

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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Milltown cemetery, Belfast, Sunday 6th April

VOLUNTEERS of the Irish Republican Army again paraded openly at several marches in the occupied North last Easter Sunday in a defiant show of Republican resistance to British rule.

Nationwide, thousands of people attended the annual Republican commemorations in support of, and marched behind, IRA, Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna Eireann contingents.

In Belfast, the capital of British colonial rule in the North, an IRA firing party were called to 'Present Arms!' by another Volunteer before sending three volleys of shots into the air as a mark of respect to their dead comrades. (Three days later in the same city a more lethal volley of over one hundred shots from an M60 machine-gun wounded every member of an RUC patrol and left one RUC man dead and another critically injured.)

Only a people's army commanding popular support can successfully, publicly bear arms as at last Sunday's commemoration. This, and the thousands on the streets in support of the IRA exposes the Brit fiction that the IRA is divorced from the community. This support is the very condition which precludes the Brits intervening against such a display of armed Volunteers — an intervention which would prove a bloody, and politically disastrous exercise.

Any small group of people isolated from the community and without support would easily and quickly be smashed by repression. But despite ten years of war, internment (of two thousand nationalists) the special courts (through which hundreds have been sent to the H-blocks) and the hundreds of Volunteers killed and injured, the ranks

DEFIANT SALUTE

of the IRA continue to be filled by fresh personnel and IRA operations are launched from undetected bases — a further indication of widespread support. Using the occasion

to once more reiterate its three main demands — a British declaration of intent to withdraw, an amnesty for all political prisoners, and recognition of the Irish people's

right to self-determination — the IRA last Sunday stated that *"The alternative is for Britain to continue repressing people, and in response to that the Irish Republican Army*

will wage war with a vengeance."

Wednesday's ambush showed just how effective the response of the IRA to British repression can be!

M60 MACHINE GUN CREATES HAVOC

IN a daring and carefully planned ambush in West Belfast on Wednesday morning IRA Volunteers manning an M60 machine-gun hit every member of an RUC mobile patrol.

The attack occurred shortly before nine o'clock when the RUC jeep came out to investigate a break-in at a library on Stewartstown Road. The break-in had been staged so as to lure out such a patrol and the Volunteers lay in ambush from the night before in a commandeered house in Doon Road.

The jeep from the nearby Wood-

bourne barracks drove into the library car-park and came to a halt. The M60 machine-gun was trained onto the back doors of the armour-plated jeep which had parked directly opposite the ambush position.

When the back doors opened a burst of one hundred shots ripped into the jeep killing one RUC man, critically injuring a second and wounding two other RUC personnel, one of them a woman constable. Despite being adjacent to a major Brit barracks the IRA active service unit safely withdrew from its ambush position.



Ambushed jeep whose four RUC occupants were all shot — one died — in Belfast on Wednesday morning.

BUILDING BOMBED

THE IRA's Belfast Brigade carried out a successful commercial bombing operation on the afternoon of Friday 4th April. Shortly after 12.30 p.m. three Volunteers armed with hand-guns entered Cathedral Buildings in Donegall Street near Belfast's city centre. They planted bombs on the first and second floor of the building which houses a number of solicitors' and finance firms' offices and a store-room. Before making good their escape the Volunteers shouted a warning enabling the building to be cleared of civilians. Two explosions occurred about forty minutes later starting a fire which caused considerable damage, and the street was closed for nearly four hours. There were no civilian casualties. The operation was well-planned and coolly-executed: the front of the building is only a few feet away from a civilian search gate which was manned by Brits who failed to observe the Volunteers entering or leaving the building.

RUC under fire

AN RUC Reservist was shot dead by the IRA's Belfast Brigade at the firm of Industrial Waste Services at Glenbank Industrial estate, Ligoniel, during the afternoon of Friday 4th April. Two Volunteers gained access to the premises by bluffing the gate man and having identified their target they shot him. The ambush was carried out at about 4 p.m. and involved a four-man active service unit which returned safely to base.

Friday was a bad day for the RUC in Belfast: in the early hours of the morning an RUC man coming off duty was seriously injured by an INLA bomb in his car parked near Mountpottinger RUC barracks in Short Strand. Following the attacks, in one of his few public utterances since replacing Newman, demoralised RUC chief, Jack Hermon, spoke of the RUC being 'dedicated to giving a service to the community' (which they are, to the loyalist community) and he vainly implored all people (he meant the nationalist community) to support the RUC.

Top targets

ASPIRING Brit Labour premier, Denis Healey, and former Brit ambassador to Washington, Peter Jay, are both on an IRA target list, an IRA spokesman has revealed in an interview published last weekend in a West German weekly magazine 'Der Spiegel'. The Republican spokesman stated that every British politician who supports Irish suppression or speaks out against Irish re-unification 'must reckon with death'. One is Peter Jay, who, during Mason's reign as direct-ruler, organised the anti-IRA propaganda campaign in the United States and who owns a house in County Cork where he was staying, but left immediately, when the IRA executed Mountbatten last year. "We are waiting for him," said the spokesman. Denis Healey has been a top target since the end of March after speaking out on RTE radio against Irish re-unification. "He will pay for it," said the spokesman.

Royal row

THE ROW over the British army occupation of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast has escalated afresh after a shooting incident in the hospital on Monday afternoon when a soldier's machine-gun fell on the floor and went off. Members of the public sector workers' union NUPE took immediate industrial action and would only handle accidents and emergency duties in protest at the military presence. NUPE branch secretary Brian Sullivan said: "There is an incredibly big army presence in the hospital. Soldiers regularly harass staff and patients' visitors.... Over the last eight months we have had continual build up of the army in the hospital complex.... Part of ward twenty has been built as a security wing, ward forty-four has a new security wing and the intensive care unit has been strengthened and identified as a security unit."

On Tuesday the NUPE branch threatened to block the entire hospital complex if a proposed close-circuit scanning system now being installed by Brit engineers goes ahead. The workers' action is being opposed by NUPE's regional organiser, John Coulthard, who was appointed by the executive council in London to take overall responsibility for 'security matters'. He has shown less than enthusiasm for ensuring the safety of his workers and demilitarising the hospital complex which is used by British forces as a base against adjacent republican areas and in which they have also mounted several observation posts.

Brits shoot pet dog

IN a typical Brit trigger-happy incident earlier this week, a soldier shot dead a barking dog in front of two petrified Belfast children whose pet it was, and only yards from where ten or twelve youngsters were playing.

The shooting occurred just before noon on Easter Monday as a Brit foot-patrol cut across a field adjoining Horn Walk in the nationalist Lenadoon estate. The dog - a Labrador/Akita cross, called Shane - ran up barking to within a few feet of the last soldier on the patrol, who without a thought fired one shot through Shane's neck.

The dog's owner, seven-year-old John O'Reilly and his cousin, seventeen-month-old Lisa Clarke, who had witnessed this from the doorway of John's home, stood looking on shivering with fright and panic-stricken. But the patrol then carried on without stopping across Horn Drive en route back to the nearby Woodbourne barracks, as Shane lay twitching spasmodically for a couple of minutes before he died.

Quite apart from the psychological harm the murder of their pet may have caused young John and Lisa, by far the most disturbing aspect is the fact that a live round of ammunition was fired in the immediate vicinity of a large group of children.

Instruction ignored

THE anti-nationalist sectarian politics of the leadership of the Northern Committee of the Irish Congress of Trades Unions (NICTU) was very much in evidence prior to the six-county-wide demonstrations against the British Tories cuts in public spending on Wednesday 2nd April.

Obsessed with winning loyalist trade unionists support for their campaign against the cuts the NICTU, in the person of RUC Police Authority member Terry Carlin, set the tone of the march by warning people to be on the look-out for H-block protestors. In fact so worried was Carlin and his fellow unionist union bureaucrats at the possibility of H-block protests that they tried to prevent workers from marching from nationalist West Belfast to the city centre. One week before the march two unions in West Belfast, the teachers' union INTO and the public sector workers' union NUPE received letters telling them that their assembly point at Dunville Park on the Grosvenor Road was changed. Instead they were instructed to join the marches in the fiercely loyalist areas of the Shankill Road and Donegall Road!

Both union branches wisely ignored the instructions thus safe-guarding the lives of their members and led a fifteen-hundred strong crowd down the Grosvenor Road to the City Hall. The marchers might as well have been on an H-block protest as far as the Brits and RUC were concerned. They flooded the area and took numerous photographs while a helicopter hovered menacingly overhead.



Sinn Fein protest in Dundalk last Saturday against the outrageous conditions in Armagh jail and the H-blocks, and for political status for the prisoners.

Outrageous conditions

CONDITIONS in Armagh jail continue to deteriorate for the thirty-two Republican women prisoners, who since early February have been denied washing and toilet facilities by a prison regime desperate to break their protest for political status. In a smuggled note the prisoners state: "The conditions which we are being subjected to are an outrage against human dignity."

On Wednesday 26th March four women prisoners were attacked by warders in the prison yard and suffered bruises and cuts.

On Saturday 29th March a prisoner had her only shirt stolen by male warders. Anne-Marie Quinn (Ballymurphy) had hung her shirt out of the cell window to air, but it was taken by the warders. Despite complaints being made to the governor, several days later the shirt had still not been returned.

On Sunday 30th March while the women were at mass prison warders entered their cells and in an act of blatant harassment emptied chamber pots over the beds.

SERIOUS

Regular acts of petty harassment by the warders include switching on and off their cell lights, banging on their cell doors and rattling their door-shutters back and forward. The governor, Scott, has also been preventing two women, Dolores O'Neill and Anne Bateson (both South Derry) from getting the regular extra visits which they are entitled to because they are on appeal.

But perhaps the most serious development has occurred with one of the women, Patricia Craig (Downpatrick), contracting a rash called 'impetigo'. The rash which has started on the side of her face, is spreading rapidly and is highly infectious. Because of her refusal to be 'criminalised' Patricia Craig has been denied medical treatment by the prison regime and the prison doctor, Dr. Cole.

SMUGGLED

In a smuggled note dated last Tuesday, April 8th the prisoners state:

"We have been over here, in 'A' wing six weeks now, since

being moved from 'B' wing and conditions are extremely bad. Our cells are completely covered in excreta and urine. The dust and dirt are building up to a marked degree. When one walks across the cell floor the dust rises up, catching at our chests and throats.

"We used to have a table, chair and locker in our cells, but the screws removed those and we are now left with just our beds. We have no sheets and no pillow cases - just old dirty grey blankets which are now completely filthy.

"We ourselves are completely filthy. We have not washed nor have we had any change of clothes

since February 7th, so we are in a filthy state.

"Many girls already have infections which through time will only get worse. Since it is six weeks since we were denied toilet and washing facilities all of us have now gone through our menstrual cycle in these filthy conditions. It is a dangerous time, the risk of infection being very high. Sanitary towels are just thrown into us without wrappings. We have nowhere to dispose of them when used, so they lie amongst the dirt and dust. The medical staff refuse to enter our cells, because of the stench.

"Although we have combis it is pointless trying to use them because our hair is that thick with dust and dirt, it is impossible to get a comb through it.

"Our skin has turned a dusty grey, not only because of the dirt but because we are locked in our cells twenty-three hours per day. The windows of our cells are boarded up with large pieces of wood thus allowing little air or daylight through. The lights need to be kept constantly on to enable us to see properly and because of this many girls are complaining of headaches. The spy-holes in our cell doors are also blocked off.

"As regards the food situation it is a major problem. Breakfast consists of porridge which is so thick and lumpy it is inedible. Bread is rarely seen and if by any chance we do get some, it is stale. Supper consists of one pancake or one sandwich.

"The quantity and quality of the food is totally inadequate. Many girls have lost weight - weight which they can ill-afford to lose. We are unlocked once at a time to collect our meals and because of this time consuming method, the majority of the girls' meals are, by the time they receive them freezing. We have complained on numerous occasions about the food but to no avail. If this situation continues there can only be serious weight losses amongst the girls.

"The attitude of the screws is extremely hostile; they are clad in protective clothing, including rucksacks. Quite frequently when a girl is out to collect her meal and the screws think she is talking too long, they drag her back to her cell making sure that they get a good few punches and kicks at her. We are constantly subjected to physical and verbal abuse from the screws."

Association

In a smuggled note, one of the prisoners, Mairead Farrell (Andersonstown), described the prisoners own attempt to gain 'free association' for themselves. Her note, dated Friday 28th March, states:

"Tension here is very high, the screws are cracking. Last night they turned all our lights off at 9.30 p.m. Myself and my cell mate Sinead Moore made a hole in our cell wall right through to Ellis O'Connor and Ann-Marie Quinn in the next cell.

"Today when we went out to the yard they left us there for over an hour. We thought it was more beatings but were brought back in and the four of us were brought to different cells.

"After two hours we were put back in our own cells. They were completely wrecked, the beds turned over and all the blankets had been thrown on the ground. The male screws had done this. They also blocked the hole with metal sheeting and soldered our beds so they can't be moved.

"They must have cracked when they saw the hole in the wall. They'll be doing a lot more cracking because most of the others have holes in their walls now."

EASTER STATEMENT FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

THE LEADERSHIP of the Republican Movement on this the 64th Anniversary of the Easter Rising sends greetings to the oppressed and struggling Irish people, to our imprisoned comrades in jails in Ireland and England, and to our support and solidarity groups throughout America, Australia and Europe.

With the dawning of a new decade, comes a new record of resistance to British imperialist rule. This generation of Volunteer soldiers and the population which supports the war, in sacrifice and in suffering, is proving to be too much for British rule. Our Movement which is geared for and dedicated to a long war, will nevertheless see gains along the road to final victory and the last twelve months especially have seen us take military and political strides.

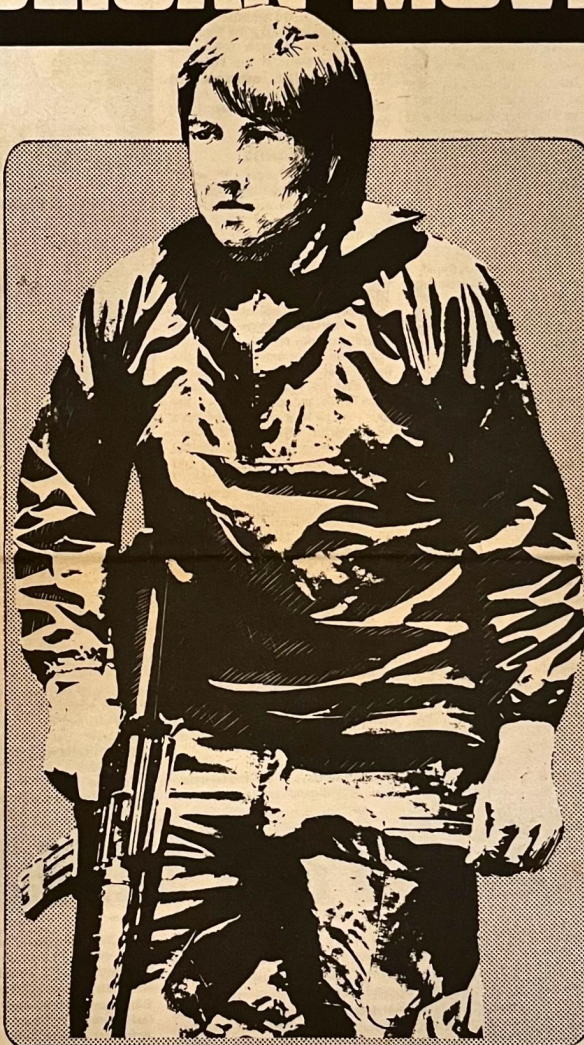
The Irish Republican Army as a revolutionary guerrilla army is organised for operations in every county in the war zone. In the past year we have inflicted serious blows on the British government and its troops. Not only have we carried out highly successful operations in Ireland but we have struck at British targets in England, West Germany, Belgium and in Holland.

Politically also the movement has advanced. There is a general realisation of the need not only to build on IRA victories but for our movement to become the voice of all the oppressed people throughout Ireland. We urge all our supporters to embrace the small struggles going on in the community around them. Just as Pearse embraced the cultural struggle and as Connolly led Labour, so we too must tie together all aspects of nationalism and socialism, and all the strands of rural and urban discontent into a surging wave of Republicanism.

This Eastertime the conditions under which the British hold our imprisoned comrades in Ireland and England are of grave concern to us all. For four years the blanket-men have led a heroic protest in the H-Blocks which has been of immense inspiration to their comrades on the outside.

For the last two months now the blanket-men have been joined by their female comrades on protest in Armagh jail who are now experiencing similar conditions and constraints forced upon them by a brutal prison regime.

At this point in time we would like to publicly salute our women comrades throughout all sections of the movement, at large or in imprisonment. Your voice — the



sound of which has raised many eyebrows — is increasingly heard within the movement today. This is another step in political progress which we have made. This is not a man's war but a people's war, and very, very much suffering has been borne by the women, be they mothers, wives, political activists or Volunteers, and the men ought to remember that without the sacrifices of the women there would be no struggle at all.

Many people, be they in government or in the churches or in political parties, have attempted to "correct" our ways for us. The British do it by torturing and jailing our people, and the churches — especially the Catholic Church — advise us that we are

wrong to struggle against an army of occupation. But we are convinced in our consciences — as the men and women of 1916 were — that what we are doing is right and that we will be vindicated at the end of the day. No one else has a solution to the cause of the violence in Ireland — British interference — and those who pose as being close to the solution — a British withdrawal and Irish unity — do absolutely nothing about resolving the situation.

Only the Republican Movement has worked and struggled for this end, which the British government, Fianna Fail and the SDLP know is the only solution.

The British government is bankrupt as

could be seen from the recent Stormont conference which never came alive. But for participating in that conference and giving credibility to the British government when it was being exposed internationally, and while it continued to torture defenceless prisoners, the collaborating SDLP leadership deserve to be roundly condemned and they will be remembered.

They know that their participation in British structures is only protracting the agony.

Similarly, Fianna Fail is bankrupt. Claiming to be the Republican heirs they beg England to show an interest in Irish independence, whereas those whose inheritance they claim — the men and women of 1916 — just gave notice and struck for freedom, a struggle which we continue today. If Fianna Fail wants Irish unity it should force the British government to pack its bags. Instead it uses Free State troops and police to help maintain the British presence.

Just as we are opposed to a sectarian Six-Counties so too would be opposed to a sectarian 32-Counties where the civil and religious liberties of the Protestants were in any way restricted. We do not believe that unity and peace between Catholics and Protestants is possible within the Six-Counties (and it is not our struggle which is the fundamental cause of the division) but we firmly believe that such unity is possible, in fact only possible, in a 32-County, Democratic, Socialist Republic. The 1916 Proclamation says:-

"The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts..."

We stand by that and we guarantee those people in the north, constituted presently as Loyalists, their rights in a secular and pluralist society.

The British government has historically fostered division in Ireland so that it could conquer Ireland. It has no healing powers in Ireland and the only contribution it can make to peace would be to withdraw. The Thatcher government had no problem in publicly recognising the armed struggle of Robert Mugabe's Patriotic Front and treating with that party.

Let the British government also be bold enough to recognise the Irish people's right to self-determination and usher in the first hope of peace in Ireland in the last 800 years.

We demand a British Declaration of Intent to withdraw, an amnesty for all political prisoners and recognition of the Irish people's right to self-determination.

The alternative is for Britain to continue repressing the Irish people, and in response to that the Irish Republican Army will wage war with a vengeance. We know we are winning. We have the determination to see this through. And we shall!

— Victory to the Irish Republican Army!
— Victory to the Irish people!

BALLYFERMOT

About one hundred people marched from Ballyfermot to Thomas Street in Dublin last Saturday carrying banners and placards condemning conditions in the H-Blocks and Armagh prison. Many people joined the march on the route. The protest is the second in recent weeks organised by the Stagg, Connolly and Emmet Sinn Fein cummains. A meeting in Thomas Street was addressed by Joe Stagg of the National H-Block Committee.

DERRY

About sixty trade unionists from twenty different workplaces attended a recent meeting called by the local organising committee for the April 20th march in Derry organised by the National H-Block Committee.

The five demands of the National H-Block Committee were spelt out and it was clearly stated that the committee seeks support for these demands on humanitarian rather than political grounds. This was relevant when Brian McCool, Chairman of Derry Trades Council, showed up to tell those assembled that they had no mandate from their unions to be there, and that in his opinion H-Block was a political issue that had no business being raised at trade union meetings. But those present explained the non-political nature of the campaign to end the scandal of H-blocks, and his objections were left groundless.

Plans were laid to raise the issue at local branch levels, and to raise it at the Annual General Meeting of the trades council. All present were urged to attend the public mobilisation meeting for the April 20th march to be held on Monday 14th April at 8 p.m. in the Bogside Inn.

DUNDALK

A meeting on the H-Blocks and Armagh prison was held in Dundalk's Market Square last Saturday, organised by Goss and Gaughan, Worthington and Waters, Duffy and Downey Sinn Fein cummains. The meeting was addressed by Paddy Duffy and Sean Murphy of Dundalk Sinn Fein and local Sinn Fein councillor Fra Browne. Three thousand leaflets were distributed and particular attention was drawn to local man 'on the blanket' Paddy Agnew.

EUROPA

The second floor of the Europa Hotel in Belfast city centre was taken over for half-an-hour on Saturday afternoon by more than a dozen members of the Belfast Centre for Relatives Action Committee to draw attention to the fraud of 'Northern Ireland Tourist Board' propaganda. To counter the board's tourist slogan, 'Discover Ireland the Beautiful, 1980' the protestors displayed a banner, from the windows of the hotel which read: 'Discover Ireland the Beautiful, Visit Europe's only Concentration Camp, the H-Blocks, Long Kesh.'

TWINBROOK

An impressive H-Block display was mounted outside St. Luke's chapel in Belfast's Twinbrook estate on Easter Sunday by the local Fennell-McDonnell Sinn Fein cummains. As well as a massive wooden 'H' the display included banners naming Twinbrook men in H-Block. Cumann members distributed copies of their news-sheet - the 'Twinbrook Liberty' - to everyone attending morning masses. The originality of this protest aroused considerable interest from all who saw it.

SEMINAR ON PRISONERS

THE SINN FEIN POW Department is organising a national education seminar on the issue of Republican prisoners, to be held in Belfast on the weekend of April 26th and 27th. Each cumann has been asked to send at least one delegate and each comhairle to send at least two delegates.

For further information telephone Tom Hartley, Belfast 23214 or Joe Austin, Belfast 46841 or write to Sinn Fein POW Department, 85b Falls Road, Belfast.

FRAME-UP!

BY PETER HAYES

FOR the fourth time twenty-four-year-old Belfast man Kevin Mulgrew has avoided conviction on trumped-up charges. His acquittal in a Belfast court on Wednesday 26th March came at the end of his joint trial with three others from north Belfast: Martin Meehan, Christopher Doherty and Patrick Burnside.

All four were accused of conspiring to kidnap a man, Stephen McWilliams, from the New Lodge Road area on July 11th last year. Despite the absence of any concrete evidence Meehan, Doherty and Burnside were each sentenced to twelve years' jail. After the verdict Mulgrew was not released because he is being held on yet another trumped-up charge.

HISTORY

Kevin Mulgrew has suffered a history of attempted frame-ups which stretch back to August 1972. Then he was charged with attempted membership of the IRA, but the charge had to be withdrawn because of its obvious stupidity.

Then in October 1976 he was charged with a bombing. An RUC man claimed he saw Mulgrew in a car that was travelling away from the bombed building. At the trial in March 1977 he was acquitted due to lack of evidence.

Eight months later in November 1977 he was again charged with another bombing. He was held in jail for fifteen months until being acquitted in February 1979. Five British soldiers were proven to be liars during the trial. They claimed they saw Mulgrew plant a bomb but from where they were concealed it was shown to be impossible for them to see the spot where they claimed Mulgrew was.

The RUC's campaign against Kevin Mulgrew has not only included its attempts to frame him. He has spent numerous stints of three and seven day orders in Castlereagh interrogation centre.

As a result of ill treatment during one of these spells in RUC custody he has taken a brutality

case to court. (In addition to this serious harassment by the forces of the state the Mulgrew family has suffered severely at the hands of loyalists in Belfast. There have been several gun attacks on the family which have left one brother Colm dead).

BIZARRE

The latest charges of which Mulgrew was acquitted involved him in the most bizarre trial to date. During the course of the thirteen day trial the prosecution's only witness Stephen McWilliams was revealed as a paid informer working for the British army since January 1979.

Under cross-examination the defence barristers exposed that McWilliams was receiving £5 a fortnight for information from the Brits. That he met them regularly and that he had a specific brief from them to watch two of the four men he later claimed abducted him, Martin Meehan and Kevin Mulgrew. He was supplied with the photographs of Meehan and Mulgrew and told to 'ring in' with a detailed report of when, where and with whom he saw either man.

McWilliams also admitted that he procured a job at the Felons Club on the New Lodge Road at the request of his paymasters and there spied on republicans. He worked there for eight weeks.

The defence established that McWilliams had a record of being involved in petty crime which was motivated by monetary gain.

McWilliams was the source of the charges against Mulgrew, Meehan, Burnside and Doherty. He claimed the four men were part of a seven man team who kidnapped him last July 12th.

For five days of the thirteen day trial McWilliams swore away the



MARTIN MEEHAN



CHRIS DOHERTY

had it been called, would have shown McWilliams to be a liar.

This witness had been in the room where McWilliams alleged he had been held and established that the curtains could not be drawn in the manner McWilliams described because the curtain rail was in three parts and not one continuous rail; the room was in total darkness — the light from the street did not shine in; and consequently it was impossible to identify anyone's outline let alone their features.

MEEHAN

In Meehan's case however the informer had done his homework well, no doubt ably assisted by the RUC.

He claimed that on the night he was moved into Ardoyne, 12th July, he saw Meehan getting out of a red Cortina car after it was used to accompany the car he was being held in. When asked how did he know the car was Meehan's he claimed to have identified it from three black stripes down the boot.

Not only had Meehan an alibi corroborated by his wife Breige but the driver of the red Cortina car which was used on the night in question turned up to give evidence that he was in fact the driver and not Meehan.

This man, Peter Halpenny from the Antrim Road was a taxi-driver and was an innocent party to the whole affair.

CONDEMNED

In the case of the other two men, Burnside and Doherty, it was McWilliams' claim that he saw them that condemned them. No other evidence was provided. In his summing-up the trial judge Gibson displayed, even by the low standards which exist in the jury-less Diplock Courts, a strong prejudice against the defence.

He dismissed the evidence of the taxi-driver Peter Halpenny with the comment that he had noted where he sat after giving evidence — he had sat directly behind Meehan's wife. And the judge then went on to praise the courage of the mercenary tout McWilliams and said he was obviously a truthful witness!

RUC harass Strabane man

BY SEAN DELANEY

AN ORCHESTRATED VENDETTA by the RUC against a twenty-year-old Strabane man appears to be the most likely explanation of a spate of threatening 'poison pen' letters, and a deliberate attempt to run him down last week.

Billy Forbes, who is a long-time member of the Molloy/Devlin Sinn Fein cumann in Strabane was held on remand for sixteen months after his arrest in September 1977.

But when he came up for trial in Belfast in January 1979 the judge ruled the signed statements extracted from Billy Forbes in Strand Road barracks inadmissible on the evidence of two doctors who testified he had been beaten up in police custody, and the case was dismissed.

On his release Billy Forbes began proceedings against the RUC for brutality yet typically, when the case came up in February of this year, it was dismissed by the judge who said that although he was satisfied that severe multiple bruising to the back of Billy Forbes' head was not self-inflicted, he was unable to say where the injuries had come from!

However, since about November

of last year, when the date for the brutality court case had been set, Billy Forbes has received six or seven abusive and anonymous letters. Some have been typed, others are handwritten, and they bear postmarks either from Strabane or Belfast. Apart from the usual abuse about 'making him sorry', the last letter contained what local Sinn Fein members consider to be enticements to incriminate themselves, asking what they intended to do to deal with local vandals and hoodlums.

One letter, referring to two Strabane men killed by the RUC, asks: 'Where were you when Kelly and McNulty were shot? We're going to get you'.

Proof, Billy Forbes believes, that these letters emanate from a member of the RUC, is indicated by the unusual fact that he has not been arrested, or his house raided, since his release from remand last

year. Yet other Sinn Fein members 'interviewed' in Strand Road are frequently asked about him and asked to pass on the message to Billy Forbes that they (the RUC) 'are going to get him'.

A further clue to the letter writer's identity was provided at nine o'clock last Friday evening as Billy left a pub with two friends. As he started to cross the road an approaching yellow cavalier car swerved towards him. As he started to run the car swerved again, and yet again, at Billy, as he finally scrambled on to the opposite path.

The angry-faced driver of the car, clearly seen by witnesses, was identified as that of local Special Branch man Gerry Walsh, the same individual that Billy Forbes' court allegations of brutality in Strand Road barracks were principally directed against.

TWINBROOK RAIDS

THE nationalistic West Belfast estate of Twinbrook has seen a

noticeable increase in British repression in recent weeks.

In the space of seven days, fifteen young men from the area found themselves in the notorious RUC Castlereagh torture centre. Thirteen were released but two nineteen-year-olds, Sean Convery and Terry Wilson, were charged with trumped up offences and will probably spend a year to eighteen months on remand in Crumlin Road jail before being released. The charges are designed to terrorise the youth of Twinbrook. Obviously if the RUC can 'intern on remand' these two, they can do the same with anyone else.

Besides the arrests large scale searches have been conducted by British troops in the estate. In one such swoop, nine homes were raided in one day in the Cherry part of the estate. Yet the people's morale has not been broken. In an attempt by the Brits last Saturday to arrest a young man in the Hitchin Post pub, a riot erupted and the Brits had to withdraw from the scene without the intended victim.

1916 EASTER 1980 COMMEMORATIONS

A round-up of Republican commemorations of the Easter Rising 1916, held on Sunday 6th April 1980.

Armagh

A large crowd gathered at the junction of Banbrook Hill and the Moy Road to march to the Republican plot, and take part in Armagh City's Easter Commemoration.

The parade was led by a colour party of local Republicans, and the Oliver Plunkett Band from Armagh. Along the route there was a heavy Brit/RUC presence.

On reaching the Republican Memorial, a decade of the rosary was said, followed by the reading of the 1916 Proclamation. The statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement was read and the Last Post was sounded. The chairman of the commemoration was veteran republican Jimmy Fields.

Sean Halpenny, Dublin, gave the oration. He spoke about the gradual demoralisation of the British war machine and the fact that the UDR are resigning on a massive scale.

Speaking of the Republican Movement he said: "We are not just a Brits out movement, we are a thinking movement with working class members and working class politics." He also called for the utmost support for the women in Armagh and men in H-block.

North Armagh

DERRYMACASH

About three hundred people attended the parade from Ballinamoney Cottages, Derry-macash, led by a colour party to the Republican plot in St. Patrick's Cemetery. The chairman was Peter Corey of Lurgan Sinn Féin. The Proclamation and the Easter Statement were read at the graveside and the oration was given by Niall Fagan.

MAGHERY

About fifty people attended the graveside ceremony and the chairman was Charlie Lavery and the oration was given by Jim Byrne of Lurgan Sinn Féin.

PORTADOWN

About fifty people attended the graveside ceremony and the oration was given by Mrs. Bernadette O'Hagan from Lurgan.

LURGAN

Two thousand people paraded from Francis Street to the Republican plot in St. Coleman's Cemetery. The chairman at the grave was Peter Corey of Lurgan Sinn Féin. The Proclamation was read by Miss Sheena Fegan of Lurgan. The Easter statement was given by a member of Lurgan Sinn Féin and the oration was given by Niall Fagan.

He said that Republican political philosophy was derived from Wolfe Tone's belief that the root of all our political evil is British interference in Irish affairs. He also paid homage to the "countless, unnamed and unknown ones — the common men and women from the fields and factories who called them gave unselfishly of their most precious possession — life itself."

Niall Fagan outlined the recent history of the liberation struggle and stated that the

Republican Movement had published programmes for a new Ireland that "would not condone denial of work or homes, or inequality in law, education and administration. This new Ireland must be free of British occupation free to plough its own furrow, free to order society to ensure a fairer distribution of the fruits of labour, leading to an era of Peace and Justice".

Belfast

An attempt by Brits or loyalists to kill Belfast Republicans at the Milltown cemetery commemoration, and possibly spark off a feud with the Sticks (as was successfully done in 1977), misfired when a bomb planted only fifteen yards from the speakers' platform exploded before the parade had assembled at the Republican plot. Fortunately, the several thousand strong march had been delayed by about ten minutes and the colour party was at the cemetery gates when the explosion occurred, blowing a crater four feet wide and scattering lumps of granite over a wide distance. No-one was hurt, although several people, including two women and a child, suffered shock.

British soldiers who usually observe the ceremony from a gravel pit-head were unusually absent, and Brit helicopters which have carried out close-up surveillance at past Easter parades also stayed well out of the way, thus re-inforcing the belief that the Brits were involved in the bombing. Later in the evening an obscure loyalist organisation, Tara, claimed responsibility for the bombing, but this must be treated with scepticism (and possibly as a deliberate means of distraction) since loyalists have over the last year carried out about fifteen assassinations without issuing any claims of responsibility. It was rumoured among the Republican marchers in the cemetery that the British army had arrested the colour party out of the Sticky parade. This rumour, though it did not prove correct, tended to heighten tension by suggesting that the Brits were rounding up 'the culprits.'

After the explosion the platform was moved away from the immediate vicinity in case of another explosion and the ceremony continued unhindered with Belfast republican Proinsias Mac Airt chairing the proceedings.



Parade making its way down Lower North Street, Lurgan.



Republican Volunteer reading the 1916 Easter Proclamation in Belfast's Milltown cemetery

After a member of the National Graves Association led a decade of the rosary in Irish, a bugler sounded the Last Post as the National and Provincial flags were lowered in solemn ceremony.

Immediately afterwards four uniformed IRA men marched to a halt and were called to present arms. Three volleys of shots were fired into the air before the men came to attention and were dismissed. Throughout the ceremony, contingents of uniformed Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna h-Eireann stood to attention. After the reading of the Proclamation MacAirt introduced the guest speaker, veteran Derry Republican, Sean Keenan.

Sean said:

"While Haughey and Hume and Brit ministers can speak with pride and understanding of Pearse and Connolly it should never be forgotten that Pearse and Connolly actively sought to destroy the power and status and privilege of the Haugheys and Humes of their day, the self-same lackeys of British imperialism who sought their own power in a united Ireland based on the British economic system and supported by Brit capital and firepower..."

"Look at your own city of Belfast. What do you see? A sprawling city of chronic unemployment, slums, high-rise flats, teenagers without hope, families subsisting on inadequate government hand-outs, precarious pockets of employment provided by Brit and foreign multi-nationals and over and above all this deprivation an occupying army walks the streets to maintain the power and authority of those who



Damage caused by no-warning bomb in Belfast's Milltown cemetery at a spot adjacent to the Republican plot a few minutes before the parade reached it.

thrive on misery and unemployment, bad housing and low wages, our masters in Westminster and in business and commerce.

"The Republican Movement aims to bring down this regime,

not by infantile threats and vague hopes that after 'Brits Out' a new and just order will somehow magically establish itself but by the rigorous application of socialist principles based on the particular conditions of Irish life.

"As revolutionaries we must learn from our past errors. We have at times neglected the validity of certain areas of struggle. The importance of organised labour has but recently been stressed. Certainly the role of the trades unions in the north of Ireland has been one of almost complete support for Brit government policy and therefore is without credibility.

"But we must accept an element of blame here because of our reluctance to participate in the unions. We must involve ourselves more fully in all aspects of union struggle and our radicalism must reach to all levels.

"The overall value of all the various forms of struggle must be recognised. We should give support to all groups and elements who pose alternatives to Brit rule, be they trade unions, community and tenant groups, unemployed committees, women's movement..."

"The Republican Movement will press on to victory but our victory will not be of the kind which simply replaces one set of trappings for another. We are out to replace the military economic and social oppression of our country, by a socialist society based on the 1916 proclamation and the democratic programme of the First Dail Eireann..."

FOR MORE REPORTS SEE PAGES 6, 7 & 8

Cavan

Cavan's commemoration took place in Kilinealeck to the grave of Edward Boylan who was killed in 1922. The parade led by a colour party included three bands and several hundred people from all over the county.

At the cemetery the proceedings were chaired by Sinn Féin county councillor Charlie Boylan, a nephew of Edward Boylan. Following a decade of the rosary in Irish the 1916 Proclamation was read by Dan Daly, the Easter statement was read, and several wreaths were laid.

The oration was given by Christene Elias who stressed that the victory being sought was not that envisaged by Free State pseudo-patriots like Charles Haughey.

Clare

Four commemoration ceremonies were held in Clare in Lisdoonvara, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Doonbeg and Crusheen.

NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS

One hundred people joined the parade in Newmarket-on-Fergus to Clonlough cemetery led by a Fianna colour party. Chairman at the ceremonies was Eugene MacLogain and a decade of the rosary in Irish was led by Kieran Meehan.

DOONBEG

At Doonbeg a tricolour-led parade marched to the republican plot where the chairman was Martin Calligan and the 1916 Proclamation was read by Martin Shannon. A piper played a lament at the graveside. Almost two hundred people listened to an oration by Frank Graham from Dublin.

CRUSHEEN

The main commemoration took place in the afternoon at Crusheen. The parade led by a Fianna colour party marched to the republican plot where the proceedings were again chaired by Martin Calligan. The 1916 Proclamation was read by Eugene MacLogain and a decade of the rosary in Irish recited by Labhras O'Donoghue.

A piper played a lament and Frank Graham again gave the oration. He described the present generation of republicans as the strongest ever and praised their determination to carry on the struggle as long as it takes. He said that the nationalist people in the North would want more than a thirty-two county Free State.

Cork

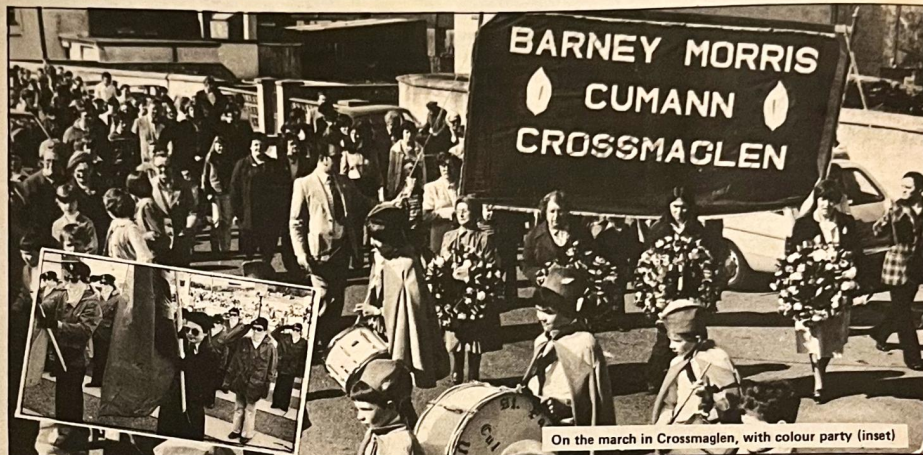
There was a large turnout in Cork for the commemoration ceremonies which began in Grand Parade where wreaths were laid at the memorial. The parade was led by a colour party, contingents from Na Fianna, Na gCaillini and Cumann na mBan and the Cork Volunteer Pipe Band. On the way to the Republican Plot in St. Finbar's cemetery a wreath was laid outside Cork prison.

Chairman of the proceedings was Peadar Beecher, and the 1916 Proclamation was read by Mrs. Harrington. Among the many wreaths laid was one on behalf of the Republican Movement laid by veteran of the Tan War, Tom Kelleher.

The oration was given by George Lynch, Dublin, who spoke of the relevance of 1916 and the continuity of the struggle over the centuries, a struggle which would continue as long as necessary. He stressed the importance of support for the prison struggle and spoke of the importance of unity of purpose among republicans. He urged his listeners to become involved in social and economic struggles through their trade unions, cultural and action groups.

EASTER COMMEN

A round-up of Republican commemorations of the 19



On the march in Crossmaglen, with colour party (inset)

There was continuous garda harassment of the parade and several attempts to disrupt and provoke the marchers, but the discipline of all those involved ensured the success of the commemoration.

Crossmaglen

There was a major display of strength by the IRA at the commemoration in Crossmaglen at which the Army Council Easter statement was followed by another statement from the local battalion of Oglagh na hEireann. The oration was delivered by Belfast republican Malachy McNally.

The entire community was represented in the parade through Crossmaglen and the marchers included a colour party of Oglagh na hEireann, Sinn Féin, and Cumann na mBan members. The Tricolour was carried as well as the high Barney Morris Sinn Féin banner, at the head of the parade. Two bands added a touch of Easter melody to the proceedings.

After a decade of the Rosary was recited in Irish by a local priest at the republican plot, the proclamation was read. It was followed by a reading of the Easter Message from the leadership of the Republican Movement and later the statement from the 2nd Battalion of Oglagh na hEireann at Crossmaglen, part of which said:

"We have fought the fight for freedom over the last ten years with bomb and bullet in the fields, on the roads, and in the streets of Crossmaglen and we thank you for the support you have shown us over all these years. We know the difficulties you experience from time to time and the hardship which you must endure as the war goes on, but we also know that you realise freedom is something precious and cannot be achieved without sacrifice.

"We take this opportunity to assure you that our volunteers are at all times conscious of the importance of ensuring there must be no civilian casualties. And the great care we have taken in the last ten years of the struggle is reflected by the fact that there has not been a single civilian injured in any of our operations.

"Indeed, we wish it to be known that in recent months some operations were called off in Crossmaglen at the last moment

because of the unexpected presence of civilians in target areas which we had already cleared. Let that be the answer therefore to those Brit-loving critics who rush to condemn us.

"We are happy to declare today that the IRA was never in as strong a position than at present in Crossmaglen and South Armagh. And we can tell those Brits who are listening now to what is being said here at this graveside, that we were never in a better position to strike at all sections of the Crown Forces and at economic targets.

"In relation to economic targets, we must refer to the North/South electricity link which we have succeeded in severing in our territory. Such propping-up of services in occupied Ireland from the Free State cannot be tolerated and Electricity Board workers who ignore our warnings, do so at the peril of their lives.

"Now we wish to refer to the question of loose talk. We have warned about this in past years and we have been forced to take drastic action in the past. We regret it is still continuing and we have now been able to pinpoint a number of sources through which certain information is being passed to the enemy.

"Those involved have ignored our warnings and this brings us to the sad part of this statement.

"We regret to have to say that as a result of several warnings being unheeded, we now have to execute another informer in this area.

"Announcing this may shock many people but we are left with no alternative in the present war situation. We must protect our volunteers — and the Crossmaglen community — against informers. That is why we must take this action."

Derry

The Derry parade, numbering several thousand, assembled in the Bogside, leaving at 2.30 p.m. for the city cemetery. Heading the columns of marchers was a colour party of uniformed Volunteers followed by contingents of Cumann na mBan and Cumann na gCaillini. In the parade itself the banners of the various Derry Sinn Féin cumann were carried, and to the sound of the James Connolly Flute Band from

Glasgow, the marchers made their way to the Republican plot.

On reaching the plot the parade stopped for a few minutes while wreaths were laid on behalf of the IRAs Derry Brigade, and by the families of dead volunteers. A minute's silence followed in remembrance of all those who had given their lives in the cause of Ireland's freedom.

The marchers moved forward to the platform for the day's main ceremonies chaired by Johnny Johnston of Derry Sinn Féin. A decade of the Rosary was recited in Irish by recently released 'blanketman' Liam Carlin from Shantallow. The 1916 Proclamation and the Easter message from the leadership of the Republican Movement were read out and a uniformed member of Cumann na mBan stepped forward to read out the names of the city's Republican dead.

Tom Hartley, Ard Comhairle member and chairman of Belfast Sinn Féin, gave the oration.

It was the people of Derry City, he said, who had opened the door to the present phase of the struggle for national liberation when in 1969 — in defence of their homes — they had defeated the hated RUC with their bare hands. It was the people of Derry who created the first liberated areas in Ireland since the Black and Tan War of 1920-1921. The spirit of 1916 rose out of Derry to haunt the British, and that spirit is very much alive today. By their actions over the last eleven years the people of Derry had asserted their right to national freedom, and had embarked on

the task of creating their own future and destiny.

Drumboe

Thousands of people attended the commemoration in Drumboe, County Donegal where there was the largest crowd for years. The parade from Johnston's Corner Stranorlar was led by an eight man colour party of well-drilled IRA Volunteers followed by the Strabane and Letterkenny bands.

The parade went through Ballybofey to the county memorial where wreaths were laid and then to Drumboe where the four Drumboe Martyrs were murdered by a Free State execution squad in 1923.

At the commemoration ceremony the 1916 Proclamation was read by Mrs. McGilligan, Strabane, the Donegal Roll of

EASTER MESSAGE

"We the Republican prisoners, comrades and supporters. T fallen comrades we send our love and our love will be the fought and died for; what the — a 32-county socialist republic. "To our comrades in Arm we send greetings. To our co Well done, keep it up". "We reaffirm our support congratulate and endorse the

Honour was read b McIlhenny, Lifford, and of the rosary in Irish w by Paddy McKelvey, D The oration was given Fein vice-president O'Connell.

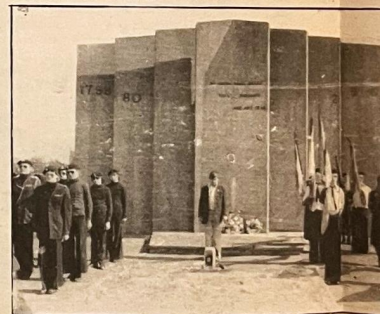
Dublin

Over three hundred people ed to Glasnevin cemetery Dublin for the commem where they listened to oration from Mary M from Belfast. Mary also the Dun Laoghaire com on the next day which over one-hundred-and-fif

Sunday's march, whic from the pro-chaire Cathedral Street was le IRA colour party, conti Fianna Eireann and Cu gCaillini, and the Blac Band from Howth.

Joe McDonagh of Du Fein chaired the comm A minute's silence was for those who had die present war. Mick Quinl released after six year laoise, read the 1916 Pro and wreaths were laid or the Republican Move Fianna Eireann and Sinn

Mary McDermott, w was killed on active serv said that the flame that 1916 had never been ex and had burst into a



ABOVE: Dublin's Glasnevin cemetery; BELOW: Derry



MEMORATIONS

1916 Rising, held on 6th April 1980.

MESSAGE FROM POWS IN ENGLISH JAILS

Prisoners held in British jails send greetings to our parents, wives, husbands and children of our country. To the parents, wives, husbands and children of our country, we say: "We are sorry, Yours have been the great loss; they will be the inspiration that will bring to a reality the goal they set their predecessors Tone, Connolly and Mellows died for."

In Armagh, the H-Blocks and other Brit and Free State jails, we are comrades on the ground bearing the brunt of the fight, and we support the Republican Movement in Ireland and from the policy decisions taken at the last Ard-Fheis."

read by John O'Donoghue, and a decade of Irish history, Doochary, was given by Sinn Féin Daithi

rel people march- cemetery in North commemoration read to a spirited Why McDermott also spoke at the commemoration which attracted and fifty people. ch, which started protracted in was led by an y contingents of and Cumann na Breithe Raven

th of Dublin Sinn commemoration. ne was observed had died in the k Quinlan, recent- six years in Port- 1916 Proclamation laid on behalf of Movement, Na and Sinn Féin.

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erry city

to crush you have been met with fierce and unrelenting resistance in Fermanagh. You added a new phrase to the dictionary: 'earthquake bomb', after a 1200 pounder relocated Kinawley RUC barracks some distance down the road. In another cool and daring operation, volunteers of Oglagh na h-Eireann executed a hated SAS/RUC undercover team not far from here. Overall, such a high level of operations has been maintained against enemy forces, so badly the morale of these mercenaries has been shaken, that some have even taken to shooting themselves."

which will eventually sweep the British out of Ireland.

She attacked the hypocrisy of the Free State politicians who claim that the men of 1916 would disassociate themselves from the present struggle. She asked was the havoc wrought on the British by the Volunteers in Mount Street in 1916 any different to that in Belfast and South Armagh.

She said that the working class were always the victims of repression and that the jails and cemeteries were full of workers. The men of 1916 did not fight to have Ireland carved up but for a social republic which the present generation of republicans were seeking to establish. In such a republic the wealth of the nation would be owned by the Irish people and not taken away by foreign speculators or native capitalists.

She also paid tribute to the prisoners in Armagh and in Long Kesh and said that the H-block struggle was unparalleled in Irish history.

Fermanagh

Fermanagh Republicans have for several years made a pilgrimage round the various patriot graves scattered throughout the county, and this year's commemoration was held for the first time in Arney, at the graveside of Philip Cassidy, one of the twelve Fermanagh men who fought in the 1916 Rising, was wounded and interned in Frongoch Camp in Wales where he contracted the tuberculosis that brought on his death in 1938.

Upwards of four hundred turned out, and the march itself was reminiscent of a miniature Bodenstown as it wound its way through country lanes in bright sunshine, led by a well-disciplined colour party and two fine local bands, the 'Mountain Roads' and the Newtownbutler Band. At Cleenish Parish Cemetery, a member of Canon-Maguire cumann chaired a dignified and well-organised commemoration.

The oration was given by Martha McClelland of Derry. She said that the young people of Fermanagh were never found lacking when it came to upholding the Republican pledge of resistance.

"Britain's savage measures to crush you have been met with fierce and unrelenting resistance in Fermanagh. You added a new phrase to the dictionary: 'earthquake bomb', after a 1200 pounder relocated Kinawley RUC barracks some distance down the road. In another cool and daring operation, volunteers of Oglagh na h-Eireann executed a hated SAS/RUC undercover team not far from here. Overall, such a high level of operations has been maintained against enemy forces, so badly the morale of these mercenaries has been shaken, that some have even taken to shooting themselves."

She went on:

"Republicans, as revolutionaries, must recognise that success is our business. Republicans must develop a fundamental skill: learning from mistakes of the past, so that we do not repeat them today. Remember—Republicans pay for their mistakes with their lives. We dare not risk losing the ground gained by the red blood of our martyrs simply by refusing to analyse the present situation and apply the lessons taught by past battles to the ever-changing present."

"We can take one great lesson from 1916: the secret of its success, where it did succeed, was in united action. In Dublin, the cause of labour was wedded to the cause of nationalism, and in Easter Week the IRA, the IRB and the Irish Volunteers together went out to proclaim the Republic. By the same token, the greatest failure of 1916 was seen where this unity was lacking. The almost total failure of the Rising in the Provinces, and the fatal chaos and confusion brought about by Eoin MacNeill's confrontation with the leadership at the crucial time must not be forgotten."

"If we are to win, we as Republicans must discipline ourselves to improving communication and unity within our ranks in the Republican Movement. Make no mistake: whenever the enemy sees us divided, he leaps forward to destroy us. Do not make his task easier; let us move forward in 1980 as a single body, disciplined and united, presenting a solid and invincible front to our age-old enemy."

Galway

Two commemorations were held in County Galway. In the morning, a bigger than usual crowd attended the ceremonies at the Republican plot in Oughterard, which were chaired by Paddy Gibbons.

The afternoon ceremonies were held in Donaghpatrick where a colour party led the parade, which included the Galway City Band and the Athenry City Band on the one and a half mile route to the local cemetery. There was a large attendance at the commemoration which was chaired by Frank Glynn, who is Sinn Féin chairman of Galway County Council.

The Easter statement from the leadership was read, and a decade of the rosary in Irish recited. The 1916 Proclamation was read by Joe D'Arcy, son of Tony D'Arcy who died on hunger strike in Mountjoy jail in 1940. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement and Sinn Féin.

The oration was given by Gearoid MacCarthaigh of Cork. He recalled the death of Tony D'Arcy and the attempted smears against the Republican Movement then which continue today. He praised the present generation of republicans and said that the young people of today were the finest that had ever taken up the fight.

Kildare

The parade in Kildare town left the Square, led by a colour party, and marched to the Grey Abbey cemetery. Banners included one from Kilkullen Sinn Féin, the

Kildare Comhairle Ceantair and a Smash H-Block banner. At the republican plot, the ceremonies were chaired by Matt Conway, a decade of the rosary in Irish was recited by Ms O'Donnell and the 1916 Proclamation was read by John Ryan, Newbridge. The Easter statement from the leadership was read.

The oration was given by George Staggs, Meath. He recalled the deaths of the men who were buried at that spot, shot in the Curragh in 1922, and spoke of those who had died since then in the continuing fight.

Leitrim

A very well attended commemoration was held in Aughnasheelin, County Leitrim at the grave of Brigadier Seamus Wrynné, Captain J.J. Reilly, and Lieutenant J.J. Reilly who were killed by the Black and Tans in 1921. The parade was led by a colour party followed by the Kiltubrid Pipe Band.

The proceedings were chaired by Michael Keegan of Ballinamore. Also in attendance were Seamus Wrynné's brother Michael, his nephews Tom and Michael, and a niece Maire Connolly. His grand-niece Mary recited a decade of the rosary in Irish. A nephew of J.J. Reilly, Eamonn Tubman, was also present. Tom Bannon gave the oration.

Limerick

The commemoration in Limerick city was held on Sunday morning. The parade, from Bedford's Row to Mount St. Lawrence cemetery, was led by a colour party and the Southside Band. At the republican plot the chairman was Tom Maloney, a decade of the rosary in Irish was recited by Eoin O'Núnaid, the Easter statement from the leadership was read and several wreaths were laid. A wreath was also laid on the grave of Sean Glynn, who died in Arbour Hill prison in 1936.

The oration was given by Sinn Féin director of publicity Sean O'Bradagh.

In the afternoon a commemoration was held in Athesa. The oration was given by Jimmy Reidy.

Longford

Hundreds attended the ceremonies in Drumlish, County Longford where the parade, led by a colour

party and the Mullaghoran Children's Band from Cavan, marched to the Tom Kelleher memorial. Chairman at the commemoration was local Sinn Féin county councillor Sean Lynch. The 1916 Proclamation was read by Mr. Murphy. A niece of Tom Kelleher (who was killed in 1921) recited a decade of the rosary in Irish. The oration was given by Padraig Malone from Limerick.

Louth

DROGHEDA

Two commemorations took place in County Louth. The morning ceremony was held in Drogheda where a Fianna colour party led the parade, followed by the Lady of Lourdes Drogheda Band and majorettes, to the Memorial Cross on Marsh Road.

The proceedings were chaired by Tom Gogarty. A young woman read the Easter statement from the leadership and wreaths were laid on behalf of the IRA, Sinn Féin local cumainn and Na Fianna Éireann. The oration was given by Anthony O'Malley Daly of Ballyshannon.

He recalled the struggle of the sixty-four years since 1916 and the various methods of repression and duplicity that Britain has used to continue her rule in Ireland. He spoke of the collaboration of successive Dublin governments and of the sufferings of those who are imprisoned at the hands of both governments.

DUNDALK

Anthony O'Malley Daly also addressed a five hundred strong audience at the commemoration in Dundalk in the afternoon. A colour party had led the parade, which included the Wolfe Tone Band from Newry, from the Square to St. Patrick's cemetery. The ceremony was chaired by Fra Browne local Sinn Féin county and urban district councillor.

Mayo

The Mayo commemoration was held this year in Ballinrobe where almost four hundred people marched to the local cemetery. The parade was led by an IRA colour party and two pipers. At the cemetery a decade of the rosary in Irish was recited by Carmel Roche and the Mayo roll of honour read out. A bugler sounded the Last Post.

The oration was given by Jack Murphy, Dublin. He spoke of the continuity of the Republican Movement as witnessed by the presence at the commemoration of General Tom Maguire the only surviving member of the Second Dail. He stressed the need for unity and continued support for the prisoners in H-block and Armagh.

Monaghan

About four hundred people took part in the Monaghan commemoration which began at the Fergal O'Hanlon monument, where a wreath was laid by his sister Mrs. P. Murphy from Wexford. The parade then marched to Latluran cemetery led by a twelve man colour party, a contingent from Na Fianna Éireann and the Knockatallon Accordion Band.

The ceremony at the Republican Plot was chaired by Frank McCaughy, Sinn Féin chairman of Clones Urban Council. A decade of the rosary was led by Jimmy McElwaine, Knockatallon and the 1916 Proclamation read by Gemma Cullen. The statement from the leadership was read, and the Last Post sounded by Francis Mohan. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the IRA, Na Fianna and Sinn Féin. The oration was delivered by Liam Minnagh, Cavan during which his reference to the Republican determination to continue with the struggle to the end was warmly applauded.

Prior to the parade wreaths were laid in Clara graveyard on the graves of Sean McKenna and his brother Patsy who died recently, and on the grave of Connie Green who was killed at Roslea in 1956. The wreaths were laid by Brendan Toal, chairman of Monaghan Comhairle Ceantair, and Lucy McKenna, daughter of Patsy. A short oration was delivered by Padraig O Baoill.

Newry

Newry's commemoration was held in the morning, and a thousand people took part in the parade, which was led by a civilian colour party, from the Mall to the Republican Plot in St. Mary's cemetery. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the IRA, Cumann na mBan, Na gCailíní, Na Fianna, Sinn Féin and the Relatives Action Committee. Cyril Toman gave a short oration.

As the parade entered the graveyard two jeep loads of Royal Marine Commandos tried to drive through the colour party, and spat at them when they refused to give way.

Roscommon

This year's commemoration ceremonies in Roscommon took place in Loughglinn where two hundred and fifty people followed the Raheen Pipe Band in the tricoloured march. The parade went first to Kilindanne cemetery where a wreath was laid by the sister of Patrick Glynn, killed in action in 1920. The main ceremonies took place at the republican plot in Colliytoe cemetery.

Chairman of the proceedings was Michael Mulligan, the 1916 proclamation was read by Eddie Clarke and a decade of the rosary

CONTINUED P.8



Dundalk colour party

CONTINUED FROM P.7

in Irish was recited by Pat Friar. Following the statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement, the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Robert Flynn.

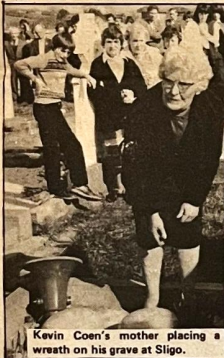
The oration was given by Rita O'Hare, during the course of which she warned that the gaining of a thirty-two county Ireland was pointless unless it was a socialist republic. She urged her listeners to see the struggle of the poor and oppressed as their struggle and to involve themselves in the social and economic battles of the people as deeply as in the national struggle. She mentioned Roscommon's history in the Land War and gave as an example to follow that of Roscommon man James Monds who had been a leader in land agitation as well as in the national struggle for which he had given his life in the Tan War.

Following the oration, wreaths were laid on behalf of the Republican Movement, Sinn Féin, the County Commemoration Committee, the republican prisoners and several local families. A wreath was also laid on the nearby grave of Toby Scally.

Sligo

The venue for Sligo's Easter parade was switched this year from the 'memorial of Sligo's Noble Six', to the graveside of Volunteer Kevin Coen, shot by plain-clothes British soldiers while on active service on the Fermanagh/Cavan border in January 1975.

In glorious sunshine a two-hundred strong crowd led by a pipe band marched a short



Kevin Coen's mother placing a wreath on his grave at Sligo.

distance to the graveside. Among the crowd were Kevin Coen's mother, Molly, and his sister Elizabeth and brother Jimmy.

Sinn Féin Ard Comhairle member P.J. Kearney chaired the proceedings. Three wreaths were placed on the grave, one from the Republican Movement, one from the family and another from a friend of the family.

After a decade of the rosary Brian McHugh read the proclamation. The IRA's Easter message was then read followed by an oration by Belfast Republican, Jim Gibney. He expressed thanks to the people for providing the essential logistical back-up to the armed struggle in the north. He went on to review the military highspot of the past year, most notable being the Warrenpoint ambush and the execution of Mountbatten.

In his address he urged local Republicans to get involved in the every day struggles of the 'labouring class', both urban and rural. He said there was a simple formula to follow: organise, agitate, and educate. If followed then this strategy would pay dividends which republicans could then use, to build the funeral pyre for the twenty-six county state.

1916 EASTER 1980 COMMEMORATIONS

A round-up of Republican commemorations of the Easter Rising 1916, held on Sunday 6th April 1980.

Nth Tipperary

THE North Tipperary commemoration was held this year in the village of Ballina. The march formed up in the village and marched the short distance to the local cemetery to the graveside of Padraig Mac Conmara.

Padraig was executed along with three comrades, Martin O'Shea, Pat Russell and Fred Burke by the Free State forces in Roscrea military barracks on January 13th 1923. At the graveside wreaths were laid on behalf of Oglagh na hEireann, North Tipperary Sinn Féin and the Borrisoleigh cumann of Sinn Féin.

The proclamation was read and a decade of the rosary recited. The Easter message from the leadership of the Republican Movement was followed by an oration by Micheal Mac Conmara, Dublin.

In the past year, he said, great strides had been made by the Republican Movement on both the military and political fronts. The success of the Mullaghmore and Warrenpoint ambushes and the extension of the war to the continent are a source of inspiration to all Republicans.

Sth Tipperary

The largest ever crowd attended the commemoration at Fethard in South Tipperary. The parade followed the tricolour from Coolbawn Cross to the grave of George Plant in St. Johnstown. Chief Marshall at the proceedings was Tom Sullivan, the chairman was Marcus Fogarty. Sinn Féin's local councillor Finbar Kissane read the 1916 Proclamation and the Easter statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement was read. A sister of George Plant was also in attendance.

The oration was given by Leitrim republican, John Joe McGirl. He recalled the execution of George Plant in Portlaoise Prison in 1942 after he had been found not guilty by a court but given an automatic death sentence by a special military court set up afterwards by Fianna Fail.

He pointed out that the active collaboration of the Free State with the army of occupation still continues.

Tralee

There was a large attendance at Tralee's commemoration where the parade to Rath cemetery was led by an IRA colour party and a contingent from Cumann na gCailiní, and included the Cullen Pipe Band, Cork and the Gillbrien Band. At the Republican Plot the ceremonies were chaired by George Rice. Paddy Campbell recited a decade of the rosary in Irish and the Easter statement was read.

Following the Easter commemoration Brian Sheehy, son of the late J.J. Sheehy, unveiled a bust of the late Liam Cotter, who died in New York in March 1977. The bronze bust is the work of Breton sculptor Yan Renard-Goulet. Declan Ryan recited a decade of the rosary in Irish. In a short oration George Rice referred to Liam Cotter's outstanding contribution to the struggle for Irish freedom.

Wreaths were laid by Mai Daly on behalf of the Republican Movement, Michael O'Brien on behalf of Sinn Féin, Mrs. Dowd on behalf of the prisoners, John McKenna on behalf of An Cumann Gabrach and Lucy Tuohy on behalf of Cumann na gCailiní. The oration was given by Sinn Féin President Ruairi O'Bradaigh.

The Easter Rising of 1916 marked the first breakthrough of progressive forces on the world stage of the 20th century. The Irish made the initial crack in the British Empire and set a headline for all oppressed peoples and nationalities in the anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist struggle.

The Easter week 1916 fused together the various strands of Irish revolutionary opinion: the Fenian dimension was represented by Tom Clarke, the Gaelic tradition by Pearse himself and the social struggle by James Connolly. The radical nationalist majority and the radical socialist minority joined together in one national liberation movement, thus demonstrating that their objectives were not contradictory — as some would have us believe today — but rather complementary.

Nor was 1916 an accidental happening. Rather did it come, as

Thomas McDonagh said to the British courtmartial which sentenced him to death, "In due recurrent season, the logical outcome of forces that are ever at work."

And so it has been since then, through the four glorious years of 1917 to 1921, through the counter-revolution of 1922 and '23 which established the present British colonial statelet in the six-counties and the neo-colonialist twenty-six county state.

Kerry has contributed its share to the struggles then and since: in the 1939 — 40 bombing campaign in England, in 1942 in the six-counties, in the 1956 — 62 resistance campaign in the north and again in the most heroic effort to date, that from 1969 to the present day.

Today's struggle against British rule in Ireland has come in "due recurrent reason, the logical outcome of forces that are ever at work" and it seeks — as in 1916 — national and social liberation, political and cultural renewal.

That struggle depends absolutely on the ordinary people, both rural and urban, and as Republicans we must be totally involved with the people at ground level reflecting and expressing their needs and aspirations in their day-to-day strivings for a fuller and better life and control of their own destinies. We must therefore take part in trade union, cultural and progressive voluntary bodies and maintain links with the mass movements of the people.

The objective remains a Democratic Socialist Republic with maximum power at local level in the community and with workers' involvement in their places of employment, rather than a centralised bureaucratic state which denies freedom and human rights. The imperialism of the West based on the EEC and the multi-national companies is equally rejected as a denial of all the men and women of 1916 stood for — "Ireland for the Irish".

West Tyrone

Over eighty Republican supporters turned out at Augharian, near Castleterry in West Tyrone for the local commemoration which was chaired by Felix McAteer and

addressed by Armagh Republican Tony Fields. In an attempt to suppress Republicanism in the area the SAS, a few years ago, murdered the chairman of the local cumann, Mick McHugh, and many locals have been harassed and arrested since.

Wreaths were laid on the grave of Vol. Seamus Harvey (killed 1973) on behalf of West Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair and Oglagh na h-Eireann. Wreaths were also laid on the grave of John Phillip O'Donnell, an old Republican who had been imprisoned in the 1920s, and on the grave of Gerald McGlynn, killed with Seamus Harvey in 1973.

After a decade of the rosary was said, the proclamation was read before the main speaker Tony Fields gave the oration. He stressed the continuity of the struggle, "this is the same IRA fighting the same enemy." He said the attacks on the Republican Movement by the various political parties were nothing but cheap and sensational publicity, but, "the harder they attack us, the better we know we are hurting them." He concluded that the Republican Movement was the only organisation which could win Irish Freedom.

Wexford

In County Wexford there was a dual commemoration, at Enniscorthy in the morning and Wexford town in the afternoon.

ENNISCORTHY

In Enniscorthy the parade marched through the town led by a colour party from Na Fianna Eireann and the Wexford Fife and Drum Band. Wreaths were laid at the Rafter memorial and the O'Brien-Spillane plaque at the town's post office. It then proceeded to St Mary's cemetery where the ceremony at the grave of George Keegan (killed at Edentubber in 1957) was chaired by local Sinn Féin councillor Sean O'Duill.

The 1916 Proclamation was read by Kevin Sheehan and a decade of the rosary in Irish was recited. Wreaths were laid on this grave and on the graves of several other republicans in the cemetery. The oration was given by Charlie McGlade who called for renewed efforts and continued unity in the struggle. He stressed the importance of support for the prisoners and their dependants. He told his listeners to get involved with the people, in the areas which concerned them most, housing, jobs and education and not to sit back waiting for a victory in the North before becoming active on these matters.

WEXFORD

In Wexford, in the afternoon, the parade was again led by a colour party and the Wexford Fife and Drum Band, the Loch Garman Silver Band was also in the march. Several hundred people, including the town's mayor, John Roche, were in the cemetery at Crossstown for the ceremony which was chaired by George Molloy, who read the 1916 Proclamation in Irish. A decade of the rosary in Irish was recited by Mairead Ni Shuille, and the Easter statement from the leadership was read. The oration was again given by Charlie McGlade, and the Last Post and Reveille were sounded. The proceedings concluded with the laying of wreaths on the Republican Plot and on the graves of republicans in the cemetery.

On Sunday morning, in Wexford town, a mass, organised by the National Graves Association, for all those who had died for Ireland from 1916 to the present day, was attended by over one thousand people. The mayor of Wexford and all members of the corporation attended, as did the county manager, town clerk and borough officials.



Colour party in Wexford town. Charlie McGlade gave the oration at Wexford town and Enniscorthy (where he is pictured inset).

THE SINN FEIN Coordinating Committee on Women's Affairs held its first conference on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th March in Dublin. An historic occasion in several respects, a first for the committee, formed by the Ard Comhairle in November of last year, it was also the first time that a committee had been formed from rank-and-file members of Sinn Féin for the purpose of initiating policy. In fact the brief of the committee is to formulate recommendations on women's issues, to be put to the Ard Comhairle, who will present a policy document to the next Ard Fheis. Another important 'first' was the creche organised by male comrades.

The conference itself was not as well attended as expected by the organisers: in all, up to thirty delegates attended, from Cork, Dublin, Derry, Tyrone and Belfast, and also from Bradford in England. Many delegates regretted that those who had criticised the idea of such a conference had not bothered coming as this was an opportunity for all to express their opinions and participate in the shaping of a policy document which would reflect the views of the membership.

VIOLENCE

The conference got under way on the theme 'Violence against Women', introduced by Mary Enright of Belfast. She gave a brief analysis of the various types of violence inflicted on women, like rape, battering, physical and mental torture in holding centres and prisons. An important point was that of the myth that women who got raped 'deserved it' or 'secretly enjoyed it'.

"Try to tell a Castlereagh victim that they secretly enjoy their torture," she declared, "why should rape victims be any different?" The legal aspect of rape was also examined: "Rape entered the legal code as a property crime, the assault by one man on another man's property...A man can sue a man who rapes his wife for 'compensation', just as he might sue someone who damages his car."

It was also stressed that the mental torture handed out to women in holding centres like Castlereagh should be more publicised, but that women were loathe to come forward and state the kind of abuse they had been subjected to. A discussion developed, mainly on: the need to campaign for shelters for battered women; the psychological aspects of battering — many women think it is their fault if they get battered; and how to deal with such problems in advice centres.

CHILD CARE

The section on 'Child care' was introduced by Martha McClelland of Derry. She pointed out: "For its own profit, the capitalist economy promotes childcare as unpaid domestic work, an exclusively female role and responsibility, and caters only for a family structure built on a single, economically active wage-earner (male) and an unpaid home-worker (female) who does the work of rearing dependent children." The lack of childcare facilities affects mostly mothers who have to go to work, and one-parent families, throwing them into a vicious circle of trying to rear their children, working in a low-paid job, and paying child-minders.

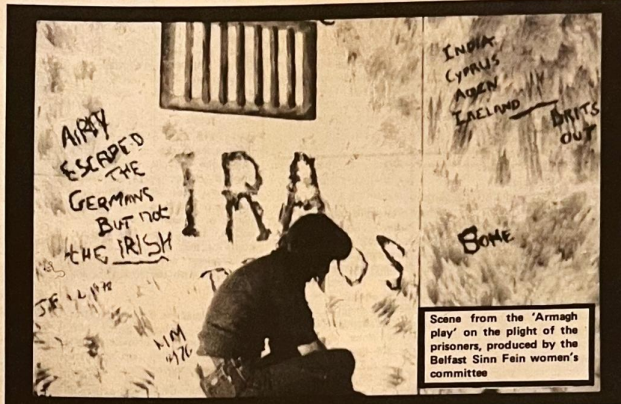
Discussion followed on various points: the effects of isolation on a mother and her



Martha McClelland (Derry)
—introduced the section on 'child care'

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

REPORT
BY
UNA O'NEILL



Scene from the 'Armagh play' on the plight of the prisoners, produced by the Belfast Sinn Féin women's committee

children, especially in new estates and high-rise flats; corporal punishment; vandalism; and maternity and paternity leave. In this session as in all others, many resolutions were adopted.

The Saturday sessions ended with a prison report given by Marie Moore of Belfast, who after a rundown on the situation in the H-Blocks and in Armagh jail, answered many questions.

FAMILY LAW

Sunday opened with a session on 'Family Law' in the Free State introduced by Rita O'Hare of Dublin. She pointed out the contradictions between church and state law on divorce, and the resulting crazy situations.

For example: If a couple is granted a church annulment, their children born of that marriage are illegitimate in the eyes of the church, and if one of the partners marries again (in church), any children of that marriage are regarded as illegitimate in the eyes of the state. And if a husband deserts his wife and takes up residence abroad, where he obtains a divorce and remarries, then comes back to the twenty-six counties, his divorce will be legal in the eyes of the state (which recognises the laws of other states) thereby making him bigamous in the eyes of the Church.

Marriage law still contains many anachronisms. For example, 'conjugal rights', or 'loss of consortium', which means that a husband has a right to his wife's company and 'services', and so if for any reason (for example her illness or desertion) he is unable to obtain them from her he can be granted damages in cash by a court. And also, the law of 'criminal conversation' by which a husband can sue his wife's lover for compensation in cash, or 'harbouring', which means that a husband can take a person to court for sheltering his wife and letting her stay in their house after he has told them that he does not want them to do so.

Rita O'Hare pointed out that "in none of these four instances does a wife have a case in court of law if her husband leaves her or commits adultery with another woman."

Contraception and abortion were also discussed. The lack of regard for the health of women was stressed, and the deliberate use of harmful contraceptive drugs like Depo-Povert on Third World women and in some deprived areas like Glasgow, was denounced. This drug is known to make women sterile and is used when the doctor thinks that the patient is not capable of using the pill.

STEREOTYPING

'Sexism and Stereotyping' was introduced by Cora Marshall of Dublin. She explained how stereotyping starts at birth, when babies are dressed in a certain way, are given certain toys and directed towards certain activities or attitudes such as 'boys don't cry', 'don't be such a cissy', or 'she is a tom-boy'. School continues the process through segregation and sexist reading books ('Maura is in the house. She has to help Mamma ... Buying cakes is no

work for boys...The new baby was great fun for Maura, but not for Sean.')

The secondary level courses are again different: metal work, and woodwork and technical drawing for boys; domestic science, typing and commerce for girls. Thus prepared for their roles in adult life, boys and girls will fall into place and perpetuate the old divisive attitudes: the woman at the kitchen-sink, the



Cora Marshall (Dublin)
—introduced the section on 'sexism and stereotyping'

man going out to work, and both missing out on an important part of life.

Several points were brought out, including: the use of women's bodies in adverts; the neglect of physical fitness among girls because it is not deemed important; the effects of segregated schooling; and the attitude of male doctors to pregnant women.

EQUAL

The last section on 'Equal Pay, Equal Rights' was introduced by Christene Ni Elias of Dublin. She outlined the present laws (Equal Pay Act, Employment Equality Act) and their limited enforcement. In many ways, women are still considered second-class citizens, and especially in the South, married women are discriminated against as regards benefits, grants, loans and hire-purchase agreements. Various aspects were discussed such as women in trade-unions, the problem of outworkers and low-paid jobs in industry which seem a 'female preserve'.

The conference ended with motions of solidarity to all Republican prisoners, especially, the women prisoners in Armagh jail.

All sections included a short introduction, followed by a debate, and the discussion of numerous motions. It was soon realised by many that all these issues were inter-related, and there was insufficient time for a really thorough debate. Most women spoke several times, and it was felt that the discussion itself had been beneficial.

The coordinating committee's next task is to put all the resolutions together in a draft policy document, which will be examined by the Ard Comhairle at the first opportunity.



Domhnach na Cásca

TÁ DOMHNACH na Cásca imithe tharainn arís. Dheineamar Éirí Amach na Cásca a chómoradh agus thugamar chun cuimhne na fir agus na mná a thit sa troid chun saoirse na hÉireann a bhaint amach. Thugamar chun cuimhne leis na fir agus na mná atá i bpríosún toisc gur dhein siad iarracht saoirse a bhaint amach don gcuid eile againn.

Dheineamar Laochra na Poblachta a chómoradh, iad siúd a thit le déanaí sa troid agus na laochra eile a thit sna fichidí agus roimhe sin. Bhí an leanúnachas soláirí duinn go léir. Thit na mairiú go léir san aon chúis amháin. —Saoirse na hÉireann.

Níl Saoirse na hÉireann bainte amach againn fós, ach is cinnte go mbainfeair amach é. Tá an troid in éadan fórsaí an chroí ag leanúint gan stop, gan staonadh. Tá crógacht saighdiúirí na poblachta mar ionsparáid againn go léir.

Caitheadimid go léir féachaint orainn féin agus iníochadh a dhéanamh ar an meid atá á dhéanamh againn chun go mbéid deiradh leis an bhfuilte ag an cruatan. Is deacair a shamhlú an meid cruatan a fhuilgíonn poblachtaigh na Sé Chontae. Is eol dúinn go léir anois an síl ina bhfuil cúlraí sna Bliocanna H. Bhí na cúlraí sin ag fulaingt ar feadh i bhfad sular thug an pobal áird ar bith orthu. Caitheadimid go léir a bheith ag déanamh bolsaireachta ar a son.

Féile nó faillure

LIAM O'DÚILL

IS leit le blianta beaga anuas nach bhfuil ag éirí go maith leis an bhféile Limerick Civic Week. Níl aon bhaint ag na príomh imeachtaí le traidisiúin chosmhuintir luimní. Is ar mhaithe le cuairteoirí a mhealladh go dtí an chathair a bhíonn an féile at siúl.

Maidir le staid na Gaeilge is an bhféile seo, is léir gur beag an tsuim atá ag lucht eagraíochta na féile inti. Níl oiread is focal Gaeilge ar na teastais a bronnar agus is fóirbeag an méid Ghaeilge sna forgrair na na nuachtáin agus ar na postaeirí atá mórthimpeall na cathrach. Níl bhaint-tear úsáid as an nGaeilge ag an gcuid is mó des na comórtaí.

Is beag an tinreamh a bhí i láthair ag an gcuid is mó des na himeachtaí. Díobh siúd a bhí i láthair cuairteoirí ab ea a bhfuirmór. Gearrtaíle agus chun dul isteach agus féachann sin chuige nach féidir leis an gcuid is mó des na daoine a bheith i láthair.

Sampla is ea an féile seo Limerick Civic Week de Fhéile atá gearrtha amach ón bpobal. Níl ar mhaithe le cosmhuintir luimní atá si ar siúl ach ar mhaithe leis an mbeagán atá ar an mbar.

FOLK CONCERT
Brown Derby
Jarvis Street
DUBLIN
Friday 11th April
Adm £1 Organised by S.F. POW Dept.

MUSIC FOR H-BLOCK
Featuring Ireland's Top Folk Musicians
Christy Moore, Matt Molloy, Liam O'Flynn, Tony McMahon, Noel Hill and Tony Lenane.
8 p.m. Friday 11th April
DUBLIN
Admission £1.50

H-BLOCK CONCERT
Featuring Christy Moore
and other traditional musicians
8 p.m. Saturday 12th April
Ballymurphy Tenants Association
Whitlock Road
BELFAST
Admission £1.50 — tickets available
85b Falls Road

DEMONSTRATION AND RALLY
Troops Out Now!
Smash H-Block!
Saturday 12th April
STIRLING
10.30 a.m. Raploch Community Centre
March to Albert Hall rally
Speakers include Harry McShane
Organised by
Central Scotland Troops Out Movement

PRISON PICKET
1 p.m. Saturday 12th April
HULL PRISON
Organised by
North of England Irish Prisoners
Committee

EASTER COMMEMORATION CEILI
Saturday 12th April
BALLINAMORE
Admission £1.50
Meals available

H-BLOCK MARCH
CRAIGAVON TO LURGAN
Sunday 13th April
Assemble 3 p.m.
Tullyally Shopping Centre
Organised by
Relatives Action Committees
Six-Cos Co-ordinating Committee

JOE CLARKE
ANNIVERSARY MASS
11.30 a.m. Sunday 13th April
University Church
St. Stephen's Green
DUBLIN

PUBLIC MOBILISATION MEETING
FOR APRIL 20th
DERRY H-BLOCK MARCH
8 p.m. Monday 14th April
Bogside Inn
DERRY
Organised by
National H-Block Committee

H-BLOCK MEETING
8.30 p.m. Tuesday 15th April
The Mayflower
DRUMSHAMBO
Speakers will include Fr. Denis Faul
and Piaras O'Duill.

H-BLOCK MARCH
DERRY
Sunday 20th April
Organised by
National H-Block Committee
BUS FROM DUBLIN
A bus leaves Blessington Street on
Saturday 19th April at 10 a.m. and
returns Monday 21st April. Tickets,
£6 return, are available from POW dept,
5, Blessington Street.

SINN FEIN MEETING
COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHEAN
2.30 p.m. Sunday 20th April
5, Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Please note change of date

MCNEELA/GAUGHAN/STAGG
COMMEMORATION
Sunday 25th May
BALLINA
Organised by Mayo Comhairle
Ceantair, Sinn Fein.

JOIN SINN FEIN

Anyone interested in joining Sinn Fein
should contact their local Cumann;
head office at 44, Parnell Square, Dublin;
85b Falls Road, Belfast; or 15 Cable
Street, Derry.

I am interested in becoming a member
of Sinn Fein.

NAME

ADDRESS

Postmhála

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

AFGHANISTAN

A chara,
I wish to reply to the letter of Padraig Malone (AP/RN, March 15th) in which he accuses the Soviet Union of invading Afghanistan. From his letter it is obvious that Mr. Malone does not know the true situation in Afghanistan and does indeed base his letter on the lies of the hired servants of imperialism, the capitalist press.

Like many others who claim to be anti-imperialist Mr. Malone falls into the camp of imperialism by attempting to find a neutral position between Western imperialism and alleged Soviet expansionism. This shows up Mr. Malone's lack of understanding of imperialism. Imperialism means more than a military presence in a country.

On the situation of Afghanistan Mr. Malone should examine the facts and not the lies of the Western press. After the April 1978 Revolution in Afghanistan a treaty of friendship was signed between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Article 4 of this treaty states, "Acting in the spirit of traditions of friendship and good neighbourliness, as well as the U.N. charter, the parties to the treaty will be consulting each other and with mutual consent will be taking appropriate measures to ensure security, independence and territorial integrity of both countries. In the interests of reinforcing defence potentials of both parties, they will continue developing co-operation in the military sphere."

Imperialism did not like the Afghan revolution and tried to destroy it. A reactionary alliance was formed between the U.S., Pakistan and China (allied against Vietnam). They trained counter-revolutionary forces in China and Pakistan and these forces committed acts of sabotage



Russian helicopter over Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan

in Afghanistan attempting to destroy the revolution. Allied to these forces were units of the Pakistani army.

So was Afghanistan to allow the gains of the revolution to be lost?

In order to defeat the counter-revolution Afghanistan had no choice but to call on her ally the Soviet Union to render aid under the terms of the treaty. So would Mr. Malone call this an invasion?

When Wolfe Tone and the United Irishmen asked the French for aid was this a French invasion or an act of fraternal assistance?

There is an important issue for any movement which is anti-imperialist because a condemnation of the Soviet action is support for the actions of imperialism in Afghanistan.

Mr. Malone then raises the lie of Soviet expansion. This is the favoured weapon of imperialism. Every time the Soviet Union helps

a liberation movement the Western press falls over themselves trying to point out the alleged strategic value of these countries to the Soviet Union. These movements are then called Soviet puppets.

The case of Angola shows this. The MPLA, one of the countries to the West set up their own 'liberation' movements. These were hailed as the 'real liberation fronts' and the MPLA was called a Soviet puppet.

The biggest threat to world peace is the war mongering of the U.S. and all those who really want peace should not support the U.S. imperialists either directly or indirectly by condemning the Soviet intervention which halted imperialism.

Jim Corcoran,
Cork City.

Eagathoir,

There are two ideologies in the world today: Socialism and Capitalism. I look at world events through the eyes of a socialist. Padraig Malone's version of events in his letter printed in *An Phoblacht/Republican News* March 15th are exactly those of the most rabid British Tory, as well, then, as how we are being manipulated by imperialism unless as socialists we seek out the views of the states ruled by the workers and peasants.

More than 65% of the news produced in the world is made in the U.S.A. So if we add to that the British and French news agencies, one sees how we are being manipulated by imperialism unless as socialists we seek out the views of the states ruled by the workers and peasants.

The socialists in the Baltic states of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia were an integral part of Lenin's Bolshevik party and fought in the anti-Tsar revolutions of 1905 and 1917. The German and British imperial armies in 1918 joined to crush the attempts of setting up socialist power.

Black-and-Tan tactics were used on the revolutionaries in the Baltic states — shootings and jailings. They became client-states of London. With the outbreak of war, they were isolated their economies were in a state of collapse, so the people voted to join the Soviet Union. They have equal voting rights within the Union of fifteen states and may secede if they wish.

Hungary was a socialist republic shortly after the Russian revolution as was Bavaria but the capitalist encirclement used their armies to crush it.

The young, weak Soviet state could not answer the Hungarians' call for aid. But in 1956 when counter-revolution raised its fist against the workers' state, help was at hand. The lesson from this is that in all revolutions the dispossessed class always strives to get back in the saddle.

The American rebellion was no exception. One third of the colonists opposed the revolution and had their property confiscated.

When the Afghanistan revolution is secure from attacks mounted in Pakistani bases and supplied by British and U.S. imperialism, the Soviet military contingents will be withdrawn.

Seán O'Ceallaigh,
Ath Cliath.

Cardiff Harassment

Dear Editor,

At Cardiff Magistrates Court on Monday 17th March the trial of a member of Sinn Fein and two supporters of 'Hands Off Ireland' was adjourned until Tuesday 15th April. The case will run for three days and has been

transferred to a court in Penarth, five miles away.

The three comrades were arrested in Cardiff city centre on September 15th 1979. The comrades were taking part in a street meeting called to publicise and expose the brutality and lawlessness directed by British imperialism against the blanket-men in the H-blocks of Long Kesh concentration camp. The police moved in, arrested three comrades and broke up the meeting.

The comrades were charged with distributing or displaying abusive or insulting literature under Section 5 of the Public Order Act — the literature in question was 'Hands Off Ireland' and a Sinn Féin leaflet on H-Block.

In the face of a successful defence campaign in the Cardiff area, the police dropped the original charge and substituted two new ones: obstruction and the use of insulting or threatening words or behaviour. The police action, backed by the court, confirms that the police are out to suppress any movement of solidarity with the Irish people's struggle.

In Ireland the Army, RUC and UDR use torture, terror and assassination in an effort to crush the Irish people's struggle for self-determination.

In Britain the police, acting as an extension of the Army in Ireland, attempt to suppress the exposure of the British imperialist war against the Irish people. Using arbitrary arrests, chopping and changing of charges, continual adjournments, the police hope to prevent the building of a solidarity movement in this country.

What is at stake is the basic democratic right to sell political literature and carry out political work on the streets. But not just this right in general. The partic-



ular work which the police are out to stop is the work of building a movement against British imperialism in Ireland.

This issue is of vital concern to all socialists and democrats in Britain and all socialists and democrats must join in the fight to resist the political campaign being conducted by the police. The arrest and harassment of 'Hands Off Ireland' supporters by the police is going on all over Britain from Cardiff to Glasgow.

In Cardiff the three comrades are facing the police and the courts. The police are refusing to give the defence vital details of the prosecution 'evidence'. The trial is booked to last three days — for charges of obstruction and insulting words! Without explanation the venue is changed to another court five miles away!

We call on you to support us in our campaign to defend our comrades and to defend the right to conduct anti-imperialist work in this country.

The determination of the police and the courts to attack the three comrades indicates that if they are found guilty they will face heavy fines. The transfer of the case to a court in Penarth will already involve us in added expense. We need financial support for our defence campaign. Please send as much as you can afford to

Hands Off Ireland Defence Campaign,
49 Raifon Road,
London.



Derry March

A chara,

The H-Block protest is now over four years old. Much has been said about how and why it started, and how it might be resolved.

It is abundantly clear that the protest will not be ended by the prisoners. Without a change of policy by the British government the effects of its continuation, both for the prisoners and the community, are frightening to contemplate.

The National Smash H-Block Committee is mobilising broad-based support to resolve this inhuman situation. We have already secured the support of many prominent individuals from all sections of the community, including leaders of trade unions, cultural and sporting organisations, professional groups, clergy, a wide variety of public figures and many others who share our horror at this hideous situation. We are non-party-political and non-sectarian.

Our aim is to secure, by peaceful activity (including major demonstrations, indoor meetings and a national petition), five minimal humanitarian demands for the prisoners, which will put an end to the public scandal in the H-blocks.

We do not require anyone supporting us to support the prisoners' actions, past or present, nor to share their political beliefs. We simply ask support for these five demands, to halt this gross affront to human dignity. If the same appalling situation prevailed in a prison in any country but our own, human rights activists would quickly mobilise to end such degradation.

The ad hoc organising committee for the April 20th march in Derry, seek public support for this demonstration.

Thanking you in anticipation of your support.

Martha McClelland,
Secretary for Organising
Committee,
Derry.
(Tel: 67749)

Collaborators

Dear Editor,

In the article, 'The War for the Republic', (March 22nd), Gerry McNally referring to the latter part of 1919 says: 'The RIC became demoralised and recruitment fell.' Whatever about the first part of the sentence, Charles Townsend's book, 'The British Campaign in Ireland, 1919 — 1921', points out that the 'Intake of native Irish men went up one hundred per cent between September and December 1919, and another ninety-five per cent in January 1920.' That is into the RIC.

It should come as no surprise that there was never a shortage of native collaborators or even traitors, though the practice of rewarding the more prominent among them with positions on leading British newspapers seems to be a recent one.

Sean Breslin,
Dublin.

Easter Gift

A chara,

I wish to send the prisoners-of-war in Long Kesh concentration camp some gift for Easter but I thought holy masses were the best gift to obtain relief from

their unbearable bodily and mental torture.

Five holy masses are being offered. May the almighty and merciful God grant all the prisoners their freedom from that English hell soon.

God bless them all with peace and happiness.
Hugh McClure.

London Troops Out

Dear Editor,

The recent activities organised by the Troops Out Movement in support of the POWs in H-Block and Armagh were fruitful in a number of ways. Not only was a large solidarity rally held in London, but adverts placed in the newspapers calling for support for the prisoners demands won broad sponsorship, which included Ernie Roberts M.P., Labour peer Lord Gifford, prominent public figures and trade unionists as well as Labour councillors.

Most significantly the general secretary of the British Communist Party, Gordon McLellan was numbered among the sponsors. All this shows that the potential exists for a broadly based campaign that would be of great assistance to the POWs and to the struggle.

McLellan's support must be one in the eye for the Sticks, showing a further decline in their reactionary influence over the British CP. Also the fact that the Greater London Labour Party at its annual conference voted by a majority of ten to one for a British withdrawal will add to their isolation and to the weakening of all other pro-imperialist elements.

Ben Roach,
Troops Out Movement,
2a St. Pauls Road,
London N.I.

Leicester Labour

Dear Editor,

Over sixty people, including some trade union delegates attended a successful school on Ireland held by Leicester South Constituency Labour Party on Saturday 8th March.

A debate had been organised with supporters of the 'Militant' tendency, who failed to turn up after opposing the presence of a Sinn Féin speaker. A video film was shown on the role of Sinn Féin in Ireland and a discussion followed.

In the afternoon Jim Marshall, Labour MP for Leicester South, spoke of the need for 'troops out' and admitted the poor record of the last Labour government whose bipartisan policy he conceded was a Tory repressive one.

Jim Marshall said that he was one of the twenty-seven MPs who opposed the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Jim Peilly spoke for Sinn Féin. He pointed out the socialist character of that organisation and its achievements. He condemned the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Labour Party's failings.

A representative of the Troops Out Movement also spoke on the need for a mass movement. A resolution was passed calling for an enquiry into the death of prisoner Giuseppe Conlon in January. A resolution was also passed calling for troops out now; self-determination for the Irish people; and the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

It is hoped that we can now organise a regional conference of all Labour Party 'troops out' now supporters as the next step forward.

Paul Winstone,
Leicester South
Constituency Party,
Leicester, England.

An tAifric theas

IS SPÉIS liom na litreacha a bhíonn i gcló sna nuachtáin. Is breá liom a bhaint a leanúint, go mórmhór nuair is cúrsaí a bhí i gcló sna Irish Times ar an gcúigiú lá d'Aibreán.

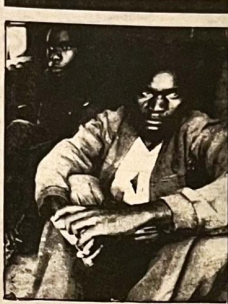
Spreag an díospóireacht mar gheall ar turas na leoin go dtí an Aifric Theas Mrs. Williams ó Chontae Chiarraí chun litir a thug sí go dtí an tír sin le déanaí. Cuireann sí an tír sin inár láithir amháil is dá mba áit iontach é.

Sa litir cáineann sí daoine a d'air ar na leoin gan dul go dtí an Aifric Theas. Ar an daobh eile den scoláir d'heineann sí cáineadh ar bith ar an gcine-dheighilt. Deir sí go bhfuil fadhanna ag an gcine gorm ceart go leor agus gur i gcoraí oideachais agus i gcoraí oibre atá na fadhanna sin acu.

Leannan sí ar aghaidh agus deirann sí go bhfuil na fadhanna sin á chéartú anois.

Ni dheineann sí tagairt ar bith dos na dlíthe eile atá sa mhullach ar na daoine gorma. Ní sí aon tagairt don facht nach bhfuil bhóta ag an gcine gorm sna toghcháin. Deirann sí linn go bhfuil na daoine gorma sásta leis an gcaoi ina bhfuil cúrsaí.

Tá an méid seo le rá aici ina



Daoine gorma ag fulaingt san Aifric theas

léiríonn sí gnáthdearcadh iad siúd atá i bhfabhar an cine-dheighilt:

"In the whole six weeks we saw

hardly one miserable-looking coloured person. On the contrary they appear to be a happy, laughing light-hearted people. And you could not meet their eyes without them breaking into broad smiles and they are only too happy to stop and chat to you, and help you if you are in any difficulty. They have to admit themselves that the Apartheid laws are being relaxed year by year, and under Mr. Botha their new very liberal-minded Prime Minister, they expect this progress to be hastened."

Lonsaí ar chearta daonna an duine is ea an cine-dheighilt agus ní chóir go mbéadh baint ar bith ag aon duine lena leithéid chaint is a bhí i gcló ag an mbeas seo.

Deir sí leis go raibh na poilíní as radharc ar fad beagnach agus nach raibh fadhb ar bith aici le. Ní nach ionadh, mar is d'heine an bhean seo aon cháineach poiblí ar an gcoir atá i bhfeidhm san Aifric Theas. Ar ndóig bheadh tuiscint eile ar fad aici ar chúrsaí dá mba duine gorm as Soweto í.

Dála an scéil, bhí an príosa nuachtas seo i gcló sna nuachtáin céanna ar an lá céanna. Is amhlaidh a thug suas le haon bhall déag den ANC rathar faoi stáisiún poiblí míle ó lár Johannesburg. Chait sé iad roicéid agus piléir leis an stáisiún agus chuir siad é tré thine slár éaláigh siad le.

Is léir nach ionann tuiscint Mrs. Williams ar na daoine gorma agus an fhírinne.

IN MEMORIAM

McDERMOTT, Sean. (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Sean McDermott killed in action April 5th 1976. Sadly missed and never forgotten by Raddo, Pauline and Harry.
O'RAWE, Edward. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Edward 'Mundo' O'Rawe murdered by the British forces of occupation April 12th 1973. Always remembered by the Lower Falls Commemoration Committee.
O'RAWE, Edward. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Edward 'Mundo' O'Rawe shot dead by British occupation forces on 12th April 1973. A dedicated soldier since your death Edward and your memory lives on in the hearts of those friends you knew and loved. Your comrades talk of you. Your memory is always with us. Always remembered by your friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him.

Sympathy

DE LEWIS

The committee and members of the Green Cross 73 deeply regret the death of their esteemed friend Marion De Lewis, New York and tender their sincere sympathy to her family. In her the political prisoners have lost a true and sincere friend. Mary Queen of Ireland pray for her.

SCOTT

The Farranore Sinn Féin Cumann extend deepest sympathy to Patrick Scott, Rosmore, Fries, on the death of his sister.

WALSH

Mrs. O'Toole and family extend deepest sympathy to the wife and family of Philip Walsh, especially to Martin (H4). A Muirne Banríoghán na hÉireann ar a h-anam.

WALSH

Deepest sympathy to the wife and family of Philip Walsh, especially to his son Martin (H4) from Paddy and Teresa Cahill. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him.

WALSH

Deepest sympathy to the wife and family of Philip Walsh, especially to Martin (H4), from Eileen and Angela. A Muirne Banríoghán na hÉireann ar a h-anam.

WALSH

Mrs. Greene and family deeply regret the death of Philip Walsh and extend deepest sympathy to his wife and family, especially Martin (H4). Mary Queen of Ireland pray for him.

Tom Lally Commemoration



A memorial on the grave of Tom Lally was unveiled by Sean Fitzpatrick, Secretary of the National Graves Association, in Glasnevin cemetery Dublin last Sunday. Tom Lally, who died in March last year, gave a lifetime of service to the Republican Movement through Na Fianna Éireann, the IRA, Sinn Féin and the National Graves Association.

The late Patrick McVerry

AN APPRECIATION BY A FRIEND

IT IS WITH sadness that I write a few words in tribute to the late Patrick McVerry, known popularly as Paddy, whose untimely death occurred recently at his home in Kilmurry, Cullavone, on the Monaghan/South Armagh border.

A quiet, dedicated and life-long republican. He will be sadly missed in the South Armagh, South Monaghan area. His passing has created a void that will be hard to fill. No task was ever too big for him, for he served Ireland faithfully. For this dedication he suffered hardship from John Bull's lackeys in the Free State, as well as the Brit occupation forces in the north. He was a member of the Michael McVerry Memorial Committee, Cullyhan, which was responsible for the erection of the fine monument to IRA Volunteer, Michael McVerry.

The person he was not forgotten by his many friends in the Republican Movement who travelled from Tralee in County Kerry and Moy in Tyrone to pay their last respects. He was laid to rest in a fishkeshen church-yard only a few feet away from the grave of the poet, Patrick Kavanagh. May the green sod of Erin rest gently on his grave and may his kindly soul rest in peace.

An Cumann Cabhrach

ANNUAL REPUBLICAN REUNION

Eamonn Ceannt 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 Castletown Road,

Clondalkin. Tel: 592863.

Mrs. G. Sheehy, 54 Sperrin Road,

Drumagh. Tel: 507195.

Mrs. R. McGlynn, 27 O'Connell Ave.,

Dublin 7. Tel: 304543.

Mrs. M. Adams, 105 Sutton Park,

Raheny. Tel: 314941.

Mrs. P. King, 29 All Saints Park,

Raheny. Tel: 314941.

Organised by An Cumann Cabhrach

DUBLIN QUIZ

The draw for the quiz organised by

Dublin Sinn Féin Education Department

is as follows:-

April 12th — Keenan/Gaughan (No 1) v

McNulty/Cannon v Stagg.

April 26th — McKenna (No 1) v Tone

v Emmet v Casement/Noian (No 2).

May 10th — Hughes v Emmet v

McCabe/Quigley v

Na Scallán v Forsythe (No 1).

June 7th — Griffith v McKenna (No 2)

v Connolly (No 2).

June 14th — Connolly (No 1) v

Keenan/Gaughan (No 2) v O'Duill.

June 28th — Casement/Noian (No 1) v

McAdams (No 1) v Na Fianna.

July 12th — Forsythe (No 2) v

Joe Clarke v APR/N

who will take place in No. 5

Blessington Street.

CORRECTION

It was erroneously stated on the front

page of An Phoblacht/Republican News

last week that Tom Clarke (signatory to

the 1916 Proclamation) had participated

in the Fenian Rising of 1867. This, of

course, should have stated that Tom

Clarke, Fenian veteran, participated in

the Dynamite War of 1882. He was cap-

tured in 1882 and sentenced to life im-

prisonment. He served fifteen years.

Lawyers call

THIRTY NORTHERN barristers and solicitors have called for an investigation by an 'independent tribunal' into the RUC torture of Turf Lodge man Eddie Brophy. Ten days ago in a Belfast court Brophy was cleared of forty-eight charges of Republican military activity (including involvement in the La Mon tragedy), although he was jailed for IRA membership. Judge Kelly stated, in ruling all alleged statements made by Brophy to the RUC inadmissible as evidence: "I cannot say that I am satisfied that the statements were not induced by torture, degrading or inhuman treatment." The 'Northern Ireland Association of Socialist Lawyers' said an independent investigation sitting in public is necessary and it should take account of 'the clear inference' in the judge's verdict that certain RUC men "had sought to deceive the court about what went on

in Castlereagh during Brophy's interrogation."

In sharp contrast to the stand of these lawyers, Ian Paisley and his two fellow DUP Westminster MPs, John McQuade and Peter Robinson, have tabled a parliamentary motion seeking a change in Northern law to further facilitate the admission of statements obtained by RUC torture, as court evidence. Meanwhile the RUC's Complaints and Disciplinary Board has investigated Brophy's claims of torture and as part of their routine procedure are sending a file on to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Not surprisingly the DPP normally refuses to prosecute RUC torturers but the massive show trial publicity in this case has back-fired and may embarrass them into sacrificing a few Special Branch men, who will be conveniently described as 'bad apples'.

Archbishop Romero Remembered

SINN FEIN was represented by Ruairi Ó Bradaigh and Christene Ni Eilias at a Special Mass in memory of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador held in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Dublin on Wednesday 2nd April.

On Sunday 23rd March, Archbishop Romero publicly condemned the oppressive regime existing at present in El Salvador and called for an end to the repression of the people. He pleaded for justice for his people and, on the following day, March 24th, he was assassinated.

During his homily at the Special Dublin Mass, Father Patrick Hudson, who has spent the last fifteen years in El Salvador, describ-

ed the conditions under which the people live. He quoted a 1975 United Nations report which states that three out of four of the people of the country suffer from the effects of malnutrition. Father Hudson stressed that similar standards exist in many Latin American countries and the same oppressive measures by military oligarchies are being used against the people in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay and Chile.

In an interview in March of this year, the Archbishop said: "The cause of all our problems is the oligarchy, that small nucleus of families who do not care about the plight of the people, except in so much as they have need of them as a source of cheap and plentiful labour. The industrial companies, national and foreign, base their

competitiveness in the international market upon starvation wages and this explains their vehement opposition to any type of reform that to organisations which seek to improve the conditions of the poor."

It must be said that Archbishop Romero, in his quest for justice and liberty for his people, encountered opposition from fellow clergymen and members of the Catholic Hierarchy who had aligned themselves with those wishing to preserve the status quo.

Included among the Invocations at the Dublin Mass were: "That the U.S. and other countries stop sending military arms to El Salvador" and "That the real cause of violence, poverty and oppression in El Salvador be made known to the world."

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

O'HAGAN, Minnie. A very special birthday wish to a very special person from Willie Taylor, Jim Ferry, Liam Townsend, Danny McBrearty, Danny Doherty, Harry Lynn, Alvy Edgar and all the lads in Portlaoise. U.T.P.

WALSHE, Jerry (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings to you Jer, hoping your next one is spent back in Kerry. Wishing you strength and good spirit. From Jimmy and all your many friends in Listowel.

WALSHE, Jerry (Portlaoise). Lots of love on your birthday, Jerry. Always thinking of you, from mam, dad, Helen, Bridie, Mary and Maurice.

WALSHE, Jerry (Portlaoise). Here's wishing all the things that come your way, will make your birthday a happy day. From the Sullivan family.

WALSHE, Jerry (Portlaoise). The wish is simple but sincere and true, many happy returns of the day to you. All the Listowel boys.

WALSHE, Jerry (Portlaoise). Happy birthday Jerry. It won't be long now, best wishes. From the Finucanes.

Solidarity Greetings

BROLLY, Eunam. Best wishes for Easter, see you in December. From Veronica, Liam and Monica.

HUGHES, Francis. I don't think you'll get the parcel this year. Long John. Love and best wishes, Monica.

MILNE, Ian; BRADLEY, Seamus. The roses are still growing in, and Seamus don't worry there's plenty of girls in Ireland. Best wishes from the Wild Bunch.

MONAGHAN, Jim; KELLY, Jimmy. (Portlaoise). Solidarity greetings to you and all the POWs especially those in

H-Block. Your fight is our fight. From Billy Reid Slua, Na Fianna Éireann, Walskington.

MULHOLLAND, Tommy. Won't be long now, we've got the drink piled up. Best wishes from the wild bunch Donegal.

MULHOLLAND, Tommy. Best wishes for Easter, I've got the elbow in training for June. Skinhead.

MCGROGAN, Kevin; O'SHEA, John; KELLY, Jimmy (Portlaoise). Prison. Solidarity and Easter greetings from Marie and Andy O'Connor.

MULHOLLAND, Sean. (H-Block). Solidarity greetings to our son Sean, three years on the blanket and four years altogether spent imprisoned by our oppressors. Fa bu ar ar nintinn i scéal, a Sheán. Go mbéidh sua agat agus ag do chomradh go luath. From mum, dad, Harry and sisters.

From mate Arty, Delirde and kids. GREETINGS to Sean, Jimmy, Berger, Harry, Eric, Liam, Kevin, Billy, Frank, Cyril, Danny, Doc, Tony and Albert in Portlaoise from 'Mother'.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

