder of justice Judge William Doyle. Billy starred in two verdicts last week that re-

affirmed my faith in Ulster fair play.

First he gave Private Gary Gibson a suspended sentence for running amok and shooting into a crowd, paralysing one man and wounding another. Gibson, one of the 1st Kings regiment was stationed at Fort Monagh at the time and gave his reason that 'Irish people laughed at him'.

Billy Doyle obviously thought that this certainly was a good enough reason to shoot them.

Similarly, the two soldiers of the 3rd Queens regiment, or royal deserters, as they are generally called, Privates Kevin Paul Wilkie and Wayne Dedman who stole SLRs, hijacked a car and robbed the driver and set off for England, were both given suspended sentences.

Due, no doubt to a 'map read-

ing error' as it's known in the business, they ended up getting arrested in Killeel, which certainly doesn't indicate a high IQ, but then, few of their peers in the army suffer from that disability after all. Nice of Billy to let them off, however.

## UDR

I was sorry to see Belfast magistrates actually fining Steven Andrew Moore of the Special Patrol Group a whopping £100 for stealing a stereo out of a car in Andersonstown. People who live there deserve to have their alleged property confiscated by such upright guardians of law and order as Constable Moore.

Now that he's been kicked out of the RUC he will have to join the UDR where there are plenty of vacancies (350 left last year alone), or the prison service where twenty screws a month are resigning, according to that nice Governor Hilditch with whom I had a chat recently.

Talking of the UDR, I must say how worried I am about my new correspondent who calls himself Austin the Mole. Recently he wrote suggesting about a dozen

By  
Maurice

names for the UDR and he's now sent me another missive with no less than fifty-one further acronyms.

Most of these are lewd, disgusting and, although true, almost certainly libellous and unfit for a family paper such as this. Does he seriously expect me to refer to these gallant numskulls as Uninformed DUP Rioters, Usually Doing Ransacking or Ulster's Drunken Rabbits?

Worse still, he suggests that they Use Detonated Roadways, are Upside-down in Ditches Regularly, and are Unsuccessful at Dodging Republicans. If he really imagines that I'll print any such thing, he has another thing coming.

## ORGAN

And finally, a special thank you to Dean Kilpatrick of Down Cathedral who allowed me to play with his organ last week. As my fans doubtless know, I am a keen



organist and like nothing better, when time permits, to tinkle the old ivories.

I am, of course, a church warden back in Derbyshire and there's nothing mummy and I love more than playing duets on the old portable Hammond beside the fire. Happy days!

If only I could get out of this bloody awful country (as the late Reggie Maundling said), and back to the simple pleasures of life, what a happy old mole I'd be.

Oh well, it's off to another booze up. I do hope Gerry Fitt's not there again. I don't think I could take much more of his sycophantic crawling tonight.

Bye for now,  
Maurice.

BY SEAN DELANEY

ORANGEMEN from throughout the North, as well as some from the South, England and Scotland, converged on Belfast City Hall last Saturday in a flamboyant attempt to re-enact the monster Ulster Covenant rally held there in 1912 — a rally which was a central factor in the partitioning of Ireland eight years later.

Obviously last Saturday's rally, organised by the Orange Order, was held to demand increased 'security' measures, the 'steady turning of the screw' — as the chairman put it — against the nationalist community, as well as to reaffirm the allegiance of loyalists to the British crown.

Yet, behind the costumed theatrics of the rally, the bitter quarrelling which preceded and followed it — between the Official Unionists (who dominate the Orange Order) and Paisley's DUP — suggests that this 'monster rally' may also have been another round in the battle between these warring loyalist factions.

Although one of the few things that all unionists and loyalists would agree on these days, is increased repression against the nationalist people, Paisley had described the rally as a sham, and furthermore, ironically denounced the organisers as 'frightened Official Unionists playing the Orange card'. During the march to the City Hall a UDA faction pelted one section of Orangemen with eggs!

And the fact that what had been forecast as a fifty-thousand-strong rally was estimated by a highly sympathetic media to have been only fifteen thousand suggests that many loyalists simply boycotted it. In some degree, undoubtedly this rally was the Official Unionist's alternative to participating in the current Atkins' talks and was in part a flexing of muscle designed to undercut Paisley's present Orange supremacy.

But whatever the devious political background, the Orangemen

# ORANGE SEGMENTS EXPOSED



Orange men on the march to defend their privileges were addressed by a variety of loyalist bigots including Rev. Martin Smyth (inset).

certainly know how to put on a colourful show! As columns of bowler-hatted and orange-sashed marchers, accompanied by an estimated one hundred bands, paraded along six main routes from loyalist areas, finally meeting up in the heart of Belfast, the rhythm which beat like exploding cannon from the lambe drums in front of the City Hall, unmistakably spelt 'No Surrender'.

The use of religious fervour in maintaining support for loyalism was illustrated by the familiar number of clerical collars seated on the platform. The chairman of the rally was prominent Official Unionist and Orange Grand Master, the Reverend Martin Smyth. And the tone of the rally — that of an almost divine righteousness — was set by the 'service' of commemoration which commenced the meeting. A prayer of thanksgiving for the services of the British army, UDR, RUC and prison warders was set

amidst bible readings and evangelical hymns sounding more like war-cries.

Overhead, a single helicopter whirled almost silently in a broad sweep around the rally, but — like the riot gear stacked near Castle Street, at the bottom of the nationalist Falls Road — its attention was directed not at the rally itself but at the nationalist community. A massive operation throughout the day had thrown a ring of steel around nationalist ghettos such as Unity Flats and Short Strand, and — for those coming from nationalist areas — had made many roads into the city centre impassable.

This situation caused very little surprise to nationalists who, time and time again, have faced batons, plastic bullets and barricades backed by Brit/RUC gunmen, for daring to try to march into the city centre.

As the political part of the rally got under way the reason for the elaborate emphasis on lambe drums, pageantry and religion seem-

ed as though it might partly be to compensate for a lack of anything tangible the speakers could offer the assembled Orangemen.

First to speak after the religious service, was the grandiosely titled Imperial Grand President of the Orange Order's World Council, Thomas Orr. Revealing typical loyalist paranoia he accused the BBC of being heavily infiltrated by 'Republican moles' and of 'cultivating terrorists'.

He went on to describe claims of sectarianism against the old Stormont regime as 'utter nonsense', and totally rejected any possibility of built-in 'safeguards' for the nationalist community in any future six-county administration.

Following him was the Grand Master of the English Orange Lodges, Richard Roberts from Liverpool, who in an amazing display of disregard for and ignorance of the contradiction between the revolution-ary forces of Robert Mugabe's ZANU in Zimbabwe and his own

reactionary order, said: "It is ironic that the British Prime Minister should insist on majority rule in Rhodesia. Surely after ten years of murder and slaughter it is time for people in our own country to have that same right?"

He seemed to have forgotten that it is his ilk who are denying the Irish people that very right.

The final and main speaker was Imperial Grand Master Rev. Smyth.

Without openly voicing the Official Unionist demand for total integration with Britain — which might have caused muttering in the Orange ranks — he roundly condemned the moves towards an 'Independent Ulster' spearheaded by UDA leader Glen Barr, and lashed the Stormont conference in which arch-rival Paisley is now enmeshed.

Showing a selective disregard for the 'rest' of the British people who show a marked preference for a British withdrawal from Ireland, Smyth slammed the Troops Out Movement in Britain, but qualified his allegiance to the British flag throughout his speech by criticising the lack of concern of the British government and their acceptance of Maundling's dictum, 'the acceptable level of violence'.

Demonstrating his desire for peace, he called for the 'unleashing' of the British army, particularly in border areas, and said: "We demand the steady turning of the screw".

His speech ended with the reading of a charter of five 'articles of faith' — a symbolic act reminiscent of the 1912 rally, with which doubtless he hoped Saturday's rally would be favourably compared.

Yet despite the pageantry of this and the singing of 'Land of Hope and Glory' and 'God Save the Queen' which ended the rally, there was little sign at this present day rally of the scenes of euphoria enjoyed by loyalists in 1912.

In 1980 after ten years of revolutionary republican guerrilla warfare and mass street protests against the British, the loyalist camp is weakened by division, by the lack of a clear way forward and by the republican writing clearly on the wall: 'Brits out' and an end to loyalism.



# GAEDHEAL BHEAL FEIRSTE

TOMÁS Ó SÉ

Tá Gaedheal Bhéal Feirste ar fáil arís. Tá sé lán de scéalta spéisiúla agus nuacht. Tá leath anach filíochta i gcló an babhta seo. I measc na dánta tá dánta le fear as na blocanna H. Tá dánta le Seamús Ó Grianna agus Albert Fry i gcló leis.

I measc na litreacha tá litir ó chime chogaidh sna blocanna H ag iarraidh ar bhaill Chonradh na Gaeilge tacaíocht a thabairt don bhfeachtas atá ar siúl acu. Deir sé "Níl sláinte mo chomrádaithe mar a bhí nuair a thoisigh an t-anró seo: Tá ár gcuid gualaig ag titim amach, tá ár gcuid fiacila buí agus go dona..... tá beirt chara liom imithe as a meabhair mar gheall ar na coinníollacha olca seo."

Tá scéalta i gcló a léiríonn conas mar atá an Béarla á bhfuair ar mhuinntir na Gaeltachta agus a gcearta a bhaint dóibh. Chuir an scéal seo alltacht orm. Ar na mallaibh diúltuighthead scrúdú dochtúra a dhéanamh ar chuid de pháistí Thomáis Uí Mhonacháin atá ar Scoil Phadráid i nGaith Dobhair. Nuair a tháinig an dochtúir go dtí

an scoil tugadh cártaf Béarla amach do na páistí uilig le líonadh isteach. Thug páistí Thomáis na cártaf arís nó (mar atá fhios ag na maighistirí) ní líonadh a n-athair nó a mathair isteach iad. An lá ar na mháirach d'fhuagair an múinteoir nach guirfidhe scrúdú ach ar na daltaí a rabh na foirmneacha líonta isteach acu. Níor cuireadh, mar sin de, scrúdú ar pháistí Thomáis.

Tá alt eile i gcló mar gheall ar an mian-adóireacht urainiam atá beartaite i nDún na nGall. Deirtear linn go bhfuil an mianadóireacht seo an-bhaolach. Ar achan tonna urainiam a bheainfeas na mianadóirí as an talamh fuigfeair míle galún de uisce radaighníomhach 'na dhiaidh. Beidh an fuíollach seo nimhiúil go cionn 800,000 bliadhain agus ní bhfuarthas dóigh shabháilte ariamh le faghail reidighthe de. Agus lena chois sin uilig deir lucht a eolais linn go bhfuil ceangal dluth eadar mianadóireacht urainiam agus ailse na scamhóir. Tá altanna eile i gcló mar gheall ar Ghaeltacht nua Orléan, breith an



ghlúistís Hamilton i gcló Thomáis Ní Mhonacháin agus eagar — fhocal mar gheall ar an scoil nua atá beartaite a thógáil i mBéal Feirste. 'Sé príomhsceal an eagraín seo, ná go bhfuil sé i gceist ag Rialtas Bhaile Átha Cliath bunscóil na gCnoc i mGaeltacht Thír Chonaill a

dhúnadh, agus tá sin i gcló sa phaipéar seo. Molaim dár leitheoirí uilig an nuachtán seo a cheannach agus a léamh. Is féidir é d'fháil ach scríobh go dtí GAEDHEAL BHEAL FEIRSTE 27-43 Sráid na Sceiche, BÉAL FEIRSTE 12.

## SCOIL GHAELTACHTA LE DRUIDIM?

Alt le Risteard Mac Grianna. Athchlo o Gaedheal Bheal Feirste.

Tugadh ar riaghaltas Bhaile Átha Cliath loiceadh ar sheift a bhí acu le scoil eile Ghaedhealtachta a dhruidim i dTír Chonaill. Ach mur bé gur chuir Connradh na Gaedhilge suim sa cheist bheadh an scoil druidte indiu. Nó, le trí bliadhna anuas tá Roinn an Oideachais a' dhéanamh neamh-iongantais de bhunadh na gCnoc, sna Rosaibh a d'iarr go gcoinneochaidhe Bunscoil na gCnoc foscaithe.

Thug an Roinn Oideachais le fios do bhunadh na gCnoc i 1977 go rabh siad fá choinne Scoil Mhín na Manrach, scoil inar theagasc Seamús Mac Grianna lá de'n tsaoghal, a chomhnasgadh le scoil mhór úr naisiúnta an Chlocháin Léith. Sa bhliadhain chéanna, d'imthigh maighistreas na scoile a' fágáil an bpáistí uilig faoi chúram an Mhúinteora Mhic Shuibhne. Chreid Mac Suibhne nach rabh na mic-leighinn a' faghail chothrom na Féinne as siocair iad uilig, ó na naoidheanain suas go dtí rang a seacht; a bheith le chéile do achan ádhbhar.

### NEAMHIONGANTAS

D'iarr na tuismightheoirí maighistreas eile ach rinneadh neamh-iongantas d'é n-athchuinge. D'fhág sin nach rabh na gírseacháí a' foghlaim fughala agus ádhbhar eile a ba mhian le n-a dtuismightheoirí a bheith acu. Dháindeoin sin, ag cruinniú de na tuismightheoirí i Mi Eanáir chuir siad i n-úil do Roinn an Oideachais arís gurbh thearr leo an scoil a choinneáil foscailte ar fad dá mb'fhéidir maighistreas a fhosú. Thug an Roinn freagra orthu i ráiteas a d'eisigh siad ar an 22.1.80. a dubhairt go rabh socrúightheacha taistil le Clé, leis na 24 paiste a thabhairt an mhíle déag achan mhaidín 'un a' Chlocháin Léith a chomhair reidh.

"Agus" chuidh an ráiteas ar aghaidh "beidh Scoil Mhín na Manrach a' dúnadh nuair a bheidh na socrúightheacha sin déanta."

### BAILE GALLDA

Tá an Clochán Liath sa 'Ghaedhealtacht oifigeamhail' ach, má tá féin, tá aithne ag cách air mar bhaile beag gallda. Tá trí chéad páistí ar Scoil Naisiúnta an Chlocháin Léith ach amach as na trí chéad sin níl ach dhá theaghlach a' faghail 'deontas na Gaedhilge.' (Seo deontas a bheir an riaghaltas do thuismightheoirí atá a' tógáil a bpáistí le Gaedhilge). Measann an Múinteoir Mac Suibhne go dtionntochaidd páistí na gCnoc ar a'Bhéarla dá gcuirí isteach 'un a' Chlocháin Léith iad. De réir cosamhlachta is mian le bunadh na gCnoc fanacht sa Ghaedhealtacht agus bhí cuid de na daoín fá choinne a gcuid páistí a chur síos Scoil Dobhair, dá ndruidithe a scoil féin, sa dóigh is nach gcaillfeadh siad an Ghaedhilge.

An Satharn sular cuireadh ráiteas Roinn an Oideachais amach, shliúbhail Albert Fry, uachtarán an Chonnartha, fríd na cnúic go bhfeicfeadh sé an dtíochfadh le Connradh na Gaedhilge cosg a chur ar dhruidim na scoile. Cuireadh fáilte roimh Albert agus h-iarraidh air cuidiú leis na daoín an scoil a choinneáil foscailte. Agus, a' cannt na Raidió na Gaedhealtachta an oídhche chéanna, dubhairt Albert go rabh na huadaráis a' déanamh faillí i



Scoil Mhín na Manrach. Gheall Albert tacaícheacht a' Chonnartha do na daoín.

"Troidfidh Connradh na Gaedhilge seo go deireadh" a dubhairt Albert.

Ach, bhí droch-chuma ar na gnóithe Dia Máirt 22.8.80 nuair a craoladh clár an Raidió na Gaedhealtachta fá dtaobh de dhruidim na scoile. Ba é an bharúil a bhí ag léiritheoir an chlár, Pól Ó Gallchoibhair, 'go ndruidfeair an scoil ach an n-athfhosglac í?'

Roimh dheireadh na seachtaine sin, áfach, bhí a mhaíairt de chuma ar an scéal.

Ghlac Bórd na Gaedhilge agus Udarás na Gaedhealtachta le rún a' moladh do'n riaghaltas gan an scoil a dhruidim. An tseachtmhain ina dhiaidh sin tháinig scéala ó Roinn an Oideachais go rabh siad a' cur na socrúightheacha uilig do'n scoil siar go dtí go mbeadh faill acu na gnóithe a phlé le Bórd na Gaedhilge.

### RAIC

Níor mhínigh an Roinn cad fáth a dtáinig athrach de chomhairle orthu ach deirtear go rabh eagla ar an riaghaltas go gcuirfeadh Connradh na Gaedhilge an scéal ós comhair an phobail.

Ag ús na seachtóirí d'béigean do'n riaghaltas dhá sgóil a dhruid siad, Scoil Dhun Chaoin agus Scoil Rann na Feirste, a ath-fhosgladh nuair a togadh raic fá dtaobh díobhtha.

### GEALLTANAS

Caitheadh na daoín fanacht anois go bhfeicidh siad an dtíochfaidh maith ar bith as an chaint seo. Deir siad, mar a dubhairt siad ariamh, gur mhaith leo an scoil a bheith foscailte agus múinteoir eile a bheith innti. Agus, cé go bhfuil an scoil foscailte anois, deir bunadh na gCnoc nach mbeidh siad sásta go dtí go ngeallann. Roinn an Oideachais ná ndruidfeair an scoil.



# H-BLOCKS RAISED IN EUROPE

IN THREE separate initiatives the plight of the 'blanket men' in the H-blocks of Long Kesh and the women in 'A' Wing, Armagh Jail, is being pressed for urgent debate in the European Parliament in Strasbourg by three different Euro-MPs: Independent Connaught-Ulster Euro-MP Neil Blaney, French Communist Party leader Georges Marchais, and Scottish Nationalist Winnifred Ewing.

This triple attack on Britain's appalling record of inhumanity in the North of Ireland has come as a shock to complacent British Euro-MPs who are used to the cover-up and agreed blanket of silence practised at Westminster.

## BLANEY

Neil Blaney has launched a campaign urging the European Parliament to ensure that Britain respects human rights in the North of Ireland. He is seeking the support of the four-hundred-and-ten members for a resolution which instructs the parliament's legal committee to "Conduct an inquiry into the denial of human rights in the six-counties".

Blaney has drafted a three-page motion which notes 'with dismay' the emergency detention laws in force in the North under which twenty thousand people have been held for up to seven days and thirty thousand houses searched.

The motion deplores the treatment of the H-block 'blanket men' and regrets that the British authorities have refused to allow inspection of prison conditions by the International Red Cross or by Amnesty International.

## MARCHAIS

Georges Marchais has urged an enquiry into infringements of human rights in the North. Despite a fiery appeal he was unable to win enough support for his motion to be treated as urgent, but it will be considered in due course by the parliament's political committee (of which there is one Irish member: Fianna Fail group leader Paddy Lalor.)

Addressing the parliament Marchais stated that the North of Ireland is enduring military occupation, torture and concentration camps. He accused the parliament of hypocrisy when he pointed out that members are concerned about human rights throughout the world, but ignore violations within the EEC.

Winnifred Ewing has met a four-strong delegation of Derry women, who presented her with an anti-H-block petition which she presented to the president of the European parliament, Madame Simone Veil.

Asked if she feared that her action would cause anger amongst other British Euro-MPs Winnifred Ewing said: "That's fine with me, I don't care." She is a qualified lawyer and says that she has been interested in the conditions of prisoners for a long time.

The petition signed by 373 Derry relatives of the 'blanket men' demands an end to the 'cruelty, and inhuman and degrading treatment' of the prisoners and demands that international observers be sent to the North to 'solve the problems' of the 'abuses of law' by the British authorities against the prisoners. Winnifred Ewing gave the petition and other documentation relating to the H-blocks to European President Simone Veil who stated that the matter would be given serious consideration.

## DERRY

The four women delegates from Derry comprised three Creggan mothers: Mary Nells, who has two imprisoned sons, Denis and John; Anna Kelly, who has one imprisoned son, Edward; and Peggy McCool, who has two imprisoned sons; and Mary Hinchey from Dungiven, County Derry, whose brother Eunan is also imprisoned 'on the blanket' in the H-blocks.

Their visit to Strasbourg to highlight the cause of the 'blanket men' was paid for by Dutch and French human rights groups.

A week last Tuesday the women petitioned the Dutch parliamentary Committee for Human Rights and last Sunday they were presenting the prisoners' case to Amnesty International in Paris.

## KILDARE MEETING

An H-Block public meeting was held in Newbridge, County Kildare, on Sunday 22nd March, to coincide with the Leinster versus Munster semi-final Gaelic football match.

The meeting organised by Kildare Comhairle Ceannair, was arranged to inform the people of Kildare about the appalling conditions prisoners are forced to live in, inside the H-Blocks.

Hundreds of leaflets were handed out to the football enthusiasts who showed a lot of interest in the prisoners' plight.

## LEITRIM COMMITTEE

FOUR Leitrim County Councillors have been elected to a broadly-based H-Block Action Committee following a successful meeting in Drumshambo on Wednesday 12th March, which was addressed by former blanketmen Kieran Nugent and Fra McCann.

The large attendance at the meeting included six members of Leitrim County Council: Larry McMonney, Tony Ferguson, Joe Mooney and Tim Joe Short of Fianna Fail, P.J. Lynch of Fine Gael and John Joe McGil of Sinn Fein. Other councillors sent apologies and promised to attend the next meeting. Joe Mooney, Tim Joe Short, P.J. Lynch and John Joe McGil were elected to the twenty-two strong committee, the officers of which are as follows: Presidents: Dr. Harry O'Carroll and Tommie Gilroy; Chairperson: Pat Gallagher; Vice-chairperson: Michael McGowan; Secretary: Mrs. M. Keegan; and Treasurers: Jack McGovern and Tim Joe Short.

## PRISON STRUGGLE

Paper of the Relatives Action Committee March edition now available. The RAC would welcome letters and contributions from relatives or other readers. Please send all correspondence to RAC c/o 85b Falls Road, Belfast.

## TROOPS OUT

THE TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT

ATTACKS ON WOMEN IN ARMAGH PRISON

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A 'Comprehensive Guide to Information on Ireland' entitled 'Troops on Turf' is now available from Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast, who say that on receipt of a small postal order they will send it anywhere.

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# MEMORIALS

**ALLSOPP, Robert.** (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Alan Robert Allsopp who died on March 23rd 1975. Chait as a son of a son in his son's son. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

**ALLSOPP, Robert.** (5th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear son Robert who died on March 23rd 1975 R.I.P. St Joseph pray for him. O God son of Jesus we pray to thee today to aid our suffering motherland upon her blood-stained way to life. You were faithful, noble and true, serving your land in wealth and ease, Western world in the fullness of youth, and in the fullness of truth. In death thou art noble and brave. Your pure bright halo gleams from the grave pointing so clearly the road we must tread, Deriving our strength from the love of God, for you have shed against thine and thine's enemies whatever they may be. O Sacred heart of Jesus we place our trust in thee. Always remembered and sadly missed by his mother, sister and the Allsopp family circle. Also Jean O'Connor.

**CAMPBELL, Patrick.** (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Patrick Campbell. Killed as the result of an accident while on active service on March 19th 1972. Mary Queen of the Gaeil pray for him. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

**MURRAY, Kevin.** (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kevin Murray who died on March 15th 1973. Thus as a rath alge ar son saoirse. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement in Tyrone.

**McDONALD, Patrick.** (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Patrick McDonald who died on March 15th 1973. Fair as his son saoirse. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement in Tyrone.

**McGILLAN, Eugene.** (8th Anniversary). Treasured memories of our dear young friend Eugene who died for Ireland on March 14th 1972. Always loved and remembered by the McNaught family circle.

**McGILLAN, Eugene.** (8th Anniversary). Proud memories of my friend Eugene who died for Ireland on March 14th 1972. Always remembered by Patsy.

**McGILLAN, Eugene; KEENAN, Colm.** (8th Anniversary). In proud memory of Vol. Eugene McGILLAN and Vol. Colm Keenan who gave their lives on March 14th 1972. Thus glad a rath alge ar son saoirse. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

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## TOM LALLY

### MEMORIAL UNVEILING

3 p.m. Sunday 30th March

Glenties Cemetery

DUBLIN

Organized by

National Gaeil Association

## SYMPATHY

CAIRNS. I wish to express my deepest sympathy to the husband and family of my dear friend Mary who died on January 31st 1980. She died as she lived - everyone's friend, Mary Queen of Ireland. Pray for her soul. From Patsy McNaught, H-Block Long Kesh.

# BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

**CORRIGAN, Robert.** (H-Block). God bless you Ellen. From your grada and thine. From your grada and thine.

**McGILLAN, Ellen.** (A Wing, Armagh). Happy birthday Ellen. May you live to see the day when we are all free. Thinking and praying for you always. From your uncle Oliver and all your family.

**McGILLAN, Ellen.** (A Wing, Armagh). Happy birthday on 23rd March. We are thinking of you always. God bless Ellen. From Joe, Margaret and Ann.

**McGILLAN, Ellen.** (A Wing, Armagh). Birthday greetings to my sister on 23rd March. You are always in our thoughts and prayers Ellen. God bless, your loving sister Anne-Marie and Jim.

**McDOWELL, Mario.** (H-Block). Best wishes for your 21st birthday son. May God bless and guide you and all your brave comrades. With all our love from father, mother, brothers and sisters, grand and uncles.

**McDOWELL, Mario.** (H-Block). Greetings for your 21



## The Funeral Of Dan Brady

MASSIVE garda harassment marked the funeral of veteran Cavan Republican Dan Brady of Lahernahone, Ballyconnell whose death took place on Friday 14th March. From the time of his death uniformed gardai and Special Branch men mounted road-checks on all roads leading to his home, and members of the Special Task Force kept watch on the roadway leading to his house.

Despite this, a volley of shots was fired over the coffin at the removal of the remains from the house on Saturday. As the funeral proceeded to the church, a garda insisted on driving before the hearse against the wishes of the relatives of the deceased.

On the journey the garda car stopped and held up the funeral in order to allow gardai to flank the hearse in an attempt to prevent a guard of honour. They were then informed that the funeral would not proceed until they and the car withdrew. This was done after considerable delay.

On Sunday the funeral took place at Kilmavert following requiem Mass. Road-checks manned by gardai and Free State soldiers were again in operation and cars bringing people to the Mass were stopped and searched. But this intimidation did not prevent large numbers of the deceased's friends and comrades from attending the funeral.

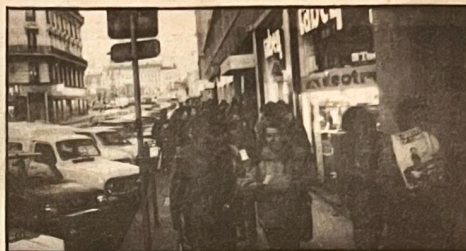
The oration was delivered by Leitrim County Councillor John Joe McGilfray who referred to Dan Brady's long association with the Republican Movement which he

joined at an early age during the War of Independence.

Whenever the West Cavan O/C asked for Volunteers for an engagement, Dan Brady was the first to step forward. He was arrested in 1920 with his brother Terry and taken to Mountjoy and from there to Wormwood Scrubs and other English jails.

He took the Republican side in the Civil War, he was one of the first to offer help to the new generation in 1956 and remained loyal to the Republican Movement until his death. Dan Brady was also a member of the Cavan County football team between 1920 and 1928.

Referring to the harassment of mourners coming to the funeral, John Joe McGilfray said that he had thought that the hijacking of Frank Stagg's body had taught them in authority the way the people resented such interference, but evidently leopards do not change their spots. He concluded by extending sympathy to the relatives of the deceased.



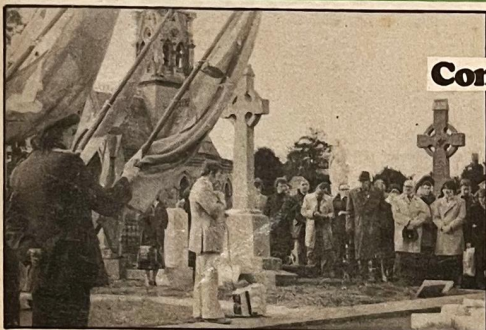
## French Picket

Forty people picketed the English consulate at Lyon in France on Monday 18th February in protest at the death of Irish prisoner Giuseppe Conlon in England, and at the conditions in the H-blocks of Long Kesh. The picket, organised by the Collectif Irlandais Libre (Free Ireland Collective) was the first street protest on Ireland in the city of Lyon for two years. More are promised.



## St Patrick's Day Float

This enlarged An Phoblacht/Republican News front page mounted on the side of a van was an entry in the big St. Patrick's Day parade through West Belfast on Monday. It received many cheers as it made its way through the Republican areas.



## Tom Smith Commemoration

THE ANNUAL Tom Smith commemoration was held last Monday at the Republican plot, Glasnevin cemetery, Dublin. Volunteer Tom Smith was shot dead by Free State forces on March 17th 1975 inside Portlaoise prison.

The parade assembled at Berkley Road church, and proceeded to Glasnevin cemetery led by a colour party of Na Fianna and Na Gailini. About one hundred people gathered at the graveside to hear Sinn Féin organiser Joe McDonagh deliver the oration. Wreaths were laid by the Smith family, by friends of Tom Smith, and by the Joe Clarke, the McCabe/Quigley and the Frank Carroll cunninn of Dublin Sinn Féin.

### SINN FEIN WOMEN

All Sinn Féin women are invited to a two-day conference on Women organised by Sinn Féin co-ordinating Committee on Women's Affairs on Saturday 29th March and Sunday 30th March at 5 Blessington Street, Dublin. A creche will be provided.

### BALLAD SESSION

Brown Derby  
James Street  
DUBLIN  
Friday 21st March  
Adm. £1. Organised by S.F. POW Dept.

### EASTER FUNCTION

featuring 'The Freeman'  
plus 'The Patriot Game' film  
Tuesday 8th April  
Woodville Arms  
LURGAN  
Admission £1.50 Late Bar

## NOTES



WELL, YOU ALWAYS KNEW THAT THESE ISLANDS WERE RULED BY WEALTHY GANGSTERS AND POWER-CRAZED PSYCHOPATHS....

... BUT WHAT ARE THE LUNATIC THINGS TALKING ABOUT NOW?

IN THE CALM AND RATIONAL TONES OF TOTAL SCHIZOIDS THEY DISCUSS...



BUT A WAR WITH RUSSIA MAY BE NECESSARY TO PRESERVE OUR FREEDOM - OUR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS -

GEE, THANKS!

LISTEN - DON'T PANIC - IT'S ALL A SMOKE-SCREEN - A DIVERSION -



THEY'RE TRYING TO DISTRACT US FROM THEIR ATTACKS ON OUR LIVING STANDARDS



I MEAN THEY'RE NOT REALLY SO INSANE AS TO BLOW THE WORLD TO PIECES - ARE THEY?



## Easter Commemorations

### SUNDAY 6th APRIL

#### BELFAST

1.30 p.m. Beechmount Ave. March to Milltown cemetery.

#### DUNGANNON AREA

MOVY: 10 a.m.  
EDENDORK: 10.30 a.m.  
GALBALLY: 11.15 a.m.  
DONAGHMORE: 12 noon  
GLISH: 12 noon  
CARRICKMORE: 3 p.m.

#### KILDARE

3.30 p.m. Grey Abbey cemetery

#### NORTH ARMAGH

DERRYMACASH:  
11.45 a.m. Ballinamoney Cottages.  
MAGHERY:  
12 noon Masherney cemetery.  
PORTADOWN:  
1 p.m. Drumcree cemetery.  
LURGAN:  
2 p.m. Francis Street.

All those laying wreaths please contact the secretary, 77 North Street, Lurgan on or before Saturday 29th March. Any one wishing to take photographs must get permission from the organisers.

#### MONAGHAN

2.30 p.m. Fergal O'Hanlon monument March to Latturcan cemetery.



### COISTE CUIMHNEACHAIN NA POBLACHTA

Applications for speakers at Easter Commemorations should be made, giving full details of venue, time etc. to: An Rurail, Coiste Cuimhneachain na Poblachta, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

ORDER YOUR EASTER LILIES Available from Mrs P. King, 29 All Saints Park, Raheny, Dublin 6. Price £10 per 1000.

Honour Ireland's dead  
— Wear an Easter Lily!

## An Cumann Cabhrach

### ANNUAL REPUBLICAN REUNION

Eamonn Ceannat Ceili Band

Friday 25th April

Clare Manor Hotel

Malahide Road

DUBLIN

Dinner: 9.30 p.m. Bar: 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. After the function buses will be available from the hotel to different parts of Dublin.

Taille: £6

All bookings, with money where possible, should be made before Monday 21st April. Tickets are available from:

Mrs. E. Barrett, 3 Castlevue Road, Clonsilla, Tel: 592863.  
Mrs. G. Sheehy, 54 Sperrin Road, Drimnagh, Tel: 507195.

Mrs. R. McClynn, 27 O'Connell Ave., Dublin 7, Tel: 304543.

Mrs. M. Adams, 105 Sutton Park, Tel: 324273.

Mrs. P. King, 29 All Saints Park, Raheny, Tel: 314941.

Organised by An Cumann Cabhrach

## H-BLOCK MARCH NEWRY

Sunday 30th March

Organised by National H-Block Committee

### DUBLIN BUSES

Leave 5 Blessington St. 11 a.m.  
Fare £2.50 return

### BELFAST BUSES

Leave Dunville Park 12 noon