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DONEGAL BRUTALITY



Garda brutality victim Paddy Gallagher from Dungloe showing his bruised forearm at a press conference in Dublin on Wednesday

Haughey's boot-boys batter and threaten republican sympathisers

A NUMBER of republican sympathisers in County Donegal were last week subjected to a series of systematic beatings and long sessions of interrogation by members of the garda task force — the section of armed plain clothes detectives set up by the Free State government last year to repress republicans and to collaborate with the Brits in the six-counties.

During interrogation one man was burnt twice with a cigarette, another vomited when being beaten, and a third had a plastic bag pulled over his head causing him to choke.

In another incident four men were startled by a squad of the task force who smashed their way into their house before subjecting a number of them to physical and verbal abuse.

Apparently those taken into interrogation were beaten in the hope that they would sign Castle-reach-style incriminating statements which would result in convictions in the Special Court. But the purposes behind the brutal assaults on those in the house appears to have been the task force members venting their hatred of republicans and attempting to intimidate them into submission.

SEAMUS GALLAGHER

Early on Monday morning, 23rd June, a raiding party led by a local Sergeant, Willie O' Shea, and supported by a large force of Free

State soldiers, descended on the home of thirty-one-year-old Seamus Gallagher in Dunlewey, as a helicopter circled overhead. The home was turned upside down in a raid which lasted until after 2 p.m. However, by 8.30 a.m. Seamus had arrived at Letterkenney garda barracks for what was to be the worst forty-eight hours of his life.

Seamus, normally speaks only in Gaelic and he says that during his first interrogation, carried out by local detectives he suffered no ill-treatment. But between 11 a.m. and 12 noon strangers arrived, 'the grey men' is how he describes them, because of their dress and colour of hair.

They ordered him to stand up and when he answered their questions in Gaelic they became enraged and said, "Before we're finished you'll be an English speaker."

They began by punching him on the stomach and demanded that he admit that he drove a car used in the punishment shooting of a

Volunteer shot dead

ON Tuesday night a Belfast Brigade IRA Volunteer died in a hall of gunfire from at least five heavily-armed RUC men.

The Volunteer, twenty-eight-year-old Terence O'Neill, was married with two children and lived in Glenalina Road, Ballymurphy. He was shot dead seconds after carrying out a punishment shooting, near the Ballymurphy Tenants Association on the Whiterock Road.

The following statement was issued by the IRA's Belfast Brigade on Wednesday:

"We regret the death of our Volunteer Terence O'Neill killed on active service in West Belfast.

"The events leading up to his death are as follows. For some months gangs of organised criminal elements have been terrorising the working people of Belfast. After many appeals from local people to us, we decided to punish a key figure within this group. Joseph Murphy, aged eighteen, is a prominent figure within this group of criminals, and he was selected. His punishment was designed to act as a deterrent to others.

"After the operation was carried out, the Volunteers involved were leaving the scene when a heavily-armed patrol arrived. Without warning the RUC immediately opened fire and Volunteer O'Neill returned their fire, momentarily stopping their advance and allowing the other Volunteer to make good his escape.

"We extend to his family our deepest sympathy on their tragic loss."

Cause for concern

BELFAST Republican Martin Meehan, from Ardoyne, is now approaching his fiftieth day on hunger strike in Long Kesh to protest his innocence of charges for which he received a twelve-year sentence in April, on the sole evidence of a British army informer.

Latest reports of his condition give grave cause for concern. His wife Brieghe says that he is only taking water and has now lost 44 lbs in weight, he has pains all over his body, difficulty in walking, his hearing and sight are affected and he requires daily medical attention. "As each day passes the worry intensifies," she says. "He is pathetic looking. The NIO comments about his good condition are blatant lies."

Last Monday, Brieghe and the five Meehan children held a one hour protest outside the Court of Appeal in Belfast's Chichester Street, on the last day for appeal court hearings before the summer recess began.

Since Meehan began his hunger strike the prison has refused to give details of his condition to his wife over the phone and she has been told to write in for them. The family's doctor, Dr McKee, has been refused entry to the prison to examine him.

The Ard Chairraie of Sinn Féin have issued a statement in Dublin calling public attention to the plight of Martin Meehan, who they point out was "framed by a Diplock non-jury court on the word of a publicly-confessed British army informer, who has since been spirited out of Ireland by his masters."

"He is a well-known and highly-respected figure in his native Belfast since the early days of the Civil Rights Movement," the statement continues. "He escaped from Cumlin Road jail in 1971 and was the last to be released from Long Kesh when the most recent phase of internment without trial ended in December 1975."

Concerning the grave deterioration in his condition, the Ard Chairraie say that as "a victim of British rule in Ireland, his fate calls for the attention of all concerned people."

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Tom Barry dies

THE DEATH took place in Cork last Wednesday of one of the most famous soldiers of the Tan War, Tom Barry, who achieved the rank of commandant general in the IRA in that phase of Ireland's freedom struggle.

Born in Rosscarbery, County Cork, in 1898, Barry joined the British army in 1915 during the First World War. Afterward, back home in County Cork, he joined the IRA in 1919 and was made Training Officer of the West Cork Brigade and later O/C of the famous flying column which operated throughout that area. Among the more celebrated operations of the column were the ambushes at Kilmichael and Cross Barry where heavy casualties were inflicted on the British.

Barry remained in the IRA until the late thirties as O/C of Cork and then as Chief-of-Staff, finally resigning because of his disagreement with the effectiveness of Russell's proposed bombing campaign in Britain.

His passing will be mourned by all Republicans. Go ndeanfaid Dia trocraire ar a hanam.

Business as usual

THE long threatened eviction of Sinn Féin from their premises at 14 H-Block Information Centre at 170a Falls Road finally went ahead at 1 a.m., early on Wednesday morning when two Housing Executive officials, backed by a large force of British soldiers and RUC, broke down the front door and occupied the building. Over the next four hours the place was ransacked, and office furniture piled in the street.

The eviction bid dates back to last November and a reputedly drunken deal hatched in a Westminster committee room between Northern Housing Minister Philip Goodhart and South Armagh MP Harold McCusker, as part of an attempt to suppress the public face of the Republican Movement in Belfast.

Summonses for the eviction hearing in April were served against three leading members of Belfast Sinn Féin, who refused to attend the court, later to be ludicrously described by the magistrate as 'grossly irresponsible' for not doing so.

The farcical attempt to censor the Republican Movement looks like it might continue awhile, however.

On Wednesday morning Sinn Féin members smashed the new lock earlier placed on the premises by the Housing Executive and re-occupied them. Following a statement from Belfast Sinn Féin pledging to continue supplying information to the media on British misrule in Ireland and on H-Block conditions, a huge sign was displayed from the first floor of the building which read: 'Business as usual — Sinn Féin abd.'

Strabane harassment

THE arrests last Wednesday morning of four Strabane men, including two Sinn Féin activists from the much persecuted Molloy/Devlin cumann, fit in with the high level of harassment of Republicans and sympathisers which has been going on in that area for some time.

The arrested men are: Sinn Féin members Danny McAuley (26), and Gerry McMonagle (22); and Michael McCrory (21) and Thomas Brennan (18). All four are charged with conspiracy, while McAuley, McMonagle and McCrory are additionally charged with engaging in a military act.

The four men were held in Strand Road barracks in Derry after their homes were raided and wrecked, with floorboards ripped up and fireplaces torn out. Gerry McMonagle was arrested from work, while he was on the night-shift at Courtauld's.

The four were not allowed to see a solicitor or doctor while they were held in Strand Road, but despite verbal and physical abuse none of the four made statements. They are now in Crumlin Road jail, in what bears the familiar hall-marks of a frame-up or holding charge.

Previous harassment against Republicans in the town has included numerous raids and arrests, as well as poison pen letters and death threats which appear to come from the RUC Special Branch.

DONEGAL BRUTALITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dungloe man, Patrick Gallagher, who informed on two IRA men. These beatings continued for the next thirty hours — a number of different teams took part.

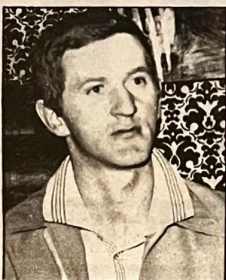
During a break Seamus was given a cup of tea and some sandwiches and when he was eating two task force members came in to the room. He was punched on the stomach and vomited up his tea.

These two left and another two came in. One stood on his left foot and the other held him by the right arm. Seamus' left hand was at his side when the garda standing on his foot jabbed a cigarette into the back of his hand.

Seamus jumped back but his hand was grabbed and held and the cigarette placed between his little finger and ring finger.

He was interrogated for six hours and this session ended at 8 p.m. when he was allowed a visit from his brother John. He protested to an Inspector Browne, who was in charge, but Browne denied all knowledge of the beatings and gave a guarantee that no force would be used. But as soon as John left the beatings recommenced.

He received another brother's



Seamus Gallagher

visit at 11 a.m. next day, a solicitor at 2 p.m., and a visit from his sister at 4 p.m.

At around midnight a doctor from Falcarragh arrived at the barracks and carried out 'a very cursory' examination in the presence of Inspector Browne and Seamus' two interrogators. The doctor left and Seamus was put in a cell. At 12.50 a.m. he was pulled out of bed and the interrogations started all over again and lasted until 3 a.m.

Five-and-a-half hours later the interrogations began again. The 'grey men' took over at 10 a.m. and resumed kicking him on the knees and thighs, and beating him on the chest and across the shoulders.

THE first of two options for 'devolved government' in the North, outlined in the British government's long-awaited paper announced at Westminster on Wednesday, was justly rejected by the Democratic and Official Unionists. This option proposed that any party represented in an assembly (of eighty seats, elected by proportional representation) which won a certain proportion of the vote would have a seat or seats in the governmental executive, in fact a form of proportional representative power sharing.

The second option, in which Paisley has expressed an interest, proposes an executive — in effect a loyalist government — whose powers (in all matters bar 'security', foreign affairs and budget matters) would be tempered by a 'council of the assembly', in which presumably the SDLP could employ obstructionist tactics, as a cosmetic gesture to 'power sharing'.

Apparently the British govern-



Those beaten after the Letterkenny raid and arrests were, from left to right, Gerry Millson, John Downey, George Caldwell, Patrick Gallagher, and Brian Diamond.

At one stage Seamus recognised his interrogators, Tom Considine and Gerry McGerrick. He says Considine gave him several vicious blows below the stomach. Seamus asked McGerrick, whom he knows personally, to intervene but he ignored him. They left and the two 'grey men' came back.

Seamus' solicitor got back in at 8 p.m., and at 10 p.m., a priest, Fr. McShane, got in to see him followed by Dr. Coll who examined him and recorded his injuries.

At 7.30 a.m. on Wednesday morning Seamus was released. He went to his doctor, Dr. Lap in Bunbeg, a Fianna Fail member. He found seventeen bruises on Seamus' body, a gash to the head and a bruised eye. After the beating Seamus has had difficulty in walking.

PADDY GALLAGHER

One hour after Seamus was released the next in for interrogation was Paddy Gallagher. (None of the Gallagher's mentioned are related.)

On Wednesday morning his home in Dungloe was raided and he was taken away to Letterkenny. A doctor examined him at 2.30 p.m. and recorded no injuries. Immediately afterwards he was taken into an interrogation room and was punched about the body and on the head.

During the interrogation, which lasted until midnight, Paddy was kicked on the back and on his legs, and kned in the back and caught by the throat. Among his interrogators was Considine, Ciaran Daly, and a detective called McGittigan. Paddy says, "They behaved like raving lunatics".

He went through the same routine on Thursday and was visited by the doctor in the evening, who found twelve bruises, three major ones, on his body. At an interrogation after that a detective produced a gun, put Paddy on his knees with his hands behind his back and pulled the trigger. The gun clicked. These detectives also claimed they had shot Seamus Costello, the assassinated IRSP leader.

Paddy was released at 4 a.m. on Friday and later went to the casualty department of Letterkenny hospital where he was X-rayed and examined. He is now on a course of pain-relieving tablets.

LETTERKENNY

A twenty-two-year-old Derry man, George Caldwell, was arrested in Main Street, Letterkenny at 5 p.m. on Friday. He was arrested by plain-clothes detectives and brought in for interrogation. He was slapped and beaten and kicked in the testicles. When he was put in the cell, his shoes, socks and jumper were taken from him. He was released at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Another Paddy Gallagher, from Rosemount, Letterkenny, was arrested on the street at 9.30 p.m. on Friday and taken in by the task force. His shoes and socks were removed from him and he was pushed about, punched, in the stomach and questioned until midnight.

On Saturday morning Paddy was dragged from his cell to the interrogation room where detectives screamed foul language at him. The sleeve of his jumper was forced up and an injection stuck in his arm. He collapsed on the floor and the detectives threw water around him to revive him. He does not know if he was injected, but felt terrified.

A plastic bag was then put over his mouth and nose and he felt as if he was suffocating. He was then spreadeagled against the wall until he was exhausted. He was also forced to do physically exhausting exercises. A detective shoved a coat-hanger up his back passage through his trousers while he was bent over.

He was released without charge at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday.

At noon on Saturday a gang of armed task force members broke into a house shared by four men in Letterkenny. One of the men, John Downey, refused to stand up when ordered to do so. He recognised one of the task force, Ciaran Daly, and called him by name.

Daly, he says, rushed towards

him and put a gun to his throat. There were shouts of "Shoot the bastard," and "Do him right".

John was kicked in the testicles and trailed through a gauntlet of task force members who pushed and shoved him.

The occupants of the house were then punched and kicked down the stairs before being separated. In the living room the detectives made death threats against Downey and passed obscene remarks against his wife.

He was punched in the head and stomach, trailed to the ground and kicked on the chest. He was dragged by the hair when they wanted him to stand or sit. They made him remove his shoes, socks and shirt. Daly, the detective, boasted: "The government sent us here".

Two other occupants of the house Gerry Millson and Brian Diamond were treated in similar brutal fashion by task force members in separate rooms.

BOOT BOYS

These brutal activities clearly show that the 'Heary Gang' was not just the monopoly of the coalition but is readily being used by Fianna Fail. What is also disturbing is that a Sinn Féin statement to draw attention to the brutality was issued on Monday night and ignored by the media as largely was a press conference in Dublin on Wednesday afternoon, attended by the victims. Only Radio na Gaeltachta had the courage to interview one of the injured, Seamus Gallagher.

Also, Haughey's boot-boys were blatant in their brutality. On visits, relatives, solicitors, doctors and a priest had been told of the beatings and afterwards the task force, far from having second thoughts, carried on with their assaults. This shows an unusual disregard for exposure and indicates how confident they are of immunity.

These actions mock the Haughey administration as being any different to that of Cosgrave's coalition. The Blueshirts are still in control.

could not escape being affected by the events and developments in the other. No doubt Haughey will parade this section as British acknowledgment of the permanent interest Dublin has in the future of the North.

Interviewed about the proposals, SDLP leader John Hume typically crawled. "Talking is the name of the game", he said.

For republicans, however, should the plans for assembly elections next year reach fruition, then that structure has also to come down before the Brits' options on withdrawal are finally exhausted.

In effect the dual Brit proposals once more show the impossible task they have set themselves in projecting, or reading, 'normality', through a six-county governmental formula which both satisfies the loyalist lust for sectarian power and privilege, and satisfies the democratic aspirations of the nationalist people. From one option to another the Brits will continue to go round in circles until they withdraw.

Going round in circles



ment more strongly favours the first option — a position which will go down well in the United States.

Surprisingly, the paper offers some consolation to Haughey's lobbying activities, or more correctly his key role in border collaboration. The British government

emphasise that ties between the 'United Kingdom' (as distinct from 'Northern Ireland' according to Paisley on Wednesday's local BBC programme 'Scene Around Six') and the Free State are "close, sharing bonds of history, culture and language".

Each territory, the paper says,

SERIES OF RUC TRIALS END

Priest kidnappers and bar bombers walk free

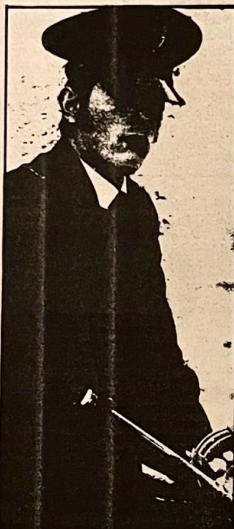
THREE RUC MEN from a Special Patrol Group who took part in a sectarian gun and bomb attack on a Catholic bar and who used an unmarked RUC car in their escape walked to freedom from a Belfast court room last Monday. It was just one more episode in the general immunity of the state forces from conviction and is further evidence to the nationalist people of the corrupt nature of the six-county state.

In the same court another RUC man walked to freedom. Sergeant Gary Armstrong from Armagh City, received a two year sentence, suspended for three years for falsely imprisoning Father Hugh Murphy from Ahoghill, and carrying a gun with intent to kidnap.

Nationalist people have been quick to compare this light sentence with the vicious sentences passed on three Ardoyne men. Last April, Martin Meehan, Christopher Doherty, and Patrick Burns, were each sentenced to twelve years jail on a charge of conspiracy to kidnap a self-confessed tort — a charge which they all deny and which has led Martin Meehan to go on hunger-strike to protest his innocence.

END

Last Monday's court cases bring to an end a sensational series of trials in which two RUC men, Sergeant John Weir and Constable William McCaughey, carried out the assassination of a Catholic along with two UVF men; in which McCaughey and Sergeant Armstrong carried out the priest kidnapping, and finally a case in which McCaughey again, along with two other RUC men, shot a Catholic man before planting a 10 lbs gel-



Before releasing the sectarian gunmen, bombers and kidnapers, the Lord Chief Justice commented: "Anyone who thinks I look lightly on offences committed by members of the RUC would be making a gross mistake."

nite bomb against the door of the Rock bar in Keady.

McCaughey had previously pleaded guilty to the murder of Catholic shopkeeper William Strathearn, shot in June 1977, and was sentenced to life imprisonment along with Sergeant Weir. But those who took part in the priest kidnapping, Sergeant Armstrong and McCaughey's father, Alexander McCaughey, were

given only suspended sentences.

And those who took part in the attack on the Rock Bar with McCaughey, Reserve Constable Laurence McClure and Constable Ian Mitchell from Armagh City, were each given two year sentences, suspended for three years. A fourth RUC man, Constable David Wilson, also from Armagh, who was asked to take part in the bombing but declined, was given a one year suspended sentence for failing to give information about the proposed attack.

KEADY

On June 5th 1978 the three RUC men drove to Keady in two cars, one of which was stolen from Market Street in Armagh by McClure and the getaway car, an RUC vehicle, which Mitchell drove. At the pub McCaughey shot a male customer who was just leaving the bar.

He was hit twice in the stomach and fell. The fuse of the bomb was lit and it was left against the door. McCaughey then fired more shots through the window. The RUC men drove away at speed and the detonator went off, but fortunately the bomb failed to explode.

Outside the town they set fire to the stolen car and McCaughey and McClure transferred to the unmarked RUC car driven by Mitchell. The radio in that car had proved useful for giving warnings of patrols in the area.

A defence lawyer for Mitchell said: "He is one of the casualties of this war." A description generously accepted by the Lord Chief Justice, Robert Lowry. Before releasing the sectarian gunmen, bombers and kidnapers, Lowry commented: "Anyone who thinks I look lightly on offences committed by members of the RUC would be making a gross mistake."

residents who complained were subjected to the usual vile abuse.

When Mrs. Burns arrived on the scene, a woman with her was pushed in the face with the flat of a soldier's hand, and told to 'fuck up', before Mrs. Burns herself was struck in the chest, with, according to eye-witnesses, a Brit's rifle butt; she fell, hitting her head on the ground and was knocked unconscious.

Then, as neighbours called for an ambulance for Mrs. Burns, the Brits — having tried to put plastic handcuffs first round Kevin's neck (1) and then his wrists — trailed the lad into a Saracen, punching and grabbing at him, and kneeling him once in the groin. He was taken to nearby Hastings Street barracks where he was held for over an hour being questioned and fingerprinted, before being released. A woman who tried to climb into the Saracen to accompany Kevin was struck on the hands with a rifle butt.

After his release Kevin's father took him to the Royal Victoria Hospital for a medical check-up. He had sustained a number of bruises to the chest, shoulders, neck, arms and back.

His 64-year-old grandmother was taken by ambulance to the hospital and underwent head X-rays and a heart-scan, before being allowed home to rest.

UDR ATTACKED

IRA VOLUNTEERS carried out two attacks against UDR personnel last weekend. At 10 a.m. on Friday morning, June 27th, an IRA active service unit shot and injured a part-time UDR man and a former UDR man at a garage in Aughnacloy, County Tyrone. Then on the evening of Saturday, June 28th, a former UDR man, from Charlemont, County Armagh, was shot dead by IRA Volunteers at a cattle mart at Ballybay, County Monaghan. The dead man was also, incidentally, a member of the Official Unionist Party executive committee. The fact that two of the three men shot had resigned from the UDR provides yet further evidence of the demoralisation amongst the ranks of UDR soldiers and the high rate of turnover.

RUC man dies

AN RUC MAN died, when, according to the RUC, "he apparently accidentally shot himself in the head" at his parents' home, Chlorine Gardens, off the Malone Road, Belfast, in the early hours of Tuesday morning. He had only joined the RUC last November.

RUC man jailed

AN RUC MAN was jailed for only nine months at Armagh court on Wednesday 25th June for what the judge described as a 'vicious and savage' attack against a young woman whom he had taken home from a dance. Twenty-two-year-old Francis Lattimer of Gortoran, Knockaraven, Enniskillen, admitted wounding the woman 'with intent to do her grievous bodily harm' at her home in Portadown on December 1st last. He was also fined £100 for taking an RUC vehicle from Gough barracks, Armagh, where he was stationed, and for having no insurance. The RUC man, said by the RUC inspector to have 'a good service record' caused his victim such severe internal injuries that she required two weeks hospitalisation.

Teenagers shot

BRITISH ARMY GUNMEN in Belfast have again recklessly opened fire at a road checkpoint seriously injuring a teenage joy-rider. The shooting happened at about 10.15 p.m. on Thursday night, June 26th, when several teenagers drove through a checkpoint at the junction of Glen Road and Suffolk Road. In flagrant breach of their 'yellow card' rules for opening fire, the Brits fired five shots into the car as it passed, shooting a fifteen-year-old youth in the shoulder. The car continued for several hundred yards before it crashed through a hedge and into a field. The teenager was later reported to be seriously ill in hospital.

Two more youths were admitted to hospital suffering gunshot wounds after the RUC opened fire on teenage joy-riders on the Falls Road in Belfast in the early hours of Wednesday 2nd July. A fifteen-year-old was shot in the leg, and a seventeen-year-old in the arm. The RUC later trotted out the usual excuse that they thought they had seen what appeared to be a weapon pointed at them through the rear window of the car.

RUC cover-up

SENIOR RUC MEN are continuing to conspire to stop an RUC Police Authority tribunal from hearing how RUC men tortured Tyrone men in the Rafferty in Omagh barracks in November 1976, according to former authority member Jack Hassard — who resigned from that body because of its complicity in torture cover-ups. Last Thursday, June 26th, a Belfast High Court judge ruled that the torture tribunal had to go ahead and rejected an RUC application to have it scrapped. But Jack Hassard, who forced the tribunal in the first place when he was on the authority, says that a senior official of the RUC Police Federation has told him that no RUC men will ever give evidence before it. He claims that there is "a conspiracy of silence before the tribunal even sits."

Blockage bypassed

LOCAL PEOPLE last weekend re-opened the border road linking Roslea in County Fermanagh and Clones in County Monaghan, which — as a sop to the loyalists — had been closed the previous Monday by the British army who erected steel and concrete barriers at the Lickley Bridge. The road block was bypassed when people knocked down hedges and created a causeway alongside the bridge. Cars and lorries are now using the route once more. Official Unionist leader Jim Molyneux was shocked at the militant nationalist action and complained bitterly of the 'futility' of the British government's actions.

Brits lashed

AN ENGLISH CORONER has lashed the British army for indiscipline because an eighteen-year-old recruit, who went through 'a living hell' at the hands of barrack room bully-boys, committed suicide. Day after day James Darkin, who was a drummer in the Royal Pioneer Corps, but who was educationally sub-normal, was intimidated and verbally abused about his lack of girl friends, inability to consume alcohol, and his mental capacity. Dubbed 'the virgin soldier', he was forcibly bathed and scrubbed with scouring powder; his public hairs were forcibly shaved off; he was dipped in a duck pond; he was kicked; he had his shirt smeared in boot polish; and he was urinated over by his tormentors, who included two lance-corporals.

This catalogue of cruelty was revealed at the young rookie's inquest at Northampton barracks last Wednesday, June 25th: for he killed himself with a drug overdose in February. After the inquest the dead youth's father said: "I am still not satisfied. I believe NCO's turned a blind eye to what was going on. I blame the army."

Damages awarded

DAMAGES of £5,000 were awarded to Enniskillen schoolteacher Bernard O' Connor against the RUC in a Belfast High Court on Monday, as a result of his torture while being held in Castlereagh for four days in January 1977. The hearing was the result of a civil action brought by O' Connor, after the Director of Public Prosecutions had refused to take a case on his behalf against the RUC. In court, O' Connor detailed the inhuman and degrading treatment inflicted on him by RUC men during twenty interrogation sessions. This included standing for prolonged periods in unnatural positions, being kicked and punched, forced to pick up cigarette ends and lick up water from the floor, and having his soiled underpants pulled over his face.

The judge, in his summing-up, was at pains to excuse the RUC's 'sore temptation' to use physical violence, and claimed that O' Connor, who he called a Republican 'wolf in sheep's clothing', had exaggerated and invented certain incidents. Nevertheless, the overwhelming weight of evidence that O' Connor was brutalised forced the judge to award damages while attempting to minimise the scale of that brutality.



MRS CHRISTINA BURNS

KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS

A SIXTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD woman was knocked unconscious, and her fourteen-year-old grandson sustained severe bruising, in the Lower Falls area of Belfast last Thursday afternoon, at the hands of the British army.

At about 3 p.m., Mrs Christina Burns was called out of her Divis Flats home with the news that her grandson, Kevin Burns, was being bullied by soldiers.

Kevin had been lying on a patch of grass behind Divis Flats, when a passing Brit patrol was stoned by a few young lads nearby.

The Brits immediately singled out Kevin, and when he refused orders to stand up he was dragged by his hair along the ground. When a passing woman intervened Kevin broke free, but was chased by four Brits into the adjoining Devonshire Close, caught, and dragged by his hair along the entry, while

Cork Housing Protest

CORK'S City Hall was picketed on Monday 23rd June, during the selection of the new lord mayor, by members of the Terence MacSwiney Cumann, Sinn Féin, who were drawing attention to the plight of families who have been on the corporation housing list for up to five years. A number of those involved joined the picket.

The Sinn Féin cumann has recently compiled a list of houses and flats all over the city which have been left empty for long periods, and the addresses of these premises were displayed on placards at the picket. Several councillors were surprised to learn of the number of vacant houses, whilst others said nothing could be done about it. Numerous appeals to the corporation for houses for families on the waiting list have always been shrugged off in the past, and plans for a more militant campaign are now being made.

Allied Windows Strike

A STRIKE of the industrial fixing staff of Allied Windows Ltd. in Dublin is affecting a number of building sites in the city and around the twenty-six counties. The strike, which began on Monday 16th June follows the dismissal of five fixing-workers in what the strikers say is a run-down of the company's Dublin operation in favour of a new factory in the Connemara gaeltacht at Carraroe.

Faced with renewal of the lease of their Dublin premises at the end of this year, the company opened a new factory at Carraroe one year ago, obtaining various government grants because of its gaeltacht situation. By reducing the fabricating workforce in Dublin from twenty-two to five since then, Allied Windows have been able to transfer their machinery to the new factory.

The fixing staff on the building sites are non-unionised, and the company, hoping to avoid a dispute with unionised fabricators in the factory (and avoid paying redundancy), dismissed five fixers and attempted to replace them with the five fabricators out of the factory.

This was the immediate cause of the strike and although initially it was agreed to reinstate the five men unfairly dismissed and recognise demarcation between fixers and fabricators, management later changed its mind and the strike continues.

Pickets on a number of building sites have been effective in halting the fixing and delivery of Allied Windows products. But last week at the Sisk site in Harcourt Lane, Dublin, two men were injured in separate incidents on the picket line when attempting to stop delivery vehicles, and one man had to be taken to hospital.

Limerick Shop Stewards

ABOUT forty shop stewards and trade union activists attended a meeting in Limerick on Saturday 28th June, called by the Limerick Shop Steward and Rank-and-File Committee.

The meeting heard from one of the Alcan shop stewards about their latest position, and went on to discuss various other issues which are amounting to an assault on the rights and living standards of workers.

The blacklisting of union militants was discussed and linked to the role played by trade union bureaucrats, which one speaker described as 'policing the workers for management'. The struggle for trade union democracy was discussed at length and it was stressed that workers should be encouraged to attend and participate at branch meetings, increasing their interest and involvement in their unions.

The ICTU's rule 47(d), which deals with inter-union transfers came in for sharp criticism, as did the ITGWU's attitude on this in particular. One of those at the meeting stated, "It is harder to get out of this union than from Limerick prison".

The meeting adopted the 'agreed platform' of the national shop stewards movement which was formulated at a Dublin conference in April. This commits the movement to fighting against 'national wage agreements', for free collective bargaining and for equal pay, against closures and redundancies, for direct industrial action on PAYE demands, against anti-union legislation, against public spending cuts, and for the right to join the union of one's choice.

The meeting also passed a resolution calling for political status for political prisoners in the H-Blocks and Armagh and those present were urged to support the lobbying of ICTU delegates on the issue in Belfast this week.

END-OF-TERM JAPES

Leinster House walk-out

— BY KEVIN BURKE

LEINSTER HOUSE is always at its most farcical as its members indulge in their 'end-of-term japes' before going off for their four-month summer holidays. The walk-out of the Labour Party on Thursday of last week lived up well to the nonsense of previous years.

Since Haughey became Fianna Fáil leader, the policy of the Labour party, as enunciated by Frank Cluskey, its leader (for the time being), and supported to greater and lesser degrees by Fine Gael, has become one solely of name-calling at him in Leinster House. These names are of course richly deserved, but people outside quite rightly view this kind of thing as the pot calling the kettle black.

The Labour Party walk-out was declared to be in support of the Socialist Labour Party's Noel Browne who had been prevented from raising the allegations about Fianna Fáil contained in recent *Magill* articles on the 'Arms Trial' of 1970. Browne was eventually suspended and forced to leave the house by the deputy ceann-comhairle no doubt on instructions from Fianna Fáil.

This display of principle from the Labour Party was of course very much in contrast to its showing the previous week when not one of its members could find

the courage to support the Labour Party's declared policy by seconding Noel Browne's divorce bill.

All this obvious posturing by the opposition parties obviously helps the grossly hypocritical

riposte from Fianna Fáil that they are raking up 'ten-year-old history' to cover-up their lack of policies on the present-day 'economic difficulties'. However it does obscure that there is a great deal in Noel Browne's attempted questions which has yet to be answered by Haughey and Fianna Fáil.

The first 'Arms Trial' article in the May issue of *Magill*, not only accused Haughey and Gibbons of perjury but also asserted that Jack Lynch has consistently lied about the events since they took place as have present-day Free State

ministers who were, it says, aware of what was happening and complied with the various cover-ups.

The June issue of the magazine contained the first publication of the private papers of Peter Berry, the top civil servant at the Justice Department at the time, who has since died. The papers support the allegations made in the May issue with detailed accounts, from diary entries, of meetings and telephone calls between Peter Berry and Lynch and Haughey as well as further allegations about the importation of other guns and money for guns with the knowledge of Fianna Fáil ministers.

With another article to come in this month's *Magill*, which will deal in detail with the trial itself, Haughey is faced with further embarrassment and will have difficulty continuing to maintain his, so far effective, silence.

But the effort to raise the matter by Browne in Leinster House, which was stymied by the deputy ceann-comhairle (a Fianna Fáil member) shut off for the time being what is possibly the only way of putting Haughey on the spot.

The Dublin press have hardly mentioned the *Magill* issue, scared off by libel threats, whilst journalists at RTE have alleged this week that they have been silenced on the issue by political interference.



Charlie Haughey and Peter Berry share a joke in October, 1963. But Haughey is not smiling now after the publication by 'Magill' magazine of the top secret memoirs of the Free State's most powerful civil servant.

BY CATHAL McCORMACK

FEARS THAT the trout and salmon population of the River Feale in North Kerry will be completely wiped out, have enraged local people after thousands of fish have been killed by pollution on three separate occasions in as many weeks. They are adamant that the source of the pollution is the Kerry Co-op Milk Products plant at Listowel, which discharges its effluent and waste produce into the river.

Last week a picket blockaded the gates of the factory in protest and dead fish were dumped in the entrance of the Co-op. The management, who deny that they have anything to do with the pollution, refused to meet the picketers. Scientific analyses are now being made to determine the source.

The Feale is one of the finest trout and salmon rivers in Ireland

LISTOWEL POLLUTION

and is used by hundreds of local anglers. More importantly it is a source of livelihood for three-hundred-and-fifty fishermen in the area who draftnet for salmon from small boats.

These fishermen are already facing major difficulties with the season reduced by two weeks in accordance with EEC regulations, while large vessels using huge nets are fishing illegally at the mouth of the river. So both anglers and fishermen are gravely threatened by these fish kills which also kill the salmon 'smolts' on their way up the river, thus endangering the whole future of salmon on the Feale.

CONSERVATIONIST

Kerry conservationist, Dr. O'Sullivan, maintains that it is impossible for the Kerry Co-op to avoid polluting the river under existing circumstances. The main production of the plant takes place during the summer months when the water level is lowest. The chemicals in the waste produce dumped into the river reduces the oxygen content of the water drastically and this lack of oxygen kills the fish.

Dr. O'Sullivan suggests that there should be a pipeline laid to take the waste products out to deep off-shore areas, which would also have the advantage of attracting other industries to the area to share the scheme.

However, there appears little chance at present that Kerry Co-op would put up the money for such a scheme as local people also allege that in order to save money on the effluent-purifying process the Co-op allows the effluent to flow untreated into the river during the night.

DRINKING

Besides the killing of the fish there are further possible dangers. Sinn Féin county councillor in Kerry, Robert Beasley, says that the drinking water for the area comes from the Feale and could be contaminated by suspended solids in the waste produce. The fact that large numbers of dead fish were found at the entrance

to the drinking water extraction pipe has increased such fears.

Robert Beasley also says that cattle drinking from streams of the river are also in danger, and should the fishing be destroyed on the Feale this will also damage the North Kerry tourist industry.

North Kerry has already suffered much from the unwillingness of the Free State government to supply development funds for the area. Some parts of the county have completely inadequate sewage, electricity and water services, and the locals say that the only government interest is in over-ruling local authority planning permission refusals in favour of property speculators who are forcing up land prices.

Given all this, the people around the Feale can well do without the destruction of the river, which is one of the few natural advantages they have.



LEFT: A Kerry Co-op lorry is prevented from entering the Listowel factory by protestors.



RIGHT: One of the protestors dumps dead fish outside the Co-op last Wednesday.

H-Block resolution causes furore

LABOUR LEADERSHIP SPLIT

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

A FIERCE ROW was sparked off inside the leadership of the British Labour Party last week when the party's National Executive Committee endorsed a resolution protesting against repression and torture in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and Armagh jail.

In an unusual — but unsurprising — move, members of the shadow cabinet (including party leader James Callaghan, and former Northern direct-rulers Roy Mason and Merlyn Rees) publicly dissociated themselves from the resolution. Also apparently, 'consternation and anger' were expressed at the executive meeting by them, and other members of the shadow cabinet, including deputy leader and former 'darling' of the left, Michael Foot, former direct-rule ministers Stan Orme and Don Concannon and Northern spokesman Brynmor John.

RIFT

The adoption by the NEC of this resolution last Wednesday can be seen as a widening of the rift in the Labour Party between 'the right' led by Callaghan, and 'the left' led by leadership contender Tony Benn.

The left are currently eager to seize on, and magnify, any difference they can find with, or defect they can find in, the current leadership's policies, in order to make a stand on what they can promote as 'socialist principles'. The Labour Party's backing of repression and torture in Ireland, whether in office or opposition, through the bi-partisan policy with the Tories, forms an obvious issue on which to widen the gulf. How far the split over Irish policy — over which Labour are normally as reactionary as the Tories — has permeated the ranks of the Parliamentary Labour Party remains to be seen.

LUNACY

In Westminster on Thursday a Tory back-bencher asked Brit premier Thatcher to comment on the NEC's "wild allegations against the authorities in Northern Ireland," and wondered aloud if there was any limit to the 'lunacy' of Labour's 'crazy' executive. Thatcher replied: "I think the views put forward were disgraceful."

The concern of the British ruling class over this Labour split was even better expressed by one

of their organs, the Sunday 'Observer'. An editorial entitled 'Labour's Irish Lunacy' said:

"If the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party expresses any opinions on defence, Europe or economic policy, that is regrettable... But such waywardness is not disaster... The resolution passed on Northern Ireland is different in kind. It has an immediate effect, for the apparent erosion of the Westminster bi-partisanship, which has survived eleven troubled years, encourages terrorism... to pass such a resolution is an act of lunacy."

The strength of such language is a good measure of the importance that the British ruling class attach to the maintenance of the horrors of the H-Blocks in imposing their rule on the six-counties.

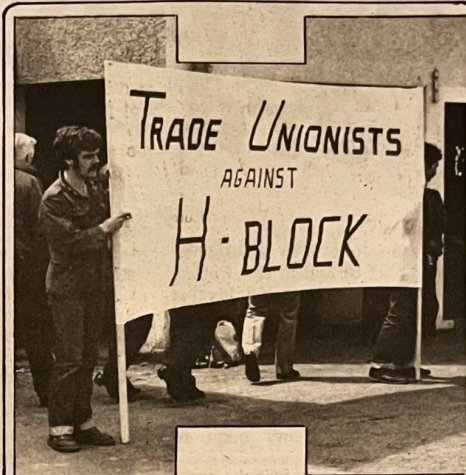
The resolution had been put to the NEC by the party's Home Policy Committee, which is chaired by Tony Benn. It refers to the appalling conditions in the H-Blocks and Armagh jail; opposes such 'repression and torture'; and lists, for consideration, a series of prisoners' rights which in practice amount to political status in all but name. The resolution, championed by Young Socialist Tony Sanuolis and 'troops out' campaigner Joan Maynard, MP, also expresses strong concern that repression in the North of Ireland could "be perfected for possible use against the Labour Movement in Britain in the future."

STUDY GROUP

Last weekend the Labour Party sent members of its study group on the North, to the North, where they met representatives of a wide range of political opinion, both nationalist and unionist. The visit, however, did not come about as a direct result of the NEC resolution, but had been arranged some time ago, and it did not include visits to any of the prisons.

Commenting on their visit, the group's chairman, Alex Kitson, who is deputy general secretary of the powerful Transport Union, said that it was clear from their talks that the study group should go and see conditions in the H-Blocks for itself — possibly on their next visit on July 13th.

Kitson, however, displaying the typical slave mentality of the bulk of the British labour bureaucracy, went on to say that he 'condemned the passing by the NEC of the resolution, and said that if he had



Congress Lobby

MORE than six hundred trade union delegates from all over Ireland, attending the annual conference of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions in the King's Hall, Belfast, which started on Tuesday morning, were met by a lobby group organised by the trade union sub-committee of the National H-Block Committee. The lobbyists distributed leaflets which asked delegates to support a motion on the conference agenda from Waterford Trades Council, calling for a trade union enquiry into the H-Blocks. However, a series of ploys by the Congress leadership, appear — at the time of writing — to be likely to succeed in stifling any discussion on H-Block within the conference.

The Northern Committee's annual report which was tabled for Thursday afternoon and would have allowed delegates to discuss H-Block and repression in the North generally, was sprung without warning, earlier in the conference, and no discussion on it was allowed. Two H-Block resolutions, from Waterford and Limerick trades councils, were purposely tabled at the end of the proposed agenda, making it unlikely they would ever be reached by the conference.

The lobby itself, which on Tuesday had stationed itself directly outside the conference hall, was on Wednesday forced, by the collusion of the conference organisers and the RUC, to stand on the adjacent Lisburn Road, in a predominantly loyalist area — leaving them exposed to sectarian attack.

On Thursday evening, a 'Trade Unions Against H-Block' fringe meeting was held in Queen's University Students' union. Seventy people attended, including ten conference delegates, to hear brief speeches from Belfast trade unionists Brian Sullivan and Fergus O'Here, from former blanketman Fra McCann and from Monica Culbert, the wife of an H-Block blanketman.

One fact to emerge is that the chairman of Belfast trades council, Joe Cooper, is a member of the Armagh jail visitors' board, yet has never reported back to his trades council, or ever once raised his voice in protest at conditions there.

been at the NEC meeting he would have voted against it because it gave the impression that the executive was condoning 'terrorism' by suggesting something should be done about the H-Blocks.

The study group — whose brief includes considering future constitutional developments in the North — is to prepare a report for the Labour Party conference in October.

conditions. She said that it was common practice around the world for oppressive regimes to try and criminalise their political prisoners. The International Campaign against Repression has also had delegations in Iran and Tunisia, as well as intervening on behalf of prisoners in Peru and attending the trial of Charter 77 dissidents in Czechoslovakia.

Sculptor Alain Chailier told the Dublin meeting that all the delegation members would be working to build a broad campaign for political status for the prisoners on their return home and making their sufferings widely known.

The meeting at Liberty Hall was chaired by journalist Carol Coulter and was addressed by Joe Stagg of the National H-Block Committee and trade unionists Kevin McConnell and Paddy Mooney. Other members of the international delegation were a lawyer, two doctors, a trade unionist and British Labour Party MP, Reg Race.

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION



Platform party at Liberty Hall — from left to right: Paddy Mooney, Francoise Cotta, Alain Chailier, Carol Coulter, Joe Stagg and Kevin McConnell.

where barrister Francoise Cotta attempt to deny the beatings that said that Jackson had made no take place or the appalling con-

Ardoyne

SEVERAL hundred people joined in a march from the Bohe to Ardoyne organised by the Belfast Relatives Action Committee last Sunday, the first in a series of local marches planned by the RAC to show the increasing level of support for the H-Block prisoners in nationalist areas of Belfast.

Despite the usual obstruction of the Brits and RUC the march reached its destination at the Ardoyne memorial where speeches were heard from a former Armagh prisoner and from a member of Belfast RAC.

Carrick-on-Suir

AT a special meeting of the Carrick-on-Suir Council of Trade Unions last week, a motion in support of the blanket men in the H-Blocks and the women prisoners in Armagh was passed by a majority vote. The motion was proposed by local Sinn Féin councillor and trade unionist Eddie O'Doherty.

Dublin



A PICKET was placed on Leinster House on Wednesday 25th June, the day before the Free State parliament went into recess for its long summer break, to call attention to the plight of the women prisoners on protest in Armagh jail. The picket was organised by the Armagh Prisoners Solidarity Committee in Dublin.

Glasgow

OVER one hundred people attended a public meeting in Glasgow on Tuesday 24th June, organised by Women's Voice, on conditions in Armagh jail and the fight for political status. Despite threats from the fascist National Front and 'Scottish Protestant Loyalists' the meeting passed off without interruption and heard a speaker from Women Against Imperialism outline the role of women in Armagh and in the national struggle.

Also, in May, the Glasgow community workers' branch of the transport workers' union, TGWU, voted support for Charter 80, a broad-based protest campaign recently launched in Britain, whose demands are similar to those of the National H-Block Committee.

Leitrim

AT a meeting of Leitrim H-Block Action Committee in Drumshanbo on Tuesday 24th June it was announced that sub-committees had been formed in Drumshanbo, Ballinamore, Mohill, Carrigallen and Kiltubrid and arrangements were made to establish such committees in other areas as soon as possible. The meeting, which was chaired by local veterinary surgeon Pat Gallagher, was addressed by Dr. Harry O'Carroll, who is a former county surgeon. He decried the lack of response on the prisoner issue from the churches, the press and Leinster House politicians.

Marine Union

THE Marine Port and General Workers Union has joined in the condemnation of the treatment of prisoners in the H-Blocks and Armagh. At their recent annual conference in Mullingar the delegates passed a motion that "this union condemns the English atrocities in Long Kesh and other prisons in the North of Ireland".

Portlaoise

MEMBERS of the 11/86 Branch of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union in Portlaoise, Co. Waterford overwhelmingly voted in support of a motion supporting the prisoners on protest in the H-Blocks and Armagh on humanitarian grounds. The meeting was chaired by Jackie Phelan who is also a member of the Waterford H-Block Action Committee.

AN international delegation of prominent Europeans has completed a three-day fact-finding mission into conditions in H-Block and Armagh jail and has returned home to launch a campaign by the International Committee against Repression in support of what they describe as 'the legitimate demands' of the prisoners.

Following a press conference in Dublin on Wednesday 25th June the seven-member delegation travelled to Belfast. Their attempts to visit the prisoners failed and they were met at Long Kesh by a propaganda official, Carl Jackson, who did in fact show them colour photographs of the appalling conditions suffered by the prisoners. In Belfast the delegation met with prisoners' relatives, trade unionists, ex-prisoners and other republicans.

On Friday two members of the group gave a press conference in Belfast before returning to Dublin for a meeting in Liberty Hall,

THE FALLS CURFEW

July 3rd 1970

BY SEAN STITT

THE BATTLE of St Matthew's on June 27th 1970 when the Irish Republican Army in Short Strand in east Belfast successfully defended the area from a concerted loyalist attack was a welcome reassurance to the nationalist people. But to the British Army it was an acute embarrassment, since it robbed them of their main propaganda argument at the time for being in the North - 'protecting the Catholics'. To the Tory government in London, who had come to power on June 18th such able defence left the nationalist people too independent of the British army and open to republicanism.

The following Friday, July 3rd, the British army

AT ABOUT three o'clock on Friday afternoon July 3rd 1970, Balkan Street in the lower Falls area of Belfast echoed to the screeching brakes of the British army jeeps and pigs halting outside number 24. It didn't take long for the news to spread throughout the area and five minutes later myself and my friends, being young teenagers, were on our way to Balkan Street seeing this as another opportunity to get throwing some bricks, bottles and petrol bombs at the soldiers.

It seemed as if everyone from the lower Falls was in Balkan Street, as well as to a hundred soldiers, mostly from the infamous Black Watch. They were helmeted and had CS gas, rifles and bayonets menacingly at the ready. Soldiers were being jostled and beaten, mostly by women, and they, in turn retaliated with baton charges.

Then as silence fell over the whole street a single shout of 'Look!' directed everyone's eyes towards two soldiers coming from the raided house carrying large plastic, transparent bags with guns in them.

"They're taking our guns!" someone cried and the crowd surged towards the soldiers as the first CS gas canister was fired, then another and then an endless stream of them.

"Fenian bastards, we're giving your guns to the UVF," shouted a triumphant Brit.

The air was filled with bricks, bottles and paving stones raining down on the soldiers. Never at any previous riot had I experienced an angrier mood among the people, who obviously resented that those guns being taken away were our only means of defence against more attacks from loyalists.

From the moment the jeeps and tanks of the British army pulled out of Balkan Street that day, crushing to death a man in



A resident of Milton Street held at gunpoint, at daybreak on July 4th 1970, while his home is searched by other Brits.

the process, the nationalist community realised that the friendly Tommy who arrived in '69 had now shown his true colours, in the army of occupation.

The raid was obviously well planned but the reaction of the people was grossly underestimated by the Brits.

RIOTING

At five o'clock the most intensive rioting took place in and around the Raglan Street / Albert Street corner, Balacava Street, Leeson Street and McDonnell Street. Usually the Brits would send in snatch-squads to deter rioters, but not so this time. It would have been suicidal, they would have been torn to pieces. In fact, at the corner of McDonnell Street groups of men armed with hurley sticks and bin-lids charged the Brits who scattered like panic-stricken rabbits, even though they had their tanks, guns and CS gas.

Soldier after soldier was carted away, heads split open by bricks, whilst people were vomiting, fainting and gasping for air as CS gas seeped into every inch of the lower Falls.

Hijacked buses and lorries

burned everywhere. About forty soldiers retreated down Raglan Street under a hail of stones and petrol bombs, leaving one of their saracens behind them in the street.

The crowd was kept from advancing on it by a massive salvo of CS gas, but one old man, aged at least sixty-five, staggered forward ravaged by the effects of the gas, barely able to breathe through the vinegar-soaked handkerchief he held to his mouth. At once he became the target of every Brit CS gun, canisters even struck him on the body, but he made it to the saracen, flung the lit petrol bomb into the back and it exploded into flames making the crowd ecstatic.

PATROLS

Around six o'clock IRA patrols began to appear on the streets, armed with rifles, hand guns and grenades. Roars of acknowledgement greeted each patrol, cries of 'Up the Provos', and 'Blow the Brits to hell' echoed the streets. Everywhere young children were being gathered up by their parents, older men and women withdrew from the front, the stage was being set for the biggest

battle for years between the IRA and the British army.

Then the helicopters arrived, three or four of them, circling the area. "This area is now under curfew. Go to your homes. Any one outdoors will be arrested." The voices were so typically British, authoritarian, so arrogant, pompous and filled with self-imposed superiority; but they were greeted with total defiance.

SHOOTING

It slowly began to dawn on people that this battle would not be won or lost with bricks and petrol bombs; this was not a night for mere rioting.

From an initial ten soldiers at the corner of our street, Granville Street, there were now about forty inching their way along the street. They were pushing people into their homes and pulling front doors behind them. Those who resisted were struck with rifle butts or pulled along the ground by the hair.

Everyone seemed to move towards their own doors to protect their own families from the, by now, animal fury of the soldiers. As people were pushed into their homes they came out

again immediately, openly defying the Brits.

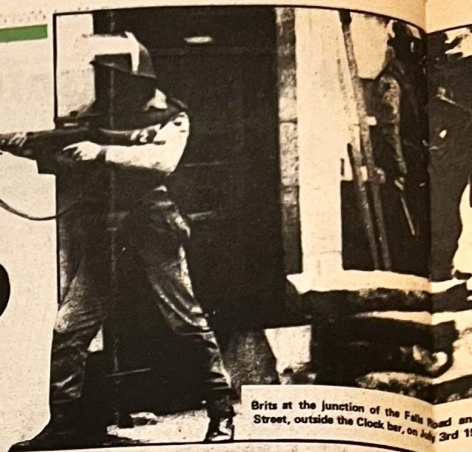
Then three loud sharp cracks rang out. Live rounds. Not the dull thud of the CS

FROM recent interviews with IRA Volunteers who participated in the armed resistance, which featured in the initial stages of the lower Falls curfew ten years ago Peter Hayes has compiled the following account.

ON Friday 3rd July 1970, there were three groups involved in the armed resistance of what was then a maze of streets surrounded by Albert Street, Collingtree Road, Grosvenor Road and the Falls Road. They were the IRA, an auxiliary group who were close to the IRA, and the Sticks. As the split was only a few months old the largest and best armed grouping was the Sticks. But what the IRA lacked in personnel and weaponry they made up for in bravery and sheer defiance. Although some Sticks were involved the majority of them played no major role during the nine-and-a-half hour gun battle.

About half-four that evening all arms dumps under command of the O/C of 'D' Company (the IRA unit which covered this part of the 2nd Battalion in the 1960s) were lifted and the auxiliary unit was contacted. They too lifted their weapons. Numbered among republican weapons were hand-guns, a 303 rifle and a Schmeisser sub-machine gun. They also had a large number of nail bombs. The Sticks had several pump-action shotguns, two semi-automatic rifles and a Bren-gun. Late that evening the auxiliary unit picked up two shotguns in the upstairs of a derelict house supposed to have been manned by the Sticks.

Brit inexperience caused them several casualties with



Brits at the junction of the Falls Road and Street, outside the Clock bar, on July 3rd 1970.

gas gun or the banged. These were lead bullets. No-fired them or at a divided for cover even more shots.

It was then realised that the IRA on the Brits, that were not going without a fight. A was go inside and for 'The Bap' 'Provisional', our liberation army, H lonately labelled.

The shooting incessantly far ho Brit outside eve doors. We listen every shot was fol on our door as t tried to squeeze closer to the door. We heard them each other: "Sho moves."

As the night count of the fired and grenade towards two o'clock died out. Not activity, a we by them turning street shouting. five it became o were doing hous

SWIRL

Our door wa Brits burst in and my brother (who, year older than ripping our shirt to take our shoes and spread-eagle wall. Every time were hit in the Then we heard a splintering house. We struggled the house. TV

alls Road and Lower Clonard
on July 3rd 1970.

h or the bin lids being
These were live rounds,
illets! No-one knew who
em or at who, but soldiers
or cover everywhere. Then
ots.

was then that everyone
that the IRA were taking
Brits, that the weapons
not going to be taken
a fight. All we could do
inside and hope and pray
the 'Bap', which the
onals', our protectors, and
on army, had been affect-
labelled.

shooting continued
tly for hours. There was a
outside everyone of our
We listened intently as
not was followed by a thud
door as the Brit outside
squeeze himself even
to the door for protection.
rd them shout orders to
her: "Shoot anything that

the night wore on we lost
of the number of shots
and grenades exploded, but
two o'clock the shooting
out. Not so the Brits'
as we were kept awake
n running up and down the
outing. Around half-past
became obvious that they
ing a house to house raid.

SWEPT
door was kicked in. Six
first in and dragged me, and
her (who, at sixteen, was a
der than myself) outside
our shirts off, forcing us
our shoes and socks off,
read-eagling us against the
Every time we moved we
in the back with a baton.
e heard glass smashing and
tering noise inside our
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ABOVE: Belfast people on the march down Sultan Street, on the evening of July 5th 1980.

BELOW: Soldier after soldier was carted away, heads split open by bricks, whilst people were vomiting, fainting and gasping for air as CS gas seeped into every inch of the Lower Falls.



overturning the settee. Another two were emptying the cupboards in the kitchen, and the remaining two were tearing the bedclothes off the beds and throwing them everywhere. When I asked them what they were looking for they sneered back, "anything valuable."

One Brit used his baton to sweep the ornaments and clock off the fireplace. It seemed pointless to protest. They were here to wreck the place and any argument would provoke more violent reaction from them.

As they were leaving one

soldier picked up our radio, stuck it under his tunic and, much to the amusement of his mates declared, "Just so you can't listen to our messages."

The rest of Saturday we spent confined, cleaning up the mess, repairing the damage, comforting

the younger members of the family and watching the soldiers outside carrying barbed wire and sandbags and boxes of ammunition up and down the street. Then we turned on the TV and heard on the news that three men had been shot dead in the lower Falls, others injured and hundreds arrested.

Around five o'clock a soldier came along the street with a loud-hailer saying that we were to be allowed out for one hour to gather food supplies, for urgent messages, and then back indoors again. No sooner had he given the initial announcement than the street was filled with every single resident.

People immediately began to gather in groups, everyone telling of the appalling damage and carnage carried out by the troops: windows smashed, furniture broken, floor boards and staircases ripped up, clothes torn, families beaten, and so on. And all for what? Not a gun or a single round of ammunition was found in the entire street.

Young mothers rushed off to the shops to gather food only to return empty-handed and desperate either because the shop had sold out or they had been looted by the raiding soldiers.

Granville Street looked like something from the Warsaw ghetto. Both ends were cordoned off with barbed wire, and sandbagged

posts with heavy machine guns kept the people in check.

DEADLINE

Soldiers were stopping everyone entering and leaving the street. Inevitably tempers began to fray, coming towards the six o'clock deadline. Most people had failed to get any groceries because of the soldiers' looting. People refused to give their names, answer any questions, or be searched and, of course, scuffles broke out.

An eight-year-old boy who had his head split open by a baton during one of the scuffles was refused permission to leave the street to go to the hospital, because the officer in charge said that he would not be able to make it back before the restoration of the curfew at six. The child's pleading mother cried that he could bleed to death. "That's your problem," was the officer's reply.

Then six o'clock came and the same soldier with the loud-hailer announced the restart of the curfew and ordered everyone back into their homes. The open defiance that had been so proudly demonstrated the previous night had been markedly subdued by the brutality of the troops.

People grudgingly obeyed the orders, sincerely believing that to openly disobey them would result in being shot. The last thing I saw, before I locked our door for the night was the old man from across the street who had served in the British army in the Second World War, dropping four medals, that he had been awarded for bravery during that war, one by one at the feet of the soldier with the loud-hailer.

SLEEPLESS

Saturday night was sleepless, awaiting the worst, fearing any minute that the door would be kicked in and the whole family pulled out and perhaps shot.

Through the night we were subjected to drunken Brits spewing forth vile disgusting slogans about our religion, the IRA, what they had done when they raided the nuns' convent, how many of us they were going to shoot, and so on.

Between seven and nine o'clock on Sunday morning I heard doors being opened and immediately soldiers rushed to the doors to demand an explanation. Neighbours said that they were going to mass, only to be subjected to insults, to be thrust back into their homes and their doors shut behind them.

Then at about a quarter-to-ten the Brits announced that the curfew had been lifted. However we were still restricted to the lower Falls area, and no-one was permitted to enter or leave it.

It was chaotic, with people attending mass as if for the last time in their lives, praying and thanking God they were still alive; and, in between, frantically visiting shops, queuing for hours, but ending up with almost nothing because of the soldiers' looting.

MARCHING

Then the news began to filter through that thousands of people from up the road were marching into the lower Falls with food and other supplies sweeping the Brits away like insignificant cockroaches.

Barriers were torn down, soldiers trampled on, and machine-guns pushed aside by thousands of people laden down with bread, milk, eggs and flour, and there were vans and lorries full of meat, cereals, tinned food and coal. In the face of such a show of solidarity and defiance the British army slunk back to their barracks.

The curfew was over and never again would the British army be looked upon by the nationalist people as anything other than an occupation force of tyrants and murderers.

The gun battle

The first operation was launched. A squad of six Republicans lobbed nail-bombs into the ranks of Brits, standing to attention in Albert Street, who were sent screaming and diving in every direction. When they eventually regained their composure they took up the most careful sniper positions.

GUN-FIRE

The first gun-fire directed at the Brits took place within minutes of the nail-bomb attack. About ten Brits were spotted chasing the remnants of a group of rioters down Friar Street. Three men, armed with short-arms, stepped out of two doorways and opened fire. Two Brits were seen to fall and were carried away by their colleagues. Word of this victory quickly spread through the ranks of the armed insurgents and a sense of elation prevailed.

About two hours after the gun battle began the Brits organised a pincer movement to divide the men and weaken the resistance. Four armoured cars raced into Abercorn Street North, screeched to a halt and immediately came under sustained gunfire. They hastily retreated for a rethink.

Meanwhile, throughout the area the battle had hotted

up and every inch of ground was being contested. Brit incursions were repeatedly repelled. The IRA and auxiliaries knew well they had not the required fire power to keep out the Brits but by their clever manoeuvres they created the impression they had more guns than they actually had by continually shifting personnel about. All doors were left open to facilitate the movement of Volunteers. Signs of support and encouragement from the 'people' were not only in the form of open doors, some shouted support and others blared rebel music!

A scene of intense fighting was in Regan Street where several Volunteers were operating, including Charlie Hughes (later shot dead by the Sticks) who was adjutant of 'D' Company. He was armed with the Schneisser sub-machine gun and held his position for nearly three hours.

LACK

At nine that night the Brits scored their first major advance when about ten armoured cars invaded Leeson Street and remained despite coming under fire. Those Volunteers on the Grosvenor Road side of the street quickly transferred to the other side and resumed firing.

Brit foot patrols then poured into Pantown Street and Regan Street but they did not stay too long when fired on. Foot patrols were not used again to penetrate the area — all future, inward movement was in armoured vehicles.

As the night wore on the lack of effective arms and ammunition and the enormous weight of Brit military armour gradually pushed the armed Volunteers further and further into the centre of the district.

DUMPED

Aware that a raid for arms would follow, the IRA its auxiliaries, and the Sticks, secreted the guns in houses in territory they had lost to the Brits. By about midnight all but four streets were in Brit hands. However, firing still continued from within these streets. A few weapons were kept until the last. Charlie Hughes (later shot dead by the machine-gun to the end is reported to have fired the last shots that morning).

By dawn it was all over, the area was completely saturated and helicopters hovered overhead. The remaining weapons were dumped and the Volunteers moved into houses and awaited the marauding Brits whose cockiness rose with each street they captured. By the time they reached Sultan Street, the centre of the resistance, they were wrecking and ransacking and brutalising the people.

Those who fought were amazed at the defence they had put up. Their confidence was boosted one-hundred-fold and the experience they gained in those nine-and-a-half hours proved invaluable in the years that followed.

NÁLA POIST

All letters should be addressed to the Editor — An Phoblacht/Republican News, 53/55 Falls Road, Belfast or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.

Portadown UDR

A chara,
The news that the UDR is to be introduced into the nationalist areas of Portadown on a full-time basis comes as no surprise, since the British government has stated that their 'Ulsterisation' policy will be implemented as fully as possible.

It is, however, a source of great concern for the nationalist people of Portadown, who have suffered greatly at the hands of loyalist murder-squads, as the many graves in Drumcree cemetery testify.

The involvement of members of the UDR with these murder squads has been proved time and time again not only in Portadown but in many other areas of the North as well, and shows that the people's fears are not groundless.

Weapons seized in the UVF's raid on the UDR armoury in Portadown were reported to be used in the massacre of the Miami showband, and one of the UVF men killed in the Miami attack was from Portadown and was himself ex-UDR. Another two serving members of the regiment opened fire in Obins Street in July 1978 after a dressing session in the UDR camp and only a few weeks ago a UDR man from Markhill was convicted of UVF membership. During the loyalist strikes UDR men helped to man the barricades around the town.

The 'B' Specials were the strong-arm of Unionism and the UDR have shown themselves to be no different. We call on all tenants and community associations to make their objections to the UDR presence known. Just as the 'B' Specials were driven from our area ten years ago, a strong resistance on the part of the people can ensure that the UDR are driven out too.

PRO,
Julie Duggan Sinn Féin cumann, Portadown.

Brit Brutality in Loughmacrory

A chara,
We the members of the local Sinn Féin cumann in Carrickmore wish to highlight the continual use of brutality in the Loughmacrory area by the British forces. Our area has, for some time now, been receiving the brunt of the British bully-boy tactics.

There was a campaign of general harassment last week-end during our local sports day. British soldiers shouted foul language and threatened to arrest the child participants. One particularly brutal case

is that of a local family who were visited at six o'clock in the morning by members of the 2nd Tank Regiment out of Omagh; these thugs are well known for their hatred of the Irish people generally, but particularly those living in the Carrickmore, Loughmacrory and Creggan areas. When they arrived they attempted to force their way in, with rifles, to which the family raised many objections. They then produced batons, forced their way in through the door, and the man of the house was severely beaten. They proceeded to drag members of the family by the hair through the house.

The mother attempted to intervene and was beaten about the head with the baton. There was a general melee and one of the sons of the house was arrested and taken to Omagh military camp.

He was beaten while in transit and again during his four-hour stay in the camp. Before being released, he received foul and vicious threats of further arrest and that he eventually would be murdered by the so-called forces of law and order. The police doctor has since admitted that the son was savagely beaten.

Both his father and mother are still in a distressed condition and the father's doctor has declared him unfit for work as a direct result of his injuries.

PRO,
Frank Ward Sinn Féin cumann, Carrickmore, County Tyrone.



Imperial Exploitation

Dear Sirs,
I wish, through the columns of your newspaper to bring the people's attention to what is going on in the so called respectable families of the locality. Young people working in the Imperial Hotel, Dundalk, are being paid as little as 35p per hour. They are being asked to work until 3 a.m. which is clearly

WHICH SCHOOL?

Dear Editor,
Please allow me to reply to the letter by Seamus Mac An Mhuimhuigh printed in An Phoblacht/Republican News last week. Rather than indulging in any name-calling, I will simply state a few facts:

Firstly, the six-county state was created by the British to divide the Irish working-class and keep a direct control on Ireland, while seemingly granting 'independence' to part of it.

Secondly, the caste system the British left behind to rule the six-county state for them was based, and still is, on the Protestant ascendancy. They identified Catholics as 'fenians' and 'rebels' and prevented them from exerting any rights to voting, housing, jobs, etc.

Thirdly, the 1923 Education Act, which provided for secular schools, was quickly amended by the Protestant ascendancy, to introduce in 1925 Bible instruction, then in 1930 to compel state schools to teach Protestant religious education. Meanwhile, the Catholic hierarchy started pushing for separate schools, one might say in a parallel bid for power. But the support it got from the Catholic population was also motivated by nationalist feelings.

As I stated in my article 'Which school do you go to?', all churches in Ireland continue to thrive on the division imposed by colonialism. However, as it happens that most of the oppressed Irish are Catholics, any attempt to integrate the school system in the six-counties today will not be viewed by them as a step towards secularisation, but as an attack on an already discriminated against 'minority'.

Fourthly, it is true that the



Irish churches of all denominations are reactionary. Their power is based on the status quo, and they will not rock the boat. Indeed, their attitude to moral issues has been inherited from Victorian England. Their position in Irish society, and their values all stem from the colonial set-up.

Fifthly, the tendency of Catholic schools in the six-counties to promote humanities at the expense of scientific subjects comes from the fact that no jobs were available to Catholics in engineering, shipbuilding, etc. All good Catholic student could hope for was teaching, the bar, the lower ranks of Civil Service, or... emigration.

As for the teaching of Irish history, it is presently part of the curriculum in both maintained and state schools. How it is taught

depends on the background of the teacher.

I quite share Seamus Mac An Mhuimhuigh's commitment to the Republican principle of secularism. However, I have doubts about his knowledge of Irish politics as he writes: 'To all intents and purposes, the Brits disappeared from the Free State, yet segregated education still persists.'

Map-reading errors aside, there are quite a few Brits left in the 'Free State', most of them in Leinster House. And his so-called 'Free' State is still colonised by British, American, and other foreign interests. This is what is known as neo-colonialism.

In both parts of Ireland, division and segregation will persist, until Ireland is united and free.

Una O'Neill,
Belfast.

illegal, as some of them are under 18 years of age. According to the Catering Joint Labour Committee persons under 18 years of age shall not work after 10 p.m.

It is easy to understand how the hotel owners can afford to bring in a firm from England to carry out recent alterations.

PRO,
Duffy-Downey Sinn Féin cumann, Dundalk.

Edinburgh Trades Council Delegation Banned

Dear Editor,
Edinburgh Trades Council has been banned from sending an official delegation to investigate conditions in the H-Blocks, following an intervention by the Northern Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. The Northern Committee wrote to the Scottish TUC saying that such a visit would not be 'opportune' and asking the STUC to stop the Edinburgh delegation, which had also been due to have discussions with trades unionists from Belfast and Derry trades councils.

The Communist Party dominated STUC leadership then threatened Edinburgh Trades Council with disbandment if they did not back down. A crowded meeting of the trades council on June 17th narrowly voted to accept the ban, but the full-time secretary of the council, Des Loughney, went ahead with the

visit in a personal capacity on June 21st.

Both the Northern Committee and the STUC have crossed swords before with Edinburgh Trades Council which represents nearly seventy thousand trades unionists in the east of Scotland.

In 1978, Edinburgh Trades Council adopted a policy of support for political status for all Irish prisoners, and wrote to the STUC and the Home Secretary condemning conditions in the H-Blocks. The Northern Committee then wrote to the STUC to explain that there were no political prisoners in the North of Ireland and that Edinburgh Trades Council should mind their own business.

Following a visit to Edinburgh Trades Council by Mary Nelis from Derry Relatives Action Committee in October 1979, the Derry RAC offered the trades council passes to meet trades unionists imprisoned in the H-Blocks this June. A trades council meeting on May 20th voted almost unanimously to send the President, Roger West, a Communist Party member, plus the Secretary, a supporter of the Troops Out Movement.

Immediately the STUC contacted the trades council to advise that the visit should not go ahead. The reasons given were that such a visit would be 'used by sectarian' and that it would be 'interfering' with the Northern Committee. A further trades council meeting on June 3rd voted to disregard this advice and proceed with the visit despite the wishes of the trades council executive committee.

The STUC then sent its Deputy General Secretary, John Henry, plus a leading official of the Transport Workers union and prominent Communist Party member, Hugh Wyper, to read the riot act to the trades council executive on June 13th. They announced that the Northern Committee did not wish the delegation to go ahead, and that the Northern Committee would

not sanction the Edinburgh trades unionists meeting representatives of Belfast and Derry trades councils.

Wyper became exceedingly agitated during the course of the two-hour meeting. He said 'We know what you people are really up to, you are trying to get the prisoners in the H-Blocks are murderers, and that if the delegation went ahead the STUC would dissolve the present trades council and call on union branches to elect new delegates who would do as they were told.'

Despite the dissent of some members, the executive committee caved in and recommended to the full trades council that the trip be abandoned.

Even at this stage, the STUC and the trades council President were frightened of the grass roots rebellion on the floor of council. A witch-hunt began in the trades unions and union branches of those delegates to council who were most active in supporting the Irish visit.

Like the Northern Committee, the STUC chooses to ignore the presence of British imperialism and the British army in the North of Ireland. The national struggle and Orange bigotry are lumped together as 'sectarianism' and ignored.

Little wonder that the STUC is the only ally of the Northern Committee in promoting the corpse of the 'Better Life for All Campaign'. Indeed, so frightened by the events in Edinburgh is the STUC that it is organising a Scottish tour for a speaker from the Northern Committee to rebuild the crumbling support for the 'Better Life' campaign in Scotland.

Supporters of the Edinburgh Trades Council delegation to the H-Blocks urge Irish trade unionists to demand an explanation from the Northern Committee as to why they vetoed the Edinburgh Trades Council visit.

Christine Russell,
Edinburgh T.O.M.,
c/o Ms Mary Bookshop,
Candlemaker Row,
Edinburgh, Scotland.

Afganastáin

A chara,
Brathann a lán ar do dhearcadh polaitíochta ón sasamh a ghlaicann tú ar na Cluichí Ghloineacha. Tá ardán i bhfadhbhar agus i gcoinne. Deirneann lucht spóirt nár cheart son bhaire a bheith ag cúlú polaitíochta le cúlú spóirt — simplíocht den scoth é sin. Tá codanna an t-aolú ag léirí fílle fuais.

Pointe tábhachtach amháin nach bhfuil in ailt ar bith go dtí seo ná gur feadail system (Córás Feadach) a bhí i réim san Afganastáin roimh ionradh na Soivéideach. Bhí an rachtas go léir i lámha cúpla duine. Gach bliain, gheobhadh na tionóntaíthe cupla bó, tarbh nó caora agus deirneann an t-aolú, d'íodhach sé an chíos agus an t-ús stoc a thabhairt ar ais don 'máistir' nó málaírbhair nó ollá.

Mura mbeadh an 'máistir' sísta le h-obair an tionóntaí, ní thabharfadh sé talamh ná stóc don bhailín dár gciomn. Mura ndíodh leis na barraí nó d'bhfaightheadh na h-ionmháir bús, d'íodhach an tionóntaí ré infon leis a thabhairt don 'máistir'.

Mar sin pé olc nó maith an dream atá á gcosaint ag na Soivéideach, ní raibh maith ar bith san dream a dhífereabhaigh siad. Pé scéal é guírdín roimh Eamonn Coughlan, Michelle Walsh agus na daoine eile ag dul.

Seán MacLiam,
B.A.C.

Tours

A chara,
The annual tours of National Graves and Memorials in Glasnevin Cemetery will commence on Sunday 6th July and will continue on the Sundays following, in July. The tours are under the auspices of the National Graves Association have now been held for over ten years and attended by over one thousand people many of them from overseas.

The monuments viewed include those of Thomas Addis Emmet, the Young Irelanders, Pat O'Donnell, Manchester Martyrs Cenotaph and Armenty Nolan. The graves are those of Roger Casement, Ann Devlin, James Flinton Lator, James Clarence Mangan, Captain Noel Lemass, James Fitzharris (Skin the Goat), the Pearse family and many others of national interest.

The duration of the tour is about ninety minutes and those interested should meet at the committee guide at 11.30 a.m. at the cemetery main gate on any of the coming July Sundays.

Sean Fitzpatrick,
Runal,
National Graves Association,
74 Dame Street,
Dublin 2.

Seachtain Na Gaeilge

A chara,
Beidh Seachtain Na Gaeilge ar siúl i mbliana ón aoine, 4d — De Domhnaigh, 13d de mhí Iúil, 1980.

Ia fáidh na Seachtaine ná an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i measc mhuintir na h-Éire. Tá sí ath-bhunaithe le roinnt beag blianta anuas agus anois an t-am chun fóir fhéile phobail a dhéanamh di. Mar sin, tá an bhéim á chur ar na ceanntracha agus na bailte ar fuid na carach.

Chana féin tá imeachtaí beartaíte d'ána chuid ceanntracha ach ba mhaith linn an rud a leanú níos mó fós. Chuire sin, beidh fáilte roimh an duine nó agra gur suim leis imeachtaí a bhí níos mó cathróil le cinn atá beartaíthe chana.

Ia fíidir solas a fháil uimseas Nórín Ní Chualas,
Seachtain Na Gaeilge,
6, Sráid Fheachair,
B.A.C. 2
Fón 757401

DON'T FORGET PORTLAOISE

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

SHOTS were fired by Free State soldiers at Republican prisoners in Portlaoise jail who were exercising in the prison yard on Monday 23rd June.

The shooting took place about 2.20 p.m., according to a communication from inside the jail, when one of four prisoners playing handball, hit the ball over the alley wall into an adjoining yard which contains administrative buildings and which is constantly patrolled by warders and gardai.

One of the men jumped onto a water fountain, which is topped by a barbed wire fence, to request that the ball be returned — a regular practice in such circumstances. At this, Free State soldiers patrolling the roof of the prison shouted a warning and immediately opened fire. When the firing ceased the prisoners found spent cases and part of a bullet shell from a Gustaf sub-machine gun and a high velocity rifle.

The prisoners' O/C requested an immediate meeting with the prison governor and was met by two deputy governors and a chief prison officer who agreed that the shooting could have had a serious consequence. There has been no indication of disciplinary action, however, against the soldiers involved, and the prisoners have expressed their determination not to be deterred from their right to daily exercise.

In order not to detract attention and support from the campaign on the H-blocks and Armagh, the republican prisoners in Portlaoise have kept a very low profile about their own conditions, which are far from ideal. The major area of concern is the visiting conditions which are appalling and which make efforts to maintain even the smallest kind of natural family relationships almost impossible. In fact, as the prisoners themselves point out, it is their families who are made to suffer most.

Visitors, from the time they arrive at the gates of Portlaoise prison, are subjected to varying degrees of harassment by warders who usually adopt an overbearing and insulting manner.

Relatives and friends visiting the prison may have to wait for any length of time at the gate before they are searched and admitted to the reception area. They wait here until called for their visit and an indication of the kind of harassment is that women with young children are almost invariably made to wait until last.

CHILDREN

Before the visit there is a second, very thorough, search — male visitors are searched in the gents toilet.



'In order not to detract attention and support from the campaign on the H-blocks and Armagh, the republican prisoners in Portlaoise have kept a very low profile about their own conditions, which are far from ideal. But the prisoners in Portlaoise, and their relatives, should not be forgotten, even as the political status campaign in the North intensifies.'

For this search coats and shoes have to be removed and even hair is searched.

Children are subjected to the same treatment and babies' nappies are thoroughly examined. Children are not allowed to take sweets or toys into the visiting boxes and these are taken from them. Anyone inexperienced enough to take a handbag to the prison with them can be detained for anything up to half-an-hour while warders examine everything in detail and read personal letters and documents.

That there is no possible reason for this treatment, other than deliberate harassment, is underlined on entering the visiting boxes, after being searched twice. The prisoner and his visitors are completely separated by two metal grilles two feet apart with a perspex partition in between, any physical contact is completely impossible and even hearing can be difficult.

A warder sits with each prisoner listening to everything said and another warder sits at the end of the room in a raised cage looking over the visiting boxes.

WARDERS

In addition to this the two separating grilles are set so as to run in

opposite directions which makes a clear view of the prisoner or his visitors impossible. The distorting effect of the grilles makes it impossible to look through for any length of time without the eyes becoming strained.

Children find the effect frightening and, not understanding, often become distraught. With no sweets or toys allowed to distract them a visit can often become a distressing occasion for both the prisoner and his visitors.

Visitors also report that warders will regularly cut short visits for people who do not demand their entitlement, so that some will only get fifteen or twenty minutes instead of the half-hour. Another form of harassment is that although in theory visitors have been allowed to pass a cigarette to a warder to pass on to the prisoner, the warder will often take the cigarette apart in order to 'examine' it, so that even this small token of communication has become pointless.

It is in these circumstances that prisoners, some of whom are serving long sentences, have to try and maintain some kind of relationship with their wives and children. The human tragedy of this situation was underlined last month when the one-year-old daughter of a prisoner was tragically killed in a car

accident whilst returning with her mother from a visit to the prison — the imprisoned father had never been allowed to touch his daughter, having been arrested two months before her birth.

SPECIAL VISITS

'Special' visits, in which prisoners can come into physical contact with their families, are supposed to be possible if the prisoner applies, giving serious family problems to support his application. For these very rare visits a prisoner is subjected to the obscene strip search during which his anus is probed and his private parts examined.

For one of these 'special' visits recently a prisoner and his wife found the room divided by a wooden partition about five feet high so that only their heads could be seen over the top — they both refused to continue the visit.

So the prisoners in Portlaoise, and their relatives, should not be forgotten even as the H-block and Armagh campaigns intensify. Perhaps some of those Free State politicians who, responding to pressure from their support bases, are appearing on H-block platforms around the twenty-six counties, could be taken on one side after the meetings and reminded of what is going on in their own prisons.

WHAT'S ON

H-BLOCK MARCH

3 p.m. Saturday 5th July
Assemble: Westland Row Station
DUBLIN

March via Pearse Street to Ringend
Organised by Jackie Griffith Cumann, Sinn Fein.

BALLAD SESSION

Saturday 5th July
No. 5 Club
Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Adm. 50p. Music by Ringend Rebels.
Organised by Jackie Griffith Cumann, Sinn Fein.

JACKIE GRIFFITH COMMEMORATION

11.30 p.m. Sunday 6th July
Assemble: Ringend Church
DUBLIN
March to Mount Street
Organised by Jackie Griffith Cumann, Sinn Fein.

BALLAD NIGHT

8 p.m. Monday 7th July
Tailors Hall
DUBLIN
Admission £1
Tickets from 44 Parnell Square.

COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHIAN

Monthly meeting
7.30 p.m. Thursday 10th July
No. 5 Blessington St.
DUBLIN

H-BLOCK MARCH

2.30 p.m. Saturday 12th July
Crumlin Shopping Centre
DUBLIN

SOCIAL NIGHT

Saturday 12th July
No 5 Club
Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Adm. 50p
Proceeds to prisoners' children's outing.

CHILDREN'S OUTING TO SKERRIES

12 noon, Sunday 20th July
Coach leaves Municipal Art Gallery
Parnell Square
DUBLIN
All prisoners' wives and children welcome
Organised by
Prisoners' Welfare Action Group

ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNMENT

COMMEMORATIVE MARCH
Sunday 10th August
Assemble 2 p.m. Busay Bee
March to Sinn Fein HQ
BELFAST
Organised by Sinn Fein

CUMANN NA gCAILINI

GIRLS interested in learning the history culture and language of this country should join Cumann na gCailini, the Republican girl scouts. Girls aged between fourteen and eighteen years, who wish to join should come to 5 Blessington Street, Dublin, any Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. Those between six and thirteen years should come to the same address any Saturday at 3 p.m. In the Limerick area contact Siobhán Quinlivan or Mary MacMahon, telephone Limerick 53570.

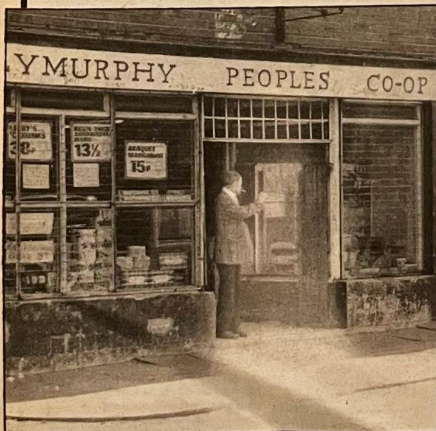
JOIN SINN FEIN

Anyone interested in joining Sinn Fein should contact their local cumann; head office at 44, Parnell Square, Dublin; 53/55 Falls Road, Belfast; or 15 Cable Street, Derry.

I am interested in becoming a member of Sinn Fein

NAME

ADDRESS



The Ballymurphy People's Co-op, which is the object of Brit harassment three or four times a day.

VENDETTA

WHAT appears to be a deliberate vendetta against a people's co-op in the nationalist Ballymurphy estate in West Belfast, was highlighted last Friday afternoon when the Brits attempted to carry out yet another raid and were stopped only by the bravery of shop workers and local women.

At about 2.30 p.m. a Brit patrol entered the shop — the Ballymurphy People's Co-op — and two soldiers pushed past customers, without a word, and went upstairs. Women who work in the shop pursued the Brits upstairs, asking why they were there, and had they a warrant to search? The Brits claimed they didn't need a warrant, and when one of the women claimed this was untrue she was forcibly pinned against a wall by one of the two Brits, who snarled: 'What's your name, bitch?'

Unintimidated, the women refused to allow a search, or to answer any questions. The two Brits then went downstairs and brought in an RUC man who demanded to search the shop. He too claimed he didn't need a warrant, but when he was refused a search he disappeared, claiming he would come back with a warrant.

The Brits called up reinforcements and placed a patrol inside the shop, which was

packed with women and young children who were not allowed to leave, and one Brit loaded and aimed his plastic-bullet gun at them!

Only after the arrival of local priest Fr. Des Wilson, and after the RUC — afraid to further damage their 'public image' in such a blatant harassment exercise — told the Brits they would provide no 'legal' back-up, did the Brits pull out. Even so, the officer in charge first pointed each of the shop workers out to his patrol with the words: 'Remember all their faces.'

The shop workers state that this is one particularly nasty incident of many, which take place three or four times every day from passing patrols. They point out that there is no similar harassment, or searches, of private shops nearby, and they believe that the Brits are carrying out a vendetta against them because the Ballymurphy People's Co-op is an example of local self-organisation, which the Brits fear. Ultimately, they believe, the Brits want to intimidate the workers into leaving, or the customers to shop elsewhere, so that the co-op would be forced to close.

It was only a few yards up the road that the Brits closed down — without warning — two small co-operative factories when they occupied the Whitelock industrial site last November to build another massive Brit fort.

IN MEMORIAM

CARTY, Patrick; CROWLEY, Dermot; LOUGHRAN, Sean. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Patrick Carty, Dermot Crowley and Sean Loughran, Tyrone Brigade, Oghlaigh na h-Eireann, killed while on active service duty on June 25th 1973. Fuair sláid bás ar son na h-Eireann. Always remembered by South Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin.

DUGGAN, Julie. (8th Anniversary). The Republican Movement, North Antrim, remember with pride Vol. Julie Duggan, Portadown, who died on active service as the result of a car crash on July 8th 1972. Thug sí a raibh aic ar son saoirse muintir na h-Eireann.

KANE, Thomas. (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Thomas Kane, Belfast Brigade, Oghlaigh na h-Eireann, who died as the result of an accident on July 6th 1976. I measc Láochra na Gaeil go raibh a anam. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

QUINN, Denis. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Denis Quinn who died on July 3rd 1972. Thug Quinn aic ar son saoirse. Always remembered by the Republican Movement, Coalisland.

Sympathy

DALY. We are deeply saddened to learn of the assassination of Miriam Daly. Throughout the struggle for political status, Miriam, a tireless worker, strived to bring to an end the barbaric conditions in the H-Blocks and here in Armagh jail. Miriam believed Irish prisoners are right in their demands and she fought long and hard on our behalf. We appreciate everything Miriam Daly has done for us. A true friend of prisoners, always remembered by the women POWs, Armagh Jail. We extend our sympathy to her husband Jim, and children.

DALY, The MacAdams Cumann, Sinn Féin, Dublin, extends heartfelt sympathy to James Daly and family on the assassination of Miriam Daly. Her work for the political status campaign will never be forgotten.

TEEHAN. Westmeath Sinn Féin extends condolences to the wife and relatives of Art Teehan, Mullingar, who died recently.

SINN FEIN YOUTH

The Sinn Féin Youth Co-ordinating Committee held its first meeting in Blessington Street, Dublin, last Saturday, to plan an immediate programme of research and publicity.

Delegates undertook to examine specific issues such as unemployment, housing, prisoners and censorship, with a view to launching campaigns on these issues in the short term, in liaison with already existing pressure groups.

The committee received a message of support from a Portuguese youth organisation — Revolutionary Autonomous Youth — pledging that: "Our militant solidarity will be expressed by actively denouncing British military occupation and joining the international protest against the situation of H-Block prisoners. We send our greetings to Sinn Féin youth as representatives of the struggling Irish youth."

It was agreed that the next meeting of the co-ordinating committee, which is open to all members of Sinn Féin under twenty-five years old, will be held in Belfast on July 26th. All those wishing to attend should contact the Youth Department, 5 Blessington Street, Dublin or 53/55 Falls Road, Belfast, for details of venue, billets, etc.

FIVE WEEKS DRAW SINN FEIN KERRY

Week 1: £35: P. Sullivan, Tralee; £25: M. Prendergast, Castlemaine; £15: B. Flaherty, Tralee. Week 2: £35: C. McEnery, Ballisoduff; £25: T. McCarthy, Dingle; £15: P. Crane Brand, Week 3: £35: J. Lawlor, Ardara; £25: J. Backley, Tralee; £15: E. Deen, Tralee. Week 4: £35: D. Lenn, Tralee; £25: J. Duggan, Ardara; £15: Sean Lynch, Tralee. Week 5: £100: Bill Sullivan, Ardara; £50: J. Nolan Listowel; £50 Pat Foley, Tralee. The organisers of the draw wish to thank all those who helped to make it such a success.

THANKS

THE H-BLOCK APPEAL FUND wish to thank the Pearse McDaid Sinn Féin cumann, Birmingham, for their donation of £50.

SINN FEIN YOUTH DRAW

Two prizes remain unclaimed for ticket numbers 219 and 67. The holders should contact Sinn Féin Head Office, 44, Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

NATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE BOSTONSTOWN DRAW RESULT

£500: Nan McCoy, Antrim; £300: Seamus MacDonnagh, Strad Arann; £200: Ray Cullen, Wexford.

A MOOD of silent indignation and revulsion settled over the hundreds of mourners who turned out in Swords, County Dublin, last Saturday, to pay their last respects to Miriam Daly, a fearless and dedicated socialist republican, who was assassinated in Belfast the previous Thursday.

The mood of the mourners accurately reflected that felt throughout the nationalist community in the North at the news of the brutal cold-blooded slaying of Miriam Daly in her Andersonstown home.

A former member of the National Democratic Party, the early SDLP, Sinn Féin, and the IRSP — of which she was until recently the national chairperson — she was the second nationalist political figure to be assassinated, presumably by loyalists, in the month of June. Like Irish Independence Party leader John Turnley, who was shot dead on June 4th, Miriam Daly was publicly associated with the H-block campaign and three weeks ago was re-elected to the National H-Block Committee.

Miriam Daly was in her mid forties and was an economics history lecturer at Queen's University, Belfast, where her husband James is also a lecturer. They have twin children, aged ten, a girl and a boy.

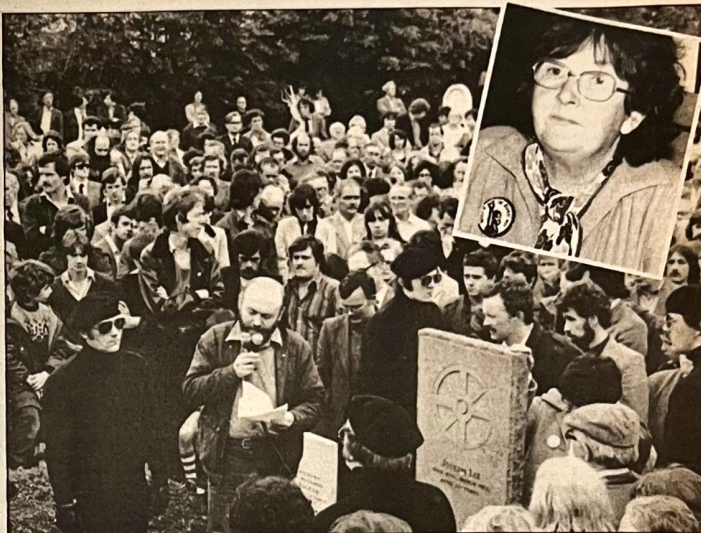
FOUND

Miriam Daly was found lying in a pool of blood by her daughter Marie, when she returned home from school shortly after three o'clock last Thursday afternoon. Her hands and feet had been tied before she was shot five times in the head.

When the tragic news broke, Belfast Sinn Féin immediately issued a statement condemning the assassination and pointed out that "whilst not in complete agreement with Miriam's politics, as an anti-imperialist and a socialist we had much in common. Her loss will be keenly felt, in particular by those involved in the prison struggle."

Whilst the indications are certainly strong, and popular Belfast belief is, that Miriam Daly is a victim of the UDA's campaign of selective assassinations (based on intelligence supplied to them by

SILENT INDIGNATION



Mourners assembled at the graveside in Swords, Co. Dublin. INSET: Miriam Daly, pictured here at the National H-Block Committee Conference in the Green Brier, Belfast, on June 15th.

the British army or RUC) there is evidence which suggests a more direct Brit involvement.

The 'professionalism' of the assassins, the nature of their target, the apparent attempt to terrorise Republicans through trussing up their victim before killing her at their leisure — rather than going in and blasting all about them — all point to the training and expertise of the SAS, unworried by the thought of interception by other state forces. That British army executioners would be capable of such a killing is certainly not in doubt, as was recognised by the editorial of the 'Irish Press' which referred to 'a very dirty-tricks brigade indeed' as the likely culprits.

VOLLEY

Last Saturday morning, as Miriam Daly's tri-colour draped coffin rested in the drive-way of her Andersonstown home, INLA members fired a volley of shots

over it, and a short time later a large crowd followed the coffin to St. Agnes' oratory where requiem mass was held. For the first time in Belfast for many years there was no objection, from the local catholic priests, to the tri-colour remaining on the coffin while the mass was conducted.

A close friend of the Daly's Fr. James McAvoey, a professor in Scholastic Philosophy at Queen's university, conducted the requiem mass. In a glowing tribute to her he said she possessed a powerful intellect and insight which she used to benefit the people of Ireland, and, in particular, the political prisoners. Her house, he said, had an open door to anyone in need, and it was a tragic irony that her assassins passed through that same open door, where others had come for comfort, to commit their foul deed.

Before the cortege moved off along the Andersonstown Road, veteran Republican Kevin Agnew

gave an impromptu oration. In a voice quivering with emotion he described Miriam Daly as one of the most articulate and active spokeswomen he had met during this, and previous, phases of the struggle.

ORATION

Later that afternoon, the small town of Swords, on the outskirts of Dublin, came to a brief standstill whilst the funeral cortege, accompanied by an INLA guard of honour, passed through. Amongst the many mourners was the President of Sinn Féin, Ruairi O'Bradaigh, and the two Vice-Presidents, Gerry Adams and Dailhi O'Connell.

The oration was delivered by Osgrú Breathnach, a leading member of the IRSP recently released from Portlaoise prison. He stressed Miriam's awareness of the international struggle for socialism, and in particular her feeling and work for Irish prisoners of war, North and South.

The Anniversary Of Jackie Griffith

BY BRENDAN MCCABE

THIS weekend marks the thirty-seventh anniversary of the death of Jackie Griffith, who was gunned down by Special Branch men in the Mount Street area of Dublin, on July 4th 1943.

He was a Volunteer in the IRA at a time when the Movement was perhaps at its lowest ebb. DeValera had already begun to execute republicans and the full force of Fianna Fail repression had been directed at the IRA for several years.

Jackie was born in the Killester area of Dublin on November 14th 1921 and from an early age took an avid interest in Irish history and culture.

At the age of seventeen he moved to England with the rest of his family where his father had taken up employment. It was in England that he first joined the IRA in the 1938-39 period, became closely associated with the late Jack McCabe and was active in the IRA campaign in Britain which started in January 1939.

DUBLIN

He later returned to Ireland, and was attached to the IRA's Dublin Brigade, whilst living with his grandparents in Ringsend. He worked in the local 'Bottlehouse' glass factory

where he became an active trade unionist.



IRA Volunteer Jackie Griffith who was mown down in a hail of machine-gun fire by Dublin Special Branch, on July 4th, 1943.

In 1942, he was eventually arrested after a struggle with the police in

the Benburb Street / Blackhorse Lane area. His grandparents home was raided, where forty-four revolvers, ammunition and republican literature were found.

He was brought before a military court in Collins barracks where he was sentenced to a total of thirty-three years on a variety of charges, the sentences to run concurrently amounting to ten years imprisonment.

ESCAPE PLAN

He started his sentence in March 1942 in Mountjoy jail. Eight months later Jackie and his comrades inside had completed an elaborate escape plan. They had started drama classes for a play which they were supposed to produce, but what they were rehearsing was an escape, and the props were to be used for that purpose.

On Sunday 2nd November, the bars of one of the cell windows were pried loose, strips of canvas were tied together and used as an escape rope, enabling six men to climb down into the yard, and make their escape.

SAFE HOUSE

By the time the authorities discovered the escape, the six men were safely out of the way, Jackie Griffith was staying in a safe house in Margaret Place in Dublin.

On St. Stephen's day 1942, Jackie made his first journey from Dublin since his escape, setting off on bicycle for Carlow across the Dublin mountains to begin the job of reorganising Leinster. He worked closely with Danny Conroy and Charlie Kerins, and travelling widely made contact with the other escapees, who were all now active with their units.

However, the Free State forces were closing in, and Jackie's safe house in Margaret Place was raided. On one occasion, in Dublin, Jackie noticed that he was being followed and climbing over a railing to avoid capture, he seriously injured his hand. Despite the fact that his hand was rendered almost useless he continued to be as active as ever.

MOWN DOWN

On Sunday 4th July 1943 Jackie set off for Phibsboro on a bicycle to make a contact. At 1.30 p.m., as he turned into Holles Street from Mount Street, he was surrounded by carloads of Special Branch men, and was mown down in a hail of bullets from a Thompson machine gun fired by a Superintendent Michael Gill.

News of his death, at only twenty-two years of age, stunned local people, and thousands flocked to his funeral at Glasnevin cemetery to pay their last respects.

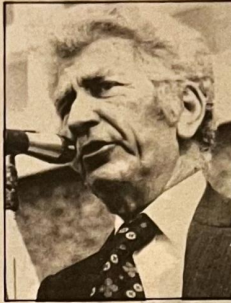
DERRY COMMEMORATION

THE annual Derry commemoration for those who gave their lives in the present campaign was held at the Republican plot in Derry City cemetery last Sunday, June 29th. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Oglagh na hEireann, Sinn Féin cumann and relatives of those who had died. A decade of the Rosary in Irish was led by Rosie Carlin. Flags were lowered to half-mast during a one minute silence.

Johnny Johnston, vice-chairman of Derry Sinn Féin, introduced veteran Republican Sean Keenan who gave the oration. He appealed for more workers to

come forward and for people to take on PDF collections. He called for lapsed members to return to Sinn Féin, and "help build an Ireland where all men and women are equal... The invitation is open, come in and build the Republican Movement to what it should be."

"By establishing a New Ireland we shall have a living memorial far more fitting to the Volunteers who lie here, than that stone behind me, beautiful though it may be," he said, referring to the statue of Cu Chulainn in the grave.



SEAN KEENAN

TYRONE VETERAN DIES

VETERAN of the Tan war, Michael Maguire, a member of a well known Carrickmore family, died on Friday 27th June in Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh. A former volunteer in the 2nd Northern Battalion he was active in the mid-Tyrone area, taking part in several engagements, and spent a period of time on the run.

A self-educated man, Michael was a fluent Irish speaker and for years recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish at the Republican plot as part of the Easter Commemorations. The tri-colour-draped coffin was accompanied to its final

resting place in Carrickmore graveyard by his former comrades of the IRA.

Throughout his life he remained true to the cause for which he fought, and the self-same cause for which the youth of today are struggling. The people of Carrickmore will sadly miss the passing of this veteran and to his wife and sorrowing family the Republican Movement have extended their deepest sympathy.

Ni dheanfaidh muid dearmuid air, n'ar an Phoblacht a rinne se a dhícheall a thaghadh. Go ndeanfaidh Dia trocaire ar a hanam.

Tyrone veteran, Michael Maguire, who died last Friday.

DUBLIN VETERAN DIES

DIARMAID Mac Giolla Phadraig of Cathedral Street, Dublin, who died on Wednesday, aged 78, was associated with the Republican Movement all his life. His father was a native of Rathfriland, Co. Down.

He was for many years an active member of Conradh na Gaeilge and

taught Irish in the Curragh Concentration Camp where he was interned between 1940 and 1944.

Diarmaid was active in the Dublin Brigade of the IRA in the thirties and forties and took a special interest in promoting Fianna Éireann. He was a great friend of the late Joe Clarke and had a book

shop, first in O'Connell Street, and later in Cathedral Street. He was always anxious to sell and distribute literature on the present phase of the struggle and particularly on prison conditions.

Deanaidh comhbhrón lena chlann guimíd solas De ar a anam uasal.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

BERKERY, Liam. (H4-Block). Greetings on your 21st birthday Liam. "But let England make no mistake. The generous high bred youth of Ireland will never fail to answer the call we pass on — will never fail to blaze forth in the red rage of war to win their country's freedom. Older and tamer methods they will leave to other and tamer men but they must do or die." With all our love from mumma, John, Aisling, Treasa and Dermot.

BERKERY, Liam. (H4-Block). Happy 21st birthday. Lots of love. From your friends the Kirkpatrick's.

BERKERY, Liam. (H4-Block). In happier times I would send you a key to open your manhood's door, but within a year you will be a hostage to England no more. At eighteen years you stood your test with the bravest of Erin's youth. Best wishes on your 21st. From nana and grandad.

BERKERY, Liam. (H4-Block). Twinbrook Sinn Féin salute you Liam on your 21st birthday.

BERKERY, Liam. (H4-Block). Congratulations Liam on your 21st birthday. Your next will be spent amongst your friends in Twinbrook. From Eileen, Tommy Strong and children, Stephanie, Rory, Tracy and baby Bronagh Sinead.

COYLE, Marian. (Limerick Gaoi). Birth-day greetings to our daughter Marian for 5th July. "They have you in their keeping we have you in our hearts."

Also from your brother Patrick. (H3). COYLE, Marian. (Limerick Gaoi). Birth-day greetings to Marian. You are always thoughtful. Love from brother John, Margaret and family. Also from your brother Joseph and family.

HAYDEN, Vivian. (Portlaoise). Thinking of you on your birthday. From Jim, Therese and children.

HAYDEN, Vivian. (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings Vivian. From the Jackie Griffith cumann, Sinn Féin, Dublin.

HOGAN, Mickie. (Portlaoise). Greetings to you on your birthday dear Mickie on July 6th. May God bless and protect you always. Love from Betty, Mick and family.

HOGAN, Mickie. (Portlaoise). Happy 21st birthday, Mickie, from Carmel Broily.

KELLY, Tony. (Crumlin Road). Happy 19th birthday son. "Our meeting times are seldom, our letters times are few, but not a day begins or ends without a thought of you." Love from mother, father, brother and sister.

LAWLOR, Martin. (H4-Block). Birthday greetings to you Martin and solidarity with you and your brave comrades in the fight for political status. May God bless you all and grant you pardon soon. Love and best wishes. From mum, dad, Lisa and Pat.

LAWLOR, Martin. (H4-Block). Birthday greetings to my brother Martin and solidarity with his brave comrades in their struggle for political status. Victory to the blanketmen. From his sister Marie, brother-in-law James and children Mary, Róisín and James.

NUGENT, Mairead. (Armagh Gaoi). Happy birthday Mairead and solidarity greetings on completing three years on

protest. Always thinking of you in everything we do, just because we love you and are proud of you. From mummy, daddy, sister and brother.

NUGENT, Mairead. (Armagh Gaoi). Happy birthday Mairead and solidarity greetings on completing three years on the protest. Our thoughts are always with you. God bless. From granny and granda.

NUGENT, Mairead. (Armagh Gaoi). Happy birthday Mairead and solidarity greetings on completing three years on protest. God bless you. From John and Bobbie.

MCCABE, Pat. (H4-Block). Best wishes and lots of love to my husband on his 22nd birthday. "The love that I have is all that I have and all that I love is you." From your loving wife, Bridie.

MCCABE, Pat. (H4-Block). Lots of love daddy, and kisses too for there is no better daddy than you. Happy birthday. From your loving wee daughter, Lisa.

MCCABE, Pat. (H4-Block). All the best Pat on your 22nd birthday. Thinking and praying for you on all your ways. From the McCarty family circle.

MCCABE, Pat. (H4-Block). God bless you son on your 22nd birthday. All our love and prayers are with you always. We love you very much. From your loving mammy, daddy, brothers and sisters.

O'HAGAN, Felim. (H4-Block). Birthday greetings to our son and brother Felim who was twenty five on Friday 7th June. We are very proud of you and are happy that you and your comrades all the way. Hope your 26th will be spent in freedom. From mammy, daddy, Dara and all the family. Victory to the blanketmen!

O'HAGAN, Felim. (H4-Block). Happy birthday and praying for you on all your ways. From Eleanor, Jarvis and family.

O'HAGAN, Felim. (H4-Block). Birthday greetings to Felim. Hope your 26th will be spent in freedom. From all your friends in Lurgan. Victory to you and all your comrades.

O'HAGAN, Felim. (H4-Block). Birthday greetings to Felim on his 25th. It's just a pity it could not be on a grander occasion. Here's wishing you and your comrades all the best. From Eilish and Leonard and family.

WHITE, Liam. (H3-Block). Birthday greetings to our very dear son Liam on his 23rd birthday. His fourth spent behind bars and two and a half on the blanket protest. Our prayers and thoughts are constantly with you. "They may have you in their keeping but we have you in our hearts." God bless you. All our love from mum, dad, Tim, Norman and Raymond.

WHITE, Liam. (H3-Block). Birthday greetings Liam on your 23rd. Thinking about you always. All our solidarity and support. From Brian, Gerry and Declan xxx.

WHITE, Liam. (H3-Block). Birthday greetings to my son Liam on your 23rd. All my love. From your loving grandmother.

WHITE, Liam. (H3-Block). People see things as they are and ask why? You saw things as they should be and asked why not? Love and solidarity from your 23rd birthday from Deirdre xxxxxx.

WHITE, Liam. (H3-Block). God bless and best wishes on your 23rd birthday. From Mr. and Mrs. McDonnell and family.

Solidarity Greetings

CASSIDY, John. (H5-Block). Congratulations to John on completing three years on the protest for political status. In the indomitable soul lies our ultimate assurance of victory. Victory to the blanketmen! From mother, father, sister, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and nephews.

CHILLINGWORTH, John. (H3-Block). Tuff Lodge RAC salute you, John, on completing three years on the blanket protest. It is not those who can inflict the most but those who endure the most who will be victorious. Victory to the blanketmen and from John (H4) U.T.P.

CHILLINGWORTH, (Greene), John. (H3-Block). Solidarity greetings to my son John on completing his third year on the blanket protest on July 1st. "Just a young man you stood your test with the bravest of Erin's youth. And when freedom comes, head held high to the world you will proclaim the truth that when dark Róisín calls out for aid to free her son from Saxon way the best answer her call, willing to die to speed the light of freedom's day."

God bless you and your comrades. Love from your mother. Greetings also from your brother Billy (H3) and sister in-law, U.T.P.

CHILLINGWORTH, (Greene), John. (H3-Block). Greetings to my brother John on completing his third year on the blanket protest. Victory to you and all your comrades. From your loving brother James, and Annette, and from brothers Hugh, Michael, Joe and Gerard - Martin.

CHILLINGWORTH, (Greene), John. (H3-Block). Greetings to my dear grandson John on completing his third year on the blanket protest on July 1st. All my love from granny Chillingworth, also from my granny Betty, aunts, uncles and cousins in Dublin.

CHILLINGWORTH, (Greene), John. (H3-Block). Greetings to my brother John on completing his third year on the blanket protest. Victory to the blanketmen! Love from your sister Francis, your sister Mary, and niece Caitlin Therese, your sister Hannah and also your sister Kathleen, brother-in-law Charlie and family.

CHILLINGWORTH, (Greene), John. (H3-Block). Greetings to John on completing his third year on the blanket protest. Victory to the blanketmen! Love from your sister Francis, your sister Mary, and niece Caitlin Therese, your sister Hannah and also your sister Kathleen, brother-in-law Charlie and family.

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CHILLINGWORTH, (Greene), John. (H3-Block). Greetings to my brother John on completing his third year on the blanket protest. Victory to the blanketmen! Love from your sister Francis, your sister Mary, and niece Caitlin Therese, your sister Hannah and also your sister Kathleen, brother-in-law Charlie and family.

You are always in our thoughts and prayers. From Alice and John Bradley and family and from John (H4) U.T.P.

ELLIOT, Tomas. (H3-Block). Congratulations on completing three years on the blanket. They have broken your spirit, no criminal garb you'll wear, the fight goes on Inside H-Block and out here by those who care. From mum, dad, brothers, sisters and all your friends and neighbours. Also, all the best on your birthday.

ELLIOT, Tomas. (H3-Block). Congratulations Tomas on completing three years on the blanket. From all your comrades in Chantallow, Carrillish, Belmont and Pennyburn. Also from the Shantallow Sinn Féin and Shantallow PDF committee.

FRIEL, Billy. (Bap) (H4-Block). Congratulations Bap on completing three years on the blanket. Victory to the blanketmen! Best wishes from brother Leo, Derry, U.T.P.

FRIEL, Billy. (Bap). (H4-Block). Congratulations Bap on completing three years on the blanket protest. From your loving father and wee Tony. xxx

FRIEL, Billy. (Bap). (H4-Block). Congratulations Billy on completing three years on the blanket protest. Love from sister Jean. U.T.P. xxx

FRIEL, Billy. (Bap) (H4-Block). Congratulations on completing three years on the blanket. "Someday you will be and hold your head up high. Then those who ignored you in your struggle will be unable to look you in the eye. Victory to you and all your comrades. From John, Mary, Claran and wee Joanne. U.T.P.

FRIEL, Billy. (Bap) (H4-Block). Congratulations on completing three years on the blanket. God bless. From Joe, Brenda and family.

McCOMB, Eugene. (H5-Block). Congratulations Eugene on completing three years on the blanket. "Hugaboo" from Tara.

WALSH, Martin. (H5-Block). Congratulations Martin on completing your third year on the blanket. All our love and support. From Robert and Elaine.

WALSH, Martin. (H5-Block). Congratulations Martin on completing your third year on the blanket. Thinking about you always. From Mary and Gerry Watson.

WALSH, Martin. (H5-Block). Best wishes to my brother on completing three years on the blanket. From Sean, Sheila and Róisín.

WALSH, Martin. (H5-Block). Congratulations Martin. All the best and hoping to see you soon. From Joe (H3), Teresa, Maria and Deirdre. xxxxxx.

WALSH, Martin. (H5-Block). Congratulations Martin on completing three years on the blanket. Thinking about you always. From all the Flynn family.





H-BLOCK APPEAL

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT have made it crystal clear that they intend to remorselessly pursue their evil efforts to break the protest for political status currently being waged by the H-block 'blanket men' and Armagh women prisoners.

The British have arrogantly rejected the recent conciliatory approaches of Cardinal O Fiaich; they have spurned the IRA's three-month cessation of attacks on prison warders; and they have continued to orchestrate the vendetta of violence and brutal harassment being waged by sadistic warders upon the defenceless prisoners. Simultaneously they are desperately striving to maintain a blanket of censorship around the inhuman and degrading jail conditions that they are inflicting upon the prisoners.

Firstly, the British have refused recent applications from local councils in the North — namely Derry, and Newry and Mourne — to send investigatory delegations into the jails, and they have also refused requests for visits of inspection by the International Red Cross.

And, secondly, the 'blanket men' themselves are regularly subjected to humiliating internal body searches, which are a measure of the extraordinarily desperate lengths to which the prison regime are prepared to go, not only to deliberately degrade the men, but in order to prevent the tiny notes on torn scraps of toilet paper, which detail the latest assaults upon them, from being got out of the H-blocks to the outside world.

But the British do not merely seek to shroud the horrors of

H-block and Armagh with a blanket of silence: they also spend tens of millions of pounds annually, not only in this country but throughout North America and Western Europe, in promoting vicious anti-Irish propaganda which falsely portrays Republican prisoners and the Republican cause as 'criminal'. Through every available channel — from ambassadorial pronouncements to television programmes such as last month's 'Counterpoint' on UTV, from glossy hand-outs to pages of newspaper advertising — the British government have mounted a consistent campaign of deliberate distortion. Their latest propaganda success is the failure of the European Court of Human Rights to condemn the H-blocks.

In an effort to counteract British propaganda and to expose the prisoners' conditions the Sinn Féin POW Department has published and distributed more than half-a-million leaflets and has sent former blanket prisoners on speaking tours all over the country and abroad. All this has cost tens of thousands of pounds.

In order to help Sinn Féin to continue to expand this vital work — against a background of the ever-failing health of the prisoners, and the ever-growing threat of a hunger strike — please urgently send much-needed financial contributions to the H-Block Appeal Fund, 53/55 Falls Road, Belfast. All donations will be gratefully acknowledged.