

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



Sraith Nua Iml 4 uimhir 17 Deardaoin Aibreán 29 Thursday April 29th 1982 (Britain 25p) Price 20p

March & Rally

To commemorate the 1st anniversary of the death of Vol. Bobby Sands MP

Wednesday 5th May

BELFAST

Assemble 7 pm Busy Bee
March to Dunville Park

All anti-imperialist groups are invited to attend with banners

Organised by Belfast comhairle ceantair, Sinn Fein

REPUBLICAN MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION

Monday 3rd May
Assemble 2.30 pm
Westland Street, Bogside

DERRY

Organised by Derry Sinn Fein

For further information contact Republican Information Centre, 15 Cable Street, Derry. Telephone 68926.



● It is no crime and there is no moral wrong in lifting a stone or petrol bomb against those who oppress our country

AN INTRANSIGENT attitude which murdered ten Irish martyrs in the H-Blocks but which radically altered national and international support for the republican cause, may once again result in the deaths this weekend of hundreds of Falklander civilians, and British and Argentinian soldiers if the iron and mad maiden of Downing Street has her way.

Last Sunday night, dressed in patriotic royal blue, Margaret Thatcher appeared before television cameras and ordered the British media and public to 'rejoice' at the reconquering of South Georgia, a piece of rock defended by 10,000 penguins and a token Argentinian presence.

This obsession with war-mongering, and initial support from the British people for imperialist belligerency, no matter what the bloody or humiliating or triumphalist outcome, speaks volumes for the hypocrisy of the British and contains many ironies for the struggling Irish people.

Speaking in the British House of Commons last week Thatcher made a statement which republicans, concerned with national freedom and not imperialist expansion, wholly concur:

"You have to be prepared," said Thatcher, "to defend the things in which you believe and be prepared to use force if that is the only way to secure the future of liberty and self-determination."

COMPARISONS

The Falklands/Malvinas crisis has thrown up comparisons between the different responses of Irish

and British politicians, journalists and clerics to British force and to IRA force. Most of these opinion-makers would invariably describe IRA rocket attacks on sarcasms as 'murderous', 'evil', 'despicable' or some other equally hypocritical adjective, yet the governor of the Falklands upon his return to England described with glee how a British soldier hit an enemy armoured car in Port Stanley with a rocket "and not too many of

them climbed out," he boasted to an enthralled press.

The English Catholic bishops' response to the blood already shed by British marines and the use of violence has been one of deadly silence. The Irish people, if not the Irish bishops, for so long the fools and minions of England, can see just how divisible morality is to the British and to those in the establishment. And the pope, not on bended knee as at Drogheda, or

amid a blaze of publicity as with the despatch of papal envoy Fr John Magee to the H-Blocks, sent a private, non-contentious, non-prejudicial, appeal to the British to seek peace.

And Irish-Americans, who are criticised for supporting republicanism, are witnessing Britain, their main critic, now appealing to America for aid!

LIBERATE

The hypocrisy is endless. But the lesson is clear. If churchmen, politicians and commentators can raise no moral objection (though the shifty British Labour Party leader, Michael Foot, is raising political objections) about the use of plainly evil force 8,000 miles away from England, which may well result in hundreds or thousands of deaths, then those in

Ireland who have been restrained in thought, word or deed by the British and Irish establishments' propaganda machines should liberate themselves and take up the cause of Irish freedom.

There is a political explanation, cloaked in moral myths, why the use of force by the oppressed nationalist people in the North receives short shrift, and they receive bad advice, from priests and politicians, and that is because of class interests.

It has been said before and we repeat: It is no crime and there is no moral wrong in lifting a stone, raising the muzzle of a rifle or planting a bomb against those who oppress our country, against those who terrorise our people. And that is one lesson well-learned from the hypocrisy of British 'guis' in the South Atlantic.



● THATCHER - the mad maiden

IRONIES

FOR IRELAND



Annual Wolfe Tone Commemoration

Bodenstown

Assemble 2-30 Sallins, Sunday 20th June

WAR NEWS... WAR NEWS... WAR NEWS... WAR NEWS

AS RUC panic-warnings about forthcoming IRA types of operations proliferated yet again, this time warning of high-powered commercial explosives that the RUC claims the IRA has obtained, the IRA itself carried on regardless, and calmly, with a series of shooting attacks in Derry city, culminating in a successful ambush on a UDR soldier, and a devastating incendiary attack on a bus depot in Armagh city.

MAGHERAFELT CAR BOMB ENQUIRY

Following an intensive investigation into RUC claims that they received only a ten-minute warning of a car bomb in Magherafelt on April 20th, which caused the accidental deaths of two civilians, the IRA have released the following statement:

"The Irish Republican Army is satisfied, after investigation, that adequate warnings were issued concerning the location of the Magherafelt car bomb last Tuesday, April 20th, in which two civilians, Noel McCulloch (32) and Wilbert Kennedy (36) were tragically killed.

"The car was left in the street between 11.15 pm and 11.20 pm with approximately 40-45 minutes on the timing device. The departing active service unit fired warning shots in the air. Ten minutes later a phone call was made to a female operator in the garage, giving the registration number, make and location of the car. Then the RUC were telephoned and given the exact location of the bomb.

"An RUC patrol arrived on the scene and searched the Arches restaurant/pub. When they failed to find anything they rang back to the barracks and — through their own incompetence — were told that the bomb was in a car in the street.

IRA attacks

At approximately 11.57 pm the bomb, after a 40-minute warning, exploded.

UDR MAN SHOT DEAD

An active service unit of the IRA's Derry Brigade shot dead a lieutenant in the UDR on the outskirts of Derry city, on Tuesday April 27th.

The 36-year-old soldier, based at Castleberg in County Tyrone, was ambushed by three Volunteers not far from his home, at New Buildings in the city's Waterside district on Tuesday morning, while engaged in his part-time job as a delivery man. Eleven bullets were fired at the UDR man and he died instantly.

The Volunteers all returned safely to base, having earlier commandeered a car in the Gonascale district of the city. Subsequent loyalist outrage included the incredible accusation by Mrs Marlene Jefferson, the former unionist mayor of the city, that the Volunteers were 'bounty hunters' who were being paid between £200 and £500 for each 'kill'. "Every one knows it," she assured a TV interviewer anxious to believe her.

Other IRA activity in Derry city over the past week included several shooting attacks on Brit and RUC forces which coincided with large-scale nationalist anger after the plastic bullet death of young Stephen McConomy.

BUS FLEET DESTROYED

In a spectacular and daring operation early on Wednesday morning, April 28th, IRA Volunteers in Armagh city succeeded in destroying virtually the entire fleet of buses stationed there.



The burnt-out shells of just some of the twenty-four buses destroyed by the IRA in Armagh last Wednesday

Four Volunteers were reported to have been directly involved when the ASU entered the Ulsterbus depot on the Loughgall Road around 1 am and planted incendiary bombs on board the buses.

In the ensuing explosions and fires, a massive 24 buses were destroyed, leaving only four buses intact. A car placed across the entrance to the depot by the Volunteers as a bomb hoax, prevented fire appliances and the RUC reaching the buses until it was too late.

Later in the morning, a disconsolate spokesperson for Ulsterbus admitted that bus services for the city would be

virtually nil and that the bomb damage amounted to almost £1 million.

PUNISHMENT SHOOTING

The Belfast Brigade IRA carried out a punishment shooting last Thursday, April 22nd on Sean Stitt, a 26-year-old man from the Lenadoon area of west Belfast.

In a statement claiming responsibility the IRA described Stitt as having "Masqueraded as a community/social worker in Divis Flats", using his status to engage in criminal activities. Specific offences for which Stitt was

punished include the theft of several hundred pounds during the last hunger-strike from the Divis Flats H-Block committee, and organising youths under his control to burn two mini-buses belonging to the Divis community centre's youth club. He was also involved in fencing locally-stolen goods, thereby increasing the hardship of nationalist people.

More recently, Stitt was involved in organising a group of youths to engage in unproductive rioting on the anniversary of Bobby Sands' death, under cover of which he planned to engage in further criminal and anti-social activities.

IRA execute leading criminal

THE Belfast Brigade IRA executed a key figure in a criminal hierarchy in west Belfast, last Thursday April 22nd, in keeping with a guarantee to the nationalist community made publicly by the IRA last December, and only after repeated warnings to, and an earlier punishment shooting of, the criminal himself.

In their December statement, which received extensive public coverage, the IRA warned that it intended to execute a number of individuals who were involved in organising gangs to commit crimes which caused extreme hardship to the nationalist community. The attempted execution of Danny "Boy" Valliday, in the lower Falls area of west Belfast, earlier this month, in which Valliday was seriously wounded, was the first demonstration of the IRA's resolve. Last Thursday, 19-year-old Raymond Devlin, from Ladybrook Gardens in west Belfast, who was known locally as 'gangster Devlin', was shot dead instantly by IRA Volunteers around 9 pm at the junction of Finaghy Road North and Ladybrook Drive.

However, the IRA's subsequent statement claiming responsibility, which catalogued Devlin's involvement in armed robberies, hijackings and intimidation and his working association with Danny "Boy" Valliday, was categorically denied by his mother, 44-year-old Julia Devlin. Mrs Devlin alleged that her son had been uninvolved in the activities attributed to him, that he was physically incapable of committing them due to injuries received in an earlier punishment shooting last June, and that he had received no warnings from the IRA.

Mrs Devlin further challenged anyone physically intimidated by her son to come forward and say so, and challenged the IRA to provide proof to her of his offenses. In response, the Belfast Brigade

IRA gave an interview to *An Phoblacht/Republican News* earlier this week, outlining 'gangster Devlin's considerable criminal background and behaviour, which had caused unrelieved suffering to the people of the Ladybrook/Andersonstown area for several years and which left the IRA with no alternative but to execute him.

In particular, the IRA state that far from being unaware of her son's activities, Mrs Devlin actively encouraged him and on occasions assisted him.

HIJACKING

On one occasion in particular, in the early stages of last year's hunger-strike, Devlin organised and carried out the hijacking of a goods van at the junction of Ladybrook Drive and Finaghy Road North, despite the IRA's known opposition to such hijackings at that time. Members of an ex-POWs committee who went to the scene to investigate found the van on fire and were told that the goods from the van had been carried into the Devlins' house by Raymond, his mother, and other members of the family. At that stage the ex-POWs were assaulted by associates of Devlin. Subsequently, an IRA Volunteer who went to the house to investigate the matter was assaulted by Devlin and his mother. Devlin had been claiming that he was authorised to use the name of the IRA in this and similar hijackings.

Shortly afterwards, for this and earlier activities, Devlin was shot five times in a punishment shooting, on June 8th 1981, and warned

that he would be executed if he persisted. The IRA statement at the time said: "Devlin has been the instigator of numerous anti-social acts in the Andersonstown area which have included the stealing and destruction of cars, and physical abuse and threats to the people of the area."

Devlin had been involved in 'hooding' activities from around the age of 13, but in recent years had formed and led a criminal gang in the area, as well as co-ordinating criminal activities on a wider scale with individuals such as Danny 'Boy' Valliday.

As well as a stream of house burglaries and car thefts and destructions, and a series of assaults on other youths, sexual assaults on girls, and at least one attempted rape, Devlin was widely involved in thefts from shops in the Ander-

sonstown area. On many occasions these robberies were armed, and in one of them a shopkeeper was shot and seriously wounded. Four months ago, after Devlin was identified robbing a confectionery shop in Andersonstown, the shopkeeper went to the Devlins' home to complain, but was assaulted by Mrs Devlin.

'Gangster' Devlin was also associated with a gang of youths from the Lenadoon estate who grandiosely called themselves the 'Lenadoon mafia'. At one stage, Devlin and this gang, in a flagrant challenge to the IRA, said that they would take over the control of their criminal activities.

INTIMIDATION

As well as criminal activities for gain, Devlin was heavily in-

involved in physical intimidation, often for its own sake. As well as general thuggery in the area, Devlin brutally attacked several local shopkeepers who objected to his openly thieving goods from their shops. On one occasion, Devlin and four members of his gang gave a savage and unprovoked beating to a man from the Riverdale estate who was drinking in the Kerri Inn. Another time, he and his mother attacked a civilian whom they falsely accused of having carried out his earlier punishment shooting.

The IRA refute Mrs Devlin's claim that her son was incapable of having carried out the activities attributed to him because of injuries he sustained in the punishment shooting, pointing out that he regularly played snooker in the Kerri Inn and attended dances there — scarcely the behaviour of the near-cripple portrayed by Mrs Devlin.

In conclusion, the IRA state that a large part of the responsibility for 'gangster' Devlin's behaviour rests with his mother who encouraged and assisted him, as well as knowingly handling stolen property and assaulting republicans and civilians alike.

They state that the reticence of individuals, who were the victims of her son's thuggery, to come forward publicly (other than to the IRA) is the understandable consequence of their fear that Mrs Devlin herself or her son's associates will take their revenge on them, as being responsible for Raymond's death.

But whatever the IRA state, they say, Mrs Devlin will assuredly contradict and deny it. "If we say black, his mother is going to say white."

IRA on 'Hoods'

In a further statement on Tuesday, April 27th, the Belfast Brigade IRA said: "The criticisms, from the predictable sources, of last Thursday's execution of 'gangster' Devlin, need answered. Firstly, the activities of what are known as the 'hoods', who are a small minority in nationalist areas of Belfast, have resulted in a major social problem. Not only is this problem not being dealt with by all those IRA critics but it is being ignored for reasons of political advantage.

"Furthermore, the RUC exploits the existence of the 'hoods' and the 'hoods' allow themselves to be used as part of a counter-insurgency strategy aimed at tiring the nationalist people out by wearing them down with constant break-ins, armed robberies, muggings, car thefts, etc. An understanding exists between the 'hoods' and the RUC in which a level of such crime goes unprosecuted, and in many cases the criminals return the favour by acting as eyes and ears for the RUC against republican activists. The RUC, of course, also hope that the fatigue created by a constant wave of crime will force the RUC to exploit the people to turn to them.

"The IRA has, in hundreds of cases, been called in as arbiters in disputes where people were loathe to involve the Northern administration. The IRA has also been pressed by people to act against those thugs that oppress them by taking advantage of the absence of a properly-convened people's police service. We make no bones about it — our justice is a rough form of justice, forced upon us by the circumstances and conditions which prevail in nationalist areas. And had we got our hands on the thugs who mugged and raped the old-age pensioner in the Grosvenor Road district of Belfast, he would have been left lying in the street like 'gangster' Devlin.

"The 'hoods' have a choice in this matter. They can stop harassing, oppressing and exploiting a people already sorely pressed by state forces, and then we will leave them alone. The concentration of IRA resources against the 'hoods' is a major distraction from the war effort and this is one reason why the RUC secretly encourage their activities."

Sinn Fein will contest Northern elections

BY HILDA McTHOMAS

LAST FRIDAY'S announcement by Sinn Fein president Ruairi O Bradaigh that the party would contest autumn elections to a Northern assembly wrong-footed the SDLP which was meeting that very weekend, and, in fact, afterwards reserved its attitude to assembly elections having launched major attacks on direct-ruler Jim Prior's White Paper proposals.

In fact, almost every party, including leading right-wing Tories in England, have attacked Prior's plans, which were discussed in an opening debate in the war-fever atmosphere of the British parliament last Wednesday.

Staying Sinn Fein's intention to contest the election and cut down the SDLP's collaborationist manoeuvrability O Bradaigh stated that Sinn Fein would boycott the

assembly but fight the elections with the intention of "giving the nationalist people a republican voice and alternative."

SENSITIVE

There was a meeting of the SDLP's executive and constituency representatives in Dunganon on Saturday, April 24th, at which it was decided to postpone a decision on whether or not to contest the elections.

John Hume, sensitive to Free State pressure, is worried that a low public profile would damage the SDLP especially after the momentous year of the hunger-strike, and favours a 'wait-and-see' attitude, while meantime trying to win from the British government greater support for a parliamentary tier in the Anglo-Irish Council.

A section of the rural SDLP, around Paddy Duffy, advocate an abstentionist position in an effort to regain some of the

ground lost to republicans in past years. This stance, however, is unlikely to win majority support in the SDLP, as the Free State government is hardly likely to continue helping and supporting a party which refuses to play the game. Abstentionism is also thought to be extremely dangerous by most SDLP politicians, as it would take away from the SDLP an opportunity, indeed the only opportunity, for public exposure and a source of funds.

The SDLP has therefore adopted, for the time being at least, an extremely critical stance towards the British scheme, and with behind-the-scenes support from the Free State premier Charles Haughey, is desperately trying to wreck Prior's initiative before it takes off, hoping perhaps to save itself the double disgrace of more public infighting and a further loss of political ground to the Republican Movement.



Sinn Fein president Ruairi O Bradaigh

It is probable, however, that if it comes to an election, the vast majority of SDLP members will opt for selective participation — one could call it taking a 'principled seat'. They will probably take part in Prior's assembly, but every so often will try to attract media attention by walking out: a scene they have rehearsed many times in the past.

Indeed, if one recalls the SDLP's political track record, since its formation in August 1970, it becomes quite obvious that it is nothing but the vehicle used by the Irish establishment to reap the benefit of the actions of republicans. Too much collaboration is bad for them, as their electorate could no longer distinguish them from ordinary unionists — too little collaboration would leave them out in the cold with the British.

Loyalists bomb Short Strand

BY PETER HAYES

THE MURDEROUS SPECTRE of a renewed loyalist no-warning bomb campaign against nationalist civilians loomed last weekend after a car bomb explosion in a narrow street in the heart of the Short Strand in east Belfast, which devastated over twenty homes and caused nine people — mostly pensioners — to be treated for injuries and shock.

Ten minutes after midnight on Sunday night, 34-year-old Jeannie O'Neill stepped out of St. Matthew's social club in Clyde Street to walk her friend, 43-year-old Josephine Doherty, part of the way towards her home on the edge of the Short Strand district. As the pair walked down Clyde Street in the direction of the district's other main social club, the LESA, everything was quiet, there was no-one else about. Within the next few minutes, though, the street would be crowded with local people coming out of St. Matthew's and the LESA as they closed.

Suddenly and without warning a bomb went off in the street. Smoke, dust and shrapnel were everywhere. Both women were hurled off their feet by the blast but miraculously — because the force of the explosion was directed upwards rather than

outwards — escaped serious injury. Jeannie O'Neill was badly bruised and shaken, Josephine Doherty was hit by a piece of shrapnel in the side of the body which, days later in hospital, remained embedded in her.

The loyalist bomb had been planted in a mini-van stolen earlier in the day on the loyalist Ballygowan Road in east Belfast, and parked only minutes before the explosion about 20 yards from the main entrance to the LESA social club. The bomb, packed into two gas cylinders, was later said by the RUC to have consisted of about 100 lbs of explosives.

However, it is thought likely that this figure has been deliberately exaggerated by the RUC to unnerve Short Strand residents and in fact that the bomb was significantly less than 100 lbs.

Nonetheless, even that was enough to cause serious damage to over half the houses in Clyde Street and, to hurl, debris, and shrapnel from the disintegrating van up to



It may be two or three weeks before houses damaged in the attack are fully repaired; others may have to be demolished so serious was the structural damage caused by the bomb

300 yards away.

SHOWERED

Twenty-six-year-old Annette Rooney had just stepped out of the parlour kitchen into the scullery when the bomb went off directly outside her house, showering her with glass and dust, while parts of the car were blown right through the house. Her husband and three young children were asleep at the time.

Twenty-eight-year-old Eddie Donnan was sitting in a house a few doors away with his 62-year-old widowed mother. He recalls that there was a loud roar and the windows were blown in and part of the ceiling collapsed. His mother, cut by shrapnel and covered in glass, was crying in panic and fainted as he helped her outdoors a few minutes later. Like several other elderly people who live in the old and crumbling terraced houses in Clyde Street, Mrs Donnan was taken by ambulance to hospital to be treated for shock.

So too was 79-year-old Mrs Mary McConnell, who has been unable to walk for the past seven years. She was being kept company in her Clyde Street home by her daughter, 63-year-old Mrs Mary Macklin, when the bomb went off, shattering the windows and inner glass door. A piece of shrapnel blown through the window ricocheted off the wall and hit Mrs Macklin on the back of the head.

Three young children in a nearby house were lucky to escape injury when bomb shrapnel ricocheted off walls,

Michael and Kathleen Devlin, both aged 28, were in the parlour downstairs with their 15-month-old son Sean, while upstairs in a back bedroom 8-year-old Michael and 7-year-old Ann-Marie lay asleep. The main force of the blast which rocked their home was upstairs, where ceilings fell in on top of the two eldest children, and on the landing. Bricks around the window in the front bedroom were blown away, and a four-inch metal bolt came in through the front bedroom window and ricocheted off the staircase.

Had the bomb been properly packed, as intended, to explode outwards, 15-month-old Sean, sitting with his mother by the downstairs front window, would undoubtedly have been one of many fatal victims.

And one local man, whose home was devastated in the explosion, observed, that RUC patrols — which are continually harassing residents and those using the LESA and St. Matthew's — were noticeably absent from the area that evening until after the explosion.

In the aftermath of the explosion — the first of its kind in the district in several years, apart from regular assassination attacks — residents in the Short Strand are bracing themselves for what many believe heralds the start of a vicious new loyalist campaign of assassinations and no-warning bombs.

In particular, people are angry that protective barricades placed by the local housing committee last year around the LESA and Kelly's Bar, shortly after a

sectarian assassination in the adjoining Markets district, were arbitrarily removed by the Brits and the RUC soon after they were put down, despite DOE permission for the barricades having been obtained.

Lucky escape

Around the same time as the Short Strand car bomb attack, a Catholic family living in a loyalist area of Lisburn were lucky to escape unharmed when two gunmen burst into their home and opened fire.

The intended victims, a widow and her four sons, were all at home when the gunmen arrived, posing as RUC men from Lisburn RUC barracks. Having entered the house one of the killers fired two shots at one of the sons, but he dived for safety and was unhurt. The other gunman then ran forward to fire what may have been a home-made machine gun, but it jammed and the two men then made off.

The family live in Tiroven Drive in Lisburn, and interestingly this was the same street reported in newspapers recently as being the home address of leading UDA official John McMichael. McMichael, along with other top UDA members including 'supreme commander' Andy Tyrie, is currently in jail on charges of conspiracy and possession of ammunition and explosives. This attack, as well as the Short Strand explosion, are believed to be the sectarian response of the paramilitary UDA to the imprisonment of some of its leaders.

TAXATION AND EDUCATION POLICIES MAIN WEAPONS OF CLASS OPPRESSION

CLASS ANALYSIS

BY KATHLEEN DWYER

THE EVER-GROWING class-based inequalities of income and wealth in the twenty-six counties have been analysed in a new study just published in Dublin.

The report from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) is entitled 'The distribution of income in the republic of Ireland: a study in social class and family-cycle inequalities'.

The authors conclude that the Free State has a very high level of inequality between classes which is deeply implanted in society, is self-perpetuating and is becoming more pronounced.

Taxation and social welfare benefits are so structured that they reinforce rather than lessen these inequalities. Property ownership, they say, at least of substantial assets, will remain restricted to family inheritance, which under present taxation policy is largely unhindered.

"As taxation on capital and on inherited wealth drifted towards the inconsequential," they say, "an awareness of social class would have alerted policy makers to the possibility that Ireland may enter the twenty-first century with an upper-middle class privileged and so securely entrenched as to harken back to its nineteenth-century predecessors."

ESCAPE

In pages of complex figures, tables, graphs and indices, the report provides indisputable evidence that the PAYE taxpayer is shouldering a crippling and unfair burden whilst the large property owners, big farmers, wealthy businessmen and professional self-employed escape and prosper further.

According to the ESRI report some 23% of households have a disposable income below the poverty line and 7% have a disposable income even below the unemployment benefit rate.

Statistics are also gathered in the report which show that households making up the lowest 20% of income earners only receive 1.2% of all income earned, whereas the top 10% of income earners get a total of 29% of total income.

A key factor in maintaining the major differences between the classes, and thus preventing social mobility upwards, is pinpointed in the report as the inaccessibility of advanced education to lower income groups.

"The current middle class domination of the upper levels of secondary and all of third level education needs to be challenged by effective policies to ensure an equitable share in educational opportunities to those from working class and lower middle class backgrounds," say the authors.

UNIVERSITY

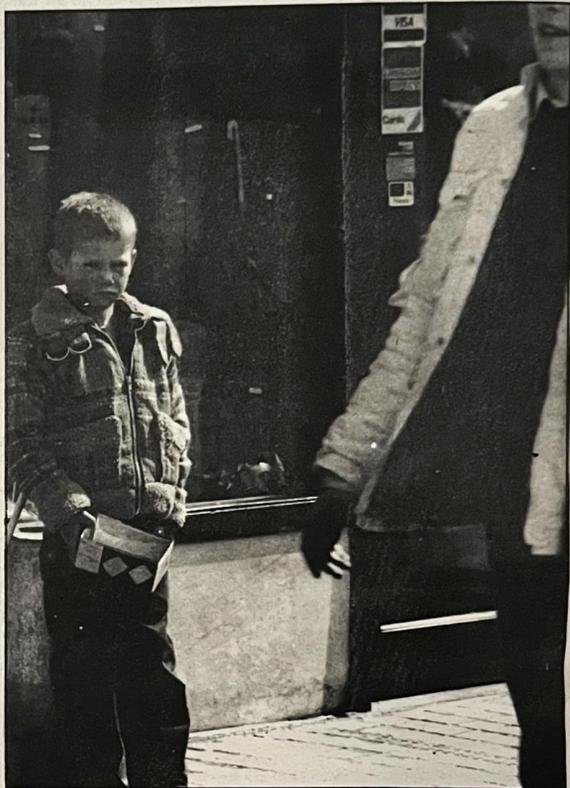
Figures given in the report for 1978 show that less than one per cent of unskilled manual workers' children and only 5% of semi-skilled workers' children entered university. In contrast 65% of higher professionals' children received a university education. The considerable expansion in third level educational places has not changed that proportion.

The ESRI report, however, does not offer any hope of a change within the capitalist system, and rules out the possibility of government action remedying the injustices or even creating a less blatantly oppressive situation.

"Social classes and the associated differentials in material rewards from economic activity," it says, "are basic to the structure of industrial society. Income inequalities among classes do not represent a conspiracy by the privileged; they are reflections of the market system and rest in part on the link state policies have to market forces."

The academic technical style of the report does not make it light reading, but it is undoubtedly an authoritative guide to the statistics of class oppression. It is significant that the report shows the Free State to be much worse than most other western developed capitalist countries in the starkness of class injustices revealed.

Republicans will analyse this as the bequest of the colonial power to its neocolony, and it will reinforce the argument linking, essentially and inextricably, the national struggle with the class struggle.



● The commonplace sight of children begging in city centre streets is merely the most blatant manifestation of the class-based inequalities in Irish society

Thatcher's blood-lust

BY KEVIN BURKE

THE RECAPTURE of the bundle of rocks in the South Atlantic, known as South Georgia, by Britain last Sunday was expected, not least by the Argentinians, to be a sop to the imperialist blood-lust. But it appears merely to have whet the British appetite for more aggression.

Certainly the lack of real defence by Argentina on the island would indicate that a recapture by Britain was a tactical possibility which the Argentinians have allowed.

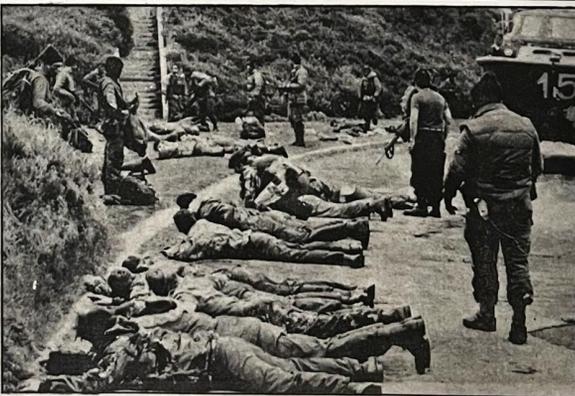
But although Britain could now claim this 'victory' as a balm for its previous humiliation, the Thatcher government seems set on war, and the armchair Iron Lady and her armchair generals are settled in for long-distance blood-letting.

Tuesday morning's British papers were full of cries for war and a staggering 78% of British people, according to opinion polls, wanted to throw their marines on to the Falklands/Malvinas beaches whatever the cost.

As a commentary on the degeneracy of British society the Falklands/Malvinas crisis has been a revealing episode.

DICTATOR

With over three million unemployed and its economy decimating the living standards of its working people, Britain has seen its problems erupting Belfast-style onto its city streets.



● British marines surrender to Argentinian forces in Port Stanley - one photograph not published in Britain's linguistic press

Presiding over it is a virtual dictator in the person of Margaret Thatcher, proven to be deaf to all reason other than the most narrow capitalist and imperialist theories, but nevertheless with a messianic belief in her right to power.

As a distraction from economic and social ills the crisis has been miraculous. And although political oblivion faced Margaret Thatcher in the early days of humiliation,

since then the possibility of snatching glory and an extended political career seems more and more attainable to her unbalanced self-centred logic.

The actual tools of that glory are themselves an amazing case. Many of the marines who left on the Thatcher Odyssey did so with redundancy notices in their pockets by virtue of the proposed naval cut-backs. Without protest, they divert from the

unemployment scrap-heap to the strong possibility of death on a South Atlantic rock-heap.

To underline their individual unimportance, their overseas allowance of a mere £4.50 a week has been cut because they will not get the chance to spend it they are told. Yet already the operation has cost the British taxpayer nearly £300 million.

VIOLENCE

On board the cramped and over-crowded troop ships on the long slow journey southwards, we are informed that the British troops are entertained with a glut of hard-core pornographic movies, in some form of Orwellian mind-control exercise designed by military psychologists to build them up to the acts of violence which they will be required to perform on arrival.

And 78% of the British people support Thatcher's war-mongering, enthusiastically embracing her war as their war and paying for it with their money and the lives of their own and their neighbours' sons.

The British Catholic and Protestant churches remain silent. God is not only British, but is down with the assault troops in their murderous colonial adventure.

So that is Britain in 1982, and although it is no new picture perhaps to the nationalist people of the North, there are signs that even the imperialists' allies are becoming somewhat impatient with this throw-back to the last century, disturbing the strategic balances of the nuclear power-game.

But Thatcher and the Falklands are not Eden and Suez, and the United States know that she is not going to obey American orders as easily as her weaker predecessor. So the future of Margaret Thatcher, incidentally involving thousands of British soldiers' lives and millions of British taxpayers' money, looks set to be decided, not in British parliamentary constituencies, but eight thousand miles away on the Falklands/Malvinas islands over the next few days.

MUD STICKS TO NAME-DROPPING PARTY

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

IT WAS probably more to do with Vincent Browne than Tomas MacGiolla that last weekend's 'Sinn Fein the Workers' Party' and theirs finally decided to drop the 'Sinn Fein' part of its title and succumb to the inevitability of its non-republicanism.

Certainly the article by the *Magill* editor Browne in this month's issue of his controversial magazine, published on the eve of the ard fheis, stung the party badly at a time when 'respectability' has replaced 'revolution' as its main objective.

The debate on the name-change was, in comparison to previous years, very subdued, with many former opponents of the change on the party's nationalist wing pushed into accepting it as the quickest means available of displaying a public abhorrence of 'violence'.

The electoral loss in terms of voters who associate any 'Sinn Fein' with the armed struggle is one which the 'Sticks' have long been aware of and they must view it with some trepidation, whatever their protestations of relief that they can no longer be confused with the 'Provos'.

DAMAGING

The 'H-Block general election' in June and the intervention of Sinn Fein itself in the February elections, has shown clearly just how damaging to the Sticks is the evaporation of such confusion by true republican electoral involvement.

Nevertheless, the reality of the

name-change is that the industrial anti-nationalist power bloc in the party is now in the undisputed ascendancy, strengthened as it is by new recruits in the wake of electoral success and by the conspiratorial organisational manipulation which riddles the party.

Of course some other benefits of the 'Sinn Fein' title will be lost as well. Many will remember the 1980 ard fheis when an innocent Sticks delegate from the United States told an embarrassed gathering in the presence of the media that 'fund-raising for the prisoners' would be badly damaged in America if the name-dropping went ahead!

The illogicality of dropping 'Sinn Fein' as a response to *Magill's* accusation is, of course, the fact that no-one has been accusing the Sticks of engaging in the republican military activity from which they were so anxious to distance themselves last weekend.

What *Magill* does accuse them of is receiving funds from an

organisation still styling itself the 'Official IRA' — the members of which are all 'Workers Party members' — which undertakes, not anti-British armed operations, but straightforward robbery, racketeering, intimidation and assaults, mainly causing suffering to the Northern nationalist people.

GANGSTER

It is not a military tag but a gangster tag that has been clearly stuck on them and they are going to have difficulty shaking off the mud which must remain.

Next month *Magill* is investigating the Sticks' secret activities and influence in the media and the trade unions, so the pot will be kept boiling. And there will be increasingly more hands for the stirring as established political interests take on the new political challenge which the Sticks, however tenuously, present.

Some of the lesser known policies of the Sticks can be dredged out for this purpose and much, for example, could be made by their enemies of such resolutions at

last weekend's ard fheis as the one supporting the Polish military clamp-down on Solidarity.

However principled that position may be, it might be difficult to defend it in a country still amenable to a 'red scare'.

On the North, last weekend's gathering was consistent in its continued anti-nationalist progression. Strongly in favour of Prior's new assembly, the party can have little hope of any electoral success. Last June's local elections in the North displayed clearly that they have miniscule support in the nationalist community and their continued attacks on the dead and dying H-Block hunger-strikers must have secured that position forever.

LOYALISM

Even though last weekend there were claims that members were being gained from the loyalist community, there are no real signs of the Sticks' crawl to loyalism actually bearing fruit, and they appear destined to remain on the sidelines there.

In the South, their three

members in Leinster House are being vaunted as a major breakthrough, although more realistically it might be said that their presence depends, not on a major increase in voting strength, but what Charles Haughey calls 'a quirk of the PR system', and they could disappear as quickly as they came.

That they are aware of this is very obvious and their political strategy is now based on the simple unprincipled plan of keeping Fianna Fail in power, yet at the same time hoping to appear to oppose them.

Thus, although they can attack Haughey on the most central issue of the North at their ard fheis, and keep anti-nationalist members happy, in Leinster House they voted him into the most powerful spot in the Free State.

WELL-PAID

In the same way, although they allowed the PRSI increases to go through Leinster House without a vote, outside they are vocal in opposition. And now they claim that they will be opposing the 3% VAT increase which comes into effect in May, although this too they allowed through Leinster House.

It is, of course, a tradition that principles are left outside Leinster House, but many workers will be questioning just how genuine is a party which has the preservation of its well-paid parliamentarians as its first priority.

Indeed, a cynical opponent of the Sticks might suggest that all that remains for them to reflect their true policy is to now drop the 'Workers' part of their shortened title.



Long over-due

WELCOMING the belated decision of the Sticks to amend their name the *colate seasta* of Sinn Fein issued a statement last Tuesday in which they said:

"As long ago as 1970 we called on them in a public statement to cease describing themselves as 'Sinn Fein', saying that 'that honoured name never belonged in Westminster, Stormont or Leinster House'.

"Those who upheld the constitution of Sinn Fein in 1970 have maintained the continuity of the organisation and have been vindicated now that those who usurped the name of Sinn Fein for twelve years have finally laid it aside."

Clondalkin action continues

BY BRIAN MARTIN

INDUSTRIAL ACTION by workers from the shut-down Clondalkin paper mills in Dublin understandably continues despite the commitment from Free State industry minister, Albert Reynolds, that the mills will recommence production on June 9th.

The strike committee points out that there is still no definite arrangement as to who will take over the mills, whether this is to be a private industrialist alone or in conjunction with state agencies, or whether it is to be a wholly state-owned enterprise. They also stress that no provision has been made for the maintenance of plant and machinery in the mills prior to June 9th. Accordingly, mill workers continue to picket firms openly using imported paper, such as Bailey Gibson in Dublin.

Official support has been given by AUEW-TASS and dock workers have also extended welcome solidarity. Many workers, however, are very critical of the ITGWU's present stance on the issue, especially as represented by No. 16 branch secretary Mick McDermott and national group secretary, Paddy Donegan. At the branch AGM

two weeks ago the platform ruled a discussion on the Clondalkin situation out of order, and McDermott allegedly stated that he would not be over-concerned at losing their membership in the mills, when the prospect was put to him.

The ITGWU opposes the present picketing and has advised that pickets be passed. All trade unionists should back the mill workers in every practical way to ensure that the industry is saved and the workers' jobs maintained, otherwise opposition to unemployment will amount to nothing but hypocritical talk.

PMPA

Over 1,000 members of the ITGWU are still out on strike in the PMPA dispute which began four weeks ago over the joint issues of union recognition and a basic pay increase.



● Firms which continue to use imported paper, like this one, Bailey Gibson Limited, are being picketed by Clondalkin workers

PMPA management adamantly refuses to recognise the ITGWU since the staff transferred to it from the Distributive Workers' and Clerks' Union earlier this year because of poor service from the IUDWC. The company has used a variety of tactics to try to split the work force, including 'pressure on senior staff to remain in

the IUDWC and the leaking of supposed settlement details to the staff before the union was informed. In this it was simply being true to a long tradition of arrogance and contempt for normal industrial relations.

It is currently hoping to get round the strike by having motorists pay a credit transfer through

the banks. The union, however, are hopeful that the Bank Officials' Association (BOA) will block this move. It looks like being a long and dirty dispute and hopes that the Labour Court can come up with a solution soon are slim. But the members and the union are determined to bring the PMPA to its knees.



THREE WEEKS AGO Owen Carron, MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, made a second visit to England and travelled to a number of jails to see the conditions under which Irish POWs are being held.

He visited Durham prison, Gartree prison, Long Lartin, Wormwood Scrubs and Maidstone prison, and reports that

while the morale of the republican POWs is high, both they and a number of innocent people, wrongly convicted and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment to satisfy political expediency and English vengeance for IRA attacks in Britain, are having a difficult time under the various regimes.

Carron completes second visit to REPATRIATION CALL

FOR MY second trip around English prisons, Eddie Caughey drove me the 200 miles from Birmingham up to Durham prison where female prisoners are housed. Durham is an old prison with a population of 900 men and 33 women contained in a special category 'A', H-Wing.

From reception I was brought through the courtyard to a block surrounded by high wire mesh and doors electronically controlled. I was then handed over to a female warden who took me through some more electronically controlled doors into a visiting room usually used for legal visits. The first person I saw was Mrs Annie Maguire, an Irishwoman from London, an innocent person who was convicted along with her husband and sons, brother-in-law Guiseppe Conlon (who died in prison), nephew Gerard Conlon, Paul Hill, Patrick Armstrong and Carole Richardson.

Mrs Maguire is a woman in her 40s, her husband Patrick is in Wakefield prison, also on false charges. With tears in her eyes Mrs Maguire told me of her innocence and also of what the authorities had done to her and her family.

Mrs Maguire hopes to be released in 1985 and we discussed the possibility of appealing to have her released along with her husband in 1984. Mrs Maguire complained that she could not get cumulative visits with her family in London as did other

non-Irish prisoners, and only gets a visit from her husband every 3-4 months. Her brother, Sean Smyth, is in Wormwood Scrubs in London. The case of Annie Maguire brings to mind the cases of all the innocent non-involved Irish people who were convicted by witch-hunting English police and judicial processes determined to show they were having results after the bombing campaign.

30 YEARS

The next prisoner I saw was

also a victim of anti-Irish bias, Judith Ward, from Stockport in Cheshire, wrongfully convicted of the M62 coach bombing. Judy was sentenced to 30 years and 12 life sentences, and is bearing up well when one considers the hopelessness of that situation. Judy complained that there was no full-time education available. She would like to do Braille translation work. She told me conditions were very strict. Yes, they had nice cells, nice curtains, etc., but they were not allowed anything that would help them lead a more intellectual existence. There is political censorship, AP/RN for example, is not allowed in.

For the last half-hour of my visit to Durham I saw Anne and Eileen Gillespie from Donegal. I saw the two girls together and Anne did most of the talking, explaining how they were arrested in 1974 in Manchester, and were here since February 1975 having spent 10 months on remand in Risley outside Manchester. Obviously very close to each other — they speak to each other in Gaeilge — they take care of each other, a necessity in English prisons. The girls' parents now live in Gweedore, and they hope to be released in August 1983. All too quickly the time passed and a male security officer arrived to take me to the front gate, so I said goodbye to Anne and Eileen promising to visit them again.

GARTREE

Next day, Tuesday, I went to Gartree prison, a modern establishment that looks a bit like Long Kesh with its sprayed-up concrete perimeter walls. First of all I was taken upstairs for a formal 'welcome' by Mr Booth, the governor. Then I began the visits in a small supervised visiting room off the normal large visiting area.

Patrick Gullfoyle from Nenagh was the first man I saw. He had just arrived in Gartree on February 17th. He had asked to get here for 3 years to be near his mother and father. His mother died in a house fire in 1977 and his father died in October 1981. Now, when his parents were both dead, the authorities could find their way towards making the move he had requested so long ago. With some bitterness Pat told me of the behaviour of the police at his father's funeral in Manchester. He got a few hours' parole to be there and he was taken handcuffed to the cemetery. Police with sawn-off shotguns and police snipers surrounded the graveyard and the local press publicised



● The notorious control units of Wormwood Scrubs

that a "bomber's father was buried".

Pat told me that visits are a problem — the strip searches, the Screws sitting in, the harassment. He said that now, to give some balance, the authorities had put 9 ordinary prisoners on special category 'A' visits to show how 'impartial' they were. Pat had been round a good few prisons. He had been in Albany twice, Scrubs twice, Hull, and this was his fourth visit to Gartree. He showed me a letter he had from the governor of Wormwood Scrubs, a Mr McCarthy, regarding discretionary visits, and the reply is ample proof that the system hasn't broken Pat Gullfoyle. The Scrubs' governor, in refusing Pat Gullfoyle his request, gave the following reason:

"My reason is that I think you and Norney both still have your beliefs and that these inevitably make you against the prison system."

Proof, if any is needed, that Irish POWs refuse to be criminalised.

JOHN HAYES

John Hayes from Dublin is doing 20 years. He was arrested in London. Mine was the first visit he had had in 5 years. He doesn't take visits because of the special vetting system, i.e. Special Branch vetting. While repatriation was their main demand it could, he believed, be a diversion, and the thing to do was to step up the armed struggle against all imperialists and pro-Brits, North and South and in England!

He said he thought that Sinn Fein needed rejuvenation, that there was a distancing in the South, from the struggle in the North, and there was a need for a policy of 'socialisation'.

Sean Kinella from Redhills, outside Clones, is the O/C in Gartree. He and the others have spent three months 'down the block'. He has been here two years and before that he had been in Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight. For him repatriation was the main issue. He thought there was ambiguity on the political involvement of the Republican Movement and that the leadership would have to make a decision on the policy of abstentionism.

Sean has had a kidney complaint and although he was X-rayed for this, and nothing

found to be wrong, to pass a large kidney. Such is the medical when it comes to Irish

Next I saw Eileen whose wife and child Birmingham. Eddie should be a proper made up of solicitors to monitor the prison needs to be a proper system for the future which are, in my opinion, observations. Liam the Dock area of 6½ years, doing 2 arrested in Southport, his wife lives in Albany. all his remission due to a petition. Lia present at visits. Lia spent 4 years at Gartree in Albany, he and POWs were refused Mass for a year.

STRASBO
Shane O'Doherty is perhaps one of the known Irish prisoners correspondence with the issue of repatriation. He is a disillusioned person, a struggle, he is in individual campaigns. his case, and he is of correspondence. all the contacts he has. His case has gone through, "over my eyes" prisoned near my mother's took his mother's promised to attend



● ANNIE MAGUIRE



● JUDITH WARD



● ANN GILLESPIE



● EILEEN GILLESPIE



● JOHN HAYES



English prisons REPEATED



wrong, he was able
large kidney stone.
medical carelessness
to Irish POWs!

saw Eddie Byrne,
and children live in
Eddie says there
proper committee
solitors and MPs
the prisoners. There
to a proper welfare
the families also
my opinion, accurate
Liam Baker, from
ea of Belfast, is in
going 20, and was
Southampton where
in Albany he lost
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Liam was 'down
' 2 1/2 years and has
altogether in solitary,
he and the Irish
refused access to
r.

ASBOURG
Doherty from Derry
one of the better
prisoners due to his
with the press on
repatriation. Dis-
scribes with the
is pursuing an in-
paign to highlight
he produced lots
of photos to show me
as he has made.
has gone to Stras-
my right to be im-
my family". I
ther's address and
sent him the ad-

The next prisoner, I'm sure, is one of the most senior of the Irish POWs, James 'Spotter' Murphy, from the Falls but living in England for the past 40 years. James is to be released in October. He says parole for Irish POWs is a sick joke as Circular Instruction 116/68 of the Home Office says that as a category 'A' you can't be considered. He says he wouldn't take parole anyway unless it was unconditional.

Paul Holmes from Belfast was arrested along with the Price sisters in 1973. He was sentenced to 20 years and 2 life sentences. His mother has been dead for some years but he has a brother in Belfast and a cousin in Newry. Paul would like to see something done about repatriation and, secondly, something done for the innocent people.

Next came Andy Mulryan from Dublin. His brother Patrick is also here. They are serving 20 years and have about 5 to do. Their father is dead and their mother is too elderly to travel. They have been moved around many times and have lost remission for roof protests during the H-Block hunger-strike.

John Walker had now returned from his ordinary visit, the first in a year. His wife and children live in Derry and he sees them for four hours a year. Gerard Hunter is also one of the innocent people. He talked of the forensic developments with Dr Brian Caddy's results up in Strathclyde which are now before Patrick Mayhew, Minister for State at the Home Office.

Gerard Conlon, Guiseppe's son, is also in Long Lartin. He told me that the authorities tried to prevent him seeing me; the governor said, "Mr Carron has only come to see the IRA men!" Gerard Conlon still protests his innocence and it is clear that he and the other non-IRA prisoners have been treated as scapegoats merely to satisfy English blood-thirstiness.

The last prisoner I saw was Peter Toal from Birmingham.



● GERARD CONLON



● Owen Carron outside Durham prison during his most recent visit to Irish prisoners in England

Peter should be released in September. As time was running out I had only a short conversation with Peter. I saw him and Pat Mulryan being walked away across the yard. I missed seeing three prisoners - Tony Cunningham, Martin Brady and Con McFadden, and I also discovered that Patrick Hill was in Gartree, a fact the authorities had concealed from me.

WORMWOOD SCRUBS

On Wednesday morning we made the long journey down to London, to Wormwood Scrubs. I was met by Mr Deane, the assistant governor, who sat in on the visits. First I saw William Power from Ardoyne, also wrongly convicted. He showed me many communications he had about his case, about how the forensic evidence was scientifically faulty and is not as testified by Mr Yallop who designed the test. He also referred to the fact that those involved in the Barry Prosser case were the same warders involved in assaulting Irish POWs.

Paul Hill from New Barnsley is also in the Scrubs, as is Richard McLikenny from Oldpark, Belfast. Richard's wife and kids live in Birmingham and are able to visit him. He has had a serious operation to remove a quarter of his stomach but is okay now. He too protested his innocence and referred to Lord Denning's throwing out of their appeal. In the Scrubs the Irish prisoners are all in 'D' Wing which is for special category 'A'. Visits are shorter and association is only occasional.

Sean Smyth, Annie Maguire's brother, complained of the lack of time for exercise, etc. He has been here a year. He hasn't been allowed to go to Mass. He has had his first visit in six years to his sister in Durham prison. His 20-year-old son died on

June 11th, 1981. He wasn't given parole.

One of the most determined of the Irish POWs is William Armstrong from Belfast. Sentenced to 20 years and two life sentences, he has five children and, he told me proudly, one grandchild. He wants repatriation as of his right as a POW. Paul Norney, too, is a determined republican prisoner from St James, Belfast. He says repatriation should be controlled by republicans, not as a humanitarian concession. He had been in Wakefield for 3-4 years and had had no visits. "The authorities try to isolate you from your friends and the Republican Movement," he said, but they wouldn't break him. He said that he was sound and also to "keep the war going".

Martin Coughlan is from Dublin but had been living in Birmingham where his wife and six kids live. He should be released in 3 or 4 years. He spoke of the terrible beatings Irish POWs receive and that sooner or later someone will get killed if something isn't done. Paul Norney, he said, has

been beaten up in every prison because he will not accept criminalisation. He said that the Republican Movement must take a stand. Martin also expressed the view that Sinn Fein has a lot to catch up on, and he said he doesn't understand why the boys in Long Kesh still let Fr Faul in on a Sunday after what he did over the hunger-strike.

The last prisoner I saw was Kevin Dunphy from Mooncoin, Kilkenny. He has only 2 years to do and is content to sit it out.

As I had to go to Maidstone prison in Kent, I had to cut short my talk with Kevin in order to get through the London traffic.

Maidstone is an old 18th century stone prison. It is category 'B' and there is only one Irish POW, Gerard McLoughlin from Derry, who was arrested with the late Jim Reilly. Gerry received six years. Conditions are fairly relaxed in this prison and Gerry is, after some initial problems, now on full-time education. Eddie Caughey and I both got in to see Gerry and I must apologise to him and his girlfriend, who had journeyed up from Wales, for disrupting their visit.

The prison situation in Britain is, without question, inhuman as far as Irish POWs are concerned. Republicans must harness all support to, first of all, organise a proper welfare system to cater for relatives and, secondly, it must be our main aim to achieve repatriation on demand for all who desire it. Thirdly, we must do something to highlight the position of the innocent people who are in prison as a result of being made scapegoats for the English public. All of these things, because of their very nature and because of the fact that the Home Office doesn't want to know anything concerning Irish prisoners, will be difficult, but we must try!



● MARTIN COUGHLAN

MÁLA POIST

All letters should be addressed to: The Editor, An Phoblach/Republican News, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Armed struggle

A Chara,
The Connolly Youth Movement raised many points in their analysis of this latest phase of the struggle for Irish freedom. There was, however, one factor which they failed to mention in their analysis — a failure which is in line with the other reformist/opportunist parties on the Northern scene, which is, of course, that the foundations of the state are steeped in sectarianism. This inherent sectarianism will always be rife as long as the 'Northern Ireland' state is allowed to exist.

CYM accused the IRA of alienating the Catholic and Protestant working classes. However, when one considers to what degree these classes ever united one must then ask to what extent have they been alienated? There were no Provos on the rampage in Malvern Street in 1966 nor in Bombay Street in 1969.

CYM also credit the present struggle with having little or no support from the people North or South. Even if this were so it is a fact that the vast majority of the Irish people recognise that violence is a direct result of the continued British occupation of this country and that the violence will not finally cease until this occupation is ended. How much support would CYM say James Connolly and Padraig Pearse had on that Easter morning in 1916? Judging by the contents of their letter to this paper it is not hard to imagine what CYM's reaction would have been had they been around then!

**PRO,
Long Kesh Martyrs
Sinn Fein cumann,
Newry.**

A Chara,
It is with interest I have followed the CYM's analysis of the armed struggle. Not only was James Connolly a socialist but also a revolutionary who realised the only way Britain would ever vacate Ireland was through force of arms, which people like the CYM choose to ignore when they invoke his name.

**Noel Ryan,
Waterford.**

A Chara,
I would like to reply to some of the more ludicrous points made by the Connolly Youth

Movement in a recent letter to your paper.

Firstly, they state that government forces are responsible for economic devastation in other guerrilla wars. Who was it then who knocked out the Spanish army's, government's and big business' telephone systems recently in the Basque country? The Spanish army? Who's blowing up buses and convoys of supplies and machinery for industry in El Salvador and Guatemala? The National Guard?

Secondly, and perhaps more seriously, they state or rather imply, that, apart from the republican ghettos of the North, the IRA has no support in Ireland and that during the 'War of Independence' the IRA had the backing of over 80 per cent of the population. In fact, before and during the 'War of Independence' 80 per cent of the people supported an independent Ireland, but, as military force was the only way to defeat the Brits, that course was taken.

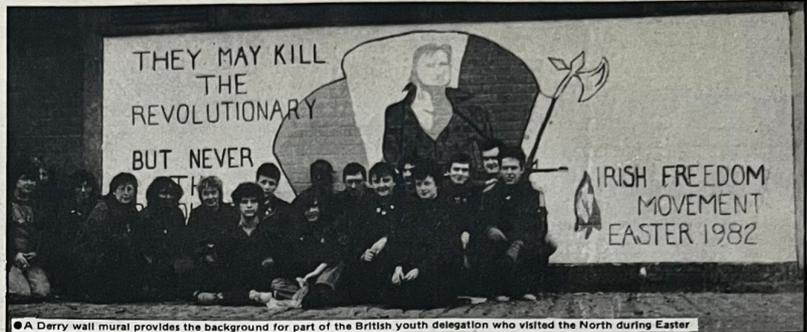
The vast majority of the people of Ireland still support independence, therefore, as military force is still the only way of defeating the Brits, the IRA has the same backing it has always had. Besides, who were the thousands who voted for Paddy Agnew, Kieran Doherty, Mairead Farrell, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Sean McKenna and the other prisoners who stood in last year's Free State elections if there's no republican support? Who were the thousands who attended this year's Easter commemorations?

The IRA has no choice but to 'accept' the sectarian divisions in the North because these divisions are vigorously maintained by the Brits and the statelet in general. The most reactionary working class in Europe and the most revolutionary working class in Europe cannot unite until the reason for revolution and reaction — the border — is removed.

The IRA and Sinn Fein, we are told, do not tackle imperialism on an all-Ireland basis. Apart from the fact that this is untrue, what exactly are the CYM suggesting? A military campaign in the South? If so, would they mind telling us who to shoot? Would they mind telling the Garda then that the Republican Movement represents no threat to Free Statism? They might then stop the continued harassment and imprisonment of republicans!

The Connolly Youth Movement are precisely what Connolly himself would have dismissed as 'gas and water' socialists.

**IRA sympathiser,
Edinburgh,
Scotland.**



▲ A Derry wall mural provides the background for part of the British youth delegation who visited the North during Easter

EASTER VISIT

A Chara,
Over the Easter weekend a delegation of over 100 British youths visited Belfast and Derry. This provoked a furious response from representatives of the British establishment, including a number of Labour MPs who called on the Northern Ireland Office to ban the event. Don Concannon in the Birmingham Post was quoted as saying:

"This trip has absolutely nothing to do with the Labour Party which is against violence in Northern Ireland. I am sad that some sullen youngsters have been talked into taking credence (sic) to the murderous policies of the IRA. It is a warning to us that the devil will find work for idle hands."

And Geoff Rooker, left-wing Labour MP for Birmingham said: *"If the argument is going to be used that we're taking mainly unemployed people over there to see the site of the war and to convince them that war is the only solution, then, quite frankly, I find that completely repugnant, especially at Easter time when we're told the Irish people are so religious."*

The delegation included unemployed youth, students and young workers from Manchester, London, Birmingham, Sheffield and other British cities. Most of them spent months raising funds for the journey. The delegation was organised by the Irish Freedom Movement (previously known as the Smash the PTA Campaign), an organisation that campaigns in the British working class movement to win support for Irish self-determination and the immediate withdrawal of British troops. Derry people may remember that last year this organisation sent a trade union contingent on the Derry 'Day of Action' in support of the hunger-strikers.

The delegates, now back in Britain sent us the following

account of their impressions during the weekend:

We want to express our thanks first of all for the very warm welcome we received from Sinn Fein Youth, who spent most of the weekend with us, and from the people we met in Belfast and Derry. The purpose of our visit was to make contact with the republican youth who are fighting against the occupation of their country by Britain and to show our solidarity. Our visit was condemned by official labour movement leaders — but we had the backing of a number of grassroots Labour Parties, trade union branches, trade councils and unemployed workers' groups. This shows that at rank and file level support does exist for the fight to end British rule in Ireland.

Through the IFM we work in the labour movement to draw people into action for Irish liberation. We think that the Irish people have every right to fight by whatever means necessary against the oppressive system imposed on them by Britain and that British workers should be on their side. Presently this standpoint is not very widespread in the British labour movement. Its attitude to the war is still shaped by the lies and distortions with which the British establishment justifies what it does in Ireland. This is not surprising. The view that Britain is there to 'keep the peace', that the Irish 'troubles' are caused by sectarian strife (rather than British interference) and that the armed liberation forces are isolated 'terrorists' with no support in the community, is a view shared by the leadership of the labour movement. People like ourselves in the IFM who fight this standpoint and organise support for the Irish don't get much sympathy from these people.

Recently the Trades Union Congress passed a rule (Rule 'X') which threatens anyone who 'associates in any way' with the IFM with disaffiliation from the TUCI

The delegation was a great success because what we saw helps us back here to expose the truth about the Irish war. We spoke to very many people during the weekend, but we did not meet anyone who wasn't fully behind the struggle to force Britain out. In fact almost all the people we met had relatives and friends who had been killed by the army or by loyalists or were jailed. We saw the overwhelming support for the Republican Movement and for the dead hunger-strikers, expressed in the Easter commemorations in which we took part. And it was evident why the British army and RUC are there — not to keep peace — but to terrorise the whole community, because that is the only way Britain can maintain its regime against the will of the nationalist people.

These are the facts we'll put to British workers and youth. To do this meetings to report back from the delegation with slideshows and photo-exhibitions will be held in the next month in youth clubs, colleges and labour movement organisations.

**Jackie Jones,
London.**

Dear Sir,

As a member of the 'Youth for Irish Freedom' delegation which visited Belfast and Derry for the Easter commemorations this year, I feel I must reply to some of the assertions made by the Connolly Youth Movement (AP/RN, April 15th).

Firstly, it was blatantly obvious to all of us on the delegation that the Provisionals' armed struggle had a great deal of mass support amongst the nationalist population, there being no basis for mass Protestant support while their interests are so closely bound up with the maintenance of British rule. Indeed for the CYM to say that the Provisionals have 'no basis of support' can only serve to reinforce the lies told by the British imperialist Labour and Tory parties and their servants in the press.

Secondly, they maintain that no serious attempt has been made to win the labour movement in Britain to an anti-imperialist strategy. Well, whose job is it that this and whose fault is it that

it hasn't been done? It is surely the job of British socialists to educate and organise the British working class to fight against British imperialism, not the Republican Movement. The reason why there has been a failure to mobilise anti-imperialist support is because the majority of the British left is too busy grovelling before their masters in the anti-working class Labour Party, and whining about how difficult it is when bombs go off here and soldiers are killed; merely excuses to ignore the Irish struggle and get on with (Labour) party building.

The only way forward to build support for the Irish people's struggle and our own against British imperialism is to campaign for unconditional support for the armed liberation struggle whatever military strategy it might adopt (bombs in Britain, etc.) to smash British rule. This is already being done here by the Irish Freedom Movement and others. The task is not quite as difficult as it might appear to one as first sight, and means much more than getting a few liberals' signatures on petitions for 'bringing our boys home'.

**Robert Peterson,
Irish Solidarity Group,
Nottingham.**

Dear Editor,

Over 100 young people from Britain participated in the recent youth delegation to Ireland organised by the Irish Freedom Movement. The experience of seeing the war at first hand in the occupied six counties certainly made a profound impression upon the delegates, many of whom are fairly new to Irish solidarity politics.

The tremendous welcome by the people in the nationalist areas of Belfast and Derry helped to clarify and strengthen for the delegates the conviction that we have a common cause in the fight against the oppression of Ireland by the British state.

Much interest was shown in Belfast and Derry on the way that we work to build support in Britain among workers, for the cause of Irish freedom.

**David Osgoode,
Leeds Irish Freedom
Movement.**



Irish jokes

Dear Editor,
I seek through the columns of your newspaper, to pay tribute to Mrs Doreen Murry for her rebuttal of racist jokes and innuendo, made by her fellow Peterborough city councillors against the Irish people (*Sunday Times*, April 4th).

For too long the Irish in Britain have tolerated, for the sake of appeasement to the host nation, a tradition of anti-Irish jokes, sarcasm and innuendo, often joining in the hilarity of our own debasement and humiliation, yet seldom conscious of the racism and superiority complexes in which this tradition has its origins.

As far back as 1880, a Belgian writer Gustave de Molinari stated with reference to England's national newspapers, "(they) allow no occasion to 'escape them' of



● 19th century English cartoon treating the Irish as an inferior race — as a kind of white negroes."

An extract from the book 'Children in Conflict' by child-psychiatrist Dr Morris Frazer further illustrates this point:

"A gulf, certainly, does appear to yawn between the gorilla and the negro. The woods and wilds of Africa... do not exhibit an example of any intermediate animal. But... philosophers go vainly searching abroad for what they would readily find if they sought for it... in the lowest district of London and Liverpool. It comes from Ireland... It belongs in fact to a tribe of savages; the lowest species of the Irish Yahoo. When conversing with its kind it talks a sort of gibberish... The Irish Yahoo generally confines itself within the limits of its colony, except when it goes out there to get its living. Sometimes, however, it rallies forth in states of excitement, and attacks civilized human beings that have provoked its fury..." (Punch, October 18th 1862).

Down the years the English have used this attitude to instill into the Irish immigrant submissive and obsequious attitudes;

thus enabling them to mould him into the more menial roles in society. With the commonwealth immigrant, the Irish too forms an outcast group. This perception of inferior groupings, by the indigenous population, serves to maintain and enhance their own status within society.

Throughout the Victorian era, the Irish in Britain were subjected to vicious and scurrilous attacks not by physical violence, but in the typical English way, by cartoon, sarcasm and innuendo.

We may not agree with the politics of Mrs Murry, yet, we must applaud her dignity and rectitude in taking such a courageous stand. We must too support her, by refusing on every occasion anti-Irish jokes and innuendo. Remembering that we are the descendants of a proud nation, once termed 'the land of saints and scholars, and inferior to no-one'.

**Edie Byrne,
Gartree Prison,
England.**

UNDER THE EAGLE - US INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN by Jenny Pearce (London: Latin American Bureau, 1981)

Donegal activist framed

AT its last meeting the Donegal comhairle ceantair strongly condemned the jailing of its chairman, Liam McElhinney, for the alleged hijacking and burning of a bus during the hunger-strike last year.

Like so many of his fellow republicans he was denied a trial by jury and his case was heard in the Special Court in Dublin.

"The only evidence against him," said the comhairle ceantair in a statement, "was the testimony of an off-duty garda which was accepted in full by the court whereas the evidence of five defence witnesses was ignored. This is even more remarkable when one considers that two of the defence witnesses were independent and the remaining three were relatives. The court also chose to ignore the fact that it is impossible to see the spot where the hijacking took place from the cafe in which this off-duty garda was positioned."

"Liam McElhinney was a very active and energetic chairman of Donegal comhairle ceantair. His activity during the H-Block campaign and his total opposition to garda/RUC collaboration made him a thorn in the side of the local authorities. It was because of this that the political decision was taken to put him away for 3 years on this spurious charge."

H-Block activist jailed

SINN FEIN has condemned the imprisonment of a 23-year-old mother of two children who has been sentenced to five weeks in jail for taking up a H-Block collection during last year's hunger-strike. Ms Bernadette Hamill of Monaghan town has been regularly harassed by the guards because of her political activities - she is a member of the Fergal O'Hanlon Sinn Fein cumann - and was arrested and assaulted in the local barracks last February when she was putting up election posters for the prisoner candidate Seamus McElwain.

Her recent conviction stems from her refusal to pay two £100 fines imposed upon her for making two collections, one at the Ulster GAA football final in Monaghan last summer during the hunger-strike. On point of principle Bernadette Hamill refused to pay the fine, was arrested in Monaghan and jailed for five weeks in Mountjoy prison last Tuesday.

Demonstrate solidarity

THE Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau has issued an appeal calling on all Irish solidarity groups and hunger-strike supporters throughout the world to once again demonstrate their solidarity with the cause of Irish freedom and the republican prisoners of war by commemorating the anniversaries of each of the martyred hunger-strikers.

The statement reads as follows: "As the first anniversary of the death on hunger-strike of Bobby Sands approaches, the Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau salutes all those throughout the world who worked so hard on behalf of the hunger-strikers and their comrades in H-Block and Armagh. Your commitment was an inspiration to us here in Ireland.

"We appeal to you to mark the anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands, and each of his comrades as their respective anniversaries occur, with as many demonstrations of support as possible.

"The eyes of the world were on the H-Block last year, let Britain know that you have not forgotten the murders of our brave comrades."

Pearse weekend

'SCOL an Phiaraisigh' is an annual weekend seminar dealing with themes related to Pearse's life and writings. Organised by Fondúireacht an Phiaraisigh, this year's seminar was held last weekend in Scoil Éanna, Rathfriland.

The theme was 'Journalism', concentrating on Pearse's journalistic ability (rather than his better known role as educationalist).

Speaking on the theme 'The New Conquest of Ireland: Mass Media and Dependent Cultures', Risteard Ó Glaisne, author and journalist said:

"The major reason why the Irish people do not appreciate that our country has been largely taken over by English and American capitalists over the past 40 years. To add to our misfortune most of the subject matter of the influential media is of foreign origin, and if this trend continues there may be no redress."

Under the Eagle

BOOK REVIEW BY CIARAN DOWD

UNTIL recent years Central America was thought of in terms of 'banana republics' and 'football wars'. Today we think more of heroic resistance fighters and revolutionary victories - yesterday Nicaragua, tomorrow El Salvador, then who knows? The long saga of repression and struggle in this area - every bit as dramatic as the history of Ireland - is recorded faithfully in this book.

'Under the Eagle' refers to the domination of Central America and the Caribbean by United States imperialism. The book starts with a meticulous historical account of how the United States built up its supremacy in the region through direct military intervention, alliances with the local oligarchies and economic domination. The poverty, repression and underdevelopment which characterise the region today are part of this legacy of American economic penetration and political influence. We can see here the close parallels with the long history of British aggression against the Irish people - from the economic through to cultural imperialism. As in Central America the imperial master has found no shortage of local collaborators - from the first Free State gomben men to the latest SDLP quislings ready to sell out their people in exchange for the privileges of political office.

Conditions of repression and domination - whether in Ireland or Central America - lead nearly always to popular resistance. There have been heroic uprisings such as the 1932 peasants' revolt in El Salvador, which left 30,000 dead in the repression which followed. One dictator in the region - Fulgencio Batista in Cuba - was finally overthrown in 1959 by a small band of guerrilla fighters.



● Che Guevara (left) with Fidel Castro, leader of revolutionary Cuba

This example spread like wildfire through the region but imperialism had helped create strong counter-insurgency forces in the area, through their training schools in the Panama Canal Zone (US territory cutting through Panama, an independent country). Guerrilla movements were defeated in Latin America throughout the 1960s and early 1970s. None of these defeats was more hurtful than the death in action of Che Guevara, one of the leaders of the Cuban revolution, in Bolivia in 1967. His example, however, lived on, not only in South America, but also in the narrow streets of the Bogside and Belfast as our own struggle began.

SANDINISTAS

During the 1970s there were more defeats in Latin America, most notably the toppling of Salvador Allende's democratic socialism in Chile in 1973. The thousands of deaths, systematic

torture and the concentration camps of Chile after 1973 under the military rulers, became a byword for barbarism throughout the world. One small group which had learned lessons from these events and the failure of earlier guerrilla movements were the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. They realised that armed struggle and popular support were inseparable - one without the other could only lead to defeat.

From the mid-1970s onwards the Sandinistas began building up opposition to the brutal dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. This man, if we can call him that, was doing things such as selling blood collected from the peasants by the Red Cross to dealers in Miami. Through a combination of guerrilla war, a general strike and a virtual mass uprising of the people willing to fight with any weapon at hand, the dictator was finally overthrown in 1979. Now the people of Nicaragua are settling down to rebuild their country

after the terrible death and devastation caused by Somoza. They want to see a society where everyone is free from the death squads and where their children do not go hungry.

After these events, the discredited 'domino theory' once applied to South-East Asia was brought into use once again. It was supposedly the 'communists' who were to blame and the neighbouring countries would soon be infected and fall like dominoes to the dreaded 'red peril'.

Western governments, like those of Reagan and Thatcher, did not stop to look at the terrible conditions the people had lived in and which led to a perfectly justifiable revolt. This book, 'Under the Eagle', tells the true story of imperialist aggression in this part of the world, which, once neglected because nothing much seemed to occur there, now has the media spotlight (and often distortion) focused upon it.

Ag scaipeadh eagla

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

LE tamall de bhlianta anois tá an ghluaiseacht in éadan buamáí eithneacha ag bailiú nirt. Bhí morshúilanna i dtíortha ar fud na hEorpa. Fiú amháin i dtíortha cumannacha oirthear na hEorpa bhí borradh faoi gluaiseachtaí síochána. Is eol go raibh Solidarnosc i bhfabhar an polasaí seo.

Chuir sé seo eagla ar na hollchumhachtaí agus tá feachtas bolscaireachta ar bun acu le cur in iúl go bhfuil gá acu leis na buamáí seo. Mar chuid den bhfeachtas sin thug Caspar Weinberger preas agallamh le déanaí.

Dhíulthaigh sé glacadh le laghdú ar an méid airgid atá á chaitheamh acu. In ainneoin go bhfuil bochtannas ag méidiú i Meiriceá dúirt sé go gcaitheadh siad céad is daichead a seacht billiún punt a chaitheamh ar 'chosaint' Mheiriceá.

DEIREADH

Glactar leis go coitianta má thárlaíonn cogadh eithneach go mbeidh deiridh leis an domhain. Mar sin féin dúirt Weinberger go raibh baol ann toise go raibh díúrácháin eithneacha na Rúise níos cruinne ná na díúrácháin atá acu féin. Níl dealramh ar bith leis an gcaint seo. Nach cuma sa t-íoch nuair nach mbeidh beatha ar bith fágtha ar an domhain i ndiaidh cogadh eithneach.

SCHMIDT

Níl sé sásta glacadh le haon stad a chur fiú ar an méid díúrácháin atá suite sa Ghearmáin cheana féin. Dar leis tá an Ghearmáin faoi bhagairt ón Rúis. Arís tá sé ag iarraidh eagla a scaipeadh i measc comhshúiltir na Gearmáine.

Dar le Schmidt má tá saon dífrócht idir an méid díúrácháin



● Tá Helmut Schmidt, seansailéir na hIar - Ghearmáine ag iarraidh eagla a scaipeadh i measc pobal a thír

atá ag an dá thaobh beidh deiridh leo. Lean sé ar aghaidh agus cháin sé iad siúd atá i gcoinne a pholasaí. Dúirt sé go ndéanfaidís dochar don Ghearmáin.

ar siúl lena cur ina luí orainn go bhfuil gá le buamáí eithneacha chun sin a chosaint ón Rúis. Tá sé chomh maith againn an fíric sin a áithint agus a bheith cinnte nach gcuirfeair dullamallog orainn.



● Art McAlinden's tricolour-draped coffin is carried to rest beside Raymond McCreesh

ART McALINDEN

A TRIBUTE

LIFELONG REPUBLICAN and active Volunteer Art McAlinden from Camlough, south Armagh, died at his home in Sturgan Road on Tuesday week, April 20th after suffering a fatal coronary attack.

A strong well-built man over six foot tall, Art McAlinden, aged 68, dedicated his life from early manhood to the Republican Movement, being actively involved in IRA campaigns in the 30s, 40s and 50s right up until present times when he was interned from 1971-75.

Art became a legend among the people of south Armagh although he originally came from Lurgan. He was married and had a son and daughter but his sporadic family life was constantly interrupted by alternate periods of internment in the 40s in Crumlin Road jail, of exile in England in the 50s where he was on active service and again by internment in 1971.

During his periods of freedom in earlier campaigns Art was continuously 'on the run', living rough among the mountains and countryside of south Armagh. Two of his comrades, Paddy O'Hagan, Killeel, and John Davey, south Derry, recall an incident during the 30s when, to escape from pursuing

'B' Specials, Art jumped into the River Bann (which had partially frozen over) and hid submerged breathing through the reeds for several hours. He later made good his escape. During the 40s Art was the O/C for south Armagh making life hot for the RUC and 'B' Specials until he was finally captured and interned.

Another friend, Joe McElhew from Camlough, who was interned with Art in 1973 remembers him going down to the washroom one day, shortly after he suffered a heart attack: "I asked him why he washed and shaved himself and he replied, 'I thought I was going to die and I didn't want those Screws shaving me.'" Joe described Art as being "extremely well-read, kind-hearted and held a great affinity with young people, at the same time he had a very caustic tongue and a man who was completely devoid of fear."

On his release from Long Kesh in 1975 Art became actively involved once again in south Armagh, and remained so until the day

he died. His love for children was exemplified in the strong bond which developed between himself and young Raymond McCreesh who looked up to Art and drew from him many of his own republican principles and aspirations. When Raymond died last year on hunger-strike, Art expressed a wish to be buried alongside him when he died, a wish which was carried out on Friday as his tricolour-draped coffin, flanked by six local republicans, left Camlough chapel where a Mass was said in Irish.

Hundreds of friends and relatives made their way to the graveside behind a lone pipe. Wreaths were laid on behalf of GHQ Staff, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, south Armagh Ogligh na hEireann; Sinn Fein and relatives and friends. A bugler played 'The Last Post' and the very moving and personal oration was delivered by a close friend of Art's, Tomás Ó Langargáin from Newry.

The name of Art McAlinden will long be honoured and remembered in south Armagh and not only to those who knew and loved him but to those, the British army and RUC, who had cause to fear his name.

MEMOIR

CAMPBELL, Teddy. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Teddy Campbell, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who died shortly after an early release from Long Kesh prison camp on May 3rd 1974. I measc Laochra na nGaol go raibh a anam. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear nephew Vol. Brendan O'Callaghan, who was killed in action on April 23rd 1977. RIP. "The fools, the fools, the fools, they have left us our fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." Always remembered by his aunt Bridget and all the Burns family, St James, Belfast.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan. (5th Anniversary). In loving memory of Vol. Brendan O'Callaghan, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was shot dead by British forces of occupation on April 23rd 1977. Never forgotten by his comrades Michael, Gilly and Harry (H5).

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear nephew Vol. Brendan O'Callaghan, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was

killed while on active service duty on April 23rd 1977. "In a silent Belfast graveyard lies a soldier's remains. Let us look his stand for Ireland's cause, for his own dear Róisín Dubh. The memory of his brave deeds will forever live in my mind, and the name of Brendan O'Callaghan on our roll of glorious names which within my heart I'll hold, and soon across our four green fields the tricolour we will unfurl. Rest quietly brave Ogligh beneath fold." Rest quietly brave Ogligh until the day I will kneel and pray upon your dear sweet grave in a free and Gaelic Proudly remembered by aunt Kate and Bernadette.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan. (5th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear nephew Vol. Brendan O'Callaghan, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, who was killed on active service on April 23rd 1977. RIP. In every generation our best and bravest have died. Sometimes in our grief we cry out foolish and unthinking words, "The sacrifice is too great". But still, because they were our best and bravest, they've died. O Christ, who endured the cross and gave, pray for him, Always remembered by aunt Lily, uncle Joe and cousins Paddy, Harry, Damien, Paul, Lillian, Joan and families.

Sympathy

GAVIN, O'DWYER. The Pearse/McAlister Sinn Fein cumann, Birmingham, Daid Sinn Fein cumann, Birmingham, extend their deepest sympathy to Liz Gavin and family, also son-in-law Ray McLaughlin (Albany). Also, deepest sympathy to Alan O'Dwyer and family on the death of his brother Michael, Masses, Ireland.

Ó CONLUAÍN, Ó FOIGHIL. The Fr Griffin Sinn Fein cumann, Galway City, extend their deepest sympathy to the Ó Conluain family on the death of their son Martin, the Ó Foighil family on the death of their son Eanna.

TWOMEY, Gerry. The officers and members of the Garard O'Callaghan, Belfast, regret to learn of the sudden death after a short illness of our esteemed member Gerry Twomey, on Tuesday, April 27th. We offer our sympathy to his sorrowing wife and daughter. Gerry was a Queen of the Gael, pray for the repose of his soul.

GREETINGS

BELL, Joe. (H4-Block). Best wishes to my husband, Joseph. You're always in our thoughts. From your everloving Sinn Fein and baby daughter, to Ann, xxx

BELL, Joe. (H4-Block). Best wishes to our dear son, Joseph, on his 21st birthday. Let's hope your next one is spent in freedom. From your loving dad, Claran, Martin, James, Pauline and all the family circle; and from Róisín, Paul and family.

BELL, Joe. (H4-Block). Wishing you a happy birthday. You and your next one will be spent in freedom. From the Armagh/Cookstown H-Block Committee.

JOE, H4-Block. Wishing you a very happy birthday. Joe. Hoping your next one will be spent in freedom. From Comrades Sinn Fein.

BYRNE, Eddie. (Gartree). Best wishes and many happy returns, Eddie. You and your comrades incarcerated in England are not forgotten. From Mick and Dolrin, Sinn Fein POW Dept., Dublin.

McLAUGHLIN, Gerry. (Maldston). Best birthday wishes, Gerry. Comrades united, for socialism we stand, we fight for our freedom, we fight to win! UTP, Páid Gweithyr, Gostaldale, Aberystwyth, Cymru.

TAYLOR, Frank. (H-Block). To my darling on his 22nd birthday. Let's hope we spend your next twenty-two together. Lots of love from Maura.

TAYLOR, Frank. (H-Block). Happy birthday, Franco. Hope you spend your next one in Magilligan (Mal Har). All my love is with you. From Brona. UTP.

TAYLOR, Frank. (H-Block). Happy 31st birthday, Franco. You don't look a day over 22. From Patricia, Pauline and Louise. UTP.

THE REPUBLICAN POWS, HULL, ENGLAND. send greetings for International Workers' Day, May 1st, to all true revolutionaries throughout the world. To those nations and peoples struggling for national liberation, socialism and justice, we extend our warmest greetings and hope that victory will soon be yours. Every progressive triumph

throughout the world gives us further encouragement and we hope that those embarking on the hard path of revolutionary struggle will take heart from the Irish revolution. Oppressed peoples and nations of the world, step forward to greater victories.

THE SINN FEIN EDUCATION DEPT. send revolutionary greetings to workers in Ireland and throughout the world on this international day of workers' solidarity, May Day. We have the will to revolution!

THE SINN FEIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU extend solidarity and revolutionary greetings for international Workers' Day, May 1st, to all our political friends and comrades in the Republican Movement. We also send revolutionary greetings to all national liberation movements, and especially to our comrades in El Salvador, Guatemala, Namibia, Palestine and the Labouring World. International solidarity greetings to all Irish solidarity groups, trade unions, political organisations and individuals who have shared Ireland's struggle throughout the years. "We know our duties as we know our rights and we stand on our feet, prepared, if necessary, to arm and achieve by force our place in the world." (James Connolly)

THE SINN FEIN WOMEN'S DEPT. send revolutionary greetings for International Workers' Day, May 1st, to our comrades in Armagh Jail and to all national liberation movements, and oppressed women throughout the world who are struggling for their freedom.

THE CATHAL HUGHES SINN FEIN CUMMANN, RANELAGH/RATHMINES/HAROLD'S CROSS, DUBLIN, send revolutionary greetings for International Workers' Day, May 1st, to national liberation movements and oppressed peoples throughout the world. We also send special greetings to our comrades incarcerated in Imperialist jails and remember with pride all those who have given their lives in the struggle for an Irish socialist republic. "Revolution is never practical — until the hour of the revolution strikes." (James Connolly)



Draw results

Bellagh POW Welfare Association draw 1st prize: Long Kesh; Margaret Corgan, Dungiven; Consolation prize: Picture made in Portlaoise, John McKerr, Toombribridge.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported our draw and functions in any way.

Donegal Sinn Fein Easter draw 1st (€200): James McGowan, Ballinfrillick; 2nd (Harp): James O'Donnell; Glenties; and 3rd (Handbag): Mark Coyle, Carrigart.

Carroll's Sinn Fein cumann, Dublin Easter draw 1st (Harp): No. 87, C. McNally; 2nd

(Connoly/Pearse portrait): 63, Pat Dillon; and 3rd (Portlaoise wallet): Mick Hogan.

Co. Monaghan H-Block 400 Club draw Week 20 (final week) £100: Larry McKenna; £50: Anna Brennan; £50: John Leonard; and special card-seller's prize of ornate lamp-stand: Francie Bynty, Castleblayney.

The Co. Monaghan H-Block/Armagh Committee would like to thank all those who organised and supported the draw for the past 20 years. There has been a tremendous success. Go raibh maith againn go leir.

Thanks

CHRISTY BURKE, THE STAFF & MEMBERS OF THE NO. 5 CLUB, DUBLIN, would like to thank the Govan Shamrock Flute Band, Glasgow, for attending the recent Easter commemorations. We hope that you enjoyed your stay as much as we did.

Admháil

THE SINN FEIN POW DEPT., DUBLIN, would like to thank the Fr Griffin Sinn Fein cumann, Co. Dublin, for their generous donation of €45,114p.

THE SHAMROCK FLUTE BAND, GLASGOW, would like to thank Dundalk Sinn Fein for their hospitality during Easter and also Newry Sinn Fein for the invitation to play at their Easter Commemoration.

Seo admháil den €40 a bronnadh ar an gCumann Cabhrach de bharr Easpas Ó Duileir.

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD VICTIM OF PLASTIC BULLET BURIED IN DERRY



Some of the 2,000 mourners at Stephen's funeral in Derry city



A distraught Mrs Marie McConomy and her sons Emmott and Mark pay their last respects at Stephen's funeral

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

DERRY CITY openly and emotionally mourned the tragic loss of one of its children last Thursday, April 22nd. Hundreds of people, both young and old, wept unrestrained as the small coffin of 11-year-old Stephen McConomy, murdered by a British army plastic bullet, made its way along the two mile route to the city cemetery. Earlier, outside Stephen's home in Dove Gardens, Bogside, television crews, cameramen and reporters pushed their way forward through the almost silent crowd, seemingly oblivious to the varying hostile and contemptuous remarks from some mourners about the media's overall biased reporting of the circumstances of Stephen's death.

Also among the crowd were Stephen's teacher and former classmates, many of whom were sobbing uncontrollably. Earlier that morning they attended a requiem Mass in St Colum's Church, Long Tower, in which they participated in readings and hymns. Attitudes and emotions also ran high among Derry's nationalist population regarding the sermon by Fr Michael Collins who, instead of easing the blow of Stephen's death, completely disregarded the feelings of his family by using terminology like, "those people who lead children astray", and, "people who use children for their own evil means", hypocritically mimicking British propaganda and absolving the Brits of all responsibility for his death.

As the funeral cortege of approximately

2,000 people made its way along Westland Street which was also lined by mourners, several young boys from the Micky Devine Band who led the cortege, stepped forward and helped relatives carry the coffin. (Stephen had been practising for weeks on a tin flute and had hoped to eventually join the band.)

As the mourners turned left along the Lonemore Road, the ominously dull clouds overhead released their heavy burden of rain, its wetness mingled with the bitter tears of 7-year-old Emmett and 9-year-old Mark McConomy, Stephen's younger brothers. Marie, their mother, was too upset to accompany them as they walked behind the hearse and instead travelled to the cemetery by car. At the simple graveside ceremony which was conducted by Fr Desmond Polke, several wreaths were laid by the family. Many people, however, understandably, broke away before the ceremony ended, not wishing to witness the private and terrible agony of Mrs McConomy and her children as Stephen, the eleventh victim

of plastic bullets, was laid to rest in the family plot overlooking Derry city.

BOMBARDMENT

Over the city itself and for the third night in succession following Stephen's death on April 19th, the youth of Derry took to the streets as mourners dispersed from the graveyard. Thick black smoke rose high above the Bogside as around 200 youths, many of them masked, confronted riot-clad Brits and RUC with petrol bombs and stones at the corner of William Street and Rossville Flats. Several vehicles, including a beer lorry and bread van, were hijacked, burned-out and used as makeshift barricades.

During a period of intense bombardment by rioters on four RUC landrovers, one of which caught fire and was driven away, youths discovered a secret Brit spy post in a derelict betting shop in William Street. Fearless and daring youths, at great personal danger to themselves, hurled petrol bombs and bricks through the upper windows of



Stephen McConomy rests in peace

the shop and a hasty retreat was swiftly executed by several tense Brits inside who fired plastic bullets to cover their escape route across rooftops.

Meanwhile, outside the Dove Gardens home of Stephen McConomy several hundred yards away, relatives returning from the funeral witnessed a deliberately provoked confrontation between youths and six RUC jeeps who used the flimsy excuse that they were removing a burnt-out van which had been lying in an entry all week. One masked petrol bomber narrowly missed an RUC man who dropped his weapon in panic as flames leapt up around his legs. A search was later carried out of the immediate area but the weapon was not recovered by the RUC.

The recent spate of rioting in Derry, although on this occasion a forceful and direct response to Stephen McConomy's murder, goes much deeper as was expressed by a local social worker in Derry during the week. He argued that rioting was a form of "escape valve" for many frustrated teenagers whose only foreseeable prospect was a life of boredom on the dole with no job opportunities, rising inflation and rampant discrimination, RUC and Brit oppression.

It is these social ills which are responsible for the development of many riot situations, not because, as the Catholic church would have some believe, that there is "an orchestrated campaign of violence".

Violence on the streets whether in Derry, Belfast or Crossmaglen, is a response by the nationalist community to the real source of violence - British occupation and all that goes with it.

Debate postponed

THE DEBATE in the European parliament on the use of plastic bullets in the occupied six counties failed to materialise last week due mainly to a reordering of business to allow the Falklands/Malvinas crisis to be discussed, and the withdrawal of the motion by its proposer, Neil Blaney. However, on Wednesday, April 21st, sharp exchanges between Euro MPs Neil Blaney and

Ian Paisley took place with Blaney highlighting Britain's hypocrisy over cherishing the Falklanders' right to self-determination but not Ireland's, and Paisley comparing the Free State's claim of jurisdiction over the North to that of Argentina.

The proposed but postponed emergency debate was to be on a motion calling for

the banning by all EEC member states of the use of plastic bullets against civilians. Blaney withdrew the motion because it had been placed so far down the agenda, due mainly to right-wing pressures, that it had little chance of being given a satisfactory hearing. The debate on the motion has been postponed until next month.



Nationalist anger erupts



The callous murder of Stephen McConomy has rekindled the fearless militancy of Derry's youth