

An Phoblacht REPUBLICAN NEWS



SIXTY YEARS OF REPRESSION

March & Rally Against the RUC

Tuesday 1st June
BELFAST
Assemble 7pm,
Busy Bee, Andersonstown
March to Linden Street to the
spot where the RUC murdered
Mrs Nora McCabe

an tamarh
cabhrach

ANNUAL REPUBLICAN RE-UNION

8.30 pm Friday 18th June
ROYAL MARINE HOTEL
Dun Laoghaire
Taille £11

Admission by ticket only. These are
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Dublin. Telephone 726932. All tickets
must be booked before June 10th.

Sraith Nua Imi 4 uimhir 21 Deardoin Bealtaine 27 Thursday, May 27th, 1982 (Britain 25p) Price 20p

RUC INSPECTOR SHOT BEFORE HIS EXAM-

Hard lesson

AS THE RUC prepares to officially celebrate the diamond jubilee of its foundation in 1922 with pomp and ceremony, television splashes, and glorifying features in the *Belfast Telegraph* and *Newsletter*, and the issuing of mementoes, the IRA in more sombre mood demonstrated that resistance to the RUC in 1982, as in 1922 when the nationalist people had loyalist rule violently imposed on them, continues relentlessly.

The RUC, created to support Orange rule and given repressive powers and the hardware to go with its paramilitary function, has never been the friendly, neighbourhood 'Bobby' to the oppressed nationalist people of the North. It batoned and shot those people into the ground, the people protesting for votes, houses and jobs, the people who protested against internment, the people who protested against RUC torture and their murderous use of plastic bullets. It has been a burden on the back of the nationalist people and it is the sworn enemy of militant republicans. And for this the RUC must pay. And the consequences of the resistance to British rule and the RUC's central role in it is part of the cost which they must bear.

Last Wednesday afternoon the IRA once again took action against the RUC when an IRA Volunteer in a daring attack in the precincts of Belfast's Queen's University shot and seriously wounded an RUC inspector on his way to sit his finals in criminology.

The inspector, who is in his early thirties, was among a crowd of about 500 students milling about outside the Whittle Hall and the adjacent dining hall, waiting to sit their final exams at 2.30 pm.

He had been attending the university for the past four years and was taking the last paper in his exams. As the senior RUC man entered the dining hall a lone IRA Volunteer pulled out a gun and opened fire hitting him in the back of the head and in the back of the chest. The Volunteer made good his escape into Botanic Gardens and the inspector was rushed to hospital.

Two months ago the IRA opened fire on the North's notorious Lord Chief Justice, Robert Lowry, narrowly missing him, and last June there was an unsuccessful bomb attack on Lord Gardiner, former British Lord Chancellor, and architect of the criminalisation programme which resulted in the blanket protest and eventually the hunger-strikes.

Despite those attacks the Queen's area of Belfast would still have been considered a relatively safe haven by the paramilitary RUC. But last Wednesday's 'birthday present' is a reminder that when the planners of repression for the Falls or the Bogside retreat to their intellectual sanctuaries they will be rooted out and given the same medicine as their gunmen on the ground — some hard lessons in the determination of a people to be rid of and free from their oppressors!



● There has been no change from the sinister August '69 face of the hated RUC



● British military police and the RUC at the scene of Wednesday's shooting at Belfast's Queen's University shortly after an RUC inspector failed to sit his finals due to being shot

LEADERS AT RISK AFTER DUBLIN WEST BY-ELECTION

Haughey's stroke fails

BY KEVIN BURKE

SO the 'master-stroke' did not come off and Charles Haughey has thrown away the plum job in Free State politics for nothing.

The Dublin West by-election result, with Fine Gael's Liam Skelly retaining the seat sold by the same party's Dick Burke to Fianna Fail in return for his EEC commissionership, can only be a blow to Haughey at a time when he was riding high at the party helm.

Since scraping home in the February general election, devastating the O'Malley leadership challenge, tying up the Gregory package, taking the premiership, booting out George Colley from the deputy-leadership, hamming it up in Washington, getting the Sticks to support his budget and taking a strong line on the Falklands, Haughey has been showing a confidence and decisiveness which was totally absent in his first period in office.

The Burke scheme, meant to free him from dependence on all but the friendly Neil Blaney, had it been successfully carried off, would have set the seal on Haughey's comeback not only politically but also psychologically.

Undoubtedly his failure to win the Dublin West seat could plunge Haughey back into his nervous indecisive period of 1981 and whilst unlikely to herald an immediate renewal of the leadership issue, we could well be in for another few months of 'will he or won't he call another general election?'

But whilst Haughey as leader is shaken, the by-election result for the Fine Gael leader Garret FitzGerald comes to him as a welcome relief.

CRITICISM

It has been a bad year for

FitzGerald up to this. He lost power, in the view of most of his party totally unnecessarily. After losing the election on his unchangeable budget, he was seen ready to make changes to buy the votes of the independents, but failed to do that.

In the Fine Gael leadership election in the new term he only got 62 of 87 possible votes from his Fine Gael colleagues. There was open criticism of his leadership, most vocally from Leinster House deputy Austin Deasy and from Young Fine Gael. Former senator John Blennerhasset in Kerry quit the party. He mishandled the Dick Burke affair totally. Leading front-bench spokesman John Kelly moved to the back-benches and into a leadership-challenge position.

For FitzGerald, the loss of the Dublin West seat could well have meant his resignation as party leader. That has now been postponed at any rate.

For the Labour Party too, the by-election result has to be construed in party leadership terms. The party's candidate could only scrape 703 votes, lagging behind even a local community candidate and totally humiliated.

For Michael O'Leary, the Labour Party leader, the result is disastrous. The candidate, Brendan O'Sullivan, fought the election on left-wing Labour policies and there was an almost total absence of support from party headquarters which had sought to persuade former independent deputy Noel Browne to fight on the party's behalf.

The split in the Labour Party appears complete and certainly



● Fine Gael's Liam Skelly poses with party leader Garret FitzGerald following his Dublin West by-election victory and poses problems for Haughey and Fianna Fail

O'Leary can have little hope of survival as leader. The only point in his favour is there appears to be no-one who can unite the party anyway, and the most likely alternative remains a return of ex-leader Frank Cluskey, itself an equally hopeless choice for a Labour revival.

For party leader Tomas MacGiolla, the Workers' Party candidate, the by-election result was something of a triumph. His vote doubled almost from the February election and if repeated at a general election for five seats in the con-

stituency would put him very close to victory.

For MacGiolla his main asset is his high public profile. So frequent are his appearances on RTE that many of the electorate thought he was already a sitting deputy!

The by-election had effects also on two other party leaders. It would appear that for Jim Kemmy the chances of establishing a party to lead are very slim indeed. His candidate, under the Democratic Socialist Party label could pull only a few hundred votes and

Kemmy looks set to remain a Limerick phenomena, with a few admirers scattered around elsewhere.

For Socialist Labour Party leader Matt Merrigan, with only 334 votes, the by-election must spell the end of his short-lived grouping. It also leaves open the question of where the principled left in Free State politics can find a home.

Although the Leinster House balance remains on paper just as it was, the by-election in Dublin West will have repercussions far outside its immediate boundaries.

THOUSANDS RENEW DEMAND FOR TAX EQUALITY

PRSI PARADE

BY BRIAN MARTIN

ESTIMATES of between 30-50,000 were put on the number of Dublin workers who responded to the half-day work stoppage and march called by Dublin Council of Trade Unions (DCTU) last Monday, May 24th, in protest against the budget PRSI contribution increases and the continued PAYE taxation burden.

The massive display of discontent was forced to leave early by the numbers gathered at the Parnell Square starting point. They marched through the city centre to Government Buildings in Merrion Square where a letter was handed in, and back to a rally at the GPO.

Unfavourable comparisons with the monster PAYE marches of 1979 and 1980 were made by some of those taking part in Monday's march. But at that time the protests had followed a major build-up with a full-day work stoppage backed by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU).

The PAYE protests of two years ago were effectively defused, many would say with ICTU compliance, by the Haughey government's provision of the paltry PAYE tax allowance without any serious reforms of the inequities of the overall taxation system.

The recent PRSI tax allowance in response to the first protests in early April this year was designed to have the same effect but there is a greater determination by many workers this time not to be fobbed off and to continue the campaign.

POPULAR

The two speakers at the GPO meeting were Ben Kearney, president of the DCTU and its



secretary Sam Nolan, both well-known from previous marches and popular speakers, not least for their ability to lace their telling points with acid wit enhanced by a broad Dublin delivery.

Ben Kearney, stressing that the DCTU represented 160,000 workers and 42 trade unions, again condemned the recent PRSI increases and warned that the Commission on Taxation's report, due to be published next month, had better come up with something good.

He attacked the continued ability of the privileged classes to avoid taxation and reminded his audience of the £4,000 per week pocket money allowed by a Dublin court last week to land speculator Paddy Gallagher following the collapse of his property empire.

"The class system is killing us," said Kearney "we have to tear it down."

Sam Nolan said that the targets of the protest were successive governments who had abjectly failed to implement equitable tax policies. At the same time speculators and the banks, often in tandem, are raking in greater profits than ever before.

There is, Nolan pointed out, no serious tax yield being garnered from these elements. Taking a topical example of the ability of government to divert resources Nolan continued: "Nothing is impossible in politics. If Thatcher and company can't give work to three million unemployed but can spend £3½ million every day in the South Atlantic, it's clearly a matter of what your priorities are, not a problem of finance. Taxation here is the same."

IMPACT

Held on the eve of the Dublin West by-election, last Monday's protest was clearly designed to make the maximum political impact. Further movement on the issue is now likely to await the publication of the Commission on Taxation report.

But summing up the mood of the march, Des Bonass, DCTU executive member and full-time ATGWU official warned the trade union leadership as well as the Dublin government.

"I think the turn-out is very good considering the trade union movement at official level have soft-pedalled the issue. What today means is that the grass-roots are saying: 'Whether you like it or not we are speaking out on this issue'."



Powerscourt protests

RESIDENTS of Dublin Corporation's Powerscourt estate, off Lower Mount Street in the city, have been protesting about a building operation going on at the only open space available to them for a children's play area.

The building concerned is, ironically, old people's flats, which the protestors would welcome if space was available, but point out that there are other vacant sites which would not deprive their children of their only play area.

Protests so far have included women with prams blocking machinery on the site and the tearing down of hoardings erected around it. Last week court injunctions were obtained restraining the pickets and on Monday, May 24th, four local women appeared in court and agreed to keep off the site.

It was revealed in the court that Labour Party Leinster House deputy Ruairi Quinn had been involved in the affair in the February election campaign when he had assured the residents that he was getting the plans changed by Dublin Corporation.

However, Dublin Corporation officials revealed that Quinn had been informed that there was no chance of a change and "should have told the residents so from the start."

The local Jackie Griffith Sinn Fein cumann has issued a statement in support of the demand for children's play facilities made by the Powerscourt residents, who are now considering their next move.

They kill our children - mother of murdered teenager after Brit walks free

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

ANY remote hope of ever witnessing a semblance of justice or fairness in the judicial system in the six counties must be brushed aside by the nationalist community following the deliberate and hypocritical verdicts in the cases of two Belfast school children, Danny Barrett and Carol-Ann Kelly, murdered by the British army last year.

In an article published in the *Irish News* on Friday morning, May 21st, Mr James Barrett and his wife Molly read for the first time of the allegations made by the British soldier who shot their 15-year-old son Danny in the neck while he sat on a wall outside his own home last July. Mr Barrett explained:

"On Wednesday we were asked by the RUC to go to Oldpark barracks where they informed us that the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided that after hearing the soldier's evidence he had no criminal case to answer. We asked the RUC what was in the soldier's statement, that as Danny's parents we had a right to know. They wouldn't tell us, yet that statement was published on Friday morning in a newspaper without our knowledge."

According to the Brit's statement, he alleged that he had been under fire while in his observation post on top of Ewart's Mill in Flax Street. He claimed he saw a puff of smoke at a house in Havana Court (where Danny lived) and he returned fire in that direction, thinking that the smoke had been discharged from a rifle. In reality, however, it is widely accepted that on July 9th sporadic rioting was in progress at the waste ground at the Holy Cross school at Brompton Park.

Danny Barrett had been watching 'Top of the Pops' on BBC television with some of his friends in his home. Later, they went outside and his father stood at the door with them. There was no rioting in Havana Court and all was quiet. Suddenly, a few shots were fired, presumably from the Brompton Park direction, and



● The heartbroken parents of Danny Barrett (inset): "They can kill our children and leave us with the heartache"

Danny, his father and friends ran into the house but came back out again when things were quiet. It was around 9.30 pm when, without warning or provocation, a single shot rang out and young Danny Barrett, who had been sitting on a wall outside his front door, fell backwards into a neighbour's garden and lay bleeding from a bullet wound to the neck. He died on his way to hospital.

The British soldier who fired that fatal bullet had a clear line of vision from his observation post of not only the Barrett home (which is only a few hundred yards away) but of the whole Ardoyne area.

As Mrs Barrett, who is under psychiatric treatment since Danny was killed, explained:

"If that soldier saw a puff of smoke then he was able to see my son sitting outside his front door. It is the poorest excuse I've ever heard in my life for killing a child. They can kill our children and leave us with the heartache. I don't want revenge but I at least thought

there would be an attempt to see justice being done but the DPP has decided that this soldier was in the right even before an inquest. Is that justice?"

Meanwhile, on Friday, May 21st, the inquest into the death of 12-year-old Carol-Ann Kelly from Belfast's Twinbrook estate ended with the coroner, James Elliot, once again giving British soldiers licence-to-kill by accepting the Brits' version of events, that is, that rioting was in progress in Summerhill Road and that Carol-Ann was struck when they opened up with two baton rounds to protect themselves from a group of youths'.

Although Elliot hypocritically expressed sympathy at Carol-Ann's death and said that she had been innocently returning from a shop, he went on to let her murderers off-the-hook by saying: "It is not for me to express any opinion on any civil or criminal aspect that may have been connected with the incident." Adding that he was

satisfied that there were 'about three people' gathered in a riotous fashion at Summerhill Road, this constituted a 'technical riot' - in other words from not on a group of three people or more are in mortal danger from plastic bullets if a soldier decides they are a 'threat to his safety'.

Oliver Kelly (no relation), acting for the family, asked for an adjournment to allow a jury to hear the inquest on the grounds that it was possible another death could occur in similar circumstances but this was refused by Elliot. The case now rests with the High Court. Mrs Kelly, who was too emotionally upset to attend the inquest on Friday, summed up her feelings by saying: "I'm glad I wasn't there; I couldn't have sat and listened to the lies of those soldiers. My Carol-Ann was murdered. I feel very bitter towards the Brits who killed her; they have kids of their own yet they come over here, treat us like animals and kill our children. Now that coroner has given them the go-ahead to kill more."



Foiled attack

IN WHAT appears to have been a foiled loyalist attack in Belfast last Saturday night, May 22nd, one shot was discharged from a rifle which hit the Bee Hive Bar on the Falls Road, fortunately missing passers-by.

An eyewitness from the Iveagh area who unknowingly disturbed the intended assassins as they staked out their target recalls:

"I was going up to the Chinese take-away at the corner of Braemar Street at around 10.45 pm. I noticed a white Escort van parked right up against the wire security mesh outside Hynes's Bar. As I approached, the driver tried to start up the engine, and it stalled. He was very young, around 18, and he started to panic. I couldn't see anyone in the driver's seat but he was talking and indicating to others in the back of the van. I then saw his hands, he was wearing gloves. It was then I became suspicious and I started to run. The van screeched round onto the Falls Road and turned left at the traffic lights. The two back windows were smashed and a rifle was stuck through one of them. The next thing was I heard a loud shot and the van sped down Broadway."

The van headed in the direction of the predominantly loyalist 'village' area and so into relative safety from arrest. This latest aborted attack could well have resulted in serious loss or injury to life and is a sharp reminder to bars and other public places in nationalist areas to remain alert and vigilant to the ever-present threat of loyalist assassinations.

Undercover Brits

AFTER receiving information that Brit army undercover squads were using vehicles which had been made up to look like Telecom vans, the Republican Information Office in Derry city issued a statement drawing people's attention to this latest development in British army surveillance methods.

It was also pointed out that these actions by the Brits were needlessly putting at risk the lives of genuine Telecom workers. The Brits as usual refused to comment.

On Thursday, May 20th, 1982, a spokesman for the Derry branch of the Post Office Engineering Workers' Union (POEWU) said that they were extremely concerned at the suggestion and that if British Telecom vans were being used for this purpose it was without either their knowledge or consent.

The Republican Information Office in Derry welcomed the statement from the POEWU and went on to say, "In contrast, dismissive arrogance is the typical British army response to such matters of public concern. However, a resumption of a normal British Telecom service in these areas makes it incumbent upon the British army to come clean on the issue."

Victim's home raided after US tour



● Mrs Groves who was blinded by the British army and is still tortured by them

THE ANDERSONSTOWN Road home of Mrs Emma Groves, blinded 11 years ago by a rubber bullet, was raided at 6.30 am on Tuesday morning, May 25th, by a large force of Brits and RUC who thoroughly searched every room before leaving five hours later. It is nothing extraordinary for the Groves' home to be raided but it is also no coincidence that Mrs Groves had just returned from a very successful anti-plastic bullet lobbying tour in the USA which received sympathetic television and media coverage.

Sponsored by a group of concerned Irish-American citizens, Mrs Groves and Derry man Alec McLaughlin - who lost an eye last April when he was hit by a plastic bullet - met several Congress men in Washington including Mario Biaggi and Benjamin Gilman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Ireland. They also picketed outside the offices of Allegheny International, a subsidiary of which, Wilkinson Sword in England, actually manufactures the plastic bullet.

Several plastic bullets were brought over from the six counties and shown to the shareholders who apparently had never seen a plastic bullet before. The president of Allegheny International, Mr Robert J. Buckley, gave an assurance that they would be holding an investigation into the use the bullets were being put to by British soldiers in the North - an investigation, unfortunately, which has come 11 deaths too late.

Strike looming in flour mills

WORKERS in Irish flour mills could very soon be out on strike over a claim for a 30% pay increase plus a shorter working week, increases in pension rates, a 25% shift allowance for extended night-working and average earnings to be paid for holiday pay.

Repeated negotiations at Joint Industrial Council level have failed to produce an agreement and workers recently voted for strike action. This was suspended to see if the Labour Court could make an acceptable recommendation and unless it does so within a week, strike action by Irish Transport and General Workers' Union No. 12 branch is inevitable.

If it goes ahead it will be the first official dispute for 40 years in the Irish flour milling industry.

Some very disturbing facts have come to light concerning the flour industry as a result of the spotlight on it at this time. In particular, over the past four years there has been an alarming increase in the level of flour imported into Ireland, from 100 to 600 tons approximately per month according to the employers. Actually, that is a very conservative figure. Last year 10,000 tons were, in fact, imported across the border, via the B and I terminal in Dublin, and through Rosslare where a hauler named Galvin carries away the flour. Imported flour works out at £27-£30 cheaper and is eagerly snapped up by a number of baking concerns who incredibly are paid a subsidy of roughly 15p per loaf on this imported flour by the state! This is an absolute scandal and should be widely exposed.

What has particularly incensed flour workers is that management has stated that in the event of the strike coming off they "will dramatically increase the level of imported flour". In other words, blatantly drop current policy in order to strike-break! And this against a workforce which has cooperated with rationalisation over the past five years, to the extent of large-scale acceptance of voluntary redundancy, so that today the workforce is only half that of 1970.

McKenna's dispute

FOR 13 weeks now, a dispute has dragged on between McKenna's Limited, the electrical hardware firm (which has 10 shop outlets around Dublin) and 10 of its members who belong to the Marine Port and General Workers' Union (MPGWU).

The strike followed the dismissal of two salesmen, one for taking time off to attend the funeral of a very close friend and the other for not volunteering to work on a Sunday.

The union insists that the stated reasons given for dismissal of both men are frivolous and that the real reason is that the salesmen joined the MPGWU earlier this year. It points out that conditions of employment in McKenna's have been out-dated for 30 years. For example, sales representatives and sales managers are called into meetings at 5 am and then expected to go out and do a full day's work! McKenna's have also refused to attend a Labour Court hearing on the dismissals on two occasions, in total disregard of normal industrial relations. The union has strongly asked the public to boycott McKenna's outlets and respect the men's picket.

FitzGerald rambles for BBC audience

Distorted vision

BY PETER DOWLING

GARRET FITZGERALD once more clearly displayed his 'slave mentality' in the Richard Dimbleby lecture, broadcast on BBC television on Thursday week, May 20th. The talk mainly comprised pseudo-intellectual claptrap delivered in FitzGerald's typically patronising style.

FitzGerald waffled on about Irish/British/Unionist identities, the mutual benefits of Anglo-Irish involvement, and unionism's upholding of civil rights. The clear point visible in a mist of stupidities was FitzGerald's inability to grasp reality.

However, given the statesmanlike stature accorded FitzGerald by the media, his anti-Irish, anti-republican rambles have to be confronted seriously. Especially as they are in a similar vein to the dangerous concepts peddled by the likes of columnist Desmond Fennell in the *Sunday Press* under the cloak of intellectual republicanism.

Their approach — fantasising about Irish-Irish and British-Irish with a common Ulster identity — embodies capitulation to the British through accommodation with loyalism, thereby opening up the Pandora's box of maintaining partition in some federal/independent Northern set-up.

OUTRAGEOUS

FitzGerald's most outrageous stance is his abject apology to the Brits for being Irish, in true Conor Cruise O'Brien style. His mentality is a regrettable tribute to, but logical outcome of, centuries of cultural attacks by the British on the Irish. The slave apologises to his master better. He desperately, but unsuccessfully, tries to prove himself through over-enthusiastic acceptance of his master's values.

The Brits, for example, argue that they need to stay in the North because of the sectarian difficulties of the situation. But FitzGerald goes the whole hog and characterises the situation as 'one of the most complex political problems in the modern world'. This, of course, is sheer arrant nonsense.

British loyalists were planted or recruited in all their colonies. Divisions amongst the locals were introduced, or exacerbated, along the lines of race, colour, or religion — 'divide and rule' was the common principle. Then when it is time to go, the Brits use their artificial implantation to maintain sovereignty. (No clearer case exists than the Malvinas Islands and the Falklanders.)

The Brits must go from the North, as from all other imperial possessions, and their loyalists can either stay and be Irish or go back to Scotland or wherever else they choose. (In exactly the same way, once the Argentinians permanently reclaim the Malvinas, the Falklanders will either accept the situation, or leave for England.)

There is nothing basically complex about the Irish situation or its solution. It is a classic case of colonialism, and British withdrawal is the only way forward.

RIDICULOUSLY

FitzGerald purports to be clever, yet he ridiculously distorts the core of the 'complex' problem. According to him: "In one area — in the north-east of Ireland — those of the settler tradition and those belonging to the earlier Irish tradition have remained so balanced numerically as to have kept alive, and even perhaps to have heightened, both the Irish and British senses of identity within the same small claustrophobic space."

What rubbish! The 'Irish-British' problem, as he mis-names Ireland's

problem of getting rid of British occupation, cannot be boiled down to the balance of Protestants/unionists and Catholics/nationalists in the six counties, nor to the area's population density.

If in 1921 there had been different demographic patterns in Ulster then the border would have been drawn differently to achieve the same sectarian imbalance with the same consequences. And the six counties are hardly over-crowded! The reason that loyalty to different 'traditions' has been heightened is quite simply because of institutionalised discriminations: the marginal material privileges guaranteed to the Protestants through their statelet which is propped up by British finance and force of arms.

The problem is not, as FitzGerald describes it, one of the 'senses of identity'. It is one of political power and material privileges for one section of the community loyal to a foreign power, from which stems racial-type sectarian ideology of superiority/inferiority to justify discrimination. Sectarianism will only wither away, and people will only be able to live in peace, once the prop of Protestant privilege — the Union — is broken, and equality becomes a real possibility.

MYSTICAL

FitzGerald's mystical invocation of 'identity' as the rotten root of the problem may seem clever. But he is deliberately obscuring the real issue. It is the inherent sectarianism of British rule that needs digging up and throwing on the rubbish heap of history.

When unionists such as Ian Paisley claim allegiance to their 'British way of life' ('Britishness', FitzGerald calls it) they mean one thing only: they wish to maintain Protestant privilege and keep the Tails down.

Unionists, according to FitzGerald, are keen on the principles of civil and religious liberties. He is right: they are. But only for themselves, and not for Catholics who are 'disloyal' outcasts from society. At his most asinine, Fitz-



● Throughout its imperialist history Britain has brought lickspittle native leaders from its colonies and neo-colonies to pay tribute to British 'civilisation' — FitzGerald is merely the latest of these servile toadies

Gerald suggested that nationalists should recognise, and work on the basis that unionists are keen on these principles, "even if they have not been universally practised in Northern Ireland". Exactly, even the unionists' universe does not extend to Catholics. To prove his argument FitzGerald needs black to be white, or rather, Catholic to be Protestant. Again he wants the self-denial of identity.

GROVELLING

The grovelling FitzGerald praises his masters for the 'great virtues of the British democratic tradition that we have been glad to inherit'. Perhaps British democracy grows out of the barrel of a plastic bullet gun!

He repeatedly apologised for the twenty-six counties' constitution and pledged to try to delete territorial claims to the six counties. No wonder the smarmy James Prior found the lecture 'interesting and illuminating' (and even picked up a useful new word: 'complex').

FitzGerald has two concluding points.

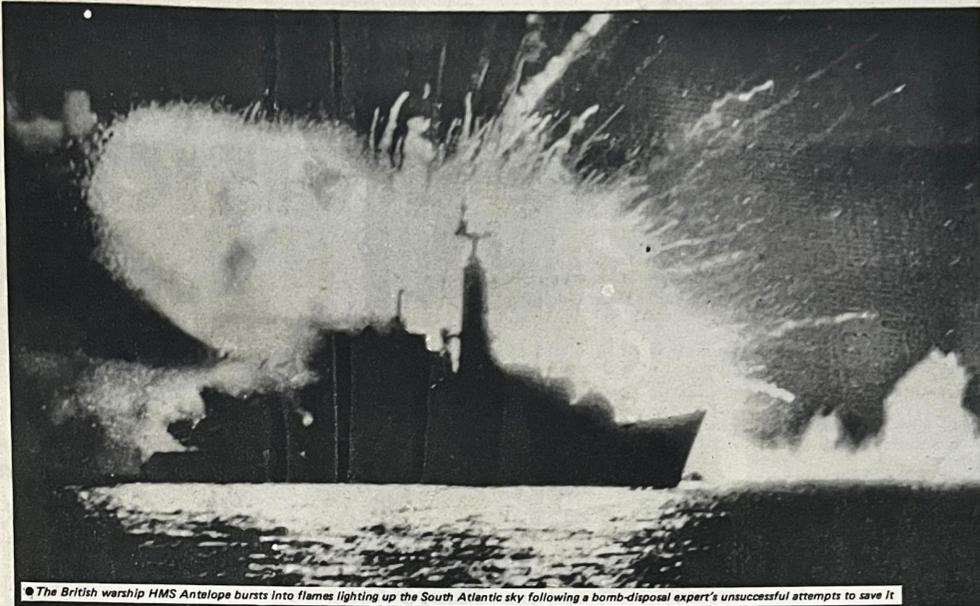
With his academic mask slipping off for once, this architect of repression promoted joint North/South policing and courts to combat the real enemy — republicans.

Changing into his most abstract gear he then meandered around the topic of new 'political mechanisms' and 'structures' to satisfy 'both traditions'. He was once again implicitly raising the spectre of federalism / confederalism / condominium status with six-county sovereignty maybe resting jointly with Dublin and London, that is, Orange rule maintained under whatever guise. 'Common citizenship', he suggested, for British and Irish citizens.

His twenty-first century vision seems to be of closer links with North and South, with the South once more within the Union, in a federated state of 'our two islands', as he so fondly put it. But given the balance of power, his 'new Ireland', in a new relationship with Britain can only be a re-formed United Kingdom of Great Britain and a divided Ireland!



● The violent and real face of loyalism ignored by FitzGerald: the damaged front of St Gerard's Catholic church on Belfast's Antrim Road which was bombed in the early hours of last Monday morning causing £10,000 worth of damage. The attack came within hours of the latest anti-pope rally, held in Portadown and addressed by Ian Paisley, protesting about the then proposed (now confirmed) visit of the pope to Britain. No loyalist political leaders condemned the sectarian bombing and desecration of a place of worship



● The British warship HMS Antelope bursts into flames lighting up the South Atlantic sky following a bomb-disposal expert's unsuccessful attempts to save it

H-Block harassment

SINCE the ending of the hunger-strike over 7 months ago, relatively little movement on the part of the prison administration in the H-Blocks has been made in the main areas of work, association and segregation although prisoners won the right, at a very high cost, to wear their own clothes. Petty harassment by sectarian Screws, however, is one aspect of prison life in prisons in the six counties which is highly unlikely to change.

Last week two republican prisoners in H5, Kevin McCoy and Kevin O'Neill, both from south Derry, were 'put on the boards' because an individual Screw, who has been the instigator of many incidents of petty harassment, decided they could not take a shower during association time.

The regular practice over the past few months has been that several prisoners shower during association period because the water turns cold very quickly when large numbers use the facilities. Up until recently this routine was quite acceptable - until now.

Also in H5 several republican orderlies were summoned in front of the governor and informed that because they had taken part in the Easter parade in April, they had breached their three-month probation period (when they complete three months they are entitled to half remission) and had therefore to recommence the probation term all over again.

Another republican prisoner in H8, Ned Maguire, had his right hand badly injured on Friday, May 14th, during a football match. Despite a request to the governor, Maguire was denied any medical attention and is now, according to his family, in great pain as his hand is badly swollen and possibly broken.

RISING LOSSES IN FUTILE WAR

BY KEVIN BURKE

CASUALTIES in the battle for the Falklands/Malvinas were reaching very nearly half the figure given as the population of those islands, by Wednesday, May 26th.

With Argentine deaths approximately 400 and British deaths admitted at just on 100, with many more injured, few can doubt that the 1,800 Falklanders will soon be outnumbered by corpses if the blood-crazed intransigence of the British premier Margaret Thatcher sticks to her declared intention of continuous war until the last Argentinian surrenders.

On Wednesday, however, the British were admitting to some degree that they were taking a hammering at sea, despite the successful landing of troops on the islands, with two more British ships, the destroyer, Coventry, and the transport ship, Atlantic Conveyor, being lost and the deadly Argentinian Exocet missile once more in evidence.

Significantly, Wednesday also saw renewed possibilities of United Nations efforts to establish a ceasefire.

At that stage five British ships were admitted lost, with several others reported damaged, and 9 helicopters and four Harrier jets also acknowledged destroyed.

CONFUSED

Thatcher herself seems set on battling onwards with stiff upper and lower lips with little regard for the lives of her military and naval pawns 8,000 miles away. But it remains to be seen if all her reluctant allies in the British cabinet will remain constant as the reality of their futile losses grows on a confused British public, currently bobbing on a tide of war hysteria.

Pictures of injured sailors appearing on the front pages of popular daily newspapers spell discontent not that far below the surface with a pointless and ultra-expensive war.

For Ireland the ironies and lessons arising in the issue continue. Not least this week was Thatcher's very quotable reply to the pope's plea for a ceasefire:

"We seek peace with freedom," she said, "not peace at the expense of freedom."

"Freedom" for the Falkland colonists involves living their useful lives in the ownership of a British company before being thrown out of their tied-cottage homes on retirement to go off and end their days elsewhere. "Freedom" does not extend to going to live in Britain either, as the same Thatcher last year, disdain-

fully cancelled the citizenship of most of the Falklanders by an act of the British parliament.

DELIGHTFUL

And Britain has more frequently than ever tacitly acknowledged that it wants to get rid of the islands anyway, once it has won them back!

For Irish observers there was also this week the delightful sight of Gerry Fitt touching depths even lower than those discovered by HMS Sheffield as he strove valiantly for the peerage which will ensure his Westminster presence indefinitely, beyond the powers of the west Belfast electorate.

To the cheers of the Tory back-benches on Monday, Fitt slammed Dublin's neutrality and pledged the overwhelming support of the Irish people for Margaret Thatcher.

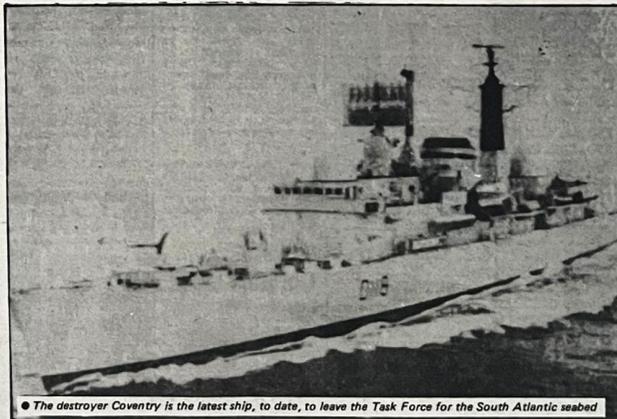
But of interest also for Ireland is the com-

position of the determined Labour Party minority which has emerged in opposition to the war. Headed by Tony Benn, the 30-odd dissidents are almost identical to those Labour MPs who were sympathetic to the H-Block hunger-strikers and who voted against the anti-Irish Prevention of Terrorism Act.

SIGNIFICANCE

A disaster for Thatcher can only swing in this group's favour, and although no-one would put faith in any British element at Westminster, it is a point of significance.

For the time being, however, the 'godmother of violence' and her 'armchair generals' continue in London determined to put the 'Great' back into Britain and themselves back into power in its aftermath. Whether they are successful or not could have a major effect on this much nearer island.



● The destroyer Coventry is the latest ship, to date, to leave the Task Force for the South Atlantic seabed

HMS COVENTRY, a Type 42 destroyer, was the latest British warship to be sunk by the Argentinians, whom the British media and government (in between lapses of memory concerning their own losses) still consider to be 'somewhat backward' adversaries. US Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, has also suffered from 'the disease of

white superiority and boasted earlier this week that the British were within days of victory. (He also held the same view with regard to American hopes in Vietnam!) The Coventry and the Atlantic Conveyor hit last Tuesday by an Exocet missile, aimed apparently at the carrier Hermes and fired from 28 miles away by a Super-

Etandard bomber which was refuelled in mid-air, join the Antelope (hit on Sunday and sunk on Monday by an unsuccessful bomb disposal expert), the Ardent (bombed last Friday) and the Sheffield (sunk on May 4th), as iron fossils on the South Atlantic seabed.

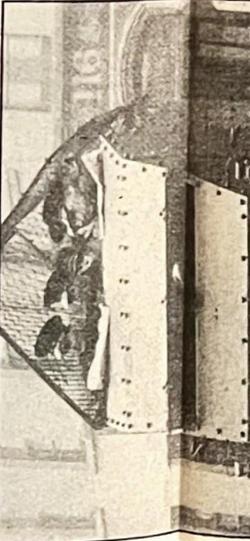
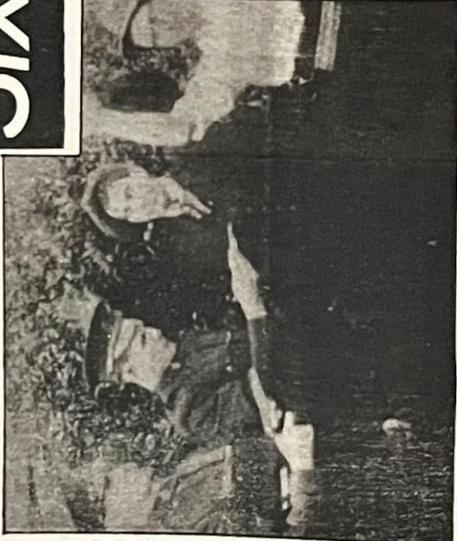
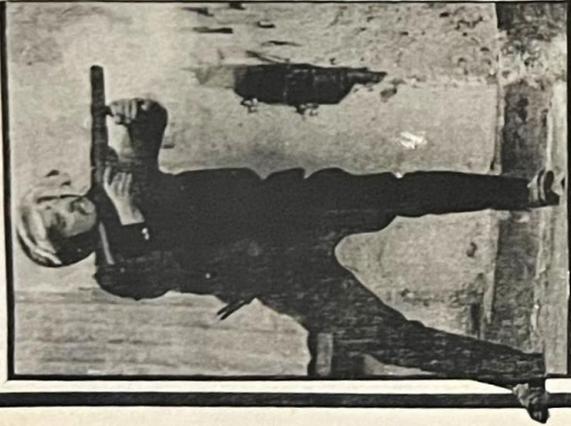
Brit killed in Derry

A BRITISH soldier was killed in Derry last Monday after a saracen armoured car, abandoned by its driver following a petrol bomb attack, rolled backwards and crushed him to death.

The incident happened on Monday evening at Butcher's Gate when troops went to close the security gates. It was at this very spot last month that a soldier of the same regiment, the Royal Anglians, shot and killed 11-year-old Stephen McConomy. Only last week the IRA issued an appeal urging young people not to engage in futile rioting because of the risk of death or serious injury or arrest and imprisonment. But the recent attack, said to have been launched by young teenagers, is an indication of the frustration and anger of nationalist youths and led to the fortuitous death of the British soldier.

Petrol bombs thrown at the saracen penetrated the cab of the vehicle. The passenger, burned by the flames, jumped to the ground and the driver also fled from the burning cab. The saracen then rolled backwards and crushed the passenger to death.

Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party used the incident to attack the campaign to have plastic bullets banned and said that British soldiers should use 'lead bullets and not plastic bullets', which under many circumstances they have no hesitation in doing. Despite loyalist attempts to counteract the campaign to have plastic bullets banned, the nationalist majority on Derry Council was able, last Tuesday night, to have a motion passed (16 votes to 9) condemning the use of plastic bullets and calling upon direct-ruler Jim Prior to respect the recent call from the European parliament for member-states to ban their use.



RUC 1922-1982 Sixty years of repression



JUNE 1ST is the official sixtieth anniversary of the formation of the loyalist paramilitary RUC.

In 1922, after Ireland was forcibly partitioned, the all-Ireland Royal Irish Constabulary was disbanded and replaced in the artificially created six counties by the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Recruited almost exclusively from the Protestant community the RUC was to be the mailed fist of a system which, through the blatant control of the judiciary, the exercise of repressive laws with the Special Powers Act, discrimination in housing and employment and gerrymandering of electoral boundaries, intended to ensure loyalist domination for ever more.

From the very outset the RUC and the 'B' Specials (a part-time loyalist army) were involved in murder and torture and pogroms in Belfast in 1922 and 1923 which resulted in hundreds of deaths and the burning of Catholic homes.

In 1932 the RUC were used to suppress the Outdoor Relief Movement which had temporarily united impoverished Protestants and Catholics and which was described by the Stormont government as a 'republican/communist' plot.

In the years which followed the RUC faithfully acted as the willing tool of the Stormont regime, helping to intern and imprison republicans and political activists in the '30s, '40s, '50s, '60s and '70s.

When the nationalist people took to the streets of the North in the late '60s demanding civil rights, they were batoned into the ground. In Duke Street, Derry, on October 5th, 1968, over 2,000 demonstrators were attacked by the Orange militia who used water cannon and batons against men, women and children.

For the first time, as a result of the presence of photographers and television crews, millions throughout the world witnessed the sectarian ferocity of the RUC. At Burntollet Bridge in January 1969 several hundred loyalists, with the connivance of the RUC, ambushed civil rights marchers on their way to Derry. On April 19th, 1969, RUC men forced their way into the house of Samuel Devenney in Derry and battered him into a state of unconsciousness. He subsequently died as

a result of his injuries.

In August 1969, following the provocative Apprentice Boys parade the Battle of the Bogside erupted in Derry. The RUC used armoured cars and CS gas to place the Bogside community under siege. In Belfast, loyalist mobs, in many instances led by the RUC and 'B' Specials, attacked nationalist ghettos. Hundreds of nationalist homes were destroyed and many thousands fled as refugees and 6 people died. Two of those 6, 9-year-old Patrick Rooney and Herbert McCabe, died as the RUC indiscriminately raked Davis Flats with heavy machine gun fire.

In response to an international outcry and the alienation of the nationalist community, the British government introduced a few superficial reforms. However, the RUC continued to function as the armed servant of loyalism. In 1971 it assisted in the internment swoops and was actively involved in the torture carried out in Palace Barracks, Holywood.

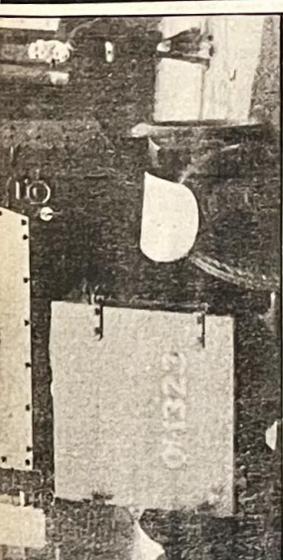
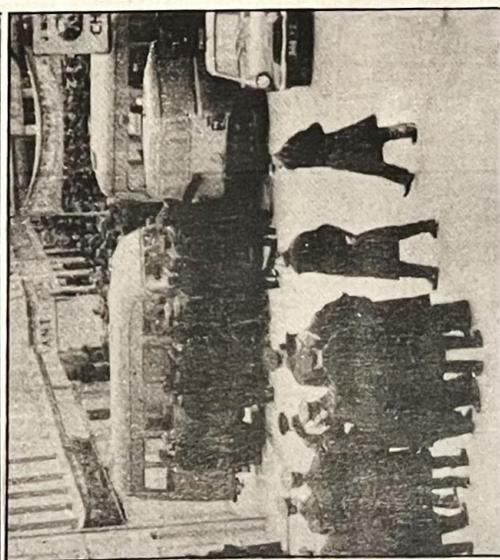
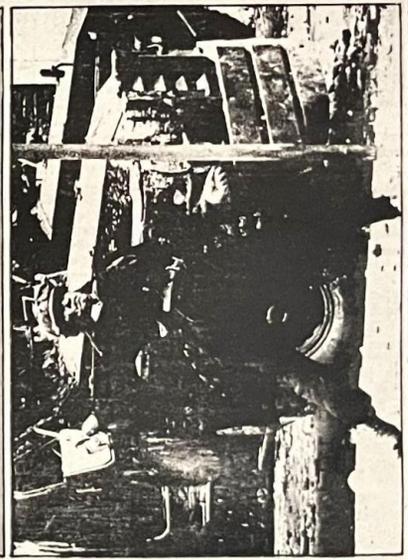
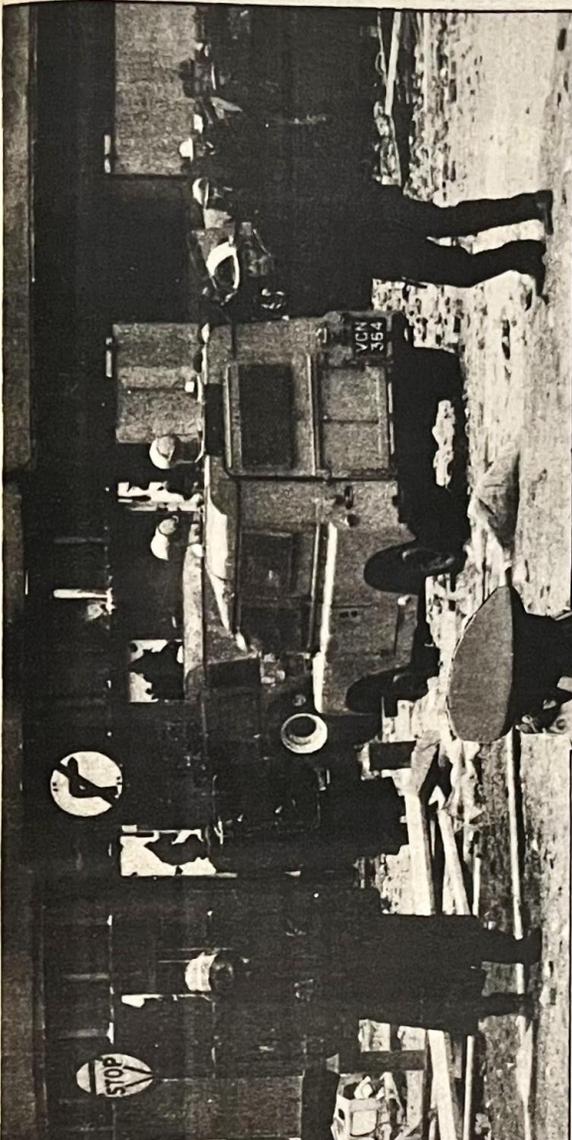
Throughout those early years of the national liberation struggle the RUC killed with impunity, tortured prisoners, raided and wrecked thousands of homes and in 1974 stood and laughed with the UDA as it brought down the power-sharing Executive.

Under the Ulsterisation policy the 'primacy of the RUC' over the British army was pushed. In the torture centres of Castlereagh, Gough Barracks and Strand Road, teams of RUC Special Branch men and women tortured and intimidated hundreds of nationalist youths into making statements which were used to convict them in the non-jury courts and send them to the H Blocks and Armagh jail.

In the last two years the RUC have used their lead and plastic bullets to murder teenagers - in one case for painting a slogan on a wall - and have shot their way through the funeral of the dead hunger striker Joe McDonnell. They desecrate the name of justice, they blackmail, bribe and intimidate, and they remain outside of their own laws.

We remember the RUC alright, we remember 60 years of repression, 60 years of thuggery, torture and murder in order that sectarian privilege could rule over the democratic rights of a nation.

We remember the RUC!



Mála poist... Mála poist.

All letters should be addressed to: The Editor, An Phoblacht/Republican News, 51/53, Falls Road, Belfast, or 11 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Preferably they should be typed written in double spacing with wide margins and on one side of paper only.

'Ireland'

A Chara,
Could I ask you, and your many readers, to challenge at every opportunity those people (in both parts of our country, and indeed beyond it) who keep talking about the 'Irish dimension', as if Ireland began at the border? The most obvious offender in this respect is SDLP leader John Hume. Does he really think that Ireland consists of twenty-six counties only? Or that the North has not got an Irish dimension of its own, which is the historical one of being ruled and oppressed by Britain? We should most strenuously object to the twenty-six counties calling itself 'Ireland' in the EEC, and particularly in the United Nations and the United States.

There is also its claim to be a sovereign state — a sovereign twenty-six county state? If so, the North is none of its business! If the North does belong to the twenty-six county state why did it not defend it in 1969 and later? I think Thatcher's 'Free State' reference puts the sovereignty in its place! If we are not careful, they will start calling themselves a 'republic' (sorry, I mean the republic), flying the flag of the republic and appropriating to themselves the anthem of the republic, and the name 'Dail' for their assembly. This is the age of (cheap) imitations.

Ms K. Weldon,
Belfast.



● The leader of the Quilting SDLP, John Hume, equates an 'Irish dimension' to a Free State dimension

Gays

A Chara,

Debate amongst republicans on the subject of gays in relation to republicanism has increased recently and I should like to raise a few questions and, hopefully, open up the issue for wider discussion.

The question is surely not whether one is gay, a woman or a punk rocker, etc., but whether one is for the revolution and the war against the British occupation of the six counties or not, and whether one is prepared to work for such. If the answer is 'Yes, I am prepared to support the struggle,' then the former should never enter into the discussion. Or do we just talk about fighting the system on one hand whilst accepting its moral and imperialist values on the other? Are all the motions regard-

A Chara,

Could I be permitted some space in your publication to comment on some aspects of current happenings both here and abroad?

"Let us not ask questions but join with me in rejoicing."

The speaker — Margaret Thatcher; her audience — members of the British media; the topic — the 'reconquest' of South Georgia. This remark was made at a time when it was still not clear how many young Argentinian and British lives had been lost in the South Atlantic escapade.

Strange sentiments indeed from someone who only a year ago was telling us that a hunger-strike 'is a weapon of violence' and under no circumstances could violence be countenanced to further any political aim. Sentiments at the time shared by Cardinal Basil Hume, and the pope's private secretary, Fr Magee.

Can morality change for some people in such a short period of time? Because only last week (see the *Universe* and *Catholic Herald*) Cardinal Hume made it quite plain that he backs the use of violence as a means of Britain regaining the Falkland/Malvinas islands.

The pontiff himself, al-

DUAL MORALITY



● 'Murder is murder — except when we commit it, of course'

though calling for a peaceful settlement in the South Atlantic, has stopped short of reiterating his Drogheda

sentiments, 'Murder is murder, let no one call it by any other name'. Given this logic, or perhaps lack of logic,

could someone enlighten me, and I'm sure countless other people, as to the difference between the British seaman who fired the Tiger Fish torpedo which sank the General Belgrano, the Argentinian pilot who launched the Exocet missile which obliterated HMS Sheffield, and the IRA Volunteer who squeezed the trigger of an M60 machine gun in Crocus Street recently? Because if there is no difference, and I for one can not find any contradiction (except the IRA man was on his own soil), then I expect that we shall shortly be hearing the Argentinian hierarchy exhorting their flock to hand over the name of the Argentinian pilot, who sank the Sheffield, to the British authorities where he can be brought before a court and sentenced to a suitable term of imprisonment for his 'crime'.

Ann Rooney,
New Lodge,
Belfast.

ing social issues and personal freedom passed at and this can be merely an appeasement of the progressive and socialist nature of republicanism? What effort has been made at Sinn Fein cumann level to expand on these issues and to encourage equality? Or is it a case of everyone is equal but some are more equal than others?

Have we allowed too much for the conservative views of some people to hinder the struggle or have we not bothered to educate people and show them that they have nothing to fear?

The aims of the Republican Movement are to change society but this won't occur if republicans are going to allow their minds to be straight-jacketed by capitalist society's uncaring and unfeeling values.

All of us within the Republican Movement know where we stand as regards the war but I think we should honestly ask ourselves as to where we stand on other issues such as the basic one of equality.

Are we or are we not prepared to accept people who are willing to fight for the freedom of Ireland with material support or otherwise. The important word to remember here is people. Everyone who takes part in the struggle is a person in their own right regardless of what one may think of their outlook on life.

Our schooling, religion and society have never encouraged us or prepared us to seek true equality for all our people. Unfortunately, there are some today who profess to be republicans and even claim to be revolutionaries yet would deny some people their place in the revolution simply because they are gay. It is people such as these who we must educate first,

if we are to stand any chance of freeing the minds of the mass of the Irish people from Free State and British propaganda.

People's attitudes towards gays is similar to that experienced by republican women. At one time the treatment of women within the Movement was barely discernible from that received by their counterparts in capitalist society but after many years of combatting male chauvinism they have asserted their right to be treated as people first and foremost.

Even after the famous ards feds of two years ago the education process has proven to be a long, hard road to equality. No doubt on other social issues the process would be just as long and difficult.

Shouldn't we start now? As Bobby Sands, surely one of the greatest freedom fighters and revolutionary writers the world has ever seen, once wrote: "Everyone, republican... or otherwise, has his own part to play."

Launda,
Dublin.

Criticisms

Dear Comrades,

Like most republicans I am unable to speak or understand the Irish language. It would appear that some PROs are not aware of this fact. After the Easter parades I was looking forward to reading the reports from my native Kerry. Imagine my disappointment when I discovered the reports were not bilingual but were totally in Irish.

This type of insensitive reporting exposes an elitist attitude. A super-patriot perhaps? I was pleased with the turn-out at the Easter parades but I was disappointed



● Brendan Dowd, POW: 'We cannot allow ourselves to be identified with one religion'

to see that we still hold religious services at our parades.

The Republican Movement is supposed to be a political organisation, yet it allows itself to be identified with a religious group or church. This allows our enemies to claim that Irish republicans are just Roman Catholics, masquerading as revolutionaries.

I am also amazed and confused when the editor gives a platform to our enemies, such as the Connolly Youth Movement and a former IRA Volunteer who, on finding himself in prison, now rejects the use of force and claims to be a pacifist. If these people wish to express their drivel then let them do so through the letter columns of the gutter press.

A debate has started about reparation, and my attitude is, when the war is over, then I will think about reparation.

Brendan Dowd,
Leicester prison,
England.

Sharelga

A Chara,
Congratulations for being the first paper to correctly

state the reasons why the trawler *Sharelga* was sunk. *AP/IRN* facts surrounding the incident in contrast to the Free State papers who automatically assumed 'communists' off the coast.

When the British government admitted responsibility a week or so after the incident *AP/IRN* had already stated the facts — and I presume the Free State papers 'borrowed' the facts off *AP/IRN* to cover up for their own inept and wild reporting.

Cairde,
Limerick.

Bitter towards the Brits

Dear Sir,

A few years ago I was going to be a priest. And at that time I did not approve of the IRA to be honest. I didn't know much about them but recently I joined a flute band and went to Toomebridge, County Antrim, for the Easter commemoration and saw a few guys and started chatting about the IRA and their campaign.

I enjoyed my stay over there and now receive *An Phoblacht* every week. In your issue Thursday, April 29th, I was shocked to read about the poor innocent boy Stephen McConomy who was killed by a British plastic bullet. Also shocked was my mother who has a family of six. Her first words were, 'The dirty Bs', and it's very unusual for my mother to swear.

But since reading this article I have become more bitter towards the Brits for their cowardly and selfish way of trying to combat peace. Anyway, I would like

to say you have my full support from this day on and it took a lot of courage for me to say that.

P. Corr,
Wishaw,
Scotland.



IRA interview

A Chara,

Congratulations to *AP/IRN* on the interview with women Volunteers, we look forward to more such interviews and articles highlighting the role of women in the struggle.

However, we would like to comment on the misconception of the role of the Department of Women's Affairs voiced in the interview. Our job is not to educate and politicise women in the Movement. It is to make all members of the Movement aware of the oppression of and discrimination against women in our country and the world. Our job is to formulate policy as a basis for the rights of women in the new Ireland, it is to agitate for change now in the attitudes and laws that oppress women, it is to make contact with women struggling against imperialism in other countries, to forge links of support and understanding of our common oppression. It is to highlight the suffering of our prisoners especially of our sisters in Armagh jail.

It is to show clearly that national liberation is impossible without women's liberation, and that true liberation for women is impossible without the freedom of the society they live in.

Rita O'Hare,
Dept. Head,
Sinn Fein Dept. of
Women's Affairs,
Dublin.

A Chara,

As we know, women have always played an important role throughout the history of republican resistance and will carry on doing so as long as the struggle goes on. With this in mind I am sure many of your readers like myself were interested in the interview 'Women in Struggle' published in last week's *AP/IRN*.

Personally, I would have preferred more questions put to the Volunteers about their part in the struggle and their views on the struggle itself, rather than questions on their home lives.

May I point out that there have always been married male and female Volunteers in the Movement and that some of them have children? This does not mean that these Volunteers put the Movement before their children. This was a point in the interview that I think readers could have taken up wrongly. It is for these children and all the children of Ireland that Volunteers fight so hard for in the struggle — a struggle to make a free and better Ireland for them to grow up in.

Cheryl Kelly,
Ballymun,
Dublin.

Burkes at the back
BY KEVIN BURKE

Extremely worrying

"ONE extremely worrying fact" has emerged from an opinion poll conducted by the new fortnightly current affairs magazine *Aspect*, the first copy of which was published on May 13th (and unsold piles of which can be seen in shops around the country since).

The opinion poll was of the views of unemployed people in the age group 16 to 24 in the twenty-six counties and the "extremely worrying fact" was the level of support among unemployed youth for the IRA.

The poll showed that 23% of such youth in Dublin consider the IRA to be a good organisation. And whilst 28% think it is a bad organisation, the other 49% would not say it was good, but they would not say it was bad either.

"It is frighteningly clear", says *Aspect*, "that the Provisional IRA has a potential pool of bored and disaffected youth to recruit from."

★★★

Meanwhile, *Magill* magazine, which *Aspect* is now rivalling in the insecure current affairs publication business, has some 'extremely worrying facts' for the Sticky Workers' Party.

The May edition of *Magill* carries in its investigation of the Sticks following last month's detailing of the still very much existent paramilitary, fund-raising and disciplinary wing.

The current issue deals with how the party's ideology has been transformed into deep conservatism, the wealth of the party, the secret branches in the trade unions and at RTE, and more details of the Sticks' paramilitary activities.

Many more names are named and *Magill* editor Vincent Browne mocks the denials by Tomás MacGiolla and Sean Garland that they do not know of the 'Official IRA's' existence and their invitation to Browne to take his information to the gardai.

Browne lists several paramilitary activities involving members of the present Workers' Party and comhairle and suggests:

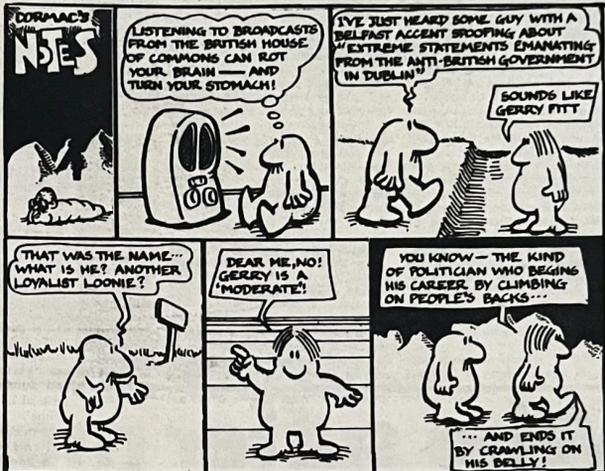
"Enquiries by Tomás MacGiolla and Sean Garland among their colleagues on the ard comhairle might provide useful information... Mr MacGiolla and Mr Garland would then be in a position to furnish this information to the gardai themselves."

★★★

This year's journalist of the year award, sponsored by Benson and Hedges, is to be awarded to *Sunday Independent* hack John Devine and has caused major controversy already among fellow journalists.

Although Devine is national treasurer of the NUJ, his universally acknowledged ability with figures does not correspond with his ability with words and he has often been nominated for the title of the 'world's worst journalist', only to be beaten by fellow 'Indoite' John Feeney.

The controversy over the award is therefore not surprising and even split the panel of judges. However, in the end it was agreed that, for this year, the usual criteria should



● Cormac watchers may have noted his absence from the pages of this paper in two recent editions. But his submissions, on the 'disbandment of the RUC and UDR' and the 'fabric of western European democracy being in grave peril' were described by the editor to his inner clique as "boring, repetitive, and of the standard he usually reserves for Socialist Challenge in Britain. We'll tell him that we had no room, were stuck for space and maybe he'll take the hint." Don't worry, Cormac, I had dozens of photographs to choose from for this space but rejected them in preference for this gem which almost appeared on page 13

be broken and Devine was not judged on style but on 'political responsibility' for his coverage of the H-Block hunger-strike last year, which was consistently pro-British.

★★★

I see that the stately home of the Mountbatten survivors, Classiebawn Castle, and its estate, is now likely to go on the market as no-one wants to stay there anymore.

Recording this possibility, and the sale also of the Mountbatten-owned Erriff fishery, the *Sunday Press* recorded that among notable visitors, "Apart from Lord Mountbatten himself, was Vivien Leigh, the film star of 'Gone With the Wind.'" (A joke in poor taste, surely?)

But what actually caught the eye was the name of Mountbatten's legal advisers in the prospective sale, a firm of Sligo solicitors by the name of Argue and Pibbins

★★★

An interesting quote from Alan Rusbridger of *The Guardian* on May 19th, 1982:

"...It is difficult not to feel a certain disquiet at the special arrangements that the Ministry of Defence has been making in the event of an invasion. Calls will be re-

routed through different exchanges to prevent the main lines to 50 centres being congested by worried relatives. What is just slightly chilling is that the Ministry of Defence have instructed that the system should be capable of handling 50,000 simultaneous calls."

★★★

Although absent on my annual spring holiday last week (Hotel Las Malvinas was unusually crowded this year), I did not miss the fact that the 'Mala poist' columns opposite were opened to an attack on me from that doyen of the British left, Helen Stevens, who is, incidentally, the London correspondent of this paper.

(Internal feud splits AP/RRN)
She claimed in her letter that in this column on May 13th I had 'looked forward' to the day when the British left are on the receiving end of Kitson's policies when he becomes 'Commander in Chief, UK Land Forces'.

In fact, I said no such thing, merely stating that: "Perhaps at last the British left may be about to get just a taste of what they have largely been giving a blind eye to in the North over the last decade."

How was I to know she was so good at reading between the lines?

Cumann na mBan

COMMENTING on the IRA interview by women Volunteers in last week's AP/RRN, in the course of which a Volunteer expressed her personal opinion on the differences between the IRA and Cumann na mBan, Cumann na mBan have issued the following statement on their historical and present role:

"A sense of equality with their menfolk was always enjoyed by Irish women and indeed was provided for in Brethon law.

"This was undermined, of course, by the introduction in Ireland of English law and still further by the acceptance in some parts of Ireland by Victorian English attitudes towards women. "It was never to be accepted fully by Irish women and the foundation of Cumann na mBan was to be seen as the organised re-affirmation of Irish women's right to take their place as equals beside their menfolk.

"Since then, Irish women, through their own organisation, have played a

full and equal part in the fight for Irish freedom. We drew our inspiration in those days from the Irish women of past generations, from Maeve of Connacht, through Betsy Gray of County Down, but soon we were to draw our inspiration from the women within our own ranks who showed their mettle in the Easter Rising and since. The women in our medical units, our couriers, our intelligence units and those who wielded rifles and became expert in making and planting the bombs which have struck terror into British and pro-British hearts alike.

"The Roll of Honour bears witness to the sacrifice and bravery of the women of Cumann na mBan and we have always

prided ourselves in belonging to an organisation which was officered by women, trained by women, and led by women, and which has stood equal in stature with its male counterpart in the Republican Movement, Ogligh na hEirann, in the fight for freedom.

"The numbers of our martyred dead who gave their lives against the British occupation forces during the past twelve years bear witness to our determination to continue that fight until it reaches a successful conclusion.

"We consider no task too lowly nor any sacrifice too great in the war against the British. We need no-one to organise creches for us, we are a self-sufficient organisation to which any Irish woman should feel proud to belong.

"We believe that in the future, as in the past, it will be to Cumann na mBan that women will look for the re-establish-

ment of their position as equals in Irish society. And we intend that on the establishment of a thirty-two county republic that Cumann na mBan will remain as the organisation to which Irish women will want to belong. Then, of course, we will be following more peaceful pursuits but we would still see ourselves as the organisation to which Irish women would turn to defend their rights in society.

"We see ourselves as the women of Ireland, the mothers of future generations of Irish men and women and we consider this no mean role in life. We consider the family as the basic unit of society and it is as the defenders of all that is good in society that we have acted.

"Indeed, it is in the defence of our children and of our children's children that we have taken up arms.

"When these rights have been re-established our role in society will, of course, be peaceful but political and we see our role in society as equal to men's, though naturally not the same, and it will be towards the fulfilment of womanhood and the acceptance of the value of womanhood and the rights that should go naturally with the full acceptance of the value of woman in society that we will strive.

WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL
Featuring 'Clendaw'
Friday 28th May
Wagon Wheel Lounge
Trinity Street
DROGHEDA
Admission: £1
Organised by Sinn Fein

HUNGER-STRIKE
COMMEMORATION VIGIL & MARCH
3pm Saturday 29th May
O'Connell Street
SLIGO TOWN
Speaker: Owen Carron MP

NO. 5 CLUB
Ballad sessions every
Saturday & Sunday —
open all week
5 Blenheim Street
DUBLIN

BALLAD SESSION
Featuring two groups
Doors open 8.30pm Thursday 3rd June
No. 5 Club
5 Blenheim Street
DUBLIN
Admission: £1
Organised by the Joe Clarke
Sinn Fein cumann, Finglas

VOL. MICHAEL GAUGHAN
COMMEMORATION PICKET
10.30am Sunday 6th June
Parkhurst Prison
NEWPORT
ISLE OF WIGHT
All support groups
are invited to attend
Organised by Sinn Fein (Britain)

CONCERT
Featuring 'The Barleycorn'
and supporting artists
Monday 14th June
Doors open 8pm
St. Patrick's Hall
DUNGANNON
Admission: £2
(children under 14 & OAPs: £1)
Organised by Sinn Fein

New centre

A NEW republican craft centre has recently been opened in Waterford city. The centre, which is situated in Peter Street, is open from 10 am to 5 pm Monday to Saturday.

An appeal has been launched for books and crafts and anyone who can help is asked to contact John Dunphy, Ballinacree, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny.

Thanks

THE JOHN 'BAP' KELLY ACCORDION BAND, GLASGOW, would like to thank the people of the New Lodge Road and Newington areas of Belfast for their kindness and hospitality during our visit for the Easter weekend commemorations. We would also like to thank the staff and members of the Felons, Celtic, and Circle social clubs, and the Billy Reid Accordion Band for the loan of equipment.

Raffle

FERMANAGH Sinn Fein are organising a 'monster raffle' which will be drawn on Sunday, August 8th, at a prisoners' benefit dance in St. Patrick's Hall, Killybegs, Co. Londonderry.

The prizes are: 1st: Renault 5 car; 2nd: £500; 3rd: 18 inch colour television; and 4th: a fridge. There are also prizes of £50 and £25 for the best and second best sellers of tickets.

Tickets may be obtained from the Bobby Sands Centre, 7 Market Street, Enniskillen, telephone Enniskillen 26854.

Draw results

Michael McVerry Sinn Fein cumann, Cullyhanna, south Armagh Easter draw
1st P. Rowland, Cullyhanna, No. 807 (framed picture of the ten hunger-strikers); 2nd: Kevin Conlon, Cullyhanna, No. 1125 (portulaca health wallet); and 3rd: James Rooney, Drumilly, No. 778 (Portulaca rose pursa).
The organisers of the draw have pointed out that it was due to have taken place on Easter Sunday but was delayed, and took place two weeks later in Cullyhanna Hall.

ANNUAL WOLFE TONE COMMEMORATION BODENSTOWN

Sunday 20th June
Assemble 2.30pm
SALLINS
Co. Kildare
Guest speaker, Owen Carron

Anniversary marked

ABOUT 200 people attended a meeting in Coalisland Square, County Tyrone, last Friday night, to mark the first anniversary of the deaths of hunger-strikers Raymond McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara. Among the speakers was Silé Darragh, ex-Armagh POW, who, in reminding the crowd of the prisoners' sacrifice, not only to obtain human dignity within the H-Blocks for all prisoners, emphasised that the hunger-strike had broken through propaganda barriers created by the Brits about the war in Ireland:

"The hunger-strike had for the first time exposed the British government's oppression of the Irish people, exposed its imperialist interests and revealed to the world that the struggle by the Irish people was indeed a just war."

She went on to express the need for people to continue agitating in whatever way they could, either politically in Sinn Féin or actively, to ensure that this would be the final phase of the campaign for Irish freedom.

Castlewellan ceremony

IN BRIGHT sunshine around 40 people attended a commemoration in Castlewellan, County Down, on Sunday week for 17-year-old Volunteer Francis Rice, who was killed in May 1973. After a decade of the rosary and a minute's silence a lone piper played a lament.

Richard McCloy, vice-chairperson of the Ulster executive of Sinn Féin, gave the graveside oration. He said:

"For the Irish people, each day, each month, holds memories of events related to the British occupation of our country. In May of last year the first four of our ten martyred hunger-strikers died. Today, on this May day, we stand at the graveside of another Volunteer, Francis Rice, who died in defence of Ireland's nationhood. Francis, like those men of 1916 and 1981, and the many other men and women who have struggled and died over the years, believed that peace and justice would only come to our troubled island when the British presence was removed. Like those others he was prepared to give a commitment to the struggle for Irish freedom and the creation of the republic. He gave his life that others might know freedom."

GREETINGS

- DEERY, Kevin, (H-Block). Happy birthday, Kevin. Though prison bars divide us and we are far apart, they have you in their keeping but I have you in my heart. All my love, Patricia, xxx, UTP.
- DEERY, Kevin, (H-Block). Happy birthday, 'fat lad'. May the one after next be spent in freedom. From Pauline, Bronagh, Louise, Mary, Maeve and Therese.
- HEAPES, Gerry, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday and best wishes, Gerry. From Paddy and family.
- HEAPES, Gerry, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Gerry. From Linda and Margaret.
- HEAPES, Gerry, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Gerry. From Carmel and Barbara.
- HEAPES, Gerry; MAHER, Bernard, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday and best wishes, Gerry and Bernard. All the best. From Mick and Dolrin, Sinn Féin POW Dept., Dublin.
- MCLINCHY, Sean, (H-Block). Greetings and best wishes, Sean, on your birthday on May 31st. Your courage is an inspiration to me. From the Bellaghy POW Welfare Association.
- MAHER, Bernard, (Portlaoise). Another birthday! You'll be needing Greelan 2000 next. Thinking of you and drinking for you, comrade. From Mary and Micheal.
- MAHER, Bernard, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Bernard. Have as pleasant a day as possible in spite of them! Freedom's coming in more ways than one. From the Carlin family, Bellurbet.
- MAHER, Bernard, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Bernard, won't be long now till you're free. From Noel Sillery, Larry and Philly, Bert and Betty, and all the rest. See you soon.
- MAHER, Bernard, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, son. From Mamma, Mick and all the family.
- MAHER, Bernard, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Bernard. Hope your next one is spent in freedom. From Mr and Mrs Sillery, and Brendan and Elizabeth O'Brien.
- MAHER, Bernard, (Portlaoise). Happy birthday, Bernard. From Carmel.
- SCULLION, Cormac, (Portlaoise). Congratulations on receiving your gold falcon. Keep up the good work. From the Bellaghy POW Welfare Association.

A brave soldier remembered

BY PETER HAYES

"I TELL you now that they will never be forgotten. For every time you see an IRA Volunteer or hear of an IRA operation, then you will see Raymond McCreesh and his comrades."

These words were spoken last Friday evening, May 21st, in the graveyard of the village of Camlough where Raymond now lies at peace, by former blanket man Fra McCann. The proof of his words, the undiminished respect in which all the hunger-strikers are held, stood around him in the form of the many hundreds of south Armagh people who had gathered to pay their respects once again to this brave republican on his first anniversary.

Just as on the same day last year when he died, and again two days later when he was buried, the people of Camlough focussed throughout the day in memory of a 24-year-old IRA Volunteer who gave his life for his comrades after an agonising 61 days on hunger-strike. On Friday morning, several hundreds packed the small local chapel, St Malachy's, to capacity to hear Mass celebrated in memoriam by Raymond's brother, Fr Brian McCreesh. In the village main street, starting at 8 am, a 12-hour vigil and taken fast got underway, while here and there windows and telegraph poles displayed posters which showed Raymond's familiar smiling face. On a table in the street lay a book of condolences for the McCreesh family, which most people signed as they passed by.

A plan to officially re-name a small estate of houses known as Mountain



● VOL. RAYMOND McCREESH

resistance to British rule over 800 years, and comparing the execution of the Easter Rising leaders in May 1916 with the murder of the first four hunger-strike martyrs, Fra McCann went on:

"Raymond McCreesh was a soldier of the Irish Republican Army who dedicated his life to the continuation of the armed struggle against British imperialism and to see the establishment of a socialist republic in our country. "After Raymond was captured in

June 1976, he actively carried on the struggle inside prison, and after being sentenced in March 1977 he immediately joined his comrades on the blanket protest to resist the British criminalisation policy. And for over four years he suffered the indignities and tortures that were part of everyday life in the H-Blocks. And when it was announced that there was to be a hunger-strike, he was among the first to volunteer. On March 22nd he started his hunger-strike, and at 2.11 am on Thursday, May 21st, 1981, after 61 days on hunger-strike, Raymond became the third of our comrades to die.

"Lately we have read in the gutter press that the memories of our comrades are forgotten. But I tell you now that they will never be forgotten. For every time you see an IRA Volunteer or hear of an IRA operation, then you will see Raymond McCreesh and his comrades."

Concluding the ceremonies Jim McAllister thanked the many local people, particularly the youth, who had worked to ensure the success of the day's commemoration, and he thanked the McCreesh family for the example they had given to the south Armagh people over the past year.

Finally, he introduced the piper, Donal Duffy, who played the lament, 'Urchill an Chreaglin'. The same tune had been played one year earlier at the funeral, another echo of that day. 'Urchill an Chreaglin', is a visionary song of resistance and freedom. Those very qualities which Raymond McCreesh epitomised.

Who suffer most a moving tribute

LIBERTY HALL, Dublin, last Friday, May the 21st, witnessed a very moving tribute to the 10 dead hunger-strikers.

The tribute was in the form of a pageant, entitled 'Who Suffer Most' scripted by Tomas MacAnna, director of the Abbey Theatre, and commissioned by the National H-Block/Armagh Committee.

The evening was opened up by Caoimhin O Caoilain who introduced the programme for the evening. Caoimhin said:

"The hunger-strike was an outstanding piece of Irish history... We here in Ireland have a duty to perform, a duty to commemorate the memory of those who died and this pageant is yet another part of that commemoration programme."

Caoimhin then introduced to energetic applause Owen Carron MP who gave the memorial lecture.

Carron in a very emotional speech talked of his personal recollections of Bobby Sands, and Bobby's 9 comrades. Owen said that, "the names of the hunger-strikers will be forever linked with suffering and sacrifice, and the struggle for freedom in Ireland."

He went on to describe how the name of Bobby Sands had spread around the world, and how even the Masai tribe in Africa, almost completely cut off from outside influence, had heard of Bobby Sands and his struggle, and this struggle is now an integral part of the Masai tribe heritage.

"What kind of men were the hunger-strikers?" Carron asked. "Bobby Sands



● Owen Carron



● Aine Nic Mhurchadha speaks at 'the oppressed voice of Ireland' in the hunger-strike memorial pageant 'Who Suffer Most' scripted by Abbey Theatre director Tomas MacAnna (Inset)

and his comrades are an inspiration to all nations struggling for their own destinies."

Human dignity, he said, had required that a stand should be taken, and this stand was taken by people with superior

course, the men and women of steel in the H-Blocks and Armagh.

Carron finished his lecture by saying: "Their memory lives on with those of us who shared their struggle... In the future their spirit will prevail."

Owen Carron's lecture was followed by a musical interlude, supplied by a lively traditional group, Ceolí Fallamh (Empty Pockets), and Gerry Crilly a well-known singer of political and traditional songs.

THE LARK

Everyone, in a suitable frame of mind, after a session of good music and song, eagerly awaited the opening of the pageant. And people were not to be disappointed. Against a large backdrop portraying the faces of the 10 hunger-strikers and the symbol of the lark, the Spirit of Freedom, flanked by the flags of Ireland, the actors took their places. You could hear a pin drop, as the plaintive tones of the harp drifted across the audience and Aine Nic Mhurchadha spoke out as "the oppressed voice of Ireland".

Ulick O Connor, Frank Melia, and Jimmy Caffrey each in their turn became in essence the voices, and experience of the dead hunger-strikers. Using a combination of Bobby Sands' writings, descriptive scenes of the struggle inside and outside of the H-Blocks, flashbacks into history with suitable background music and song, the lives and deaths of the 10 heroic hunger-strikers became larger than life for the assembled people once more.

Many were the thoughts that flooded through minds, of those long agonising months, the organising, marching, meetings, and watching, as each of the 10 died a slow, murderous death. Anger and sadness, frustration and triumph, all melted together in one hour of truly moving drama. No play, no film produced by the entertainment world, could hold an audience captivated as 'Who Suffer Most' held those people that Friday night.

Handing on the flame

EIGHTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD Cumann na mBan veteran Silé Bean Uí Dhonohadha (Sheila Humphries) gave a talk to members of na Fianna Éireann, on Thursday, May 20th, in Dublin. A guard of honour of uniformed Fiannaíde met her on her arrival, and she was presented with a bouquet of flowers and some mementoes of her visit.

Her lecture ranged from her years before the 1916 Rising, through the Tan War, and up to her imprisonment by the Free Staters in the Civil War. She captivated her audience with personal anecdotes, both funny and sad, of raids

and arrests, of executions and hunger-strikes, of jail and jail-breaks.

In the course of her talk she spoke of James Connolly and the importance of socialism. Urging everyone to read Connolly's writings, she said that it will not be enough just to paint at the post-boxes green and do nothing else.

She continued, "That's what the Free Staters did, and look where we are now, with unemployment, and a frightful education system. I think it's really dreadful - there are really two types of education, one for the rich, and one for the rest of us."

She urged the Fiannaíde to be true

to their Fianna ideals:

"For you are the future of this country, and the integrity and justice and truth which we thought we could win for Ireland when we welcomed the prisoners home in 1917... You must now win it! Don't become disheartened. Some people get disillusioned, and drift away. But, you know, it's amazing the effect just one person can have on the people around them. Look at Madame Markievicz. Look at Liam Mellows - it all boils down to the individual. And if you, as Fianna, with love in your hearts, and integrity, and honour, and truth, keep at it, then you can build a better Ireland than the one you were born into."



Gun-toting UDR man's spree

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

ATTEMPTED MURDER, kidnapping, and threats were the terror tactics employed by an out-of-uniform UDR man, Geoffrey McKinney, from Dungannon's Drumcoo estate last Thursday night, May 20th, as he declared his own personal sectarian war against the nationalist population.

McKinney, who had been drinking for several hours in Victor's Bar in Scotch Street, left at around 8.30 pm and headed in the direction of Irish Street, a nationalist area, waving his loaded revolver and cursing and swearing at passers-by. A crowd of teenagers was standing at the corner and McKinney approached them shouting sectarian abuse and threatening to shoot them. It was at this stage that 19-year-old Kevin Kinnear from the Ballygawley Road came down Irish Street from the Dunowen Inn where he had been having a few drinks with two friends.

When they turned the corner, McKinney, who recognised Kevin, levelled his revolver and fired at least three shots, hitting him once in the stomach. As Kevin fell to the ground badly wounded, McKinney took off in the direction of Union Place, a mixed area, where he terrorised local people who had gone to their windows by pointing his revolver at them. He then forcefully entered the Gorman family's home in Union Place and forced Mr Gorman at gunpoint to drive him home.

When they reached the junction of Thomas Street/Quarry Lane, about 20 yards from the RUC barracks, McKinney got out and apparently walked up past the barracks with his revolver in his hand! It was by now around 10 pm and the RUC had been alerted following the shooting of Kevin Kinnear but no effort was made to apprehend McKinney as he passed the barracks, nor at the roundabout at the top of Quarry Road where several unmarked RUC cars were sitting.

PLEADED

It was at this point that McKinney grabbed 15-year-old Helen McKearney, one of his Catholic neighbours, and put his gun to the back of her head. Helen had been walking with her boyfriend, Tony O'Rourke, at the top of the Coalisland Road.

Helen recalls: "He put his arm on my shoulder and he shoved the gun into my head and said, 'You're coming with me'. He then shouted to the RUC, 'Move out of the road or they'll get it'.

"He told Tony if he tried to run I would get it through the head."

"I started to cry and was very frightened. He called us 'fenian bastards' and said he needed a car."

McKinney pulled Tony and Helen onto the road and waved down a passing van. Gripping Helen's arm he ordered out the driver who panicked and ran down the Coalisland Road. Another elderly driver in an Allegro car stopped and Helen pleaded with McKinney to let the man go. Helen's boyfriend, Tony, also tried to reason with him, saying that Helen was his neighbour and he should let her go, which he eventually agreed to do.



● Kevin Kinnear recovers in hospital following an emergency operation necessitated by a sectarian murder bid by UDR soldier Geoffrey McKinney

But he forced Tony at gunpoint down the Coalisland Road, the RUC following some distance behind.

People in the surrounding area had by now heard of the lunatic who was running around with a gun and not unnaturally went indoors and locked themselves in. Unfortunately, McKinney ran into the van driver who had run away and was determined to shoot both him and Tony. He took them to a hedge at the side of McKee's grocery shop, put the gun to the van driver's head and asked him his name. He then said: "I'm going to shoot you two papes." The van driver continues: "I knew he wasn't joking and said to myself that I'd have to get hold of his arm as it was our only chance."

McKinney was caught off guard and there was a scuffle between the three of them during which one shot was discharged, narrowly missing the van driver. McKinney was finally apprehended by the RUC and taken to Omagh psychiatric hospital. He has been remanded in custody charged with the attempted murder of Kevin Kinnear and was to appear in Cookstown Court on Friday, May 28th.

Meanwhile, in South Tyrone Hospital, Kevin Kinnear is now in a comfortable condition following an emergency operation.

Seven months ago another innocent victim, 24-year-old Angela D'Arcy, was shot dead by an out-of-uniform soldier in Enniskillen, and there have been numerous cases of drunken UDR and RUC men shooting at innocent people, each other or at their wives, such is the state of morale and indiscipline.



● Fifteen-year-old Helen McKearney, one of three hostages held during the course of UDR man McKinney's crazed rampage