

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



Sraith nua lml 2 uimhir 33 DE SATHAIRN Lunasa 23 1980

Saturday August 23rd 1980

(England, Scotland and Wales 20p) Price 15p

INSIDE

For more photos
smuggled out of
Armagh Jail
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ARMAGH



Republican prisoner Mairead Farrell in her Armagh jail cell — this photograph was smuggled out of 'A' wing despite the high security surrounding the prisoners protesting for political status

duirt siad

"It has been suggested to me that a discussion paper on institutions of government is not what men and women in your position regard as the sexiest of stories."

The idiot, direct-ruler Hump Atkins, addressing provincial newspaper editors at a luncheon at Stormont on Thursday 14th August.

"At the end of the day, you cannot face all ways at the same time."

Atkins, again, at the same luncheon, on why he is going to have to stop pretending that his six-county governmental proposals can satisfy both the unionist and the nationalist people.

"The only total failure in Mrs. Thatcher's team is Mr. Humphrey Atkins. Most people regard old Humphrey as a decent sort of cove, which he is. But he is rather dim and rather weak."

"Daily Mail" journalist Andrew Alexander.



"I am sold out of De Lorean cars for two years."

Boston car dealer Will Smyly, who, like all other dealers, is yet to receive a single car.



"He didn't even know its significance."

A spokesman for the British army regiment of Scots Guards, excusing their gunman who was photographed in Belfast wearing a fascist National Front emblem on his flak jacket.

"The boys from Cullybackey did not let us down. With true Ulster grit and determination and in defiance of cajolery from the faint-hearted and sniping from enemies all around, they bravely showed us what the true loyalist spirit is made of.... Here we saw — laid bare again — that savage, stubborn, sectarian core which is at the heart of all shades of Unionism, and from which all shades of Unionism draw their essential sustenance."

"Sunday Press" columnist Claud Gordon on the flaunting of the Apprentice Boys' flag made by UVF/RUC sectarian assassin William McCaughy.

Sadistic killings recall Shankill Butchers

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

LOYALIST assassins are thought to be responsible for the brutal killings — reminiscent of the work of the Shankill butchers in their sadism — of an elderly partially-deaf man and his middle-aged unmarried daughter in the nationalist enclave of Ligoniel in north Belfast.

Bill Younger, aged eighty-seven, a retired fitter, and his civil servant daughter, Letitia, aged fifty, who were Protestants lived together in Wolfhill Avenue and were extremely popular with their Catholic neighbours. In the early hours of Friday morning, August 15th, their house was broken into by a gang who first shot Bill Younger as he lay in bed, before finishing him off by clubbing him to death. Letitia Younger was shot and then pinned to the floor by a garden pitchfork stabbed through her neck, and was still breathing when found — covered in blood and wearing only a nightdress — by an anxious neighbour.

This woman, although not having heard the shots, had heard the thuds of the raiders and seen the lights lit in the Youngers' home. After the discovery she ran out into the street. A Protestant neighbour, who runs a small business on the Shankill and in whose house a party was in progress, came to her aid and telephoned for help.

WARNING

A woman from nearby Wolfhill Drive describes the Youngers: "The old man was a real gentleman and his daughter was a lady. They got on



BILL YOUNGER



LETITIA YOUNGER

very, very well with the people around here. There have been good relations between Protestants and Catholics in the area but now everyone is afraid...."

This woman says that, at the time the killings are presumed to have occurred she was putting milk bottles out at the door.

"I turned round to the hall clock and it was half one. I ran up to fix the alarm clock. One of my daughters in the back bedroom had heard a car in the area. She said it had a high-pitched tone and gave three blasts as if it was giving a warning to some-one."

FEAR

The RUC later stated that nothing had been disturbed in the house and thus ruled out robbery as a motive. They originally described the attack as "brutal callous murders carried out by people crazed with drink or drugs". However, they soon said they were examining the possibility of a sectarian motive — sug-

gesting the Youngers were killed by local people, an allegation for which there is no justification, but which immediately heightened fear in the area. And despite everyone in the area signing a letter of condolence, circulated in the area on Sunday, the few remaining Protestant families are talking of moving out.

Unfortunately, the notion that the killings were a 'sectarian attack', rather than an attack on 'tribal deviants', was reinforced and perpetuated by the sermon given at the funeral last Tuesday when Presbyterian Moderator, Dr. Ronald Craig, urged that there be 'no retaliation'.

THREATENED

There is no history of attacks on Protestants in the area but there have been a whole spate of loyalist sectarian attacks on Catholics, and in one notorious shooting — four-and-a-half years ago — at the country end of the estate a Protestant woman also died. On February 15th 1976 in an attack on their Catholic home,

fifty-year-old Mary Sloan and her seventeen-year-old daughter, Mary, together with a Protestant neighbour, Doris McGrath, who was visiting at the time, were shot dead when loyalist gunmen burst into their Wolfhill Road house.

Four months ago the loyalist UFF (a cover name for UDA assassins) threatened Protestants not to associate with Catholics and then on June 4th loyalists assassinated nationalist politician and Protestant, John Turnley.

It appears that the example of Bill Younger's friendship with his Catholic neighbours was intolerable to the loyalist sectarians. In recent times Bill Younger had integrated even more fully with the local community and had been frequenting the working-men's club in Ligoniel.

"He watched pool in the evenings and had a chat with the locals. Two pints was his limit! He was really popular and all the children loved him," recalls a Catholic neighbour.

Belfast Republican Offices Bombed

TWO PEOPLE were injured when the Belfast Republican offices on the Falls Road, were bombed last Wednesday night for the second time in seven weeks. The building houses the headquarters of Belfast Sinn Féin, Republican prisoners' transport department, a handicraft shop, the press centre, and the Northern offices of *An Phoblacht/Republican News*.

Shortly after 11.15 p.m. a black taxi (similar to the Falls taxis), travelling citywards, pulled up outside the handicraft shop. Four young people were sitting on the protective boulders outside the building and they saw a man put his foot on the pavement to disembark, but then apparently change his mind.

The four then saw two men, their faces covered by snorkel hoods climb out of the taxi with

an object which they quickly slung around the wire grill of the shop before lighting a fuse. They were challenged by the youths but the hooded men ordered the four people up the street before they leapt into the taxi and drove off down the Falls Road.

(One can only speculate as to why the bombers did not shoot the young people but it is likely that the noise of the shooting may have alerted the Brits into setting

up road-blocks, thinking that it was one of their patrols that was under attack.)

The taxi was subsequently found abandoned at the locked security barrier in Northumberland Street which divides the Falls from the Shankill.

The bomb exploded with a horrific bang, broke windows in the vicinity and wrecked the handicraft shop. A number of people who live in an adjoining flat suffered

shock and two of them, twenty-year-old Angela McPartland and her ten-year-old sister, Siobhan, were taken to hospital, where Siobhan was detained overnight.

After the explosion Sinn Féin officials were quickly on the scene to survey the damage to local houses and to their building, and to help tidy up. Hundreds of people poured on to the Falls Road and there were angry exchanges between them and the British army and the RUC who were stoned away from the scene.

Richard McAuley, PRO Ulster Executive Sinn Féin, said "Once again Sinn Féin premises have suffered a loyalist bomb attack, designed to fuel sectarianism, and designed, like the attacks from the British army and the RUC, to intimidate us from our work. Well, they will not succeed and tonight we are back in business again."

Bishop condemns H-Block beatings

BISHOP EDWARD DALY of Derry, who, along with Cardinal O'Fiaich, is currently involved in talks with direct-ruler Humphrey Atkins over the protests for political status in the H-Blocks and in Armagh jail, has stated in an interview with the 'Cork Examiner' that the H-Block prisoners are being beaten.

"Beatings are taking place and I am convinced that they have taken place and I also

believe that they shouldn't take place," announced the Bishop who also revealed that he was successful in one case in getting removed a warder who was involved in beatings.

However, the Northern Ireland Office refuted the Bishop's allegations and said that the case against the warder referred to was not proven. They said merely that, "A prison officer was disciplined for failure to comply with prison regulations."

His statement underlines the fact that the entire machinery for hearing complaints is in the hands of the prison administration and that they punish prisoners with up to twenty-one days 'on the boards' for making 'a false complaint' — a notorious judgement which they always reach.

Bishop Daly said that the beatings he was referring to had occurred last year and that he was at present investigating further reports of beatings carried out recently.

SEARCHES

Despite the fact that no warders have been attacked by the IRA since mid-June the harassment and the obscene mirror searches of protesting prisoners continues. In an attempt to humiliate the prisoners and prevent the smuggled communication of fragments of news from the H-Blocks, the prison administration have introduced new visiting procedures. From now on if protesting prisoners want to continue with their monthly 'open visit' (that is, one which is already closely scrutinised by

hovering, lip-reading warders) then they will have to continue to undergo the obscene mirror search — forced to squat naked over a mirror while a torch is shone up their back passage and / or while it is probed by an instrument.

The alternative to this is that the blanket-men forego the mirror search but accept a closed-in visit where they are divided by a perspex partition from all physical contact with their family — which the administration has already limited to one per month. The denial to the blanket-men of even half an hour's personal contact with their families once per month has been piled upon the four-year-old punitive and restrictive system of no weekly visits, no food parcels, no exercise, no association, no smoking and no mental stimulation — books or newspapers — unless the prisoners accept 'criminal status' and call the warders 'Sir'.

INTENSIFICATION

Cardinal O'Fiaich and Bishop Daly are continuing their talks with direct-ruler Atkins — the last one was held at Stormont Castle three weeks ago and the next is apparently scheduled for early September. On radio last Monday the Cardinal said that he was 'cautiously optimistic' that progress was being made. But the delay (the talks began in early March) and the uncertainty are causing anxiety in the H-Blocks and Armagh Jail and until there is clarification of progress if any, an intensification of the protest (which some of the blanket-men, against all restraint have been urging as the only way forward) is fore-stalled.

Bishop Daly told the 'Cork Examiner' that shortly after their next meeting he and Cardinal O'Fiaich would be calling a press conference to report on the success or failure of the talks.

IRA APOLOGY

DURING AN IRA gun attack on an RUC land-rover patrol in Alliance Avenue in North Belfast, on Saturday night, forty-seven-year-old Mrs. Collette Meek was accidentally shot dead. Although a number of rifle shots hit the side of the land-rover, no RUC man were injured in the attack.

The IRA's Belfast Brigade have publicly stated that they regret the death of Mrs. Meek and have offered their condolences to her sorrowing family. The IRA pointed out that hardly had Mrs. Meek been pronounced dead when 'the various political vultures', like the Sticky Republican Clubs and the Alliance Party, started trying to capitalise on her death and even to outdo each other in predicting the IRA's explanation. "Their opportunistic response on this occasion is in sharp contrast to their response over a death at the hands of the British army or RUC," the IRA said. "They do not rush to put pen to paper to predict any RUC statement but largely accept without contradiction their explanation. This places these political vultures firmly on the British side of the fence and makes them hypocrites, not us, for unlike the Brits we admit to all our actions and to our mistakes."

Spy-post exploded

AN IRA BOMB seriously damaged the Housing Executive's offices in Dungannon's Ballygawley Road, County Tyrone, on Tuesday night. The IRA stated that the premises were destroyed because earlier this month they had been used by the British army as a secret observation post.

Fusillades exchanged

ACCORDING to local people two British army foot patrols exchanged fusillades of shots — firing about one hundred rounds — at a military check-point at Mullany Bridge, south of Newtownbutler, County Fermanagh, on Sunday evening, August 17th. The nervous Brits manning the check-point incorrectly reported that they had come under IRA gunfire, a tale which was picked up by the media.

Boulder blunder

AN RUC MAN'S blunder with a one-ton boulder led to his own serious injury and the death of another RUC man in a climbing accident in the Mourne mountains on Monday. The dead man was a member of the Special Patrol Group and had been in the RUC for twelve years. The injured man, both of whose legs were broken, and the dead man, were crushed by the boulder after the former failed to properly check its stability before putting his weight on it. The two men were members of the RUC mountain rescue team and were on a routine training exercise near the summit of Slieve Lamagan, which overlooks the Annalong Valley. The injured RUC man had to be rescued by a group of local mountaineers.

Out of bounds

FOLLOWING the drunken rampage by nine British soldiers, who terrorised the inhabitants of the little island of Rathlin, off the coast of County Antrim, the island has now been put 'out of bounds' to off-duty Brits according to the 'Sunday World'. On Friday 25th July the Brits' rampage included stripping naked, indecent exposure, and urinating in the open street. The ban apparently does not include officers.

Tiresome Bet

A FINANCIALLY HYSTERICAL Betty Williams (£40,000 strong and prosperous) popped into the newspapers and onto radio and television last week with some more of that rubbishy cant which she profitably peddles to non-English speaking audiences, mind blown by her brazenness. After the three recent deaths in North Belfast (in Ligoniel and Alliance Avenue) she called upon women to take to the streets again, "to stand up, get on the streets and batter the doors of the UDA and the IRA to get them to stop".

The timing of Betty's transparent theatrics, however, was obvious since the British army were responsible for the previous three deaths in Belfast (on the anniversary of internment) and she kept her mouth shut then. She also made an ass of herself when interviewed on local 'Downtown' radio on Monday evening. Cornered by an unusually thorough interviewer she admitted having no intentions of going back on the streets to lead marches. "I'm tired and want to have a private life", said the hypocrite. Truth is, the only thing credible about Betty is her big fat bank account!

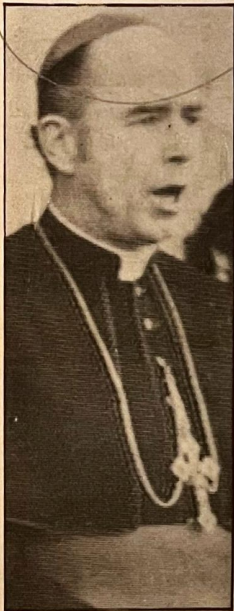
Cashing in

LOYALIST LEADER Ian Paisley has cashed in on the assassination, presumably by his UDA supporters, of Irish Independence Party man John Turner in June. In a by-election held last Thursday, August 14th, for John Turner's seat on Larne Borough Council — a by-election which other parties, out of decency, did not contest — Paisley's candidate, dog-breeder Rachel Rea, narrowly defeated IP candidate Willie Cunningham.

March-past marred

A MILITARY TATOO was held recently in the English town of Colchester despite the Tory government's public spending cuts, because of "its function of binding the civilian population to the forces" according to a British army spokesman. During the week of the tatoo, Colchester Troops Out Movement performed a street theatre event entitled 'Colonel Crutchfield's Clockwork Cockney', and on the day of the main military march-past ten 'troops out' protestors including heavily-bandaged and 'bloodied' children joined the procession. To the embarrassment of the British army the group were able to stay in the display until they arrived at the town hall where they saluted an amazed mayor, handed him 'troops out' leaflets and were finally removed by police.

During the week of the military tatoo at least half-a-dozen of the local population were beaten up by the Brits, according to reports in the local press. However the most spectacular incident was a fight between two soldiers as they were preparing to take part in a 'simulated Northern Ireland patrol' display, in which one Brit received a stab wound from his colleague and was taken to hospital with a collapsed lung.



Bishop Edward Daly

Ex-internees blacked

ALL ex-internees are blacked from employment in the Post Office in the North it has been admitted by officials during an investigation carried out by the Fair Employment Agency (FEA).

This total ban on ex-internees exists despite British Ministerial promises, to the contrary, that ex-internees would not be automatically barred from jobs in the public sector. An ex-internee, who so far has not been named, had taken a case claiming that he had been unfairly discriminated against; he stated that he was never in a proscribed organisation nor was he ever convicted.

The Chairman of the Post Office told the FEA: "The fact that a person had been interned inevitably raised doubts about that person's security worthiness." A spokesman for the Post Office admitted that the ex-internee was on a black-list which they keep (which probably covers more than just former political prisoners but



present political activists as well). "At Belfast head office a record is kept, in book form, of applicants considered unsuitable for Post Office employment," he said.

He refused to elaborate on how the book was compiled but obviously the strong links between the Post Office management and the Special Branch, via the Post Office's internal security section, can determine whether or not a

republican gets a job in the Post Office.

The FEA, however, found that the ex-internee had not been discriminated against as their hands were tied by the terms of the legislation which set them up. A loop-hole exists and employers can refuse to employ people on 'security grounds' — whether or not their fears of that person being a 'security risk' are justified.

BRITS STEP UP RUC PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE

RUC: upholders of Brit rule

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

IN RECENT DAYS the British have stepped up their propaganda efforts to force the hated RUC upon the nationalist people, attempting to find a weak spot in popular morale after eleven years of strife and war which has resulted in a partial break down in the social fabric — a gap which Republicans suffering state repression are unable to adequately fill as a community police force.

After the RUC had played a greater role than usual against the nationalist people during the anniversary of internment commemorations, major statements on the RUC have been made by direct-ruler Atkins (confirming their greater role against the IRA and against 'young hooligans and thugs') and RUC chief Hermon ('there will be no hiding place for members of the force who break the law').

SUPPORT

A week last Wednesday, the 'Irish News', under a headline proclaiming 'Teenage gangs mount wave of terror on the Falls, residents claim', reported that: 'A police spokesman said the RUC in West Belfast were very concerned about teenagers in the area causing destructions and distress to local people, particularly the elderly.'

And over last weekend, not only former peace person Betty Williams, but also former nationalist and former socialist Paddy Devlin publicly called for support for the RUC, whom Devlin called



RUC Chief Inspector R.J. Catterson, Co-ordinator of the Special Patrol Group Community Relations Programme, presenting medals to a boy from St. Joseph's Primary School, Ballyhackamore, Belfast in April of this year. The RUC's Community Relations Programme, in which Catholic school administrators are co-operating, forms an important element in the Brits attempt to make the hated RUC acceptable to the nationalist people.

'peace keepers'. 'With the high level of crimes, including shop-breaking and car thefts, in West Belfast alone,' he said, 'it is time

that people gave their support to the RUC.'

But the RUC is, and should be, militantly opposed by the nationalist people of the six-counties, not just because it is an armed militia of loyalists, but because its essential role is to uphold, as part of the British armed forces, British rule in the occupied six-counties.

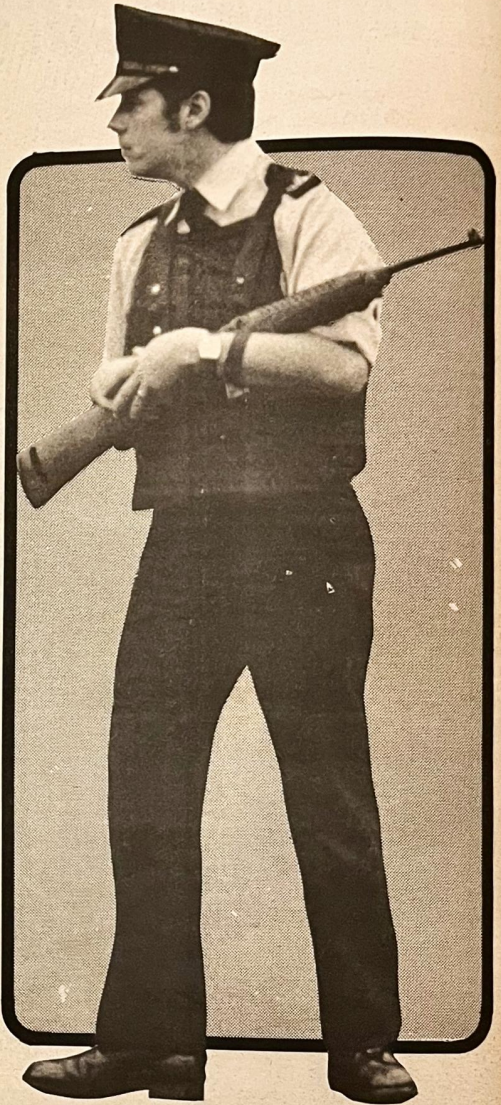
For that reason, however efficient the RUC may or may not be at catching drunken drivers, soccer hooligans, petty vandals, car joy-riders, and their own (many) 'bad apples', is totally irrelevant to whether or not they are acceptable to the nationalist people as a police force.

HATRED

In fact the leopard has not changed its spots over the last eleven years. The RUC is still essentially composed of loyalists motivated by their sectarian hatred to put Catholics down, with boots, batons, plastic bullets and gunfire.

This was adequately testified to by their recent behaviour when 'fenian bastards' was their war cry, as, in nationalist ghettos throughout the six counties, they waded into unarmed youths who were commemorating the people's resistance to internment nine years ago.

Also the shooting dead of young slogan-painter Michael McCartan in South Belfast last month by an RUC gunman is in their foulest tradition of 'taig' killing.



Lurgan and Draperstown riots

RUC REJECTED

EVIDENCE of popular understanding of the current role, and past history, of the RUC came from nationalist youths in two areas last week, Lurgan, County Armagh, and Draperstown, County Derry.

Lurgan

IN LURGAN, several hundred youths clashed with the RUC in a night-long series of running street battles on Thursday 14th / Friday 15th August. In the week preceding their bonfire night, which in Lurgan is traditionally held on August 14th on the eve of the Catholic Feast of the Assumption, youths gathering wood were constantly hounded and arrested by the RUC.

Night after night, youngsters seen near the bonfires were arrested, taken to the local barracks 'for questioning' and then released. The RUC also attempted to take down tricolours which were flying in nationalist areas of the town.

The confrontation between the RUC and the youths developed after heavily-armed riot-clad RUC men entered the nationalist areas of Teghnevan, Kilwilkie and Edward Street and began shouting sectarian abuse, 'Fenian bastards', etcetera.

During the riot, hundreds of plastic bullets were fired indiscriminately by the RUC who proceeded to arrest anyone they could lay their hands on — thirty-three people, aged between seventeen and thirty-six, were charged with 'causing criminal damage' and 'riotous behaviour'.

The rioting lasted into the early hours of Friday morning and

at one stage an RUC land-rover was over-turned on the edge of the Kilwilkie estate.

Lurgan Sinn Fein have condemned 'the provocative attitude of the RUC which spawned the riot situation,' and criticised those who had projected the view that the young people were to blame.

Draperstown

IN DRAPERSTOWN, RUC provocation, as the Ancient Order of Hibernians paraded through the town on Friday 15th August, led to several hours of intense rioting between youths and land-rover loads of armed RUC men.

Tension quickly mounted, following the appearance for the first time in many years, of RUC land-rovers at the AOH parade, and was greatly heightened by the land-rovers repeatedly driving through the crowds lining the streets.

The rioting was sparked off when one youth, whom the RUC claimed had thrown a bottle, was arrested and dragged to an RUC vehicle by RUC men with pistols drawn. Scores of people, not only youths, engaged the RUC in street-fighting and drove them back up Draperstown Main Street. More than one hundred plastic bullets were fired indiscriminately by the RUC, who also drove at the crowds in their land-rovers.

The riot ended when a local priest, Fr. Leo Deery, intervened and the RUC — twenty-three of whom were reported to be injured — withdrew to barracks under a barrage of cheers.

The reaction of AOH national president, Hugh News, to what happened in Draperstown was disappointing. Rather than condemning the provocative behaviour of the RUC, he praised them, and, instead, criticised those who opposed RUC aggression.

Cushendall charge

ONLY WEEKS after the conviction of several RUC men — centring around 'the Protestant Boy', Paisleyite RUC Constable William McCaughy — for sectarian assassination, pub-bombing and priest-kidnapping, another RUC man has been charged with another murder — this time of a Catholic RUC Sergeant. Forty-three-year-old RUC Detective Sergeant Charles McCormick, from the Paisleyite stronghold of Ballymena, was charged in a Belfast court on Thursday 14th August, with the killing of forty-eight-year-old RUC Sergeant Joseph Campbell, father of eight.

The killing, for which no organisation claimed responsibility, took place on February 25th 1977 when Campbell, a rare Catholic member of the RUC, was shot dead in the sleepy County Antrim sea-side resort of Cushendall. He was shot once in the head

as he locked the gates of the part-time barracks. Almost immediately, rumours began to circulate in the small 95% Catholic town that his death had been the work, not of Republicans, but of a member of the British forces, either the RUC or UDR.

RUC Detective Sergeant McCormick has also been charged with the armed robbery in Cushendall, on November 25th 1974, of £3,048 from the Northern Bank on the Shore Road, and of £145 from the Knocknecarry post office. When charged with the killing and armed robberies, ironically, McCormick replied: 'I am completely innocent. It is a frame-up.' But this is unlikely: for the chances of the RUC deliberately bringing even further disrepute on themselves by needlessly (falsely) charging one of their own with such acts, are extremely slim.

Brits slay Cookstown man

Usual cover-up follows

BY B. SLOANE

COOKSTOWN MAN James Bell of Riverside Drive, Blackhill, was shot dead by the British army in the early hours of last Thursday morning, August 14th, in the vicinity of the grounds of the Greenvale restaurant, only a short distance from his home.

The killing of this twenty-four-year-old father of three young children by British army gunmen — who shot him five times — has angered local nationalist people to such an extent that even the SDLP has been forced to call for a public enquiry into the shooting. And local SDLP man Paddy Duffy has stated: "The conflict between the army story about the incident and the facts that are unfolding raises the whole question as to whether it was the army personnel who had in fact been in the premises and that they were disturbed by the deceased." He also asked, reflecting popular belief, "Was the deceased left in a dying condition for some hours before he actually died?"

James Bell, a local man who had returned to a new house in Cookstown with his wife just a week before, had set out from his home, unaccompanied at half-past-ten on Wednesday evening, with two things on his mind: the first, to get teething powder for his youngest child; and the second, disastrously, to pick up some discarded fence posts, from barely one hundred and fifty yards from where he lived, in

Fishers Lane, which lies in a hollow some twenty feet below the spacious landscaped car park facing the Greenvale restaurant.

CLAIM

The RUC say that there had been a break-in at the restaurant earlier in the evening and the British army claim that they saw two armed men in the grounds of the restaurant.

The British army say that both men refused to halt when ordered to do so, and that it was only then that soldiers from an eight-man Royal Highland Fusilier patrol opened fire. They also claim that James Bell was killed instantly, and the other man, according to the Brits, (conveniently) escaped. No guns were found on or near the body — presumably the Brits are suggesting, as usual, that it was the man who got away who was armed.

There was nothing said by the Brits which deviated from their standard procedures applied when one of their killings has to be covered up.

An RUC man admitted to news men: "In a shooting such as this, where the army are involved, our lips are

pretty much sealed. All we can say at the moment is what we have been told by the army."

"When the army are involved, it's really a cloak and dagger operation," he added.

DOUBT

The known facts all cast doubt on the Brits' story.

No guns, nor house-breaking implements, were found on, or near, James Bell's body and, although the RUC declared that forensic tests could, within twenty-four hours, establish whether a firearm had been handled, no such claim has been made.

The time of the shooting, claimed by the Brits to be 2.35 a.m. can not be verified, since the body was not admitted to Magherafelt Hospital until seven hours later, at 9.30 a.m., too late to judge when the mortal injuries were inflicted with any credible accuracy.

Too late also, it appears, to save the man's life, for — according to doctors who spoke to twenty-year-old Colleen Bell — her husband had lain for some time bleeding to death from a bullet wound to the liver that, with timely treatment, might not have been fatal.

The RUC admitted that despite receiving a report about a break-in at the restaurant they did not investigate it. Local people are hardly surprised at this for it is common knowledge in this small community that for some time the Brits had been staking out the premises at night.

There are now, and were the next day, no signs of blood stains anywhere in the restaurant grounds although James Bell, according to the Brits, lay there bleeding from five gunshot wounds. So the exact spot where he met his death remains a mystery, and there is nothing to show that he was in the car park, as the Brits claim.

CRUELTY

The following morning, in typical fashion, the RUC added an extra cruel twist to the shooting.

Colleen Bell describes how she first learnt of her husband's death: "An RUC detective came to the house at 10 a.m. and asked me if Jimmy was in bed. I said 'No'. He asked me if he was wearing a blue anorak and I said 'No, a blue jacket.' He asked if Jimmy was at the Greenvale last night



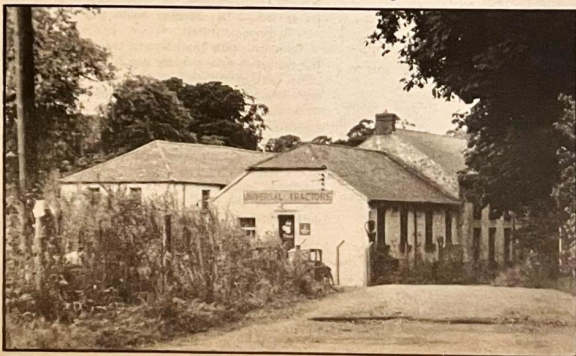
and I said 'No'. Then he shouted at me, 'He's dead! Do you understand that! He's dead!'"

Pointing to what she believes are her husband's footprints, alongside footprints made by soldiers' boots, in the muddy hollow at Fishers Lane, Colleen went on to endorse local opinion suggesting that perhaps the unaccountable time lapse had provided a safe margin for the Brits to stage a break-in at Greenvale as a cover-up for their killing. She asked, tearfully, what many people in Cookstown are asking, "Why did they have to kill him?"

The deplorable and pathetic sequel to this killing is that soldiers of the Royal Highland Fusiliers, who had never known this couple, now jeer and make obscene gestures at the family when passing their home.



British army victim James Bell and his wife Colleen



Fishers Lane, Cookstown, where James Bell went to pick up fence posts shortly before his death

FORMER BRIT

CAPTAIN MICHAEL BIGGS left the British army in May of last year as a 'conscientious objector'. In 1973 he had served four months in Newry and two weeks ago he returned to the North for the first time. This time he came, not as an armed enemy of the nationalist people, but as a very welcome member of a one-hundred-and-fifty-strong Troops Out Movement delegation from Britain which picketed barracks in West Belfast and which supported Sinn Féin's anniversary of internment commemorative march and rally. *An Phoblacht/Republican News* took the opportunity of Mike Biggs being in Ireland to interview him.

Q. Could you outline your army career before being posted here?

A. I joined the army in 1970 when I was nineteen. My father was in the army and I came from an army family, so that obviously had a lot to do with it and at the time I was very interested in sport and outdoor activity. It was a very safe, easy progression from school.

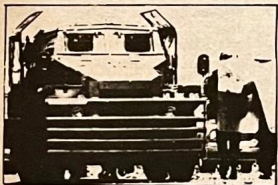
I went to Sandhurst for two years to train as an officer and was commissioned in 1972. I was in Germany for the first year but even at that stage I began to doubt my decision about joining the army. The officer/soldier relationship, that kind of hierarchical structure, I found very difficult to cope with. A lot of the officers just treated the soldiers as dirt.

I went from Germany to Newry with the Light Infantry in May 1973 and I was there until the end of September 1973 when I went to university. I was a Second Lieutenant in Newry where my main duty was to run the ops room, handling communications between the centre and the troops on the ground, and communications backwards to headquarters. I also went out on patrols quite a few times.

Q. How was your unit prepared for the North?

A. Both in England and Germany there are model villages which the soldiers go through and are fired on (with blanks) from windows and from around corners. There are simulated riots, also, to quicken the soldiers' reactions.

Soldiers act as demonstrators, as rioters, and quite a few injuries are sustained just in the practice, so the actual hatred, the aggressiveness, is whipped up and is vented on one's own, before the soldiers even get to the North. It's hardly



surprising that once they get here they are not worried about laying into the community.

Other ways in which the soldiers are geared up was certainly illustrated in my case with the Light Infantry who were mucked about so that there was a lot of dissent created before we even came out here.

The weekends were pretty sacred because the men could have time with their wives, but they were called out at the weekend to do yet another practice at vehicle control points or whatever. And so I think we came over to the North in a pretty mean mood. I think that this was an intentional policy so that the soldiers would lay into the people.

Q. What made you decide to leave the army?

A. The North of Ireland was the big thing. I came out here naively, but genuinely, thinking that I was a peace-keeper — keeping peace amongst the community. Well a peace-keeping role to me means keeping in your barracks and

coming out when you really are needed but after my tour here I could see that in fact we were occupying the streets incessantly, especially the Catholic estates.

We went out for no apparent reason and were compiling unnecessary information as far as a peace-keeping force would be concerned. The actual role of the army was to suppress the Catholic people.

The army said they were here to keep peace in the community, but in fact they



polarised the community even further because the Catholics could see the Protestants currying favour with the troops and the Catholics could see themselves being hammered by the troops.

The role of the army was divisive rather than a peace-keeping force. I mean very much divisive and in fact delaying peace. The only time we went into a Protestant estate was in vehicles and it was just a question of whipping through them very quickly.

The thing we were told was not to go into the Protestant estates too much, because we don't want to upset them. Whereas with the Catholic estates, and in particular the Derrybeg estate, we were there all the time and we were really antagonising the local community. The army were saying that the Derrybeg estate was a terrible estate, and that there was stone-throwing all the time, but from what I could see it was only a reaction to the army being there.

I never witnessed any individual acts of brutality by troops against members of the Catholic community but I saw things like vehicle patrols driving up on the pavement with no other purpose than to harass and frighten people.

And then there was the searching of houses which were turned upside down and if people protested — if they had the temerity to protest — invariably that house would be searched again and at a very inconvenient hour.

Similarly with the personal searches on the Derrybeg estate: there was no 'do you mind getting up against the wall', they were whammed up against the wall, almost flattened up against it, and then had a very rigorous search. Again, there was no need for it.

I never actually saw any interrogations but I heard about cases of people being 'softened up', man-handled, the boot being put in, by the RUC and the army, before someone was actually interrogated.

There were lots of kids round about my age, and I wanted to speak to them, but they just didn't want to have anything to do with me. There I was, supposed to be a peace-keeper, but with this weapon in my hand and a uniform on! Afterwards I could understand the kids' attitude, a lot of their own brothers and sisters had been badly treated by the army.

I think the whole situation of people

leaving the community and going elsewhere to get away from it was caused by the army, and not by the IRA. The IRA weren't driving people out of their homes. The army's presence there was making it so intolerable that people just didn't want to stay there any more.

What would people in England say if they had troops on their streets twenty-four hours a day. I spoke to a few mothers who had sent their children either to the States or to England because there was no way they were going to have their children living in that kind of atmosphere.

Q. Moving on from the harassment can you tell us more about the intelligence-gathering techniques of the troops?

A. Well for example, everything that is taken down when soldiers stop someone in the street is processed later. Although not everything would be radioed through immediately, when the soldiers get back to base all the information would be checked out to make sure that they have all the information on the central bank, so there is no way that anything is overlooked. We P-checked the same people many times just to see if we could get additional information.

We had 'mug shots' of all the main Provos in the North but then for our area we had another book of 'mug shots' of Provos that were operating in our area. From those books the key people were reduced onto a small card so that patrol leaders, if they came across someone, could have a quick look at their cards and check if he was on the wanted list.

There were known Republicans on the Derrybeg estate and their houses were consistently searched on a week-to-week basis. We had the basic information and what we were looking for were changes: in the movement of furniture, in the number of people in the house, and in who was staying there or who was absent. These things were put together to form a picture, to find out the movements of Republicans at all times.

Republicans were watched very carefully and the army were able to do that because there were always patrols in and out of the estate. So soldiers could radio up and say there is 'Seamus whoever'



on his way down to the centre of the town and then a patrol in town could pick him up from there.

We had plain-clothes surveillance men in civvy cars who came into our area, from the Intelligence Corps.

We also had a Military Intelligence Liaison Officer, who was attached to us from the Royal Anglian Regiment. He was going round trying to glean information from the local community from informers, going around pubs trying to pick up tips, meeting these informers, and then feeding it back to the army and the RUC.

I never got to know of SAS people

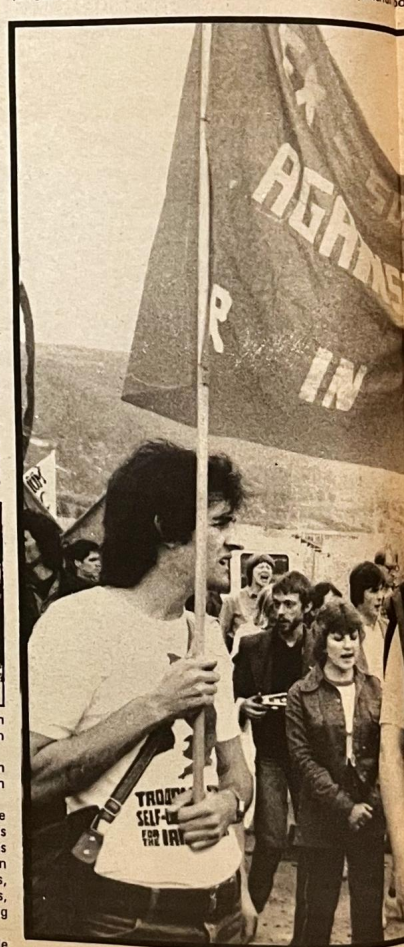
working in our area but undoubtedly they were on the border.

Q. How did you get out of the army?

A. After I left the North I went to university for three years which gave me quite a long time to think about my role in the army and the army's role, not only in the North, but in society.

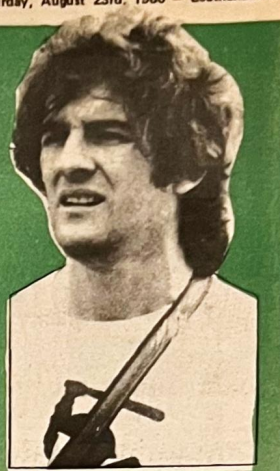
It was while I was at university that I actually wrote a letter offering to resign my commission. That was very much based on my disagreement with the troops being in the North and given my socialist values I didn't feel that I could be an effective member of 'Her Majesty's forces'.

In 1976 I put my first letter in. I thought the only way that I could get out was by resigning my commission, but I was refused. After I had finished my degree I was put in charge of training at Colchester and I objected to running a 'shoot-to-kill' programme.



Former army captain, Michael Biggs (left) carrying

CAPTAIN BREAKS OUT



...just as being target
...see it as practice for
...and the only place
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...and so I refused to have

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...Because as an officer one
...position and obviously

can affect a lot of men under you.

It was only when I was in London that, in desperation, I went to the NCCL (National Council for Civil Liberties) and they put me in touch with 'At Ease', an organisation which counsels soldiers, and they suggested that I get out on grounds of conscience. My response was 'I didn't know you could', but I set that process in motion and it took me another six months to get out.

One of the conditions is that if, while your application is being put forward, you refuse to do work on grounds of conscience then they can charge you. And while you are being charged your application is suspended!

I sat at my desk and refused to work. There was no way that I was going to work because at the tribunal they could turn round to me and say: you are a conscientious objector but you worked, after you put your application in, on military work.

So I refused and they kept on ordering me to work.

This major kept on coming to my desk and putting work in front of me and saying 'work' but I said 'No, I refuse to work on the grounds of conscience'. So in the end they had to move me because other soldiers were seeing me do this.

So they suspended me from work. I had to report — like being on bail — to a place in Knightsbridge every day at about 10 o'clock. Eventually they charged me and I was severely reprimanded by a General.

In May 1979 I at last appeared before the tribunal and was successful in getting out on grounds of conscience.

Q. What have you been doing since you left the army?

A. Work-wise I have been working with mentally ill people in a therapeutic community.

On the political side I quite quickly got involved with the Committee for Withdrawal from Ireland which is trying to attract as many people as possible, from many different walks of life, calling upon the government to withdraw completely from the North. I have also been involved in giving talks to 'troops out' branches and have been very much involved with 'At Ease', counselling soldiers who want to get out of the army.

Although there hasn't been a great deluge, there has been a steady trickle of

was no way that we could kid ourselves that we were being received with open arms by the local community, rather the reverse.

Every time we went out on the streets people were throwing stones at us, and at the vehicles, and were saying 'Brits get out'. So, however much in the base, or back in Germany, officers can say this is bound to happen, it's just the Irish, it does still affect soldiers when people are saying 'get the hell out of here'.

Rioting like the last few days here in Belfast certainly very much puts the soldiers under pressure. When we were really under pressure in Newry I thought at times that we wouldn't be able to hold it together.

I think a lot of the soldiers are scared and this comes out in different ways. You get someone like Trooper Maggs who runs amok and kills some of his own, but for a lot of them the only way they can deal with this fear is by turning it into aggression and of course they take it out on the community.

Others just crack up so they are kept on the bases all the time. We had a guy in Newry who never went out on patrol because he just couldn't take it, so he was on cook-house fatigues for the whole of the four months.

Some of them never even get clerical work, they are left behind doing clerical work because they just freak out at the thought of it.

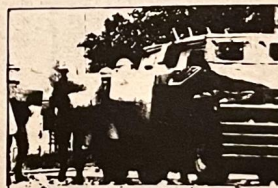
In one incident when we were opened fire in Newry in a very well co-ordinated attack all hell was let loose and the men were really scared. I was in the ops room and they were all calling in blocking each other out so that communications could not get back from the men under fire. There was just pandemonium.

It led me to think that if they, the so-called terrorists, put a sustained attack on the forts in the various areas then the British army would find it very difficult to come through it.

Q. What is the effect of IRA operations on the morale of soldiers?

A. Really worrying. Attacks really shake the army psychologically because there is that feeling that whenever they want to the Provos can open up on them.

And it's not like regular warfare when



you're pretty sure where the other people are and when an attack is going to come. Here they just do not know when things are going to happen.

Morale has certainly been effected by the efficiency of the Provos. Warrenpoint only happened once last year. But in my mind it could have happened far more if the Provos had wished it.

It is a fact that they choose their times well. The soldiers are always worrying, especially in the border areas, 'God, when is it going to happen next'.



soldiers who have deserted from the North because they do not agree with what is going on here. I was on a radio phone-in programme in Birmingham last year and all the ex-soldiers who phoned up agreed with my stance and said that they had done some terrible things in the North, and it was only then that they could get them off their chest.

Q. Why haven't more soldiers got out?

A. I think that given the hierarchical disciplinarian system of the army it's very difficult for a soldier to object, also the ethic behind the army of 'it's a man's world', 'it's a tough world', means that saying that you are a conscientious objector is like saying you are a sissy, a coward. So if a soldier believes that the troops should not be out here there is no way that he is going to say that amongst his own mates. It takes a very strong soldier to actually stand up and say 'No, I'm not going to have this any more'.

Recently we did a radio programme in England about 'At Ease' and straight afterwards we had one hundred enquiries on the phones. There were lots of people phoning in, mothers of kids saying that they just could not take the army any more. But the kids could not say it themselves because they were afraid that they might get disciplined or put in jail.

It took me a while to pluck up enough courage to say 'look, I'm not going to take this any more', to say 'fuck you, I'm not going to take your orders'.

Soldiers keep it to themselves if they are feeling disillusioned, unless they have a close mate who feels the same thing. Usually they keep it to themselves and in the end it becomes too much and they just go AWOL (Absent Without Leave) or don't return back to the North when they should, or they just run amok.

Q. How would you describe the morale of troops in the North?

A. Pretty bad. Certainly in the seventies the army has changed into a married man's army rather than a single man's army and obviously something like the North puts a lot of strain on a soldier's married life and so a lot of soldiers come over here worried about their own personal life.

Obviously that's not good for morale, and when we were out there in Newry there



...ner — 'Ex-soldiers against the war in Ireland' — at the recent pickets on army forts in west Belfast

Welcome home



A 'WELCOME HOME' function for twenty-five-year-old Frankie Wilson, South Derry's first blanket man to be released from the H-Blocks, was held in the Parochial Hall, the Loup, on Sunday evening, August 17th, organised by South Derry Sinn Féin. In spite of road-blocking harassment by the UDR, a large attendance gave Frankie a rousing welcome.

Seamus Devlin presented the still heavily bearded Frankie with a Long Kesh wallet in recognition of his successful defiance of Britain's criminalisation policy during his four-year sentence. All the speakers — John Davey, Kevin Agnew and Hugh Corey of Sinn Féin, and Mrs. Noone of the Relatives Action Committee, praised the courage of the protesting prisoners and urged people to support street protests.

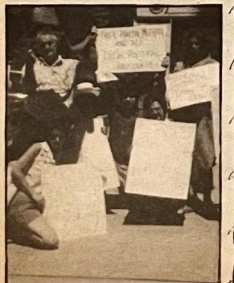
Cobh

COBH H-Block Action Committee set up a caravan H-Block information centre for the duration of an international folk dance festival in the town from July 13th to 20th. The centre was open from 10 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. each day and leaflets in Spanish, Catalan, German, French, English and Irish were distributed. Signatures were collected for the International H-Block petition, literature sold and donations received.



New York

A PICKET at the Pierre Hotel in New York marked the occasion of a luncheon given on Thursday 24th July by the British-American Chamber of Commerce in honour of Sir John Ford, the British Ambassador to Canada. Guests at the luncheon, as well as hundreds of passers-by, could clearly hear the slogans chanted by the protestors, among which were 'Ambassador Ford is dining while Irish people are dying' and 'IRA, all the way'. Placards held by the protestors included 'Political Status for Irish POWs now' and 'England out of Ireland now'. Attempts by hotel security to stop the protest proved ineffectual.



Christina Carney



ON SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER the National H-Block Committee will be holding a conference in Dublin's Liberty Hall. This conference is to report back and assess activity within the twenty-six counties since the Mansion House conference in December last year which initiated the committee's work in the Free State.

Christina Carney, an executive member of Dublin Trades

CHRISTINA CARNEY is in no doubt that major progress has been made in the eight months since the last conference. Twenty-seven H-Block action committees have been set-up throughout the twenty-six counties and have achieved the aim of establishing a broadly-based campaign. Membership of these committees includes people of all political parties as well as of none.

Christina instances Leitrim and Sligo as examples of this widespread acceptance across the political divide. In Leitrim the initiating meeting of the H-Block action committee was attended by eighteen of twenty-two county councillors, the remaining four sending apologies. In Sligo there was a civic reception before the first meeting for the organisers and speakers.

The H-Block action committees have proved very enthusiastic and this has been translated into a high level of local action. They have also proved to be completely united despite the broadly-based membership, concentrating as they do on the five basic demands of the H-Block and Armagh prisoners. Reports from all these committees are expected to be given at the Liberty Hall conference.

Motions of support for the prisoners have been passed by local councils all round the country, including the North — a full list of these is being compiled for the Liberty Hall conference.

TRADE UNIONS

One of the most important areas of work is in the trade union movement where there has been much support, especially at trades councils level. Motions of support from these have continued to come in, most recently from Carrick-on-Suir, Cavan and Dundalk Trades Councils.

A number of trade unions have passed motions of support at their annual conferences. The ITGWU have called for a full public independent inquiry into the H-Blocks. Various union branches have also expressed and displayed their support. Christina Carney cites Bray branch of the ITGWU as one that has gone so far as to establish a sub-committee to deal with the issue.

However, she does express disappointment with the trade union leadership. Only a few have come forward, in a personal capacity, to lend their support and names to the H-Block campaign. These include Michael Mullen (ITGWU), Matt Merrigan (ATGWU), Seamus de Paor (IPOEU), Kevin McConnell (NEETU), and Phil Flynn (LGPSU).

DISAPPOINTMENT

She is also disappointed at the recent ICTU conference in Belfast where the resolution supporting the prisoners, and calling for a trade union inquiry, was put back for consideration by the incoming executive. In particular the ITGWU delegates, even though their policy is for a public inquiry, said that they would vote against the motion had it gone to the conference floor, inexplicably describing a trade union inquiry as 'cosmetic'. However, there was some encouraging support from the delegates — two hundred out of six hundred signing a petition of support for the prisoners.

The trade union movement is certainly fertile ground for building support, however, and a specific trade union H-Block meeting will take place in Dublin on September 18th to plan further action. The National H-Block Committee have also written to the ICTU executive

National H-Block Committee to hold Dublin conference

BUILDING ON MAJOR PROGRESS

BY KEVIN BURKE

Council and vice-chairperson of the Dublin corporation branch of LGPSU, sits on the National H-Block Committee in a personal capacity and is the committee's secretary. Kevin Burke interviewed her, on behalf of An Phoblacht/Republican News, about the conference and the progress of the National H-Block Committee in the twenty-six counties.

asking them to meet relatives of the H-Block prisoners before further considering the resolution.

Support from other areas has also been encouraging according to Christina. Conradh na Gaeilge has recently established an official relationship with the National H-Block Committee, assigning one of their members specifically to work with that committee.

A meeting has been arranged with the GAA to explore the possibility of establishing a similar relationship with it.

As regards the churches, there have been several displays of support with individual clergymen becoming involved in local action committees. The Bishop of Ferns has assigned a priest to represent him on the National Committee.

CHANGED

Christina Carney is in no doubt that the climate on the H-Blocks and Armagh in the twenty-six counties has radically changed since last December's conference. There is no longer the silence or unwillingness to get involved that existed then and this new mood is reflected in the numbers of well-known personalities who have been willing to speak out publicly on the issue and express their support.

However, Christina does severely criticise the Dublin press and accuses them of ignoring and playing down the work of the National H-Block Committee. She says that letters and statements have not been published and, for example, the crowd at the Dublin rally in June was estimated in the press as fifteen hundred although it must have been clear to any observer that several thousand had turned out.

Not until the launching of the International H-Block petition was there any significant coverage. She does point out, however, that many

of the provincial papers have been much fairer in this respect.

WORKING

In spite of the progress made so far there will be no complacency at next month's Liberty Hall conference. The National H-Block Committee will be proposing a change to the composition of the twenty-six county sub-committee. They acknowledge that the size of the committee, designed to display the broad-based nature of the campaign, has proved unwieldy as a working committee.

Now that the broad-base intent is beyond any doubt — and Christina stresses that this conference is open to everyone and anyone, who wishes to get involved — the National Committee will be asking the conference to elect a five-person working committee (with the possibility of three co-optations) to co-ordinate the work in the twenty-six counties. They acknowledge that this co-ordination work has to be done urgently to gain the full benefit for the campaign of the local action committees' activities and further extend the campaign.

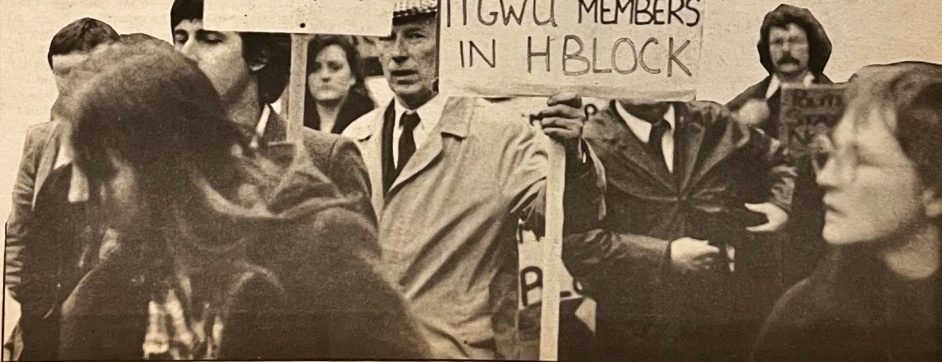
IMPACT

The key work of this new committee, it is hoped, would be to translate the actions of the local committees, and their considerable support at that level, into a centralised impact on the headquarters of state, church, trade unions, cultural and sporting bodies and so on. This will mean that action in the coming months, although taking place at local level, will always be focussed on transmitting its effect to the highest levels possible; inevitably in the twenty-six county context, therefore, aiming at Dublin.

Certainly there is every indication that the conference at Liberty Hall on September 14th will be a vibrant and encouraging one. A maximum attendance with a maximum exchange of ideas should motivate a further surge forward for the H-Block and Armagh campaign in the twenty-six counties.

SMASH
H.BLOCK
NOW!

REMEMBER
THE 38
ITGWU MEMBERS
IN HBLOCK





MILITANT OPPOSITION

BRITISH army gunmen faced militant opposition last Saturday afternoon in Belfast's lower Falls from taxi drivers and local people, to their continual harassment of the black taxis of the Falls Taxi Association.

The long-suffering taxi-men were being stopped at a Brit vehicle check-point outside the Falls Lib-

rary and when the Brits simultaneously stopped several taxis, ordering passengers out, the taxi men responded by blocking the road with their vehicles.

The Brits physically attempted to stop this response by the taxi-men and their attempt to man-handle one of the drivers met with a prompt rebuttal from a driver whose right fist to a Brit's jaw

knocked his beret (and his self-composure) flying.

Within minutes the British gunmen were surrounded by a hostile crowd, and several Brits could be seen shaking uncontrollably with fear and wildly pointing their rifles and plastic bullet guns at their ground — nervously — after a few minutes the Brits backed off down the road, which was still

blocked, leaving a jubilant crowd behind.

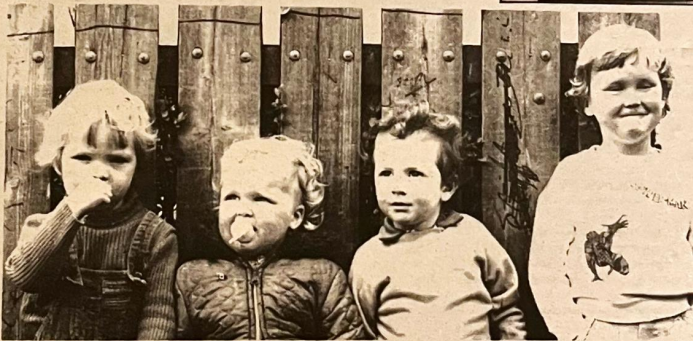
Brit secret military intelligence document 37, intercepted by the IRA last year, incorrectly pointed to the black taxis as a fund-raising venture for the IRA and went on "but police activity is now inhibiting the use of the latter," thus giving away the rationale for Brit/RUC harassment of the taxis.

Toddlers fired on

were not in at the time of the shooting. Angry parents challenged the Brits for a rational explanation but they just laughed, said it was an accident and departed the scene.

A BRITISH soldier opened fire over the heads of a group of toddlers in West Belfast Last Wednesday for no apparent reason. Four toddlers — from left to right in the photograph — Damien Burns (aged three), Roisin McVeigh (aged two), Joseph Boyle (aged three), and Eamonn McVeigh (aged four), were playing in their street, Suffolk Cul de Sac, around half-past-eleven in the morning when a passing patrol — thought to belong to the Queen's Own Regiment — stopped behind a wall in Gweedore Gardens.

A soldier leaned over the wall, aimed and fired his rifle in the direction of the children. The children were terrified and scattered and the bullet passed through the upstairs window (see, top photograph) of 83 Suffolk Cul de Sac. Fortunately the occupants



KEEP OUT!

STAFF working at the 'dole' sub-office on Belfast's Andersonstown Road have insisted that the building be protected by a tall wire fence and that entry be only through a turnstile manned by a Social Services department employee.

This precaution has been insisted upon by the office workers for protection, not from vandals, but from terrorists — members of the British army and the RUC who regularly terrorise both the staff and those signing on the 'dole'.

The latest act of terrorism, by those British forces, which brought the matter to a head, happened on Tuesday morning, July 29th, when Jimmy Monaghan, a middle-aged Turf Lodge man, was attacked by an RUC man, and when

RUC men held office workers at gun-point.

The following week, at a trade union branch meeting, the office workers decided to hold a ballot amongst all those who staff the office — who number about one hundred in all: half-a-dozen per day on rotating attachment from the lower Falls office — to demand a proper security system around the sub-office, which would give staff at least partial control of those who enter the building. In the subsequent ballot an overwhelming majority voted not to work at the sub-office until such measures had been implemented.

The Social Services department agreed, under this threat, to provide such protection, work on which, last week, was almost completed. The sub-office, with its new anti-British terrorist protection, is due to re-open next week.

Carnsore

MEMBERS of the Dublin and Westford H-Block action committees were at Carnsore Point for the anti-nuclear rally last week-end. An H-Block exhibition was mounted in one of the tents and hundreds of signatures were collected for the International H-Block petition from both Irish and foreign participants.

Dun Laoghaire

SEVENTY people attended an H-Block meeting in the Town Hall, Blackrock, County Dublin on Thursday 15th August. The meeting was chaired by Ogur Breathnach of the National H-Block Committee and speakers were fellow-committee member Joe Stagg and former blanket man Fra McCann from Belfast and Liam Carlin from Derry. Among speakers from the floor were trade union leader Kevin McConnell, barrister Michael Connelley and Sinn Féin general secretary Cathleen Knowles.

A three-member committee was elected to co-ordinate further action in the Dun Laoghaire area. The members are: Gerry Roche, Maura Casey and John Walsh.

Letterkenny

OVER three hundred people attended an H-Block meeting in Letterkenny, County Donegal, on Saturday 16th August, following a march through the town led by two local bands. The meeting was chaired by Hugh McGee, chairman of Letterkenny H-Block Action Committee, and was addressed by Christina Carney of the National H-Block Committee; former blanket man Charlie Crumsh from Derry; three mothers of blanket men: Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Harkin, from Derry, and Mrs. McClellan, from Strabane, whose son is the youngest blanket man; Val Wynn, Ballyshannon; Brian Byrne, Letterkenny; and Sean Keenan, Derry. A letter of support signed by several Donegal county councillors, was read out at the meeting.

Limerick

LIMERICK'S H-Block action committee has been continuing its regular Saturday presence on the city's O'Connell Street. Thousands of locally-produced leaflets and stickers have been distributed from their 'Smash H-Block' stand opposite Todd's store, and signatures are being collected for the international H-Block petition. The committee is currently planning a door-to-door campaign with the petition in the large housing estates of Southill and Garryowen. Anyone willing to support or join in the committee's activities is welcome to attend the regular weekly meeting any Thursday at 8.30 p.m. in Halla Ide, Thomas Street.

United Auto

ONE OF America's largest trade unions, the two million strong United Auto Workers (UAW), has condemned the H-Blocks. In the August issue of its journal, 'Solidarity', the article refers to the death of Brian Maguire in May 1978 in Castlereagh which it describes as "a key interrogation centre for Irish nationalists — destined to rot in the infamous H-Blocks of Long Kesh."

It describes the H-Blocks as 'medieval' and says that in the United States "a campaign is under way to safeguard the lives of all Northern Irish nationalists in the H-Blocks. Its key demand: restoration of the political status that England took away from these prisoners in March 1976. England's motive was to discredit Irish independence fighters as mere criminals. Naturally the H-Block detainees fought such a characterisation, refusing to wear the prison uniforms given ordinary criminals."

JOIN SINN FEIN

Anyone interested in joining Sinn Féin should contact their local cumann: head office at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin; 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast; or 15, Cable Street, Derry.

I am interested in becoming a member of Sinn Féin

NAME

ADDRESS



WHAT'S ON

FLEADH

6 p.m. Friday 22nd August
to Sunday 24th August
NEW LODGE

Belfast

Includes folk music, discos, dancing,
indoor and outdoor competitions and
sports, plus children's activities.

SINN FEIN NIGHT

8.30 p.m. Sunday 23rd August
Cock Robin
ATHY

ATHY

Music by the Chimes
Prominent speakers

H-BLOCK MARCH

3 p.m. Sunday 24th August
ARDOYNE

Belfast

Assemble Butler Street
Organised by Sinn Fein

H-BLOCK MARCH

3 p.m. Sunday 24th August
BALLYMURPHY

Belfast

Assemble Whitecross / Falls Junction
Organised by Relatives Action Committee

COLE/COLLEY COMMEMORATION

3.30 p.m. Sunday 24th August
Assemble: Rendezvous car park

Beaumont

DUBLIN

Organised by McArdorey Cumann, Sinn Fein.

COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHEAN

Monthly Meeting

2.30 p.m. Sunday 24th August
5, Blessington Street

DUBLIN

Two delegates from each comhairle
desire to attend. Resolutions for
Ard Fheis will be accepted.

COMHAIRLE ATHA CLIATH

Special Meeting on
International H-Block Petition

8 p.m. Tuesday 26th August
5 Blessington Street

DUBLIN

Each Dublin Sinn Fein cumann to send
one delegate.

H-BLOCK MARCH

2.30 p.m. Saturday 30th August
DUBLIN

Ballyfermot

Buses to assembly point:-
78, 78a, 78b and 18

Organised by Sinn Fein

PUBLIC MEETING

12 noon Sunday 31st August
Imperial Hotel

DUNDALK

To form a committee to highlight
conditions in Armagh, as part of the
campaign of the National H-Block
Committee.

H-BLOCK CONCERT

8 p.m. Monday 1st September
Glentworth Hall

LIMERICK

Featuring Christy Moore
Admission £2

H-BLOCK MARCH

3 p.m. Saturday 13th September
Assemble Pery Square

LIMERICK

H-BLOCK CONFERENCE

1 p.m. Sunday 14th September
Liberty Hall

DUBLIN

Organised by
National H-Block Committee

CEILI

9 p.m. Tuesday 16th September
Clare Manor Hotel

Malahide Road

DUBLIN

Music by Seánita Ceili Band
Table £3 Supper and Bar extension
Proceeds to An Cumann Cabhrach

AONACH NA NOLLAG

Christmas Fair
5th, 6th, 7th December

Mansion House

DUBLIN

All those wishing to help please contact
An Cumann Cabhrach any Monday or
Wednesday between 8.30 p.m. and
9.30 p.m. at 44, Parnell Square. All
donations will be gratefully received and
will be acknowledged if requested.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE ON ARMAGH

Meets every Wednesday 6.30 p.m.
Basement, 29 Mountjoy Square,

DUBLIN

MAKING THE POINT

Trade unions must oppose nuclear power

BY GERRY BEGLEY

ANTI-NUCLEAR protesters gathering last week for the third annual rally at Carnsore Point, county Wexford - the site of the ESB's proposed nuclear power plant - were in more serious mood than in former years. The reduction of emphasis on the 'pop-festival' side of the rally, coupled with the threatening weather, obviously discouraged those who lacked either genuine concern or interest in the dangers of nuclear power.

Although the crowd, well below ten thousand, was down on last year the rally organisers were expressing satisfaction at the higher attendance at the forty or more workshops, exhibitions and slide shows held throughout the four-day rally.

WORK-SHOPS

By far the most successful workshops were those run by the Trade Union Anti-Nuclear Campaign and the Donegal Uranium Committee - indeed the increasing concern about uranium mining was dominant at this year's rally.

A slide show about Plogoff in Brittany, where French riot police and paratroopers crushed local resistance to a nuclear power station, was a sombre reminder that the state will always resort to armed force if it feels its interests are threatened. A view underlined by the heavy Special Branch presence at Carnsore for the rally.

The Trade Union Anti-Nuclear Campaign (TUANC), which was established in March this year, held several open meetings on the various aspects of nuclear power in Ireland as they effect trade unionists. The absolutely vital role of the trade unions in an effective anti-nuclear campaign was clearly understood by all those who took part, and the most intensive discussion took place during the session concerned with 'Building the TUANC'.

BLACKING

Opening the session Mick Enwright (TUI) urged that the strategy of the TUANC should be towards getting the unions who might be involved in building a nuclear power plant or whose



One of the bigger displays at the Carnsore point rally was given by the Donegal Uranium Committee which is resisting the mining of uranium at Fintown.

members might be engaged in uranium mining to block such work, thus effectively blocking any attempt to introduce nuclear power to Ireland. He pointed out that the answer to those who saw the prospect of employment in this area was the fact that industrial expansion in nuclear economies has been energy intensive rather than labour intensive.

Sean McPhilbin (ITGWU) stressed the need to work now to build support for TUANC within the official labour movement. Sean Hartigan (ETU), chairman of Wexford City Sinn Fein, urged that the campaign be taken to the shop floor.

"All our talk here has no relevance unless we get the information to the rank and file", he said. He suggested the building workers' and ESB unions as the obvious targets for immediate action. Factory gate meetings have proved to be effective in the past at reaching the maximum number of workers.

Commenting on the nuclear debates at recent trade union annual conferences, Brian Trench



Another display at the rally showed a CB radio being powered by a solar panel

(NUJ) said that the whole question of going nuclear was obviously a controversial and passionate one, this mood could be capitalised on by TUANC organisers. Many workers already acknowledged that the dangers of dirty industries, like Asahi in Mayo and Raybestos in Cork, outweighed their supposed 'job creation' advantages. Nuclear

industries were the biggest example of them all.

DANGERS

Paddy Bolger (IPOEU), who is also spokesman for Sinn Fein's Economic Resistance department, informed the meeting of Sinn Fein's total support for TUANC. He was not hopeful of quick advances for the anti-nuclear campaign in the trade union movement whose current economic policy was generally supportive of governmental policy in the Free State. "It is imperative that the policies of TUANC be inculcated by hard educative work by members. Most trade unionists will be sympathetic if only they can be warned of the real dangers of nuclear energy", he said.

TUANC will be attempting to get unions and union branches to affiliate to the campaign and is calling on all militants and concerned union members to join and assist the work.

TUANC can be contacted c/o Liberty Hall, Dublin. Membership is open to all trade unionists on payment of a £1 for a six month subscription.

I ndil gcuimhne Seamas Ó hAogain

Lena chomráid 'E'

Ar an naoi lá déag i Mí Lúnasa 1971 fuair Seamas Ó hAogáin Óglach Poblachtach bás i nDoire.

Chas mé ar Seamas aon bhliain déag sular maríodh é. D'Fhreastalaíomar ar scoil 'Bóthar an tSeipéil'. Is minic a chaintimís an t-am sin faoin bPoblachtachas.

Nuair a thosaigh an feachtas le Cearta Sibhialta a bhaint amach ba mhínic a chonaic mé Seamas ag na cruinnithe éagsula sa chathair. I Mí Lúnasa 1971 bhí Imtheoranú i bhfeidhm agus bhí na Saighdiuirí agus na Póilíní ag ionsaí go fíochmhar.

Bhí Seamas réidh. Bhí sé ina bhall d'Óglach na hÉireann, ag oiliúint, ag socrú agus ullmhaithe

lena chomráidaithe buile a bhuaileadh ar son a mhuintire.

Bhí mé san otharlann ar an oíche sin, an naoi lá déag de Lúnasa agus ag imeacht díom ón otharlann chonaic mé duine á iompar isteach ar shínteán. Bhí a lán póilíní leis agus ní fhaca mé cé a bhí ann.

Maidin ar an mhárach chuala mé an nuacht tragóideach go raibh mo bhuan chara marbh. Chuala sé an glaoch, d'fheagair sé agus thug sé a raibh aige.

Nuair a fuair Seamas bás ní raibh sé ach sé bliana déag d'aois. Threig sé an scoil ag lorg oibre chun

cabhrú lena chlann fein. Buachaill cairdíúil ab ea é i mbláth na hóige.

Ní raibh amhras ar bith air cad ba cheart a dhéanamh agus ní raibh sé sásta an troid a fhágáil faoi dhaoine eile. Is cuimhinn liom é a rá uair amháin, "Má tá grá agat do do thíre caithfidh tú do shaoi a chaitheamh ar a son." Sin a rinne sé.

Dúirt an Piarasach gur rug Éire Cú Chulainn cróga, agus is faoi Cú Chulainn a luíof Seamas anois i reilig Dhoire. Do chlann Sheamais Uí Aogáin tairgim mo chomh bhrón.

Cuimhnimid ar Sheamas inniu agus ar an bhfaisnéis a bhí aige nach bhfuil tagtha i gcríoch go fóill.



Seamas Ó hAogáin

Tá dualgas orainne an ffs sin a thabhairt i gcríoch.

Slán a Sheamais, go bhfaighe mé neart ó do shampla, guigh paidir orainne, nach dteipfidh orainn. A Mhuire, Banríon na nGael, tabhair sos i measc na laochra d'aois. Threig Éireannach sos anois agus go deo, i bhFlaitheas Dé.

A tribute to Seamus Steele

TEN YEARS AGO, on August 9th 1970, Seamus Steele, founder of the *Republican News* in the forties, and its modern-day first editor and co-founder of the Belfast Republican press-centre, died in Belfast, Ireland lost one of her staunchest defenders and the Republican Movement one of its most loyal leaders.

Jimmy was he affectionately known to his friends, had struggled for Irish freedom when few cared, and less dared, to face the dangers that such a struggle would surely bring upon them. A patriot-poet who in war or peace never ceased to work for Ireland: no job was too difficult, no hours too long, in this work. His poet's mind re-acted immediately to all the pleasures, problems, and sorrows of his long Republican life. He re-captured in writing all the factual details of the execution of Tom Williams as seen through the eyes of a comrade prisoner whose spirit walked every inch of the way to the gallows with young Tom on that September morning.

During all his years of imprisonment (he spent sixteen successive Christmases in prison) he lived up to all the high principles of Irish Republicanism and fought a hard and long struggle for political status, enduring many hunger-strikes and on more than one occasion he was near death.

ESCAPE

In January 1943, Jimmy Steele, Hugh McAteer, Pat Donnelly, and Ned Maguire succeeded — without outside help in escaping from Crumlin Road prison. All four reported back to duty immediately to begin the task of re-organising the Republican Movement, which had been badly hit by the capture of so many of its top leaders.

A Belfast judge had publicly boasted at that time, that the I.R.A. was defeated and would never again pose a threat to the peace of the British Empire. In the *Republican News*-sheet Jimmy answered in the words of John Mitchell: "As long as our island refuses to become a contented province of her enemy, Ireland is not finally subdued. The passionate aspiration for Irish nationhood will long out-live the British Empire."

RE-ORGANISATION

The great news of the 1943 escape spread like wild-fire and morale was raised

by PROINSIAS MAC AIRT

SEAMUS STEELE

ed to the high heavens. The work of re-organization continued. The Volunteers in Derry jail were planning a tunnel escape, and this escape, with the very active assistance of Jimmy Steele eventually succeeded in March 1943. Twenty-one Volunteers were freed from Derry jail.

The Unionist Junta at Stormont made every effort at this time to apprehend the escapees. They had placed the sum of £3,000 on the heads of Jimmy Steele, Hugh McAteer, Pat Donnelly and Ned Maguire in the hope that the money would tempt some-one to betray them. The RUC raided hundreds of homes in the nationalist areas every morning and every night and were outraged when Jimmy Steele and Hugh McAteer coolly conducted the Easter commemoration ceremony from the stage of the Broadway Cinema on the Falls Road while the armoured cars were searching for them outside.

After some months had passed Jimmy Steele was re-captured and was

sentenced to twelve years penal servitude. On his return to prison he immediately resumed the struggle against prison conditions and for the right of political treatment for himself and his comrades.

The long years passed and Jimmy was at last released in the early fifties and on his release, he faithfully reported back again to the Republican Movement.

TEACHER

For many of us, who were young men during the forties, Jimmy Steele was much more to us than a leader: he was our friend and our teacher, for it was from him that we learned the story of Ireland; it was from his lips that we first learned the dread secret, that the school master was forbidden to tell us, that Ireland had a history of her own and a culture and a God-given right to self-determination. He told us of Tone and the men of '98 and he often spoke of Mitchell and Lator, Pearse and Connolly had a very special place in his heart, and also Liam Mellows.

Jimmy Steele's name was legend in Northern Republican circles for many years and it still is to-day. But Jimmy Steele the man, far excelled the legend: a deeply religious man, slow to anger, always thoughtful and thorough in all his actions. He was the essence of loyalty to all his friends, absolutely unbending to his enemies, and to the cause of Ireland completely dedicated.

Jimmy Steele ennobled the cause he served with complete selflessness and devotion. His warm generous heart kept the door of its fondest affection wide open to all who loved Ireland and lived for Ireland and strove for Ireland and in his heart of hearts he sacredly cherished the memory of the dead who died for Ireland.

Our Motherland has had many brave and noble sons but never was gathered at Ireland's breast one more noble-souled, more courageous of heart, or more passionately faithful than Jimmy Steele.

REMEMORANCE

HUGHES, Patrick; ROWNTREE, Oliver; MADDEN, Noel. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois. Patrick Hughes, Oliver Rowntree and Noel Madden, Oglagh na h-Eireann who died while on active service duty on August 22nd 1972. Fuarú: fad ar son saoirse. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, Newry.

MAGORRIAN, Paul. (6th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Paul Magorrian, Oglagh na h-Eireann, who was killed while on active service on August 24th 1974. I maeis: Laochra na nGael go raibh a nam. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, Castlewellan.

MAGORRIAN, Paul. (6th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Paul Magorrian, South Down Brigade, Oglagh na h-Eireann, killed while on active service on August 24th 1974. Ar dhais De go raibh a nam. Always remembered by his friend, Sean, Portlaoise.

MAGORRIAN, Paul. (6th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Paul Magorrian, who was killed on active service August 24th 1974. Always remembered by South Down Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin.

MAGORRIAN, Paul. (6th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Paul Magorrian, who was killed on active service August 24th 1974. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, South Down.

O'HANLON, Leo; FITZSIMMONS, Vivien. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois. Leo O'Hanlon, Oglagh na h-Eireann, and Vivien Fitzsimmons, Cumann na mBan, who died while on active service on August 22nd 1973. Ni dhanfar dearmad orthu. Always remembered by their friends and comrades in the Republican Movement, South Down.

O'HANLON, Leo; FITZSIMMONS, Vivien. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vois. Leo O'Hanlon, Oglagh na h-Eireann, and Vivien Fitzsimmons, Cumann na mBan who died on active service August 22nd 1973. Always remembered by South Down Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin.

McWILLIAMS, Paul Jason. (3rd Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear son Paul McWilliams who was murdered by British crown forces of occupation on August 9th 1977. A mhúire na nGael dean idir gúil ar a nam. "A special day, another year, a loving thought, a silent tear. A little prayer to keep in touch with one I lost and loved so much." Sadly missed by his mother

Sympathy

HARRIS, Sinn Féin in Laois / Offaly extend deepest sympathy to the wife and family of Owen Harris, Coolagarry, Walsh Island, Co. Offaly, who died on 6th July. A life-long republican he was actively involved in the republican movement in the fifties and sixties. McLOUGHLIN, The Republican Movement in Derry extends deepest sympathy to the family of Bella McLoughlin who

died on August 15th. Bella was a life-long friend of Irish freedom and a staunch supporter of those who fight to end British rule here. We extend our special sympathy to her husband, Mark, Derry Sinn Féin treasurer. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her, especially her comrades in the Republican Movement. Oglagh na h-Eireann Brigade staff and Volunteers, Cumann na mBan, Flanna Eireann, Cumann na nGalltáin, Sinn Féin, Cumann Cabhrach and all her friends in prison or Ireland.

VOL. PAUL MAGORRIAN

COMMEMORATION
A commemoration for Vol. Paul Magorrian, who was shot dead by British forces on August 24th, 1974 — was organised by South Down Sinn

Fein Comhairle Ceantair last Sunday in Aughlinagh cemetery after 10 o'clock mass. The ceremony was presided over by Frank McDowell; a decade of the rosary was said by Jim Quayle; and the oration was delivered by Sarah Toman.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

McVEIGH, Tom. (H3-Block). Thinking of you today on your 20th birthday in the hell hole of Long Kesh. God bless you and all your comrades in their fight for political status and for Irish freedom.

"We love them yet we won't forget the fadons of our land." From mammy and daddy.

McVEIGH, Tom. (H3-Block). All the best on your 20th birthday Tom. Ireland, Mother Ireland, let what may befall, ever shall we hold your dearest best of all." From your twin sisters Maureen and Deirdra and from your sister Paula.

McVEIGH, Tom. (H3-Block). Greetings brother on your 20th birthday.

"In Ireland's northern corner still Irish people lie, in filthy British prisons their sons will never die." Victory to you and all your comrades. From Majella and Fiona.

McVEIGH, Tom. (H3-Block). Greetings brother on your 20th birthday. Victory to the blanket men. Ireland unfree shall never be at peace. From your sister Margaret, brother-in-law Paul and from your brothers Terry and Gerard.

McVEIGH, Tom. (H3-Block). Congratulations Tom on your 20th birthday. "They put you in a prison cell, the door they closed behind but men as brave as the blanket men are very hard to find."

From your sister Kathleen and brother-in-law Sean. Also from your sister Marian and brother-in-law Bill.

McVEIGH, Tom. (H3-Block). Happy birthday Ireland. The fight will always be ours. From your niece and nephews Margaret, Bill, Niamh, Neil, Clara, Claran, Sean Og and Rory.

THANKS

AN CUMANN CABHRACH Central Committee wish to acknowledge with thanks receipt of £27 from John Guerin, Kilderra, Milltown-Malbay, Co. Clare. EAST LONDON BRANCH, TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT, would like to thank the people of West Belfast and, in particular, Sinn Féin, for their hospitality during their recent visit by the Troops Out Movement delegation, which was very educative and reinforced our belief that Britain must withdraw immediately from the six occupied counties of Ireland.

LURGAN SINN FEIN wish to thank the O'Neill/Allopp memorial band, New Lodge Road, Belfast, for travelling to Lurgan on August 8th and taking part in the march and rally on behalf of the prisoners.

PATRICK PEARSE SINN FEIN CUMANN, DUNLOY, wish to thank the people of Dunloy and Rasharkin for the two generous donations of £100 which they made to the H-Block Appeal Fund and the Green Cross.

Prize crossword

A PRIZE of £25 will be awarded to the first correct entry opened on Wednesday 3rd September. An entry fee of 25p must accompany each entry to 'Crossword', 44, Parnell Square, Dublin 1. (This is a fund-raising project of Sinn Féin's National Finance Committee).

Name
Address

ACROSS

1. Fruit for Cider (5)
2. Sword (5)
3. Imprisoned without trial (7)
4. Initially a U.S. lawyer (2)
5. Dail member (2)
6. I languish (1,4)
7. Strikes a quick blow (4)
8. Climbs (7)
9. Luminous Orb (3)
10. Peep out, O Lord (4)
11. Stir up (6)
12. In winter (.....)
13. Away (6)
14. Cause (4)
15. Cork's river (3)
16. One who skins (7)
17. Vatican head (4)
18. Den (4)
19. Slide flat fish (5)
20. He got away (7)
21. Draw together (4)
22. Valuable possession (5)

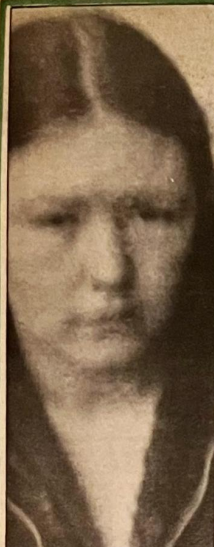
DOWN

1. Patrick and Willie (6)
2. Scatter rubbish (6)
3. Finish (3)
4. Rends (5)
5. Feared by Brits (7)
6. Not friends of Cleopatra (4)
7. Birds, or see 6 down (6)
8. Stop (5)
9. Reptile (6)
10. Boil this drum (6)
11. Small fish (5)
12. Animal doctor (3)
13. Around us (3)
14. Dismay (5)
15. Stop (5)
16. Conceal mark (4)
17. If you knew girl's full name (5)
18. We (2)
19. Not ever? (5)
20. Not asleep (5)



INSIDE ARMAGH

We salute them



Margaret Nugent



Rosie Nolan



THIRTY defiant Republican women prisoners — some of whom are pictured here — protesting for political status with their comrades, the H-Block blanket men, have now completed six months on a 'no wash/no slop-out' protest in Armagh jail which they began after they were physically assaulted and after toilet and washing facilities were withdrawn as a form of punishment last February 7th.

The women, like their Long Kesh comrades when similar facilities were withdrawn from them, turned the punishment (which was meant to break the back of their protest) against the administration by developing it into their own protest. When the British administration realized that their intensification of harassment, and withdrawal of basic human facilities, had not worked, but had attracted even more unwelcome attention to their punitive measures, they withdrew some of the punishments in an attempt to get the women to go back to the — from the Brits' point of view — more manageable non-co-operation protest. But by then it was too late.

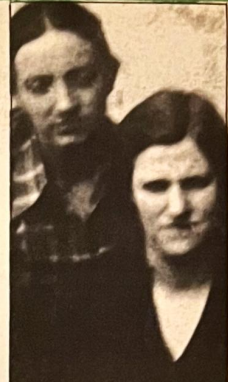
Since February the women have been locked up in their cells twenty three hours per day. Their cells rapidly became filthy, and, in fact, have been described as being worse than the H-Blocks by writer, and 'Irish Press' editor, Tim Pat Coogan, who has had the dubious privilege of seeing inside both. Every two or three weeks the women are moved along 'A' Wing into spare cells while their filthy cells are steamed down by similar machines to those used in the H-Blocks.

Their cells are regularly searched for contraband — for example, writing paper, pens or cigarettes — and as can be seen from our photographs the women live in austere conditions and occupy cells in which there is just a bed and a pot. It is testimony to their ingenuity that despite all the security precautions and all the searches the women managed, undetected, to smuggle in a camera, and smuggle out film, which only too shockingly depicts their spartan surroundings.

The British government — a hypocritical champion of dissidents' causes in other continents and of political prisoners anywhere but Ireland — is responsible for the deplorable conditions in which these women have been forced to live, and has begun to feel pinched by international protests and exposure, and motions of censure (which is perhaps one reason why they have continued their talks with Cardinal O'Fiaich). At present former blanket man Kieran Nugent has 'illegally' re-entered the United States for a second speaking tour organised by Irish Northern Aid. Last weekend he appeared on two television shows and told American audiences about the British-imposed conditions in Armagh jail and in the H-Blocks.

In the face of long periods confined to their cells, and the denial of basic facilities, such as adequate medical facilities, the courageous prisoners have refused to bend the knee to foreign rule and are an example of republican resistance even when in the clutches of the enemy.

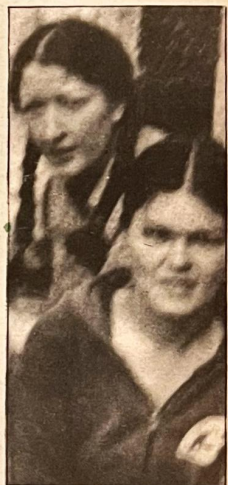
WE SALUTE THEM!



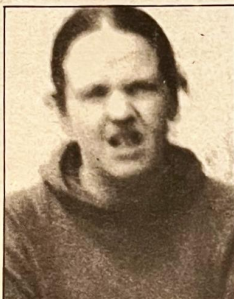
Theresa McAvoy (top); Patricia Craig (bottom)



Janet Murphy



Christine Beattie (top); Eileen Morgan (bottom)



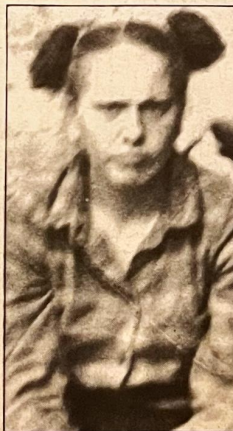
Maureen Gibson



Cell walls and ceilings covered in excrement; cell door covered in republican slogans



Ellen McGuigan (left) in her cell, Rosie Callaghan (right). The following prisoners are also on protest in Armagh prison but unfortunately we have no photographs of them: — Dolores O'Neill, Bernie Boyle, Marie Doherty, Sadie McGilloway, Lynn McConnell, Brieg Brownlee, Sile Darragh, Shirley Devlin, Mary Doyle, Brieg-Ann McCaughley, Maria McLanaghan, Eileen McConville, Patricia McGarry, Sinead Moore, Patricia Pettigrew and Anne-Marie Quinn.



Anne Bateson



Peggy Friel