

# SAOIRSE

## IRISH FREEDOM

THE VOICE OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT



UIMH 229 BEALTAINE — MAY 2006 <http://saoirse.info> 1.50 (£1stg, USA \$30 p.a.)

### HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATIONS

Bobby Sands — 25 years after  
SATURDAY, MAY 6  
GPO, Dublin, 2pm

Eyre Square, Galway, 3pm

Raymond McCreech  
SUNDAY, MAY 21  
Carrickcruppen Cemetery  
Camloch, South Armagh



# Spirit of Freedom



• Nationalist youths take on British Crown Forces in Lurgan, Co Armagh on April 19.

**TWENTY-five years after the death of Bobby Sands the primary issue facing the Irish people remains the same, British military occupation and rule in Ireland.**

Sands' life and death inspired an entire generation of young Irish people to engage in active resistance to British occupation. Twenty-five years on, as events in Lurgan, Co Armagh illustrate, the 'spirit of freedom' that Bobby Sands wrote about still lives on in the hearts of Irish youth.

On April 19 and 20 young people in Lurgan took on British forces in a show of defiance reminiscent of the scenes in Belfast following the death of Sands.

Over those two days young people took on British Crown forces, at one point they blocked the main Dublin to Belfast railway line, in a fearless display of their rejection of foreign rule. They were engaging in what Sands himself described as the "perennial war that is being fought

between the oppressed Irish people and an alien, oppressive, unwanted regime".

It is up to the Irish Republican Movement to provide these young people with direction and a political focus. In its Easter Statement last month the leadership of the Republican Movement pledged continued resistance to British rule in Ireland. This reality is reflected in the latest report from the British so-called 'International Monitoring Committee' (IMC) report published on April 26 states that the Continuity IRA is "active". It goes on to say: "The organisation continues to seek and develop its capacity. Members of some units have received training and it continues in its efforts to recruit members. We conclude that CIRA remain a threat ..."

The Provisionals have been house trained, and are no longer viewed by the British as a threat to their continued presence in Ireland but rather they see them as tools in maintaining that presence. Equally the British have now stated clearly who they view as a threat to their rule in our country. Twenty-five years after the hunger strikes and 90 years after the 1916 Rising the true Republican Movement remains the fulcrum of all resistance to Britain's illegal hold over part of Ireland.

Twenty-five years later Irish Republicans stand by the declaration of Bobby Sands; "I believe and stand by the God-given right of the Irish nation to sovereign independence, and the right of any Irishman or woman to assert this right in armed revolution." British rule in Ireland has been the root cause of conflict in Ireland for 800 years. The Stormont Agreement seeks to update that rule and make it

more acceptable for nationalists to live under. Irish Republicans are in the business of ending that rule not updating or sanitising it. Like Tone we seek to "Break the connection with England" and allow the Irish people the opportunity to build a New Ireland.

The recent interest in and support for events marking the 90th anniversary of the 1916 rising shows that the heart of nationalist Ireland still beats strong. Facing death on the first day of his "hunger for justice" Sands wrote in his prison diary on March 1, 1981:

"I believe I am but another of those wretched Irishmen born of a risen generation with a deeply rooted and unquenchable desire for freedom. I am dying not just to attempt to end the barbarity of H Block, or gain the rightful recognition of a political prisoner, but primarily because what is lost in here is lost for the Republic and those wretched oppressed whom I am deeply proud to know as the 'risen people'".

In 2006 the flame of Irish freedom continues to burn bright for another "risen generation".

## CABHAIR

Irish Republican Prisoners  
Dependants Fund

ANNUAL TESTIMONIAL  
DINNER  
& REPUBLICAN  
REUNION

West County Hotel  
Chapelizod, Dublin  
Saturday, May 27, 2006  
Buffet Supper, €25  
Music: Celtic Mist



### Honorees:

Tom O'Sullivan (Munster)  
Frank Graham (Leinster)  
Ben McHugh (Ulster)  
Peadar Murray (Connacht)  
Danny Gormley (USA)



**Wolfe Tone Commemoration, Bodenstown,  
2.30pm, Sunday, June 11, Sallins, Co Kildare**

Bus leaves Aston Quay, Dublin 12.45pm Táille: €10

# Ó Brádaigh biography launched

ON April 12 the biography of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh: *The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary* by Professor Robert W White was launched in Dublin.

A large number of people attended the launch, including many comrades from the Border Campaign of 1956-62. The proceedings were chaired by Des Dalton, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin and the book was launched by historian Ruan O'Donnell who said:

"Robert White's new biography of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh is an essential starting point for historical discussion of Ireland in the 1970s, with valuable insights pertaining to the Republican perspective between the early 1950s and late 1990s.

"The book explains and illuminates many significant incidents, policies and practices raised in outline by the late John Bowyer Bell and Tim Pat Coogan."

Writer Robert W White spoke on the work and research that had gone into writing the biography and thanked all those who has assisted him, particularly the University of Indiana.

Ruairí thanked Ruan and said:

"This work is a biography. It is not a disguised autobiography. The facts have been checked with me but the assessments, judgements and conclusions reached in it are essentially those of the author, Professor Robert W White.

"The project has taken 22 years, ever since he first interviewed me in Roscommon when writing his earlier work, *Provisional* Irish

Republicans".

"While engaged in this 'Life'



• (left to right) Author Robert W White and historian Ruan O'Donnell, who launched the biography, with Ruairí Ó Brádaigh on April 12.

he took a sabbatical leave from his post at Indiana University to spend six months in Ireland with his wife and family in order to engage full-time in research.

"He read the files of the *Longford Leader*, the Seán MacEoin papers (now at University College, Dublin) and checked all published material he could find. He cites as sources 140 books and he interviewed personally about 40 different people.

"Bob White visited Ireland frequently, assessed among

other sources the Linenhall Library in Belfast, tracked down people and interviewed them as he meticulously sought the data. Now that he has

these words from the tombstone of Charlotte Despard in the Republican Plot in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin:

'I slept and dreamt that life

was beauty

I woke and found that life was duty."

The book sold out on the night and people queued to have Ruairí and Robert White sign their books. Amongst those present was historian Tim Pat Coogan. Food and wine was served and the evening was most successful. The book is reviewed on page 13 by Anthony Coughlan.

• A video of the launch can be viewed on the internet at: <http://saoirse.info>.

## Gearrscéalta

### Challenge to Offences Against the State Act lost

THE Dublin Supreme Court dismissed a challenge to a section of the Offences Against the State Act (OAS) in the first week of April.

The case was brought by former Free State soldier Martin Kelly and centred on the right of a person accused of membership of an unlawful organisation, to cross-examine a Garda chief superintendent's belief that their accused person was/is a member of an unlawful organisation.

Under the OAS, a Garda chief superintendent's belief was, and still is as a result of the judgement, accepted as evidence of membership and such belief was/is confidential. The judge delivering the verdict, Niall Fennelly said that the legislation has allowed such evidence to be given by members of the Garda Síochána of particularly high rank and said 'I do not think that any undoubted restriction on the rights of the accused went further than was necessary to protect other potential witnesses or informants.'

The unanimous five-man judgement clears the way for of a number of IRA membership trials to commence at the special non-jury court in Dublin. They had been adjourned pending the outcome of the appeal.

### McDowell refuses aid for Wheelock inquiry

THE 26-County Justice minister Michael McDowell indicated in a fax to legal representatives of the Wheelock family that he was not willing to fund independent forensic examination.

Terence Wheelock, Summerhill, Dublin, was found unconscious in a cell at Store Street Garda station in June 2005 after he apparently attempted to hang himself with a cord from his trunksuit bottoms. He was brought to the Mater hospital but never regained consciousness. He died on September 16, 2005. His family has questioned the circumstances of his death and claims he was mistreated while in a cell.

### Special Branch harassment in Dublin

AN Ard-Chomhairle member of Republican Sinn Féin from Derry who had attended the annual Dublin 1916 Commemoration on Easter Monday – was stopped by two Branchmen in the Fleet Street area as he arrived to collect his car the next morning.

Two men working nearby came up to the RSF member and asked who the Branchmen thought they were, stopping a person simply for walking down the street.

During the last week of April several members of Republican Sinn Féin were harassed by the Special Branch in Dublin. One young lad was stopped as he walked along the street and had his name and address taken. He was later asked if he would be 'willing to assist them' (the branch) in their campaign against Republican Sinn Féin.

Two new members who attended an Education Seminar were stopped as soon as they left the premises where the seminar was held. The same two lads were stopped again within an hour and questioned by one of the branchmen who had previously stopped him. He was advised by the branch not to be associating with Republican Sinn Féin and some other such useless advice.

We advise young members to report any instances of harassment to Republican Sinn Féin and to keep a record for themselves.

### CS gas used by British forces in two incidents

IT was reported on April 15 that CS gas had been used by British Crown Forces on two occasions in Co Tyrone.

It was used to quell a disturbance in Castlederg and during the arrest of a 61-year-old nationalist man near Omagh. Up to 12 innocent bystanders were reported to have been 'gassed' by the RUC/PSNI during a melee involving 40-50 people in Castlederg town centre during the early hours of April 9.

The British Police Ombudsman's Office is also investigating the use of CS spray during the arrest of Tattyreagh man, Dominic Darcy on the same date. Dominic Darcy received hospital treatment for injuries, including burns and blistering to his face.

### Results of Dublin raffle

APRIL Draw results were as follows: 1st prize ticket no 200; 2nd prize 231; 3rd prize 404; 4th prize 243; 5th prize 555; 6th prize 333; 7th prize 393; 8th prize 442.

**SAOIRSE June edition  
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- is committed to supporting prisoners for which CABHAIR is responsible
- is generating publicity in support of Irish national independence.

We need your support. Our website address is:  
<http://irishfreedom.net>

I would like to join Republican Sinn Féin

Ba mhaith liom bheith i mo bhall de Sinn Féin Poblachtach

Ainm .....

Seoladh .....

Tel: ..... Age (if under 21) ....

Send to:

Teach Dáithí Ó Conaill  
223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1  
Tel: 01-872 9747; Faxes: 01-872 9757.

or 229 Falls Road, Belfast  
e-mail: [saoirse@iol.ie](mailto:saoirse@iol.ie)  
<http://rsf.ie>  
or contact your local paper seller for details

### For a full British withdrawal from Ireland



#### OUR AIMS

For a full British withdrawal from Ireland ... The establishment of a true 32-County FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC ... The establishment of a new all-Ireland parliament, completely outside the present partitionist set-up, to oversee the running of the new neutral non-aligned Ireland ...

#### OUR HISTORY

Formed in 1905 ... We are the oldest political organisation in the country ... Organised throughout the 32 Counties ... We have continuously rejected the failed political entities of the Six and 26 Counties in existence since the British partitioned our country ...



## Gearrscéalta

### MI5 attempt to recruit Tyrone man

A TYRONE man has spoken of his personal ordeal after claiming that British intelligence tried to recruit him as an agent while on a family holiday in March to the US.

Shane Coleman from Ardboe, near Cookstown, said that as he travelled through Newark International Airport on March 22, two men who identified themselves as MI5 asked him to infiltrate the Real IRA.

The 29-year-old said he was detained for more than two hours by two US officials who identified themselves as federal customs agents as he prepared to fly to Ireland after a two-week's break with his partner and small son.

### Increased harassment in Newry

IN A statement on April 29 the PRO of the Joe Conway/Willie Stewart Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry/Dundalk said:

"After the recent threats by British-backed loyalists against Republican Sinn Féin there has also been an increase in RUC/PSNI harassment of members of the organisation in the greater Newry area. We call on all Republicans to take note of the date, time and whereabouts of these human rights abuses and record them with a solicitor. The timing of the loyalist threats and the RUC/PSNI harassment shows again the alignment between loyalists and the RUC/PSNI.

"We in the Republican Movement will not be intimidated by the RUC/PSNI, loyalist drug peddlers or the British Establishment in whatever guise. To quote the words of Bobby Sands 'They have nothing in their whole Imperial arsenal that can break the spirit of one Irishman who does not want to be broken.'"

### Shannon second highest for rendition flights

ACCORDING to a new report by Amnesty International, Shannon Airport is the second most popular stopping point in Europe for CIA rendition flights. Four aircraft identified by Amnesty as being run by the CIA and having been involved in renditions, have passed through Shannon at least 77 times since 2001. The report is entitled: *Below the radar: Secret flights to torture and 'disappearance'*. None of the planes documented by Amnesty have been searched. (From: Village Magazine)

### State allowing heritage to be sold off

ON April 9, 2006 in the RDS, Dublin much of the nation's history was sold to the highest bidder. Prices in many cases were out of the reach of the ordinary people but were not out of the reach of the state.

A collection of mementos, manuscripts, documents, photographs, and person items including poetry, plays and lyrics of Peadar Kearney (Ó Cearnaigh) realised €60,000. This collection included a signed verse of the Soldiers Song (Amhrán na bhFiann) and a collection of issues of Ná Bao Leis which was produced by POWs at Ballykinler 1921 and are very scarce.

An archive of restored film including the 1916 Rising, 1919-21 War of Independence, the Treaty of Surrender and the 1922-23 War went for €6,000.

Documents relating to the execution of Erskine Childers including a handwritten letter by Childers requesting a Fr Albert and a typed list of prominent Republicans who were killed or captured during the month of November 1922.

A gold Cumann na mBan badge was bought for €15,000 and a silver one for €3,200. Other badges sold included a 1914-1916 Irish Volunteer Badge for €1,700 and an Irish Volunteer tricolour badge for €1,600.

A second auction of historical items was held by James Adam & Sons of Stephens Green on April 13, 2006. Among the many items auctioned was the first draft of the National Anthem, *Amhrán na bhFiann*, which went for €760,000. In all 480 items went under the hammer. A copy of the Proclamation, which was printed at Liberty Hall in Dublin, was sold for €200,000.

One was a carved oak box presented to Tom Clarke by the Lord mayor of Limerick with a plaque reading The Freedom of Limerick was sold for €65,000. The farewell note from Tom Clarke to his wife Kathleen, written in Richmond Barracks sold for €75,000. The National Library paid €200,000 for 400 items from the personal archive of Tom Clarke, the first signatory of the 1916 Proclamation.

Whilst most other countries are preserving, and restoring, their history the 26-County administration is allowing our heritage to be sold off to those with the money to pay for it.

## Protest against visit of British royal

IN A statement on April 26, Des Dalton, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin, said that the visit by the husband of the British head of State to Dublin was merely a warm-up for a visit by the Queen of England to the 26 Counties.

"Republican Sinn Féin oppose this, or future visits, by representatives of a State which claims jurisdiction over part of Ireland. This is a claim, which is, and has been in the past, enforced by military might on the Irish people.

"The February edition of SAOIRSE linked the aborted loyalist march in Dublin on February 25 with a proposed visit by the English Queen. All of this is part of a campaign to normalise British rule in Ireland. Something which will never be either acceptable or normal.

"SAOIRSE said: 'The siren voices tell Republicans to ignore this loyalist march. If we do, they will return with even greater insistence and tell us to ignore the state Visit of the



• Republican Sinn Féin protest at British royal visit outside the 26-County Department of Foreign Affairs, Dublin on April 26.

Queen of England. In other words, to stay away, make no protest, and accept finally that the Six Occupied Counties

belong to England. Is that what you want? NEVER."

Members of Dublin Republican Sinn Féin picketed

the Iveagh House on Stephen's Green where Philip Mountbatten had lunch with Mary McAleese.

## RSF 'authentic claimants to political legacy of 1916 Rising'

WRITING in the Sunday edition of the *Derry Journal* journalist and author Eamonn McCann said that in his view, as far as Republicanism was concerned, the most authentic claimants to the political legacy of the 1916 Rising were Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and Republican Sinn Féin.

He said: "The Proclamation didn't promise a fight to achieve the Republic. It proclaimed the Republic as an actually-existing entity. It is for this reason that IRA volunteers ever since have pledged not to strive for the achievement of the Republic but

to defend the Republic already achieved. In this perspective, a deal which others might see as a step towards the ultimate objective will be seen as contemptible retreat from the struggle.

"In detaching himself from the

Provisionals in 1986 because they'd accepted the legitimacy of the Leinster House parliament, Ó Brádaigh stood by the Republic established on Easter Monday. Looked at from this angle – as legitimate an angle as any other – there is no question: Mr Ó Brádaigh and his followers stand alone in true succession to Easter Week.

"Those of us who stand right outside the Republican tradition and who take a socialist view also see Easter Week in the perspective

of our own politics, see its enduring legacy in the fact that it was a blow against the most powerful Empire on earth at the time, and regard it as self-evident that its spirit is best represented today in the fight against the imperial power of the US ruling class.

"In this view, the most egregious betrayal of 1916 lies not in grudgingly taking seats in a partitionist parliament but in cheerfully breaking bread with George W. Bush."

### Eviction in Dublin

IN A scene reminiscent of a Famine era tale the Sheriff and his men, ably assisted by a very large number of the local constabulary, as servants of the local landlord, Fingal Co Council, evicted a tenant family in the early hours of the morning – 4am to be precise on April 28, 2006 in Blanchardstown, Dublin.

The sheriff and his four bailiffs with the assistance of up to fifty uniformed gardai and the further assistance of several members of the armed response unit (with their faces covered) evicted Yvonne O'Rourke and her family from their home of 20 years on behalf of Fingal County Council.

On Friday 21 Yvonne, returning from a short break, discovered an eviction notice at her home. The eviction notice stated that she must vacate her house by 11am on Tuesday April 25.

The council said that Yvonne O'Rourke had ignored several

notices, warnings and indeed court dates. Yvonne is adamant that she received no letters from the council, either in relation to them evicting her or warnings about antisocial behaviour. She did have meetings with them from time to time, and made agreements (which she readily admits she broke) over the last three years when she got behind with her rent due to a variety of circumstances.

Within a short time, with the help of family, friends and neighbours Yvonne was in a position to pay 60% of her rent arrears. She also filled the necessary forms for her rent to be

docked from her social welfare every week. Over two hundred of her neighbours signed a petition to leave Yvonne and her three sons (the youngest is nine) in the family home. A local councillor met with council officials and pleaded her case but to no avail.

She has now been taken off the housing list for two years. In the meantime the welfare refuse to assist her with rent allowance for private accommodation.

The number of evictions in the Fingal County Council area has increased dramatically recently but the level of police involvement in this case is unprecedented.

## Riot erupts after arrests in Lurgan

THE British colonial police came under attack in Lurgan on April 19 after they seized 250lbs of explosive material during a search operation in which four people were arrested.

The four men were arrested under the British 'Terrorism Act' as more than 100kg of fertiliser-based homemade explosives were recovered at a car breakers yard in

Lurgan. Three men were arrested at the scene whilst a fourth man was arrested later at

another location.

The scene at Antrim Road, close to the railway line between Belfast and Dublin, was sealed off, disrupting services until about 5pm on April 19. The heavy presence of British Crown forces also provoked nationalist residents

into rioting over two days during which stones and petrol bombs were thrown. On April 20, masked men drove a van onto the railway line before setting it alight.

Crowds of young people bombarded the RUC/PSNI at the scene, throwing petrol bombs, bottles, stones and paint bombs. Train services were halted during the trouble, and the breaker's yard where police found the explosives, was set on fire.

The men being held under the Terrorism Act took a High Court challenge over the way they were being held in custody.

They were taken to the Serious Crime Suite in Antrim where solicitors Harte Coyle Collins, acting for three of the men, sought an assurance that consultations with their clients would be in private and not subject to any form of covert surveillance or monitoring.

# For The Record

**TUES. APRIL 4:** Denis Donaldson, the self-confessed British and RUC Special Branch agent, was shot dead in his home in Co Donegal.

The Supreme Court dismissed a challenge to key sections of emergency legislation brought by a former Free State soldier, Martin Kelly from Artane, Dublin, as part of an unsuccessful appeal against his conviction for membership of the IRA. The decision of the court clears the way for the commencement of several IRA trials in the Special non-jury Court in Dublin which has been adjourned.

Dermot Aherne, 26-County Foreign Affairs Minister, announced that the Free State Army is ready to join the EU battle-groups.

Det-Sgt John White claimed at the Morris Tribunal that bugging of conversations between solicitors and their clients in Garda Stations in the 26 Counties was widespread.

**WED. APRIL 5:** ESB workers at Moneypoint power station in Co Clare called off a protest after three Polish workers were given new jobs at the plant. The men had been dismissed for highlighting the underpayment of foreign workers by contractors at the power station.

John de Courcy Ireland died aged 94. He, along with his wife, was one of the founder members of the Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and was active in the Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement.

**THURS. APRIL 6:** 19,000 folio pages of RUC files on more than 450 Sinn Féin members and other Republicans during 1899 to 1921 are now available on DVD and CD. The material was collated by a Trinity College based company, Enecolann Ltd.

Martin O'Rourke, lawyer for Seán Høy, facing charges in connection with the Omagh bombing, lodged a 'no bill' application at Belfast Crown Court. He said the depositions and statements 'do not disclose a case sufficient to justify putting the defendant on trial'.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, in a joint press conference in Armagh, said that the Stormont Assembly will be recalled on May 15 to elect a first and deputy first minister and that the Six-County Assembly members had until November 24 to form an executive. Failing this Stormont will be shut down and both administrations will make decisions on how the Six Occupied Counties is to be 'administered'.

**FRI. APRIL 7:** The Rossport Five who served 94 days in jail for their stand against Shell Oil have been ordered by the High Court in Dublin to pay Shell's costs.

Seven of the eight men, from Waterford, Wexford and Limerick, jailed in February 2005 by the special non-jury court in Dublin had their sentences affirmed by the Court of Criminal Appeal. One man, Michael Leahy, Dungarvan, Waterford had his five-year sentence reduced by one year. The men were arrested at a suspected CIRA training camp in Co Waterford.

Emily Logan, Ombudsman for Children in the 26 Counties, criticised the decision by the administration to introduce ASBOs for children.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louis Arbour, called for more proactive initiatives from states with regard to examining plans that could be involved in 'extraordinary rendition'.

The European Commission cut €30 million in aid to the newly-formed Hamas-led Palestinian Authority resulting in financial crisis in the territory as Israel continues to withhold \$50 million per month in custom duties which it collects at crossings into the Palestinian territories.

**SAT. APRIL 8:** Several hundred residents of Ringsend, Dublin protested against a proposed incinerator at Poolbeg. A Dutch company, Elsam, has been contracted to design, build and operate the incinerator.

The Centre for Public Inquiry ceased to operate and will not publish any more reports according to its chairperson Feargus Flood. Funding for the centre was pulled by American billionaire Chuck Feeney last December after the Free State Minister for Justice Michael McDowell accused Frank Connolly, executive director of the Centre, of travelling to Colombia on a false passport in 2001 with a Provo to pass on technical knowledge to the FARC in return for money for the Provos.

**SUN. APRIL 9:** A Protestant church in Drumree, Co Armagh was damaged in an arson attack.

A 61-year-old Co Tyrone man was sprayed with CS gas as he was arrested by the RUC/PSNI.

The Historical Enquiries Team (HET) suspects members of the RUC/PSNI of 'wrongdoing' in 80 killings under review.

Sellafield has been identified as a possible site for a new nuclear station, which would be several times more powerful than the previous plant at the site.

**MON. APRIL 10:** Almost 50,000 more people are living in consistent poverty in the 26-Counties than were previously thought according to new research from the Economic and Social Research Institute.

Two hundred children in the Dublin 15 area are



• Residents from Ringsend, Dublin during their protest on April 8 against an incinerator planned for the Poolbeg area.

without a school place in September. The area is expanding rapidly and the increased demand on the schools cannot be met.

Aiden Hulme, imprisoned in Full Sutton jail in England, called off his hunger strike to receive medical treatment for his leg. He suffered severe injuries to his leg in a car crash and may have to have the leg amputated. He was protesting at the delay in his transfer to Portlaoise prison.

**TUES. APRIL 11:** Hundreds of private telephone records are being examined every month by the 26-County police according to the Data Protection Commissioner Billy Hawkes in his annual report. Under national legislation, mobile and land line phone companies are required to keep records for three years and must be available to Gardaí on request.

Amnesty International called for legislation to regulate the exports of military and dual use goods. The 26-Counties currently is exporting €400 million annually in military goods and €4 billion in dual use products.

**WED. APRIL 12:** Eighty jobs are to go at BSN Medical in Co Tipperary. The plant will close before the end of the year.

**THURS. APRIL 13:** Nuala O'Loan, Ombudsman in the Six Occupied Counties, has almost completed her report into allegations, made by Jonathan Brown to the *Irish Times*, that people within Special Branch protected a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) to ensure he was not exposed as an informer, despite the fact that they knew he was involved in several murders. The British Irish Rights Watch claim to have the names of nine of the people who died because of the UVF informer.

The number of United States military troops in civilian aircraft using Shannon airport during January, February and March went from 65,984 in 2005 to 116,450 in 2006. In 2005, 330,000 US troops used the airport as opposed to 121,943 in 2004.

A British doctor in the RAF, Flight Lieutenant Malcolm Kendall-Smith holding British and New Zealand citizenship, refused to go to Iraq on the grounds that the war was illegal and was jailed for eight months. He was also dismissed from the RAF. Judge Bayliss said he was sending a message to the armed forces about the consequences of rejecting 'the policy of Her Majesty's government'. The judge had earlier ruled that the legality of the invasion Iraq was irrelevant to the case.

A pizza delivery van was hijacked in Derry by three men who loaded it with a wheeled bin containing flammable liquid with gas canisters strapped to it and ordered the driver to take the van to Strand Road RUC/PSNI station.

Dr Gernot Biehler, international lawyer based in Trinity College claimed that the Minister for Transport in the 26-County administration, Martin Cullen, has it within his power to instruct gardai to search CIA planes suspected of carrying out 'extraordinary rendition' flights through Shannon airport.

Shots were fired into a house in the Dunclogh area of Ballymena, Co Antrim. No one was injured.

**FRI. APRIL 14:** Shell to Sea campaigners held a commemoration to the nine Ogoni, Nigerians executed in 1995 for their opposition to Shell Oil's operations in their country. The campaigners carried nine white crosses in their protest walk from the home of Willie Corduff to the pier in Rossport, Co Mayo.

Four teenagers were arrested in Ballymena, Co Antrim after clashes in the town.

**SAT. APRIL 15:** Kirk McCaughern was attacked and stabbed in Ballymena by a loyalist as he and his brother were attacked by 20 loyalists in the town's shopping centre. Kirk was stabbed in the right side of his back which punctured his lung and damaged his liver.

**SUN. APRIL 16:** The driver of a car was shot dead by the RUC/PSNI at a checkpoint in Ballynahinch, Co Down.

Nationalists in Co Tyrone were critical of the British Parades Commission for allowing an Apprentice Boys march to take place close to the nationalist area in Castlederg.

**MON. APRIL 17:** A furniture and electrical shop in Melmount Road, Strabane was set on fire in a suspected arson attack.

**WED. APRIL 19:** Four men were arrested in Lurgan following what the PSNI claim was the discovery of a 100k bomb in a breakers yard. Three were arrested at the scene while another was arrested later in another location. A large crowd gathered a short distance from the yard and stones, bottles, paint bombs and petrol bombs were thrown at the RUC/PSNI. Six Land Rovers arrived with the RUC in riot gear.

Solicitors for three of the arrested men went to the High Court to get assurances that they would not be secretly recorded by the RUC/PSNI during consultations with their clients at Antrim Road station. The privacy request followed the arrest of Derry solicitor Johnny Sandhu in February after his consultations were secretly recorded by the RUC.

A man sustained a broken ankle after a RUC/PSNI Land Rover ran over his foot in Strabane, Co Tyrone.

Members of the British National Party travelled to Bangor, Co Down at the beginning of April to organise a branch of the party there.

A pipe bomb was thrown at a house in the Avenue Road area of Lurgan, Co Armagh. Windows were broken in another house. A row between rival loyalist gangs, the Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF) and the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) is believed to be the cause of the attacks.

A house in Summer Meadows Park, Derry was petrol-bombed resulting in smashed windows and scorch damage to an outside wall. A car belonging to a resident was set alight.

Campaigners of the 'Save 16 Moore Street' said they planned to turn the building into a 1916 museum.

The Stardust Victims Committee called on the Buttery family (who owned the Stardust pub) to meet with them to discuss a possible memorial to those who died in the fire 25 years ago.

Only 6,500 social houses were built in 2005, less than 12% of the total built. According to local authority figures 43,000 are on waiting lists but CORI have called for an additional 70,000 homes to be built.

The United Nations Committee Against Torture demanded that the US provide information about its treatment of prisoners at home and in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo and also information about secret detention facilities — specifically whether the US took responsibility for alleged acts of torture on prisoners.

US President George Bush refused to rule out a nuclear strike against Iran if diplomatic talks between the two countries fail.

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties expressed concern about future information that may be contained on the microchip in the new biometric e-passports introduced in the 26 Counties to comply with new American immigration rules.

**THURS. APRIL 20:** It was reported that an official from the Irish Embassy in London, John Neville, will visit Aiden Hulme in Full Sutton prison in England. Aiden Hulme began a hunger strike for repatriation but had to abandon it because of medical complications. He faces the possibility of having his leg amputated.

A former British Ambassador to Uzbekistan Craig Murray, told a European Parliamentary Enquiry that he knew 'with regret and certainty' that the US and Britain operate a policy of sharing intelligence information obtained from tortured suspects held in other countries.

**SAT. APRIL 22:** Daire McKenna, Lurgan Tarry, Lurgan, Co Armagh was charged at Craigavon

Magistrates Court with possessing explosives with intent to endanger life.

**SUN. APRIL 23:** Families and friends of the victims of the Stardust fire in 1981 have ended their 10 weeks protest at the pub after Patrick Buttery & Sons Ltd agreed to erect a memorial to the 48 victims and to change the name of the Silver Swan pub to the Artane House.

**MON. APRIL 24:** Stephen John Coleman (26), from Lurgan, was charged with possessing explosives and conspiring to cause an explosion. Two other men arrested on April 19 were released.

Loyalist flags were re-erected in Ballymena over the weekend including Apprentice Boys of Derry emblems.

Peter Hain, British secretary of State in the Occupied Counties, said the Provos are intent on 'engaging in democratic politics'.

Two men were taken to Altnagelvin Hospital following a sectarian attack in Irish Street in Derry.

Condoleezza Rice, United States Secretary of State, made her fifth stopover at Shannon Airport on her way to Greece where thousands of anti-war protesters demonstrated on her arrival.

A new 'informants code of practice' was drawn up by the 26-County police. About 100 informant handlers have undergone intensive training following recommendations by the Morris Tribunal.

**TUES. APRIL 25:** The Special non-jury Court in Dublin set January 11, 2007 as the retrial date for Colm Murphy.

The RUC/PSNI opened fire on average once a month over the last year.

Agreement was reached again between nationalists and loyalist in Ballymena, Co Antrim over the flying of flags. Under the agreement loyalists agreed to remove graffiti, flags and a UDA mural from around Our Lady's Church in Harryville.

A nationalist man, who was stabbed in a loyalist attack earlier this month in Ballymena, Co Antrim, claimed that the PUC/PSNI intend to arrest him when he makes a statement about the stabbing. He suffered lung and liver damage in the attack and said the attackers wanted to kill him.

Members of Republican Sinn Féin in Dublin held a protest at the Department of Foreign Affairs as the Duke of Edinburgh, husband of the British Queen, arrived to lunch with Mary McAleese.

An inquiry set up by the Minister for Justice into the death of Brian Rossiter (14) of Clonmel in 2002 was moved to Clonmel to hear evidence. Brian was found unconscious in the cell and later died in hospital.

Shell to Sea campaigners claimed that Carrowmore Lake in Reeis is contaminated due to the removal of peat from the area to make way for the Corrib gas pipe refinery at Ballinaboy.

Only 2% of prisoners currently held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba have been charged with any offence.

**THURS. APRIL 26:** Two Portuguese couples were targeted in racist attacks in Dungannon, Co Tyrone. Windows were broken and flammable liquid was poured in and set alight.

Six loyalists, claiming to be members of the UVF, pleaded guilty to firearms offences and being members of the UVF. Eight men were charged with possession of articles with a purpose for terrorism and six of them have been charged with membership of the UVF. The charges arose from the UVF 'show of strength' in a disused shop in Co Antrim on January 18, 2003.

Paul Fleming, a Provo Derry councillor attended a meeting of a rural community forum despite the presence of the RUC/PSNI.

The CIA conducted more than 1,000 undeclared flights over European territory since 2001, according to European Union investigators.

**FRI. APRIL 27:** Nicky Brennan, the new president of the GAA visited St Mary's Primary school in Harryville, Ballymena, Antrim.



# Easter Statement from Maghaberry POWs

**FRIENDS and comrades, it is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to address you today on the 90th anniversary of the Easter rebellion. An historic occasion in which a group of courageous Republicans proclaimed, through force of arms, the right of independence and nationhood for the Irish people.**

This year also has more historical significance, in that it is the 30th anniversary of the commencement of the blanket protest in Long Kesh and it is the 25th anniversary of the heroic hunger strike which led

to 10 brave and honourable men laying down their lives in the hell holes of Long Kesh, rather than allow the British to criminalise the struggle for Irish freedom.

All of those who participated

in these historic events shared a common goal, as O'Leigh, they were committed to resisting British rule and ultimately bringing it to an end. That ultimate objective has not yet been achieved but be assured that we the Republican POWs remain resolute in our objectives.

We as POWs know only too well the lengths to which the British will go to try to break us and criminalize us. Here in Maghaberry we and our

visitors are continually harassed by a sectarian workforce, we endure lockups of 22-hour and 18-hour durations, we are deprived of freedom of association, handicrafts, education and we endure many other petty restrictions. All of this is designed to break our spirit, but this they will never do!

We remember the courage and discipline of the Blanketmen and the hunger-strikers of 1980 and 1981 and

we make it clear today to the British, that if they seek to continue on this path of oppression we will engage in much more direct and effective protest. Our leadership are aware of our intentions and let nobody be in any doubt, we will never allow the Brits to criminalise us.

Finally I send greetings to our imprisoned comrades in Portlaoise and to all throughout the world who are imprisoned for their resistance to the rule of

an oppressor. I also send greeting to our comrades in arms who continue to seek to keep alive resistance to the colonial rulers in the Six Occupied Counties.

Victory to the men and women of the CIRA. An Phoblacht abú

**Stíophán Ó Dálaigh  
OC, Republican  
Prisoners  
Maghaberry jail**

## Conditions in Maghaberry unacceptable

**A REPUBLICAN prisoner in Maghaberry jail claimed on April 7 that prison authorities were attempting to create the same conditions as existed in the 1970s prior to the granting of political status.**

The prisoner accused the authorities of punishing those who had opted to go on the Republican wing. He said he believed that conditions could do long-term damage to prisoners' health. He claimed that long term it could affect the health of the POWs. "We're on 22-hour lock-up and 18-hour lock-up, day about," he said.

He also claimed that prisoners were humiliated by being strip-searched at least once a week and that prisoners must eat meals in their cells, which the toilet is situated, which are eight-foot by 12 foot [2.4 by 3.7 metre]. "You're eating in the bathroom", he said. "There is limited ventilation. You can't walk away from the smell. It can't be good." Republican prisoners have only limited access to fresh air, in a yard approximately 11 metres by 12 metres.

The 26 Republicans on the wing are divided between two landings. The prisoners on one landing are let out in the morning and those on the other in the afternoon on

alternate days. Educational classes are in the afternoon and only once a week, so prisoners can face the choice between fresh air and education.

The prisoner accused some warders of using sleep-deprivation techniques. "Every hour, they're opening the flap in the door and shining a powerful light in your face, then banging the flap and kicking the door," he said. "Kick one door and everybody on the landing is wakened. You get that four or five times a night. You don't get any sleep."

Only three prisoners can be unlocked at any one time because of the policy of controlled movement. Three prisoners can associate but they are locked in a cell.

The prison search team carries out its work in a group of about 20. The prisoner said: "One guy was attacked three weeks ago. We could hear the roars and squeals of him. When they come in to



• Mural in the Whiterock area of Belfast calling for support for the POWs in Maghaberry and the restoration of political status.

search, they vandalise your cell. Last week, one prisoner had done handkerchiefs, the only handicraft we are allowed. They took them away. They wrote remarks of a sexual nature on the back of photos of his mother and a girl he knew."

### COURT CHALLENGE

The use of a drug detection dog, introduced in 2000 at Maghaberry Prison, Co Antrim is to be challenged in the High Court. Dozens of people, ranging from priests

to pensioners, have had to cancel visits to the prison after the dog indicated that the people had come into contact with drugs.

POWs and their families and other visitors claim that prison officers were misusing the dogs and were using

the dog to penalise them. A Tyrone Republican POW was forced to spend two days in the prison's punishment unit recently after returning to the prison having been on parole. He refused to drink water or eat during his time in the punishment unit. This was the second time in two months that this POW has been punished on the basis of the dog's reaction.

During the last week a prison spokesperson confirmed that no drugs had ever been found on a Republican prisoner in Maghaberry Prison and denied that the drug dog handlers are victimising some prisoners by encouraging their dogs to indicate on them.

The solicitor for the POWs Richie MacRitchie, said a judicial review was necessary to challenge the prison service's continued use of the drugs dog. "My client believes that prison service staff are using this drugs dog against Republican prisoners to victimise them. He believes that the dog is being misused and that there is a lack of independent scrutiny in relation to the use of the dog."

## Banning of Easter Lily in Maghaberry condemned

**IN a statement on April 19, the Republican Prisoners Action Group (RPAG) said:**

"On the morning of Easter Sunday Republican POWs in Maghaberry jail were informed that they would not be allowed out of their cells if they were wearing Easter Lilies.

In spite of this, two prisoners wore them and now face three days on the punishment blocks after being charged under prison rules.

"This is a new development: last year prisoners were allowed to wear the Easter Lily. It appears that the only loyalists the prisoners are likely to come into contact with are the screws

themselves.

"It should also be pointed out that pro-British poppies are available from the prison shop in November. Apparently prisoners are only free to honour England's dead and not Ireland's dead. The Republican Prisoners' Action Group (RPAG) deplores the partisan – and blatantly anti-Republican – actions of the Six County prison authorities in this regard."

It was also reported that visitors to the jail who wore Easter Lilies were refused visits when they would not remove the Lily.

## IMEACHTAÍ

### BOBBY SANDS COMMEMORATION

SATURDAY, MAY 6  
GPO, DUBLIN

Assemble: Garden of Remembrance, 1.45pm

### REPUBLICAN FUNCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 6  
SAINTS & SINNERS,  
NORTH KING ST

Music by Free Wheelers, 9pm, €10

### BOBBY SANDS COMMEMORATION

SATURDAY, MAY 6  
LIAM MELLOWS MEMORIAL  
EYRE SQUARE, GALWAY

Assemble: Cathedral carpark

### NEIL 'PLUNKETT' O'BOYLE COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY MAY 14  
KNOCKNADRUCE, CO WICKLOW, 3pm  
Assemble: Hollywood, 2.30pm

### PICKET FOR POLITICAL STATUS

SATURDAY, MAY 20

GPO, DUBLIN, 12.45-1.45pm

### RAYMOND McCREESH COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY, MAY 21  
CARRICKCRUPPEN CEMETERY

CAMLOCH, SOUTH ARMAGH

Assemble: Gates of cemetery

### REDEDICATION OF MARTIN HURSON PLAQUE

SUNDAY, JULY 16  
MOSTRIM (EDGEWORTHSTOWN), CO LONGFORD

### O'SULLIVAN/ENRIGHT CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Listowel, Co Kerry  
Anyone wishing to join should contact 087-2113130

### ROGER CASEMENT/FRANCIS HUGHES CUMANN

Republican Sinn Féin, Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown  
Anyone wishing to join should contact Ard-Oifig, 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

### Mac CURTÁIN / Mac SWINEY

Republican Sinn Féin, Cork  
Anyone wishing to join should contact 086-3352006 or visit our website [www.rsfcoir.com](http://www.rsfcoir.com)

# MAGHABERRY POW PUNISHED FOR WEARING EASTER LILY

## A Belfast Chronology

**Wednesday, April 5, 2006.** Seven men were arrested in west Belfast after a search of a house on Springfield Crescent.

**Thursday, April 6, 2006.** Desmond Rea was re-elected chairman of the Policing Board in the Six Occupied Counties. Barry Gilligan was elected vice-chairman.

**Friday, April 7, 2006.** Six men and a youth were charged at Belfast Magistrates Court with possessing bomb-making materials, a timer unit and other items with intent to endanger life and property.

Three of the men are from Belfast, Sean Maloney, 20, from Cavehill Road, Owen Farrell, 18, from Springfield Crescent and Joseph Connor, 23, from Charnwood Avenue, and Ballymena men Peter Kyle, 18, from Dunclogh Park, Kieran McIlwaine, 19, from Mount Street and Alan Daly, 31, from Moohann Road in Cabra near Dungannon. They were remanded in custody to appear again via videolink on May 5.

The Parades Commission gave permission to the Apprentice Boys to parade past two flashpoint areas — Ardoyne in north Belfast and Short Strand in west Belfast — on Easter Monday.

**Sunday, April 9, 2006.** Windows, computers and pictures were broken, books damaged and paint was thrown at Strandtown primary school in east Belfast.

**Tuesday, April 11, 2006.** Bail was granted to two teenagers arrested in Belfast on April 5 along with five others. Both have denied being members of the Continuity IRA.

**Thursday, April 13, 2006.** The Provos apologised to the family of Eugene McQuaid who was killed in a bomb blast on the main Belfast to Dublin road in October 1974 close to a security checkpoint. They said Eugene McQuaid was not a member of the IRA.

**Friday, April 14, 2006.** Charges in 13 cases, which could involve up to 200 loyalists, have been dropped. The cases relate to rioting in the Whitelock Road, west Belfast last September during an Orange parade. This is the second time charges against Whitelock Orangemen have been dropped. The news comes just days after 23 nationalists appeared in court charged with rioting in Ardoyne, north Belfast last July 12.

**Sunday, April 16, 2006.** Nationalist in north Belfast are to stage a protest at an Apprentice Boys march close to the Ardoyne shops.

**Wednesday, April 19, 2006.** A court in Philadelphia upheld a ruling ordering the deportation of Malachy McAllister (Belfast) and his family.

The RUC/PSNI failed to set up a special unit to investigate allegations of security force collusion three years after it was first recommended by Lord Stephens. On April 18, 2003



• Pictured following the Belfast commemoration in Milltown Cemetery: (front) Veteran Republican Danny Morgan, 2005 Ulster CABHAIR honoree; (back: from left to right) Lita Ni Chathmhaoil, Leo Martin, Denis McKillop, Margaret Dobbin and Geraldine Taylor.

Stephens revealed that he had found evidence that members of the security forces colluded in the murder of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane and teenager Adam Lambert in 1989. Jan Winters of the British Irish Rights Watch said that the group was shocked and concerned that the PSNI did not appear to have acted on one of the key recommendations made by Stephens.

No decision has been taken by the

British Public Prosecution Service (PPS) on whether 20 security force members, allegedly involved in collusion, should stand trial. In April 2003 Stephens sent files on 20 soldiers and RUC members to the PPS for alleged involvement with loyalist paramilitaries.

**Thursday, April 20, 2006.** The Belfast-Dublin railway line was blocked when masked men drove a

van on to the tracks and set it alight.

The assembly elections in the Six Occupied Counties could be delayed for a year if power sharing is restored by November according to Peter Hain British Secretary in the Six Occupied Counties. Under emergency legislation introduced in the British parliament, elections could be deferred until 2008 at the discretion of Peter Hain.

A judge ordered the release from Maghaberry's punishment block of north Belfast man POW Terry McCafferty, while a legal challenge is heard on the wearing of Easter lilies. On Sunday he was given three days 'on the boards' after refusing to remove his Easter lily. Another political prisoner, Paddy O'Mahony had his transfer to the punishment block delayed until after the legal challenge had been heard. POWs are only allowed wear Easter lilies except inside the cells.

**Tuesday, April 25, 2006.** Alex McLaughlin, son of Thomas McLaughlin who died in the loyalist bombing of McGurk's Bar in Belfast in December 1971, said his meeting with British security minister Angela Smith, was a waste of time. And that she 'just did not seem interested.'

**Friday, April 27, 2006.** Nationalist residents held talks with senior Orangemen and Apprentice boys from Belfast to discuss parades on the Whitelock and Crumlin Roads.

# Urban planners fail communities

**EVER** escalating crime rates and the huge increase in violent crime must lead us to question the concept of social cohesion. In some areas, there is little or no sense of community. There is also a burgeoning black economy for so called recreational drugs.

There are bands of roving children about the place day and night with very little to do. All of these factors together almost inevitably lead to strife. When these factors are compounded by a seemingly complete lack of a moral compass, it is a recipe for disaster.

The prevailing attitude appears to be one of complete selfishness; I will do as I want regardless of the hurt or damage it will cause to others or their property. These children and young teenagers display no fear of the law or parental intervention. Approaches and entreaties to their parents are met with at best lip service and at worst open hostility and violence.

In every problem estate, you hear that it is the few who cause the problems for the many. The few bad families who impact on the quality of life of everyone around them. This scenario is played out daily in estates country wide. Why? What has happened that our society and social rules have

broken down to this point? What has happened that our communities seem paralysed to deal with their problems? Why and how has the state and its agencies failed our communities.

I believe that a major cause of the endemic problems that affect us is lack of a sense of responsibility, both personal and parental. People no longer have to take responsibility for their failings and their deeds. The worst transgressions can be excused by the fact of social deprivation or poor education. These excuses are just that, excuses that allow people to avoid their responsibility for undertaken actions.

The sense of right and wrong and responsibility for our actions is usually given to us by our parents and wider family. This is usually enforced by our education and peers as we grow. This age old system now appears to have failed; parents no longer appear to be responsible for themselves let alone their children.

What are the answers to this

dilemma? The answers lay in coordinated action by state services and community. Parents must be made responsible for their children's actions and education. Legislation for this purpose has already been enacted however it is little used. Anti social families must be brought to book. Again legislation has been enacted, however it is little used.

Communities must come together in resident's associations. United and standing together with one voice a community is a powerful entity. Each community can make the relevant state body take action, in the case of local authority housing estates, negotiation, ongoing liaison and protest to the relative departments leads to action. In the worst case a publicised rent strike will generally lead to a favourable result.

In the case of private residential housing estates, a community approach to the police is a lot less easy to ignore. Especially when it is publicised by the local papers, the doughnut eaters do not like to be embarrassed in the media. These ills are symptoms of a systematic failure by State institutions and their political masters to care for our

communities. They are also symptomatic of the loss of a sense of community in residents.

People have become selfish, a sense of 'I'm alright Jack' is prevalent. However, there is also a sense of fear, if I make a stand, will they come after me? If an entire community comes together and is willing to take action and defend itself as one. It is a foolhardy individual that will try intimidation. Perhaps it appears to be a brave decision to make such a stand, however, if the stand is not made what type of world do we bequeath to our children and their children.

At present we are in a vicious circle. Lack of personal responsibility leads to lack of parental responsibility leads to lack of personal responsibility in the following generation and so on and so on. Every generation becomes further desensitized to violence and crime, unashamed and shameless.

People must be forced to take responsibility for their actions and the actions of their children. Monetary penalties, prison terms and not just the threat of the same, should be incurred by these people. However if that is the road to be

taken, there should also be the provision of youth clubs and youth resources in each locality.

Prison should not be a revolving door system, adequate provision should be made for the detention of minors. Above all prison should no longer be used merely as punishment, new policies and programs should be introduced in an effort to reduce recidivism. Prisoners should be forced to reflect on the damage that their crimes have caused. Shame and guilt are powerful emotions and powerful motivations for change.

Education and the teaching of trade skills should be utilized to increase the chances that ex prisoners will have the option to become gainfully employed upon release. Children and young teens get into difficulties when they are bored, with nothing to do and little or no supervision children tend to be destructive little savages at best. These children fill the ranks of our next generation of serious criminals. This cycle can only be broken by determined and co-ordinated action.

Our state institutions and their political masters failed generations of us. Politicians are guardians of the state,

servants of the people, as are our state departments. This has been forgotten. When was the last time you heard a garda or council worker referred to as a state servant. Government service is supposed to be just that, in service of the people. A high ideal, anachronistic in these modern times?

Perhaps, come election time, when they are standing at your doorstep, looking for your vote, you should ask them. While they took the brown envelope, developers threw up estates with no community facilities. Miles and miles of houses, with little or no thought to social planning. Then our local authorities filled them with young families, hundreds of children with no facilities. And now we wonder why we have reached this nadir in the fortunes of our country.

In 1916 a Proclamation was read at the front of the GPO. Since partition successive governments have made a lie of it, this government in particular seems determined to spit on it. Justice and equality for all is the ideal that men laid there life down for, not justice and equality for our friends, or those that can afford to pay us for it.

— Geoffrey Cooling



# 1916 Easter Commemorations 2006

## ULSTER

### Antrim

#### BELFAST

THE Republican Sinn Féin Easter Commemoration in Belfast took place at Milltown Cemetery on Easter Sunday. Led by the National Flag, around 100 Republicans marched from the gates of the cemetery to the Sean-IRA plot.

Proceedings were chaired by Veteran Belfast Republican Leo Martin who said that those present were true Republicans and he congratulated them on their attendance. He also conveyed the good wishes of Veteran Republican Billy McKee, who could not be present due to illness. Among those present was Danny Morgan, CABHAIR honoree from 2005.

The Proclamation of the Irish Republic was read by Margaret Dobbin and Aileen McCarry recited the Rosary as Gaeilge. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Óglaiha na hÉireann, Cumann na mBan, Republican Sinn Féin, Fianna Éireann and the Republican POWs in Maghaberry and Portlaoise prisons.

Frank McCarry read the Leadership Statement and a minute's silence was observed in honour and in salute of the Republican dead.

The oration was delivered by Lita Ní Chathmhaoil, Ard-Rúnaí, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

### Armagh

#### ARMAGH CITY

THE 90th Anniversary of the Easter Rising commemoration was held in Sandy Hill Graveyard, Armagh City and was attended by a large crowd of Republican Sinn Féin members and supporters both young and old.

The commemoration parade was led by a nine-strong colour party from both Tyrone and Armagh who carried their flags with pride as the crowd walked to the Republican Plot for the laying of the wreaths, which were carried by two women in the colour party.

The commemoration was chaired by Aidan Quinn from Republican Sinn Féin, Dungannon. The reading of the Proclamation was by PJ McDaid of Republican Sinn Féin, Lurgan, followed by the reading of the Armagh Roll of Honour by Jonny Kelly, Republican Sinn Féin, Armagh.

A minute silence was then observed in respect for all who fought and died for Ireland. This was followed by the laying of the wreaths, the first wreath was laid on behalf of the Continuity IRA, Armagh City, followed by a wreath from the Liam Lynch/Armagh Martyrs Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin. The last wreath was laid on behalf of the Continuity IRA prisoners, Roe 3+4, Maghaberry Jail. This was followed by the Rosary in Irish by nine-year-old Conor Hughes.

Next a statement was read on behalf of the Armagh City Command of the Continuity Irish Republican Army which was well received by the crowd (see the Liam Lynch/Armagh Martyrs website for full speech). This was followed by the dipping of the flags as the Last Post was sounded.

The main oration was then delivered by Fergal Moore an inspirational speech remembering the fight and struggle from 1916 to present day (full oration available on website at: <http://www.freewebs.com/rsfarmaghkeady/>).

The chairperson then finished of the



• A section of the crowd at the Clare Commemoration in Drumcliffe on Easter Sunday.

commemoration highlighting the continued harassment of RSF members and families in the Armagh and Keady area and sending out a message that Republicans are unbroken and continue the fight here in Armagh. The commemoration came to a close with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

### LURGAN

The Thomas Harte Cumann, Lurgan held their Easter Commemoration at St Colman's Cemetery, Lurgan on Easter Saturday.

The proceedings were chaired by Pádraig Mac Cionnaith who welcomed the crowd of more than 100 Republicans who attended.

The Proclamation was read by PJ McDaid and the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was read. Brendan Magill read the Roll of Honour.

Wreaths were laid by Frank Jordan on behalf of the Republican Movement; Kevin Toman on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach. Nuala Moore recited a decade of the Rosary and Fergal Moore, Monaghan gave a fine oration.

### SOUTH ARMAGH

Wreath-laying ceremonies took place at the graves of Seán and Thomas O'Reilly and Peter McGennity at Killeen, at the Republican Plot in Camloch, at the monument to the Edentubber Marys, at the grave of Vol Francis Jordan in Jonesboro, at the grave of Vol Jim Loughrie in Dromintee, and at the grave of Vol Michael McVerry in Cullyhanna. A wreath was also laid on the grave of life-long Republican Tom Loneragan at Loughgilly and on the graves of Jean O'Hare, CABHAIR honoree and her husband John at Cloughogue.

### Cavan/Fermanagh

REPUBLICANS from Fermanagh and Cavan gathered on Easter Sunday at Killaduff Cemetery in Swanlinbar, Co Cavan to mark the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rising.

This was a joint county commemoration which is held every three years at the grave of Vol Pat Mc Manus who died in action in the 1950s campaign.

The crowd were led to the cemetery by three flag-bearers and the ceremonies were chaired by Hugh

McGovern, chairperson of the local Kieran Doherty Cumann in Swanlinbar.

At the commencement of the ceremonies, wreaths from Fermanagh Republicans and one from Cavan Republicans was laid on the grave of Peter Albert McGovern, a well-known Cavan Republican who had passed away since the last joint-county commemoration.

The Proclamation was then read by Emmet Lavelle and the Cavan and Fermanagh Roll of Honour was read out. The statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement was read out by Michael Lavelle jnr following which Tony McPhillips read a statement from the OC of IRA POWs in Maghaberry jail (see full text on page 5).

Wreaths were then laid on the grave of Vol Pat Mc Manus from the local Kieran Doherty Cumann, Fermanagh Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin and Óglaiha na hÉireann.

The chairperson then introduced the main speaker for the day Dr Sean Maguire from West Mayo who at the outset paid tribute to Pat Mc Manus as a gallant soldier whose life had inspired many others to come after him to continue the fight for Irish freedom.

In the course of a lengthy address Dr Maguire lambasted all those who had sullied the name of the 1916 leaders. He referred to "the circus" taking place in Dublin that morning and pointed out how successive Free State administrations had failed the Proclamation of 1916. He attacked those who had accepted both the 1921 Treaty and the 1998 Stormont Agreement and he said that there would be no peace in Ireland until British rule in Ireland was ended once and for all. To much applause he made clear the right of the Irish people to oppose British rule in Ireland by whatever means.

The ceremonies were brought to a conclusion by chairman Hugh McGovern.

### Derry

THE annual 1916 Easter Commemoration took place at the Cúchulainn Memorial in the City Cemetery on Easter Sunday. Michael McGonigle of Dungiven chaired the proceedings.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by former H

Block hunger striker Brendan McLoughlin. Frank O'Neill laid a wreath on the grave of Seán Keenan on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin.

The 1916 Proclamation was read by Richard Walsh, Derry, and Mary Ward, Donegal read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. A decade of the Rosary was recited as Gaeilge by Róisín Hayden.

The oration was delivered by Róisín Hayden, Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin.

A wreath was laid on Easter Sunday morning at the grave of Vol Seán Larkin, at The Loup, Co Derry. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin at the grave of hunger striker Kevin Lynch in Dungiven by his sister Bridie; at the grave of Vol James Kealey, Dungiven, by his brother Thomas; and at the graves of Vols O'Carolan and Kilmartin by Michael Begley. Michael Kelly laid a wreath on the grave of Tommy Toner on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin.

### Donegal

THE County Donegal Easter Commemoration took place on Easter Sunday in Stranorlar, Co Donegal.

The parade marched to the Drumboe Martyrs Memorial in the town, led by the Glens of Antrim Accordion Band and the Kevin Lynch Band from Dungiven, Co Derry where proceedings were chaired by Joe O'Neill, Bundoran. A decade of the Rosary was said in Irish by Joe O'Neill; the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was read by Micky McGonigle and the 1916 Proclamation by Richard Walsh, Derry city.

Eileen McElhinney, Letterkenney, read the Donegal Roll of Honour and wreaths were laid by Michael McGonigle, Sorcha McElhinney, Jim Sweeney and Noelle Keehan. Felix McAteer was Chief Marshall.

A fine oration was delivered by Mary Ward, of Burtonport, whose husband Pat died in 1988 as a result of four hunger strikes undertaken by him in the 1970s, in Mountjoy and Portlaoise jails.

### BUNDORAN

On Easter Monday four plaques were unveiled by Republican Sinn Féin President Ruairí Ó Brádaigh in the Republican Memorial Garden in

Bundoran. The plaques were in memory of the 1916 Leaders, the 10 hunger strikers from 1917 until 1946, the women and mothers of Ireland and to those who died between 1919-23.

Proceedings were chaired by Joe O'Neill, Bundoran and in his address Ruairí Ó Brádaigh said that the memory of those leaders and rank and file who gave their lives for Irish national independence at Easter 1916 has inspired succeeding generations to give service and sacrifice ever since for the same cause, and will continue to do so.

He went on: "The plaque to the ten hunger strikers who died over the 30 years, 1917-1946, from Tomás Ashe of Kerry to Seán McCaughey of Belfast, will remind us in the years to come of the passive aspect of the national struggle, of the great heights reached in non-cooperation and civil disobedience to British rule in Ireland."

### Down

#### NEWRY

A FIVE-strong colour party led Newry's annual commemoration to the Republican plot at St Mary's Cemetery.

In his opening remarks Chairperson Ruairí White, Ard Chomhairle Republican Sinn Féin, thanked everyone for attending the commemoration.

Wreaths were then laid on behalf of the Republican Movement, Newry by Noel McClory and by Aislinn White on behalf of RSF, Newry and Dundalk.

The Proclamation of the Irish Republic was then read by Naoimh White, which followed by a minute's silence in memory of Ireland's fallen heroes.

A decade of the Rosary was then recited in Irish by Eddie McKeown and a statement from the Republican Prisoners in Maghaberry was read by Oliver White.

Damian McAteer read the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement before Ruairí White introduced the main speaker, Niall Fagan, Co Meath, who gave a fine and fitting oration, in the course of which he said:

"They [the Provos] have joined and are paid by the British government in its design to allow the occupation forces to remain and to reinforce the evil division. Like Collins before them they maintain it is a step towards eventual independence! Joining up to the newly named RUC is their next step to total betrayal.

"I do believe they could hardly justify an assassination of Donaldson because his dirty deed cannot be compared with their own more serious and abject betrayal of the Republican ideal by the total surrender of the arms of legitimate resistance to British rule."

### Tyrone

A CROWD of around 50 people attended the Easter commemoration in Edendork, Co Tyrone, organised by the local Mc Kearney/McCaughey Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin. Aodhán Ó Cúinn chaired the proceedings.

Wreaths were laid by family, the Mc Kearney/McCaughey Cumann and comrades.

Concluding the ceremony An Cathaoirleach took the opportunity to express the disgust felt by local people at RUC/PSNI twice attempting to recruit informers in the East Tyrone



# 1916 Easter Commemorations 2006

area, in particular that of a young nationalist. All of those approached refused and went public much to the embarrassment of the RUC/PSN.

## MUNSTER

### Clare

IN County Clare the annual commemoration was held in Drumcliffe Cemetery, Ennis at the grave of Patrick O'Mahony, Christy Quinn and William O'Shaughnessy, executed by the Free State in 1922 and Vol James Glynn murdered by Blueshirts on May 2, 1934.

A large attendance led by a colour party and Fianna Éireann included Veteran Republicans Tom Malone, Milltown Malbay and Dennis McInerney from Ennis.

The commemoration was chaired by Paddy Kenneally from Crusheen. A wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement was laid by Gene McNamara and the Proclamation was read by John O'Mahony.

The oration was given by Séamus Ó Súilleabháin of Broadford, County Limerick who pointed out that in the 1970s the EEC did not want Irish fisherman and now the EU does not want Irish farmers.

In Killaloe, County Clare on Easter Sunday morning a wreath laying ceremony was held on the Killaloe Bridge in memory of Michael McMahon, Michael Egan, John Connolly and Michael Connolly at the memorial on the bridge at the spot where they were murdered by the RIC on December 17, 1920.

### Cork

THE Annual 1916 Easter Commemoration in Cork took place on Easter Sunday. Every year numbers attending grow and this year was no exception. The parade proceeded to the Republican Plot, St Finbarr's Cemetery led by a colour party and ex-members of the Cork Volunteer Pipe Band.

Donal Varian of the MacCurtain/McSwiney Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin chaired the proceedings.

Wreaths being laid by Josephine Hayden, Vice-President, Republican Sinn Féin on behalf of the Republican Movement, Kitty O'Brien on behalf of Cumann na mBan and John Murphy on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin.

A bugler from Na Fianna Éireann then sounded the last post. Kathleen Ahern gave a decade of the Rosary. The Proclamation was read by life long Republican Liam Heaphy. Alfie McAvoey read the annual Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Josephine Hayden Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin then gave the oration.

The Cathaoirleach Donal Varian then thanked all who had attended.

The National Anthem was then played. A commemorative pack was made available from the MacCurtain/McSwiney Cumann to all who had attended. A full report of An Cathaoirleach's address and Josephine Hayden's oration may be found on the RSF Cork website at: [www.rsfcork.com](http://www.rsfcork.com)

### Kerry

#### LISTOWEL

EASTER Sunday commemorations in Kerry started at the Republican Plot in Listowel Cemetery where wreaths were laid by Dominic Kissane, Maurice Dowling and John Mangan.



• *Members of the Colour Party face the monument at the Commemoration in Sandy Hill Cemetery, Armagh city on Easter Sunday.*

The Proclamation of 1916 was read by Matt Leen and Emmet Walsh delivered a stirring oration.

Their lackeys in the Special Branch who were present in force at the Republican plot were also told a few home truths.

### TRALEE

The Tralee parade assembled at Denny Street and led by a lone piper and colour party marched to the Republican plot at Rath Cemetery.

George Rice chaired the proceedings.

Wreaths were laid by Seán Murphy, Eugene Deane and the redoubtable Dan Keating (104), Patron of Republican Sinn Féin. Siobhán Walsh read the Proclamation of 1916. Matt Leen read Kerry's Roll of Honour and Eamonn Breen read the Easter



• *Kitty O'Brien lays a wreath on behalf of Cumann na mBan at the Cork Commemoration.*



• *Republicans gather at Deansgrange, Co Dublin for the Commemoration on Easter Sunday.*

Statement.

In the course of his oration Emmet Walsh said: "No one generation has the right to sell the birthright of future unborn generations. Political status was hard won by the hunger strikers who gave the supreme sacrifice only for the Provos sign everything away in the Stormont sell-out."

### CAHIRCIVEEN

On Good Friday the first casualties of Easter 1916 were remembered at

McGuinness and Ferris sold out the birthright for 30 pieces of silver as false and fake riddled with informers and at the beck and call of their British masters. Not everyone was bought or sold out for the Queen's shilling and with an uncorrupted youth we can finish off what Pearse and his comrades gave their lives for back in 1916."

### Limerick

ONE of the largest ever attendances turned out for the annual Easter Sunday Republican Commemoration in Limerick.

Led by a lone piper and colour party they marched to the Republican Plot in Mount St Lawrence cemetery where the commemoration was chaired by Joe Lynch, secretary of Republican Graves.

A decade of the Rosary was recited by Annette Long, former General Secretary of Cumann na mBan and a wreath was laid by John Ahern on behalf of the Republican Movement. A statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was read by Michael Flane and the oration delivered by Des Long who said that Limerick had several links to the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising.

"Five of those seven leaders who signed the Proclamation and executed by the British in 1916 had great links to Limerick," he said. "The cemetery contains the graves of Irish men executed by the British Army, the RIC the Free State forces, and the RUC."

The commemoration ended with the playing of the National Anthem by the piper and the attendance marched to the grave of Seán Glynn whose 70th anniversary is this year. Sean died while a prisoner in Arbour Hill because of efforts to attend the Wolfe Tone commemoration banned by Fianna Fail.

On the exact date of the Easter Rising, Monday, April 24, a wreath-laying ceremony was held in County

Quinlivan, Éamon Malone, Daniel Sheehan and Henry Wade. A wreath was laid by Joe Lynch, Limerick, and the Proclamation read by Ken O'Reilly, Limerick.

### Tipperary

A VERY successful commemoration was held at the Republican Monument in Nenagh on Easter Sunday. A crowd of over 60 people, many of them young, attended.

The proceedings were chaired by Donal Malone. The Easter Proclamation was read by Martin Ryan and the Roll of Honour by Catherine Stapleton. A wreath was laid by Kathleen Kerwin on behalf of the Republican Movement and a decade of the Rosary was recited by Gearóid Ó Broin.

A very fine oration was given by JP McDonnell.

## LEINSTER

### Carlow

ON Saturday April 15, representatives of Carlow Republican Sinn Féin laid a wreath on the grave of Tony Ruane in St Mary's Cemetery in Carlow town in honour of all our patriot dead. Tony was a lifelong Republican and for many years was Treasurer of Sinn Féin. His service to the Republican Movement spanned seven decades and still provides inspiration to all of those who knew him.

### Dublin

IN Dublin on Easter Monday a large crowd turned out to commemorate the men and women of 1916 who continued the tradition of opposition to British rule in Ireland.

The parade assembled at the Garden of Remembrance and marched to the GPO led by a piper and a Republican Sinn Féin colour party. Chief Marshal was Dan Donohue.

The proceedings were chaired by Andy Connolly who emphasised in his introduction that the goals of the leaders of 1916 had not yet been achieved and nothing short of hard work by everybody would bring their objectives to a conclusion.

A wreath was laid by Frank Graham on behalf of the Republican Movement. The Easter statement from the Leadership was read by John Horan and the Proclamation was read by Róisín Hayden, Ard Comhairle. The oration was given by Des Dalton, Vice-President, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, who said:

"90 years on from the events of that historic Easter Week those who have abandoned the right of the Irish people to national independence are attempting to hijack the legacy and the ideals of the men and women of 1916. This is all part of a process of rewriting history, in pursuit of a political agenda which denies the existence even, of the historic Irish nation.

"We witness the spectacle of a state which for the past 35 years either ignored or denigrated 1916 rushing to claim ownership of the 90th and centenary commemoration of the insurrection. At the same time true Republicans who have never abandoned either the memory or the ideals of 1916 are accused of hijacking it. Since 1917 the Republican Movement has faithfully marked the anniversary of the rising. Over the years Republicans have been persecuted and prosecuted for commemorating 1916."

"Parading the 26-County army past

Limerick at the Republican Memorial in Bruff.

The monument was erected the memory of men of the East Limerick battalion of the Irish Republican Army including OC Seán Wall from Bruff who was killed in action in County Tipperary in 1921. He was also chairman of Limerick County Council.

The memorial also remembers the five volunteers of the East Limerick Brigade who were killed in action at Caherguillamore in December 1920. They were Martin Conway, John

Ballykissane Pier, Killorglin where James O'Shea laid a wreath on behalf of Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

The largest crowd for many years assembled at Cahersiveen for their Easter Commemoration which was chaired by Pádraig Garvey.

Tom O'Sullivan laid a wreath and a fine oration was delivered by Liam Cotter in his usual eloquent manner.

"As long as there is any British occupation forces in any part of Ireland they would be resisted by every means at our disposal. Adams,



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the GPO cannot mask the reality that the present partition states came about as a result of the defeat of the freedom struggle of 1916-21. Both the 26-County and Six-County states owe their origins not to 1916 but to an Act of the British Parliament at Westminster imposed on the Irish people."

## DEANSGRANGE

A large crowd attended the annual Deansgrange commemoration on Easter Sunday at 1pm. The proceedings were chaired by Andy Connolly; the Proclamation was read by Jimmy Murphy and Pádraig Ennis read the Statement for the Leadership of the Republican Movement. Peig Galligan, National Graves Association, gave a very informative account of those interred in Deansgrange that was especially appreciated by the younger attendee's of the commemoration.

Tomás Ó Cleirigh, Ard Chomhairle, Dublin gave a fine oration. The proceedings concluded with the singing of *Amhrán na bhFiann*.

## Kildare

KILDARE Republican Sinn Féin held its annual 1916 commemoration on Easter Sunday, April 16, in Ballymore Eustace at the grave of Frank Driver.

The commemoration which took place at 12 noon was chaired by Ard Chomhairle member Matt Conway Kilcullen.

The Proclamation was read by John Ryan, Newbridge, a wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Celia Conway, Kilcullen. Kitty Hawkins, Ballymore Eustace, recited a decade of the rosary. The Easter Statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement was read by Fergal Ryan, Newbridge. The National flag was carried by Christy Stanley, Straffen.

Wreaths were also laid at the 1798 monument in Old Kilcullen, the Republican Plot in Naas, the graves of Eugene O'Rourke, Bob Mullally and Vol Brophy in Newbridge. Milltown Bridge at the memorial to Joe Bergin, Kildare town, the 1798 monument in Monstrevin and the grave of Mick Humphreys, Blessington.

## Kilkenny

ON Easter Sunday representatives of the Republican Sinn Féin Cumann, Mooncoin, Kilkenny, laid wreaths on the grave of Joe Foran and the Proclamation and the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement were read.

The oration was read by a local member of Republican Sinn Féin in which he said: "We gather here today at the grave of Joe Foran to commemorate the men and women of 1916 who bravely fought and died for freedom.

"90 years have passed and still the British interfere in Ireland's affairs. We in Republican Sinn Féin have a simple message – we hold the same views as the heroic soldiers of 1916 and under no circumstances will be ever bow down to the British torture machine. Ireland belongs to the Irish, not to 10 Downing Street.

"Tíocfaidh ár lá. Brits out!

## Laois/Offaly

WREATHS were laid at the graves of James Lacey and James Connor killed in action in May 1921, in Barrowhouse churchyard and the 1798 monument in Portllington.

## Longford



• The parade marching through the town of Stranorlar, Co Donegal on Easter Sunday, April 16.



• The flag-bearers entering the Cemetery at the County Roscommon Easter Commemoration in Kilcolman Cemetery, Ballaghaderreen.

THE Longford commemoration took place on Easter Sunday at the grave of Vol John Mahon, IRA in Newtownforbes Old Cemetery.

Proceedings were chaired by Seán Lynch. A decade of the Rosary was recited as *Gaeilge* by Tomás Mac Ruairí and the Roll of Honour was read by Pat Dolan. The 1916 Proclamation was read by Breda Casey and the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement by Seán Lynch. Wreaths were laid by James Mahon, a relative of Vol John Mahon and by Mary Casey Tully.

The oration was delivered by Seán McGoldrick, Sligo and Dublin.

Earlier a wreath-laying ceremony took place at the grave of Vol Alfred McHugh, Irish Citizen Army in Ardagh Cemetery.

## Louth

### DUNDALK

A WREATH-laying ceremony took place at the Republican Plot in St Patrick's Cemetery, Dundalk.

## Meath

WREATH-laying ceremonies were carried out at various locations in Meath on Easter Sunday and Monday.

At Kilglass Cemetery, Longwood the 1916 Proclamation was read from the Republican Memorial, as was the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. A

decade of the Rosary was said at the grave of Lt Thomas Allen who was killed defending the Four Courts on Easter Thursday 1916.

Wreaths were laid by Jerome Fagan on behalf of the Thomas Allen Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin and members of the Allen family attended.

On Easter Monday wreath-laying ceremonies were held at Knockmark, Drumree at the memorial to Fian Séamus Fox who was killed at St Stephen's Green assisting Countess Markievicz on Tuesday of Easter Week. Lt George McDermott who lost his life defending the Republic in July 1922 was honoured in a wreath-laying ceremony at Ardbracken Cemetery on Easter Sunday.

## Westmeath

The annual Easter Commemoration took place on Easter Sunday morning at the Athlone Brigade Memorial. The 1916 Proclamation was read as was the Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. A decade of the Rosary in Irish was recited and the Co Westmeath Roll of Honour read. Wreaths were laid and a fine oration was delivered by Seosamh Ó Maoileoin, Tyrellspass.

## Wexford

THE 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rebellion was remembered in Wexford as it has been for the last 89 years with

the traditional march taking place at 3pm on Easter Sunday.

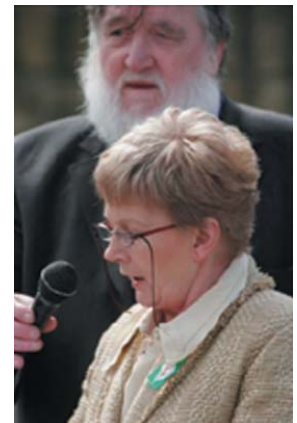
On Easter Saturday wreath-laying ceremonies were held in Enniscorthy at the Post Office for Maurice Spillane, at the Rafter Monument for Séamus Rafter and at the grave of George Keegan, Edentubber Martyr.

Elsewhere, at the Kyle Cross monument for the famous Kyle Flying Column, at the graves of Con McCarthy and Bernie Radford in Murrinstown, and at the grave of Joe Whitty in Ballymore, wreaths were laid.

On Easter Sunday morning a mass, celebrated in Rowe Street Church for all those who died for Ireland, was packed out with many people standing outside.

At 3pm the annual Easter Sunday march started at the Crescent Quay in Wexford town, led by the Colour Party and followed by the people of Wexford who turned out in numbers. They marched along the quay, then through the historic Bullring, along the main street and then back to the Crescent Quay being cheered and clapped the whole way by the people of Wexford.

The commemoration was held at the Republican Plot in Crossstown Cemetery, where Cathaoirleach Séamus Mac Suain welcomed everybody and announced wreaths to be laid on the graves of Paddy Parle,



• Mary Ward, speaking at the Drumboe Commemoration with Joe O'Neill.

John Leahy and Matthew Furlong.

Alli Black read the 1916 Proclamation, Richie Bierney read the Wexford Roll of Honour, Steve Loughran laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement and Ricky Morris laid a wreath on behalf of the Wexford Republican Graves Association.

Nadine Hendley recited a decade of the Rosary as *Gaeilge* and Jimmy Kavanagh read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement. A minute's silence was observed with the dipping of the Tricolour by the Colour Party.

The oration was delivered by Cathleen Knowles McGuirk, Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin, Dublin.

"Séamus then thanked everyone for attending and invited them to the Westgate tavern for an evening of food, refreshment and a night of singing. He then called on Megan Murphy who sang the National Anthem.

## Wicklow

A WREATH was laid in Hollywood at the graves of Thomas O'Reilly killed in action during the Civil War or Counter Revolution in 1922 and his brother Myles O'Reilly.

## CONNACHT Galway

WREATH-laying ceremonies were held throughout the county. At Oughterard, on Saturday, April 15 a wreath was at the grave of Volunteer Séamas Ó Máille.

Wreaths were also laid on Easter Sunday at the grave of Fr Michael Griffin, in Loughrea. On Easter Sunday morning, Republicans assembled at the Cathedral in Galway city and marched to Liam Mellows statue in Eyre Square where a commemoration was held.

The Republican Sinn Féin County Easter Commemoration was held at Donoghpatrick Cemetery, Headford, Co. Galway, on Easter Sunday. The commemoration was held after a march from Caherlistrane, led by a colour party and piper.

Ceremonies were chaired by Tomás Ó Curraoin, Bearnna, who also read the Easter Statement from the Leadership. Seán Mac an Iomaire (Galway City) led the *padirín* for the souls of the Republican soldiers buried in the cemetery. Mait Ó Brádaigh, Bearnna, read the 1916 Proclamation. The

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following wreaths were laid at the graveside: on behalf of the family of Tony Darcy, hunger striker; on behalf of Mayo Republicans; on behalf of the Newell family; on behalf of Cumann na mBan; on behalf of the North Galway Comhairle Ceantair of Republican Sinn Féin; and on behalf of Galway Comhairle Ceantair of Republican Sinn Féin.

A very fitting oration was delivered by Dan Hoban, Mayo.

## Leitrim

**ON Easter Sunday morning North Leitrim Republicans held wreath-laying ceremonies: in Rossinver, at the grave of Vol Jack McCabe and in Manorhamilton at the memorial to Capt Phil Gilgunn.**

The annual Easter 1916 commemoration under the auspices of the Co Leitrim Commemoration Committee was held in Drumshanbo on Easter Sunday afternoon.

The parade was led by a Colour Party bearing the National Flag, with Paddy McNama, Arigna, acting as flag-bearer.

Tomás Lavin, Arigna, presided at the gravesides of Captain Jim Vaughn and Vol Séamus McGlynn, IRA. Relatives of both deceased were present at the ceremony.

Séamus McGowan, Tullaghan, recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish. Gráinne Lavin read the Proclamation of the All-Ireland Republic 1916. John McGrath, Drumshanbo, read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin in Leitrim by Micheál McDonagh, Drumshanbo and by Tom Lavin on behalf of the organising committee. The oration was given by Pat Cannon, Foxford, Co Mayo.

## Mayo

AT 12 noon on April 17, Easter Monday, the annual Easter Commemoration ceremony in Killybeggy began with a parade from the church gates to the East Mayo Brigade IRA Memorial.

It was led by a Colour Party bearing the National Tricolour and a piper from the Balla Pipe Band. The flag-bearer was Pat Cannon, Foxford. Dan Hoban, Newport, presided at the monument. Seán Mac an Iomaire, Gaillimh, recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish and Paddy McKenna, Ballyhaunis, read the Proclamation of the All-Ireland republic of 1916.

Dr Seán Maguire, Castlebar, read the East Mayo Brigade Roll of Honour and the Chairperson read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Kay Curran, Galway, laid a wreath on behalf of Cumann na mBan, Peadar Murray, Newport, laid another on behalf of Republican Sinn Féin and Bertie Moran, Cahirlistrane, laid one on behalf of the Republican Movement.

Tomás Ó Curraoin, Bearna, Gaillimh, gave the oration.

The ceremony concluded with Amhrán na bhFiann.

## Roscommon

**CEREMONIES** to mark the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rising were held at three venues in Co Roscommon on Easter Sunday under the auspices of the Co Roscommon



• Glasgow Commemoration on Easter Sunday.

IRA Commemoration Committee.

In addition Easter Lilies were distributed and worn at various points to honour the memory of all those who gave their lives for the freedom of Ireland.

Following the 11.30 Mass in Elphin a parade led by a Colour Party took place to the County IRA Memorial at Shankill Cross. The memorial has been extensively refurbished in recent years. The usual wreath-laying ceremony took place there.

In Ballinlough at 12 noon an unusually large crowd attended the ceremony at the IRA memorial to three local Volunteers who were killed by British troops in 1920 when they attempted to burn the vacant RUC barracks in the village.

Fergal Kelly, Ballinlough, recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish and Michael Hannily, Ballinagare, presided at the ceremony. Stephen French, Lisacul, read the 1916 Proclamation and Berney Doherty, Lisacul, read the County Roll of Honour.

Joe Murphy, Ballinlough, read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement and Anthony Neary, Dublin, laid a wreath on behalf of local people.

In the afternoon the main county commemoration took place in Kilcolman Old Cemetery, Ballaghaderreen. The Raheen Pipe Band led the parade which formed up in the Cathedral carpark.

It was headed by a Colour Party bearing the historic flags of the 1916 Rising: the Irish National Tricolour, the flag of the Irish Citizen Army (the Starry Plough) and the flag of Na Fianna Éireann boyscouts (the Sunburst). Tommy Cull, Arigna, was Chief Marshall of the parade.

The ceremony was held at the graveside of Captain William Partridge of the Irish Citizen Army, a Ballaghaderreen man who fought in the Rising and died in 1917 due to the rigours of imprisonment in Dartmoor jail.

Close by is the grave of Volunteer Tomás Flannery, Ballaghaderreen, killed by Free State Forces in 1923.

Stephen French was chairperson and Patsy O'Connell recited deichniúr den Phaidrín. Following the laying of wreath the Last Post and reveille was sounded by bugler Patsy Haugh of

Castlereagh.

The 1916 Proclamation was read by Michael Hannily, Ballinagare and the County Roll of Honour by Berney Doherty, Lisacul. Joe Murphy, Ballinlough, read the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the relatives, another on behalf of Republican prisoners in Maghaberry, Co Antrim and Portlaoise jails by Henry Owens, Strokestown.

Other wreaths were laid by Frank Beattie, Rahara, on behalf of the organising committee and by Joe Kelly, Kilglass on behalf of the Republican Movement. Farrell Conry, Elphin laid a wreath on the grave of Tom Flannery on behalf of the County Roscommon IRA Commemoration Committee.

The oration was delivered by Des Dalton, Athy, Co Kildare, Vice-President of Republican Sinn Féin, in the course of which he said: "The task which faces the present generation of Irish Republicans is an onerous one. It falls to us to take up the cudgels laid down by the men and women of 1916 and all the generations which preceded and succeeded them."

## Sligo

ON Easter Sunday, Republicans assembled at the gates of Sligo Cemetery and proceeded to the Republican Plot where a wreath-laying ceremony was held.

## SCOTLAND Glasgow

IN bright sunshine a large crowd including representatives of Glasgow's Irish cultural and sporting bodies, gathered at Pearse Park GAA ground in a ceremony chaired by Stephen Coyle on behalf of the Francis Hughes Cumann of Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

He called on Tony Pearson to read the Proclamation. The Republican Roll of Honour for Scotland was then read by veteran republican Hugh MacDonald.

This was followed by Kelly Cunningham who laid a wreath at the Pearse monument. Seán Feeney of the Pádraig Pearse Cumann of Conradh na Gaeilge recited a decade of the Rosary in Irish. Patrick McAleer of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann then recited *The Rebel* by Pádraig Pearse. A

spirited reading of the Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was given by Sean Atkin.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Ireland's patriot dead with the dipping of the flag by the colour party.

In recognition that this is the 25th anniversary year of the 1981 Hunger Strikes, the chairperson called on Séamus Filbin to read *The Rhythm of Time* by Bobby Sands.

The proceedings concluded with the singing of Amhrán na bhFiann led by Bryan O'Hanlon.

On Easter Monday a wreath was laid on the grave of James Maguire in St Kentigern's Cemetery, Glasgow. Maguire who was a native of Derrygonnelly in County Fermanagh, was part of a contingent of 50 Irish Volunteers from Scotland who went to Dublin to participate in the Easter Rising.

## ENGLAND Manchester

**ON Easter Saturday, wreaths were laid at the graves of Ireland's patriot dead who are buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Moston, Manchester.**

A wreath of Easter lilies was placed at the grave of Óglach Seán Morgan, killed by English police in 1921 who is buried alongside James Kennedy of Tipperary.

Flowers also laid at the monument to the noble-hearted three - Allen, Larkin and O'Brien executed at New Bailey Prison in 1867 and at the graves of the Mulkerins Family who erected the monument, and also at the graves of Cumann na mBan Volunteers buried at Moston.

"If others have forgotten you, we have not."

## London

Wreaths were laid at the graves of Irish Republicans buried in cemeteries across the city.

## WALES

TO mark the 1916 Easter Rising Adam Phillips of Mudiad Rhyddhad Cymru went to the plaque in Frongoch near Bala in North Wales near the Internment camp that housed over 1,800 Irish Volunteers from the Rising. The camp became famous in

later years as the "University of Revolution" and it is said that from this place the plans were made for the next phase of the freedom struggle. There he read out the 1916 Proclamation.

## USA

### New York

THE largest attendance in a number of years was present at Kelly Ryan's Restaurant in New York to take part in the commemoration to mark the 90th anniversary of the Easter Rising in Dublin Ireland in 1916.

The event was organised by the Friends of Irish Freedom and attended by representatives from a number of Irish organizations from the tri-state area. The Chairperson who organised the highly successful commemoration was Cathleen O'Brien. Fr Pat Moloney celebrated the Mass.

Ken Tierney, a lifelong Irish Republican activist, former political prisoner and the 2005 CABHAIR honoree in Ireland was the master of ceremonies

Shortly before 1pm, Ken noted that Cumann Na Saoirse Náisiúnta had scheduled an Easter Commemoration at the grave of Joseph Stynes in Woodlawn Cemetery and anyone wishing to attend was welcome.

At the conclusion of the first Easter commemoration at Kelly Ryan's Restaurant, Brian Mór Ó Baoighill led a group of Cumann Na Saoirse (CnS) activists and supporters to Joe Stynes' s grave in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. Brian presided over a special Easter Commemoration organised by CnS to honour Joe because Easter Sunday was a very special day in Joe Stynes' long life of activism in the pursuit of Irish freedom.

Brian opened the ceremonies by paying tribute to the man who personally knew and later bore arms with many of the survivors of the Easter Rising of 1916. Brian noted that Mike Flannery, fittingly gave his last public oration at Joe Stynes' s grave and that both Mike and Joe along were founding members of Cumann Na Saoirse Náisiúnta.

Next Brian introduced Séamus Ó Dubhda who read the Proclamation as Gaeilge and Domhnall Ó Beabháin who read it in English. A wreath was placed on Joe's grave. Brian introduced Liam Ó Murchú who read the CnS Easter message and Pádraic Mac Liam who read the Irish Republican message.

He concluded by thanking everyone that attended both ceremonies and reminded them that on the previous Wednesday, *Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary* by Robert White, published by the Indiana University Press, was launched in Dublin to a most enthusiastic audience.

## CANADA

ON April 8 an Easter commemoration was held in Regina, Saskatchewan Canada. The event also was a tribute to the 25th anniversary of the 1981 hunger strike.

The event began with the reading of the Proclamation by Bryan Rice followed by biographies of the seven signatories were read by members of the Saskatchewan labour movement, Chilean, Kashmir and Scottish communities. The evening concluded with a folk session with music supplied by Cross Quarters.



# WHAT THEY SAID

The solution (to the Aer Lingus problem) is to devise a new approach to state ownership which retains a strategic material asset in public ownership, while also giving the company greater commercial freedom, and access to finance.

— Sunday Business Post, April 2, 2006, article by Colm O'Reardon.

I regard this thing in Dublin [the parade of the 26-County State armed forces] as pure nonsense. We can start something like that when we have a 32-County Republic. The whole thing is just the government preparing for an election.

It will cost a lot of taxpayer's money and serves no purpose. I think the dead who died should be commemorated by people who believe we should have a 32-County Republic.

— Dan Keating, 104-year-old veteran of the Black-and-Tan War and Patron of Republican Sinn Féin answers the question "1916 - What Does It Mean to You?", Irish Times, April 4, 2006.

Four aircraft believed to have been chartered by the CIA landed and took off on 81 separate occasions from Shannon and Dublin airports in the past five years, Amnesty International have claimed.

In a report to be published today, the organisation claims the four aircraft passed through Shannon 78 times and Dublin on three occasions since 2001. The same aircraft used Belfast's International and Derry airports five times in the same period.

All four aircraft "are known to have rendered prisoners to illegal detention and torture." An Amnesty spokesman said.

— Irish Times, April 5, 2006.

Noam Chomsky says rendition is just a fancy word for torture.

— Irish Times, April 5, 2006 article by Seán Love, Director of Amnesty International.

A visit by ex-Guantanamo prisoners have raised fears about the US's 'rendition' plan.

— Seán Love.

The regularly repeated view that the EU would prevent the State from making such investment (up to €2 billion in Aer Lingus to buy new aircraft) is incorrect: EU rules prevent State investment in loss making State enterprises and would not bar it from investing substantially in Aer Lingus.

— Irish Times, April 5, 2006, article by Chief Political Correspondent Mark Brennan.

Detective-Sergeant White said he was told by senior officers in the early 1980s that interrogations should be hard and tough.

However when new rules and regulations came in, in 1987, nobody said they had to

change their ways and senior officers did not regard the rules as cast in stone.

— Irish Times, April 5, 2006, report on Morris Tribunal.

Let me unreservedly condemn the attempted hijacking of a truck in Co Meath. Our view is that anyone involved in activity of this nature, no matter what political party they support, needs to be arrested, charged and brought to court before a jury of his peers. Republicans should not be immune from prosecution.

— Irish Times, April 12, 2006, Martin McGuinness.

However, the idea that one country should invade another, kill, enslave and debase far more people than it endured in the process, yet remain morally superior, is contemptible. Consider Iraq today and Ireland yesteryear. Then think of the Wheatcroft's among us.

— Irish Times Weekend Review, April 15, reply by Eddie Holt in his column "Connect" to Geoffrey Wheatcroft's "The Evil Legacy of 1916" in the Observer newspaper of April 9, 2006.

It has been a 26-County debate. What's obvious is that the people who are missing from it are some of the original Republicans — those Northern Protestants who picked up the values of the French and American republics and crystallised them.

It's interesting to ask why that generation fell away from the revolutionary ideal. It seems to me that the Republic (26-County?) has been involved in a narrow discussion with fellow Irishmen. It has been fundamentally immature.

— Irish Times Weekend Review, April 15, 2006, reply by Mick Fealty to "1916 - What Does It Mean to You?"

In 2003, one in seven children in the Irish (26-County) State were living in consistent poverty, according to a report compiled by the Central Statistics Office.

That represents 148,000 children in the second-richest country in the world. Would this have been acceptable to Bertie Ahern's hero, Patrick Pearse?

— Sunday Tribune, April 16, 2006, article by Michael Clifford headed "Equality is a birthright, as stated in 1916. So why are some uncherished from birth?"

"In a 2003 survey," the report states, "89% of children whose father's social class was described as professional worker were going to college in comparison to 28% of children whose father was unskilled."

— Sunday Tribune. In the prison museum [Kilmainham] I saw that *The Irish Times* from that weekend reported the Rising as the worst act of insurrection and plain bad manners in our history.

I'd no idea Kevin Myers was working there even then, but good luck to him and his shrivelled opinions.

This weekend (Easter) is for recalling bigger men. And women the size of china dolls with brave hearts, bigger than lions.

— Sunday Tribune magazine, April 16, 2006, column by Fiona Looney.



• Dan Keating (104), Patron of Republican Sinn Féin, laying a wreath at the Republican Plot in Rath Cemetery, Tralee, Co Kerry on Easter Sunday, April 16 (see quote, April 4).

The marching ghosts of 1916 are being unleashed under strict supervision.

Not surprisingly, goaded by 1916's recent re-emergence, the revisionists and neo-Redmondites were quickly filling the *Irish Times* letters page with their traditional dire warnings.

They are their grandfather's grand-children.

— Sunday Business Post, April 16, 2006, Tom McGurk column.

How refreshing that those old Fenian subversives will be given day release. Ninety years on, Clarke and Pearse's Invisible Republic will be unwrapped, but under optimum official state conditions.

Everybody will be expected to wear their new suits and keep a straight face. That apparently goes too far for the citizens of the "Invisible Republic" who live in the North — so be warned.

— Tom McGurk. There were the families who had a long history of service with the British military — by far the largest non-English-born group in the 19th Century British army was Irish — and in the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC), the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) and the civil service.

Then there was the petite bourgeoisie of the old garrigue towns and the large farmers who had benefited from the land reforms and for whom the British link and the British market were of considerable importance.

— Tom McGurk, *Easter Sunday*.

After the Treaty they found themselves in an unlikely alliance with those members of the original IRA who followed Michael Collins and accepted dominion status and the Free State under the King.

In fact a considerable number of those who joined the Free State army and defeated the Republican side in the Civil War were ex-British soldiers who had originally fought in World War I in the Irish Regiments. This factor in itself added to the savagery of that conflict.

— Tom McGurk, *Easter Sunday*.

The Gardaí already have enormous powers. Over the past ten years the Gardaí have been given more and



• Former H-Block hunger striker Brendan McLoughlin laying a wreath at the Republican Sinn Féin Easter Commemoration at the Cúchulainn Monument in Derry.

more powers without corresponding structures of accountability.

— Daily Ireland, April 21, 2006, interview with Fr Peter McVerry, who runs a homeless hostel in Dublin speaking of his concerns for plans for a Garda Reserve Force.

I constantly get stories of ill-treatment, abuse and harassment by gardaí and there is nothing the young people can do about it...The fundamental failure, it seems to me, in the gardaí, is that they do not seem to be trained in how to handle power

— Fr McVerry

Over the past 20 years there has been an increasing move towards controlling people's behaviour rather than trying to deal with the root causes of people's behaviour.

— Fr McVerry

I am totally opposed to ASBOs. The UK experience has been a disaster.

— Fr McVerry.

The threat of 'joint management' of the North by the British and Irish governments if a recall of the [Stormont] Assembly fails, is the stick that the British government hopes will bring the DUP into power-sharing, writes Colm Heatley.

— Sunday Business Post,

Mellows statue in Eyre Square, Galway on Easter Sunday] were members of Republican Sinn Féin, who say they have never forgotten the leaders of the western wing of volunteers back in 1916.

— Irish Times, April 26, 2006, *An Irishwoman's Diary* by Lorna Siggins.

The growing normalisation of British-Irish relations can be seen in many different spheres of everyday life — in travel, retail, sport and popular culture. Prince Phillip's visit to Dublin today reminds us that a political settlement will be choreographed symbolically. Can Queen Elizabeth be far behind.

— Irish Times, editorial April 26, 2006.

Republican Sinn Féin (RSF) is to hold a protest outside the Department of Foreign Affairs headquarters against the visit of Prince Philip who travelled to Dublin once before in 1998.

— Irish Times, April 26, 2006, Mark Hennessy, *Political Correspondent*.

RSF's vice-president Des Dalton said his visit is "merely a warm-up" for a visit by Queen Elizabeth, who, he said, is "a representative of a state which claims jurisdiction over part of Ireland".

Prince Philip's presence in Dublin along with the recent planned march by loyalists which stopped after protesters rioted, was "part of a campaign to normalise British rule in Ireland," Mr Dalton said.

— Irish Times.

[Bernadette Devlin] McAleis now runs an advice centre for immigrant workers. She will not be taking part in any of the dozens of events organised by [Provisional] Sinn Féin to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the hunger strikes.

— Irish Times Weekend Review, April 29, 2006, article by Susan McKay.

"I don't hold with this idea of a glorious sacrifice and moral victory", she [Bernadette] says, "We were defeated. Ten men died. And for what? So we could go to Stormont? For dodgy diesel and stolen cigarettes? To live off the public's purse and complain that foreigners are coming and taking our jobs? We paid very dearly for very little."

— Susan McKay.

"They're all getting ready to sit in Stormont," he says "when there's still a war to fight."

— Former H-Block hunger striker Brendan McLoughlin from Derry in an interview in the *Sunday Tribune*, April 30, 2006.

"The next thing they're going to do is go on the police board and you know what that means. They're following the same lines as Michael Collins and Eamon de Valera. It's history repeating itself, that's what it is."

— Brendan McLoughlin.

"I knew the best of them boys. Joe McDonnell was in the cell next to me. I knew Bobby Sands as well. I think they'd turn in their graves, them 10 there, with the way things are now."

— Brendan McLoughlin.

First out [at the Liam

## Was It for This?

A chara

Standing outside of the GPO on April 22, I could not help but wonder what thoughts went through the head of James Connolly as, lying there painfully wounded, he realised that the end of the Rising was upon him.

I am sure that the soldier in him coldly calculated the events to come. He was well aware that's the Crown's cruelty would exact the highest punishment from some if not all of the rebels. He must have known that his own life, already endangered by his wounds had but slim chance of surviving the brutality of the victors.

But the Republican in him would have hoped and prayed that his sacrifice and the sacrifice of his brave comrades would fire the hearts of others to take his place. He must have known that while Irish people walk upon the soil of Ireland, the tyrant wielding oppression will meet defiance.

James Connolly, facing the coward's rifles in the stonebreakers yard of Kilmainham, will have met his death hoping and praying that Ireland one day would be free. He could not in his wildest of dreams, imagined the Ireland of today, an Ireland governed by so-called Irish men who control what they think is a republic but which in fact is as tyrannical, unfair and unjust as anything their predecessors could conjure up. In fact the Ireland of today is under greater British control than ever in the period prior to 1921. It is absolutely no use anyone complaining or protesting when the USA flies prisoners in chains, weapons of mass destruction or anything else through Shannon. It is no use protesting that M15 have free access to drive anywhere in the Free State with impunity. It is no use either to object Britain's ongoing cruelty and persecution in the Occupied Six Counties.

Bertie can do no more about these issues or anything else than can the street performers in Grafton Street. Bertie is up to his neck in British influence and he can see no way out. When the Brits pull the strings and say 'dance', Bertie has to dance for his political life, or else. Simple as that.

It is not murderer Blair who pulls these strings for he is only another sort of puppet. The real power in Britain are the invisible grey men. The men of power in the

corridors of power who really run the country. They neither appear on television, nor radio. Their names are not known, but these are the men who decide when kings, queens and don't forget princesses, go.

Ireland today through the folly of the Celtic Rabbit, is in hock to Britain. Irish businesses are being pushed out as the British and Yankee big names muscle in. Irish

businesses that are successful are seized by foreigners. Some fool in the papers recently called us 'the Celtic Tiger riverdancing to success!' and that's how the Brits always liked to see us, dancing singing and behaving ourselves. What would James Connolly have made of the Ireland of today? A government bowing



• Members of the Irish Citizen Army pictured outside Liberty Hall, Dublin in 1915.

to England, hundreds of thousands of immigrants treated like slave labour, the Special Branch persecuting people trying to honour the dead. Ragged hungry children being told they are prosperous. Young couples never to own a home as foreign investors buy up property. Young men and women denied a career turning to alcohol and drugs.

Is this what Connolly died for?

How far from the ideals of 1916? But how near to the causes of 1916? Bertie had better watch out for while it may suit him to live and rule like a plastic imperialist he should full realise that he has created a powder keg.

And paper friends across the water will not this time lend him a field gun.

LIAM Ó CEALLAIGH  
England

## Fianna Fáil — No Credibility

A chara

Whatever credibility Fianna Fáil had in the past is now well gone.

We are going to bring Bertie up a few Wexford pikes to lead Fianna Fáil in their British army charge in the Battle of the Somme.

Bertie has put British soldiers fighting an imperialist war in the same category as the heroes of Easter Week 1916. Shame on you, Bertie.

Genuine Republicans will

stay with the rebels.

BRENDAN TOBIN  
Wexford

## Neither The Time or The Place

A chara

Now that the hysteria surrounding the loyalist march in Dublin has abated somewhat may I make some observations as one who was not present, due to a prior engagement, but did manage to get to O'Connell Street around 4pm as the 'clean up' was underway.

I spoke with as many people as possible and the general response was yes, the actual riot was regrettable but blame lay squarely with those who planned and encouraged such an irresponsible provocative 'coat-tailing' exercise in the first place.

The attempt to reintroduce such divisiveness in Dublin — which was relatively free of symbols of Orange supremacy and bigotry for over 80 years — under the guise of FAIR, was both manipulative, cynical and indeed cruel to many of the unsuspecting relatives themselves. One only has to view the photographic evidence to see the hand of Orangism and extreme Loyalism behind it — Union Jacks flying and surely a DUP band can hardly be described as 'non political'.

Of course the attempted loyalist march was abetted by

an unholy alliance composed of the rump of the Southern colonial 'mind-set' (the slave mentality as the late Seán McBride described such), the revisionists, Two-Nationists, Back to the Empire/Commonwealth lot and latent Royalists. The latter hardly able to contain their glee at the prospect of a visit by the Queen of England. Is it any wonder that a riot was provoked in Dublin?

Cause and effect must be taken into consideration. The cause of troubles in Ireland was and is British imperialism and in all its deceptive manifestations. The effects are division and rancour, riots and rebellion.

The ordinary public, men and women, young and old, who lawfully gathered to voice their opposition to the Loyalist/Orange march cannot be blamed for what ensued consequently anymore that they can be accountable for opportunistic looters, indeed no more than PH Pearse and his comrades for the massive looting that occurred in the 1916 Rebellion were. But it seems that his prophesy that 'Ireland unfree shall never be at peace' was borne out by the recent event.

On this the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rising the 'powers that be' held a commemoration to 'honour all casualties of Easter Week. The mind boggles at the thought of the British reaction if it were put to them to honour all victims of their wars of imperialism at the Cenotaph in November or the French on Bastille Day to do the same for the German

occupation and collaboration force casualties. By all means let dead opponents rest in peace and be respected but not make a political football out of their memory. There is a time and a place for everything. Now is not the time and most definitely the hallowed GPO is not the place.

It is my belief that only when

## Validity Of the Census

A chara

Permit me through your columns to point to the invalidity of a document purporting to be a valid one, namely the census form of 2006 which declares itself to be a 'Census of the population of Ireland'.

This is a false declaration as six of Ireland's 32 Counties, covering approximately 6,000 square miles of her 32,000 square mile territory are being excluded in the census. These are counties Antrim, Derry, Down, Armagh, Fermanagh and Tyrone.

For the census to be valid and acceptable as such by this writer, the form must be identified for what it is, a census of 26 counties only. How this is done is a matter for the state census authority, the CSO.

There are three titles of choice, all of which clearly identify the State and have been applied to it at one time or other since the imposition of partition. These are (1) The Irish Free State; (2) The 26 Counties; (3) The republic of Ireland, per 1949.

With the changes that have been made to Articles 2 and 3 of the 1937 Constitution, relinquishing all claims to approximately 6,000 square miles if Ireland's territory, the time is here when the State cannot and must not, anywhere or at any time, promote or identify itself by the unitary name of Ireland. If ever such entitlement existed, which I believe did not, it is no longer a tenable position.

My refusal to complete the census for 2002 and for which I was imprisoned for two weeks, was based on my argument that the censusform be properly identified. My position remains unchanged. As for census 2006 there is an onus on all of us to question the validity of this questionable questionnaire.

DECLAN CURNEEN  
Co Leitrim

RICHARD BEHAL  
Kerry

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*Letters to the Editor should be as short as possible and written or typed in double-spacing on one side of the page. Name and address must be included, but on request will not be published.*

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# Léirmheas

**Robert W White, *Ruairí Ó Brádaigh: The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary*; Indiana University Press; €27.00; ISBN 0-253-34708-4**

**THERE** has been a library of books written on the Northern troubles over the past 35 years, of which fewer than a dozen are worth reading for the real insight they give into those events. This biography of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh is one of them. It will be an indispensable source for future historians seeking to understand modern Irish Republicanism.

Ruairí Ó Brádaigh is a quintessential Republican in the Fenian tradition. Born in Longford in 1932 of a strong nationalist family, his father had been active in the War of Independence. He joined the IRA and Sinn Féin as a young man in the 1950s and was co-opted to the IRA Army Council in 1956.

He played a leading role in the 1956-62 Border campaign, which initially had significant support in sections of Southern public opinion. This led to his election as one of four abstentionist Sinn Féin TDs in the 1957 general election, in his case for his own Longford-Westmeath constituency. He became IRA Chief of Staff in 1958 and was later editor of the Sinn Féin paper, *The United Irishman*.

During the 1960s, as the Republican Movement shifted from military to political activity, he broadly supported that development. He welcomed Republican involvement in the Northern Civil Rights Movement, which historically was the most significant of the political initiatives taken. Abandoning abstentionism was a step too far however. Ó Brádaigh saw this as a breach of fundamental Republican principle which he believed would lead inevitably to the absorption of those

responsible in the political status-quo, however strong their sense of personal Republican commitment and however well-intentioned their motives.

When Cathal Goulding and the Republican politicisers unwisely pushed the abstentionist issue in 1969, it contributed significantly to the tragic split that then occurred, from which came the Provisional IRA and Provisional Sinn Féin. For Southerners like Ó Brádaigh the proposal to drop abstentionism seems to have been the most important cause of the split - that and differences of view as to whether it was politically sensible or not to seek the abolition of the Stormont Parliament. Abstentionism seemed less of a key principle for those founders of the Provisional Movement who were living in the Six Counties. For them the decisive factor was the failure of the Cathal Goulding-led IRA to put up a credible defence in face of the attested Loyalist pogrom on the Falls Road and Ardoyne in August 1969.

Historians may ponder whether the Goulding-led IRA could have remained politically on top of the situation if they had been able to "defend the people" better than. The view

of the Gouldingites was that it was the job of the British Government to protect the lives and property of the people of Belfast and Derry it claimed authority over, as long as they were kept, however unwillingly, as citizens of the United Kingdom - this being, in their view, the logic of the political, civil rights approach. Goulding saw the Loyalist attacks as an opportunity for bringing about a confrontation between the British authorities and ultra-Unionism, which would discredit the latter further in the eyes of British and world public opinion. It was hard to expect the people having their houses burned down to appreciate such politically-motivated considerations however. They said, understandably: if you claim to be or have an IRA, why are you not there to defend us? Hence the 1970 split, from which followed a shift from military defence to offence by the newly formed Provisionals in face of subsequent events, and all that stemmed from that.

In 1970 Ruairí Ó Brádaigh was elected president of Provisional Sinn Féin and a member of the Provisional IRA Army Council. He remained president of Provisional Sinn Féin until 1983, when he was replaced by Gerry Adams, who led the generation of younger Northern Republicans whose outlook had been largely formed by Northern events since 1970. For them abstentionism and the continuity of Republican tradition back to the Second Dáil were not the core principles that they were for Ruairí Ó Brádaigh and his colleagues.

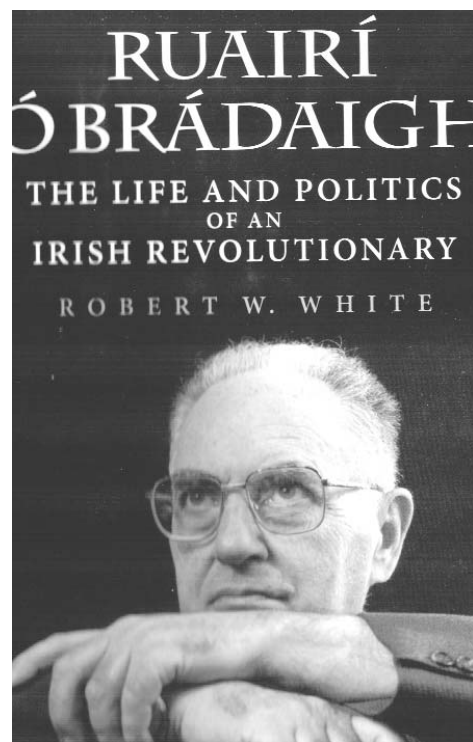
In the aftermath of the

hunger-strike and deaths of Bobby Sands and his comrades, the young Northerners saw opportunities for political advance North and South which they believed could make national reunification a big issue again in both parts of the island and in Britain. Ó Brádaigh remained sceptical, pointing to how Fianna Fáil, Clann na Poblachta and Democratic Left, all of whom contained sincere Republican anti-imperialists in their day, ended up as pillars of the Irish Establishment, with Partition as firm as ever.

The book contains much interesting detail on the interaction between the older and younger Republican generations, which to some extent corresponded to inevitable differences of outlook between those ruled from Dublin and those ruled from London. This culminated in the further split in 1986 that led to the foundation of Republican Sinn Féin, of which Ruairí Ó Brádaigh became President, a position he holds up to the present, as well as the establishment of the Continuity IRA.

Professor White, a distinguished American sociologist, sets out the complex details of Ruairí Ó Brádaigh's half-century-long involvement in Irish politics dispassionately and objectively. He avoids moralising about the details of the IRA's campaigns as he sets down what happened, and concentrates on explaining the motivation and world-view of those in the Republican leadership.

He clearly had the full cooperation of his subject and the book is based on many



hours of interviews with Ruairí Ó Brádaigh himself, his family and colleagues, supplemented by the author's masterly knowledge of the internal politics of Republicanism from the 1950s to the present. The latter will make his reference notes alone an invaluable source of material for future historians of the period.

"Getting to the person beneath, the core of the human being, is the biographer's job,"

he quotes a literary critic as saying. Professor White has certainly done this in relation to the subject of this masterly biography.

— Anthony Coughlan

(Anthony Coughlan is Senior Lecturer Emeritus in Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin and Secretary of the National Platform EU Research and Information Centre.)

## Andy Brogan

**THE death took place in London in April of Andy Brogan. He was born in Donegal town and emigrated to London in the mid-1950s.**

He immediately joined Sinn Féin in England and became a member of the Roger Casement Cumann in Kilburn. He was very active locally within the Cumann selling the *United Irishman* and participating fully in Sinn Féin in London.

In the 1960s the leadership of the Movement decided that England, Scotland and Wales should be a separate entity and Andy, as a delegate from London, attended the inaugural meeting of Clann na hÉireann. Throughout its existence Andy was active and eventually became president of the organisation in England.

In 1969 when the then leadership tried to steam-roll the Republican Movement into acceptance of the Free State, Andy, together with Mick Kennedy, Derek Highstead, the O'Connors and other members gave their allegiance to the Provisional leadership. Throughout the struggle Andy continued to publicise the cause

of the Republican Movement, to sell papers and to gather money.

Andy was continually active in the protests during the hunger strike involving Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg and helped to organise the funeral of Michael Gaughan in Kilburn.

In 1986 Andy immediately rejected the attempt of the Provo leadership to take us into Leinster House and became a member of the Derek Highstead Cumann of Republican Sinn Féin in Kilburn. He continued with the work of the Republican Movement in that Cumann selling SAOIRSE and supporting CABHAIR.

A quite unassuming man he was a steady influence in all his time in the Republican Movement.

The removal took place on April 28 to the church in Frosses, Co Donegal having being brought from London via

Knock Airport. The coffin arrived draped in the National Flag which was removed at the church gate at the request of the local priest.

The funeral took place on April 30. The priest at the Requiem Mass spoke of Andy's Republicanism. When the coffin came out of the church, the Tricolour was replaced and members of Andy's family carried it to the grave. The flag was presented to Andy's wife Mary by Michael Kennedy, Republican Sinn Féin, London. John O'Connor, Joint National Treasurer laid a wreath on behalf of the Republican Movement.

The oration was delivered by Joe O'Neill, National Treasurer, Republican Sinn Féin, who spoke of Andy's dedication to the Republican Movement and his friendship with Sister Sarah Clarke, who had done so much for Republican prisoners up to her death.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Andy's family, his wife Mary, his daughter Elizabeth, and sons, Paul, Jimmy, John and Eamonn.

Go raibí suaimhneas sfóraf dá anam naofa.

## Liam O'Neill

**REPUBLICANS in Belfast and indeed throughout Ireland were saddened to hear of the death just before Easter of Liam O'Neill of Belfast.**



• **Liam O'Neill's coffin is carried by some of his comrades.**

Liam, from the Clonard area of Belfast, joined Na Fianna Éireann in 1936 and went on to join the IRA in 1942. He was active in the Republican Movement until his death. He was interned from 1943 to 1945 and spent two months in jail in 1954.

During the Border Campaign

of 1956-62, he was interned without trial from December 1956 to March 1961. In that campaign his sister, the late Bridie O'Neill was the only woman to be interned in Armagh jail. A member of Cumann na mBan, Bridie was seriously injured in the early 1970s when she retrieved an explosive device

in order to protect civilians.

Liam was again interned in Long Kesh Concentration Camp from 1971 to 1972. While in Long Kesh his eldest son Volunteer Danny O'Neill was shot dead by the British army on January 7, 1972 while on active service.

Liam O'Neill remained a true Republican throughout his long service in the Republican Movement and never went down the road of compromise as others did. In 2003 he was Ulster honoree at the Annual CABHAIR Testimonial Dinner, a most worthy recipient.

Following his death the Provos went to his home and put a Tricolour on his coffin, although he repudiated their sellout of Republican principles. When Geraldine Taylor of Republican Sinn Féin explained the situation to the family, the Provo flag was removed and Republican Sinn Féin members placed their flag on the coffin.

Members of Republican Sinn Féin and the Republican Movement were in attendance at the removal and funeral and the funeral oration was delivered by his comrade, Dan Hoban of Co Mayo.

The staff of SAOIRSE extends deepest sympathy to his wife and family circle.

I measc Laochra na nGael go raibh sé.

# SINN FÉIN 24,000; A-PL 6,000 VOTES

**50  
Years  
Ago**

ON May 8, 1955 the third mid-Ulster election in a year took place. The Sinn Féin candidate, Tom Mitchell, polled 24,124; the Anti-Partition League

nominee, Michael O'Neill secured 6,421.

In other words Mitchell had won approximately 80% of the nationalist vote. The *Irish Times* of May 10 in its editorial said that the Anti-Partition candidate "made such a miserable showing that he forfeited his deposit".

It commented that the voting figures "show that the old Nationalist Party is a dead letter in Mid-Ulster." It commented: "Sinn Féin has established for itself an entrenched position in Mid-Ulster."

The unofficial Unionist candidate, George Forrest gained 28,605 votes and with a split vote on the nationalist side won the seat. He was a former British soldier and had the support of the unionist electoral machine and Unionist Party finances.

The Belfast correspondent of the *Irish Times* (May 8, 1956) explained the position like this:

"There is little doubt that the policy of abstention (from contesting Mid-Ulster) had the support of the Unionist party leaders, who now recognise that they have nothing to gain in Mid-Ulster."

"Outsiders already see the Six-Counties as a rather dusty corner of British politics; the sooner the spotlight is turned off Mid-Ulster the better."

"For the Unionists to win the twelfth and last seat of the Ulster (*sic*) seats at Westminster would only give strength to the impression that the Northern Ireland is an unhealthy one-party state in which popular opinion is freely thwarted at the polls."

It had been a rough election campaign. Local nationalist voters had barracked and interrupted Anti-Partition speakers at public meetings, while Sinn Féin workers had asked that they be given a hearing.

The percentage turnout of the electorate was 89.50%. The booklet "Resistance – The Story of the Struggle in British-Occupied Ireland" described polling day:

"From the Sperrins to the mountains of Pomeroy they came in their thousands, small farmers and workers and trades people, to vote for Tom Mitchell on May 8, 1956. His second majority had been a three-fold increase over the previous one."

"Now with an Anti-Partitionist in the field there was no hope of electing Mitchell again, but their people seemed determined to expose those who played England's game in Ireland."

"When the results were posted up for the second round fight in August (1955) they had gathered around the counting office in Omagh town – where Tom Mitchell had been led away, a felon in chains, to Belfast prison scarce ten months before – and sang such songs as *A Nation Once Again* and *God Save Ireland*."

"Sinn Féin's jubilant election agent, Charles Laverty, had told them: 'The people of Mid-Ulster have clearly shown that they owe no allegiance to English law. We are indeed entitled to be jubilant.'"

**"But now on May 8, 1956, where once there had been victory shouts there now was silence as the people waited for the count."**

Forrest, the Unionist, was returned on a minority poll. The combined anti-British vote swamped him. The Anti-Partitionist splitters had done their work and yet it gave them little satisfaction.

"Their candidate, O'Neill, received only 6,421 votes and lost his deposit. Tom Mitchell



• Archbishop Makarios.

polled the unbelievable total of 24,124. The real victory lay with him and Sinn Féin.

"The three Mid-Ulster elections were interpreted as the death-knell of the old-time Parliamentary approach to the problems of Irish unity and independence – even the limited independence they advocated."

"These elections represented a turning-point in Irish history. The swing-over to Republicanism during 1955 and 1956 was decisive."

"The Anti-Partitionist members and Senators at Stormont were called on to resign from these bodies since the people of the north did not wish to dignify that Assembly as a Parliamentary Legislature any longer. They were asked to set up a united Nationalist front and rid the country of British Imperialism."

"The *Derry Journal* (an Anti-Partition organ) noted editorially on May 11, 1956:

"The result of the Mid-Ulster by election is one that the Irish Government cannot afford to ignore. Twenty-four thousand Nationalists voted against a candidate who, rightly in our opinion, held that the solution of partition was the responsibility of the Government and Dáil."

"This was not a vote in favour of physical force; it was a clear vindication of dissatisfaction with national leadership, or the lack of it, where the country's outstanding national problem is concerned. The Dáil-Government and Opposition was on trial and was found wanting."

**BUT THE DUBLIN ADMINISTRATION AND OPPOSITION IGNORED THE MID-ULSTER RESULT. THEY SIMPLY DID NOTHING!**

The manifesto of the Anti-Partitionist candidate in Mid-Ulster – circulated to the voters of that constituency quoted Costello, the leader of government; de Valera, leader of the opposition and the Catholic hierarchy's statement of January 1956.

A copy of that manifesto is to hand as this column is being written. One whole side of a sheet of paper 15 inches by ten, is devoted to "church and state condemn unlawful physical force"

The *Irish Hierarchy's* statement, read in churches on January 29, 1956, is quoted: "We declare.... that it is also sinful for a catholic to co-operate with, express approval of or otherwise assist any such organisation or society and if that co-operation or assistance be notable, the sin committed is mortal."

"Twenty-four thousand mortal sins in Mid-Ulster!" Was the comment of the veteran Republicans who remembered the church condemnations of 1916 and of 1919-21, not to

mention the mass excommunications of 1922-23. The church could not manufacture sins, was their comment.

"Their unpatriotic conduct dishonours the national institutions and challenges the Constitution enacted by the people," John A Costello, quoted in Leinster House on November 30, 1955. The "people" were of course 38.5% of the electorate in the 26-Counties.

"It is misleading the young people and leading them into roads in which they will endanger not merely themselves but the whole national position if they are allowed to persist in it," de Valera is quoted as saying in Leinster House on October 28, 1954. "It" was a policy of physical force the manifesto said.

All three were rejected by the nationalists of mid-Ulster, but such a verdict was completely ignored, just as the British and 26-County governments wilfully disregarded and set aside the election of hunger-strikers and their supporters in 1981 by a later generation.

*Resistance* summed up the position in the wake of the Mid-Ulster by-election of May 1956:

"The democratic process was now closed to the people of Mid-Ulster and Fermanagh-South Tyrone. British-administered courts were now the electoral machinery for naming MPs to the British House of Commons – as far as the Nationalist people of Occupied Ireland were concerned. This not only denied democracy but made a farce of it."

"An *Irish Catholic* editorial put it like this:

"We do not like violence and we do not believe that it is the civilised or Christian way of settling affairs. But it sometimes seems, and especially in relation to Ireland, that Westminster only wakes up when force is used. 'An American Jesuit recently quoted a Northern Ireland priest as saying: 'We must be against the use of force. But the lesson of our history is that force is the only argument that the English pay any heed to.'"

Indeed at a Sinn Féin public meeting in the Bowling Green, Strabane, in the west of Mid-Ulster constituency a few days after the by-election Kevin Agnew, solicitor, "called on the Anti-Partition MPs and Senators to resign their seats in the puppet parliament of Belfast."

The *Derry Journal* of May 11 reported on the meeting: "It was now obvious that the Republican people of the North had no longer any use for them in that capacity".

The problem was that Republican candidates could not contest against them in any subsequent by-elections because of the requirement for candidates to pledge to sit in Stormont, if elected, in order to gain nomination. Still, it was good to call on them publicly to resign as a follow-up to their shameful defeat in Mid-Ulster.

Familiar names are listed as speaking at the meeting. Seán Keenan and Tommy Mellon, both of Derry; Frank Morris, Convoys, Co. Donegal and Gerald O'Doherty, Strabane, the area organiser. O'Doherty said the result had "sounded the death-knell of parliamentarianism".

Dan Hoban, Mayo, said the people had marched solidly behind Sinn Féin for the third successive time and it ended forever Anti-Partition.

The same *Derry Journal* summed up the result of the 88.5% poll as follows: "The next move rests with Mr. Costello and his colleagues as the Government in power".

Of course neither government nor opposition in Dublin did anything at all to address the question of British rule in Ireland. When a crisis came in December 1956, they all simply sided with the British government and collaborated totally with them.

On May 12 one of the disputed Lane Paintings was removed from the Tate Gallery in London by two Irish students. They were Paul Hogan of Dublin, a student at the National College of Art in that city and Liam Fogarty of Galway, who was attending the Veterinary

College, Dublin.

Some 39 pictures from his modern collection had been made a gift by Sir Hugh Lane to the National Gallery of Ireland. Lane died in the sinking of the *Lusitania* off Cork in 1915 and the will was contested by a London gallery, backed by the British Government.

WB Yeats, Lady Gregory and others had campaigned for the rightful return of the paintings to Dublin. A body called the National Students' Council took responsibility for the seizure of the picture. "*Jour d'Été*" by Berthe Morisot, a French impressionist artist.

The students arranged to have a press photograph taken of the masterpiece being carried down the steps of the Tate Gallery. This photo was on the front page of the *Sunday Press* of May 15 and every policeman in London had a copy but there was no sign of the painting or of the two students.

Four days after its removal the painting was handed in to the Embassy of the Dublin Administration in London. It was in perfect condition and was returned to the Tate gallery. But the question of the Lane bequests had been highlighted and made a burning issue once more. The NSC in a statement said they acted because the government had "failed to assert the national claim to the Lane paintings." (*Irish Press*, May 17).

"This action was taken for the sole purpose of focusing attention on the injustice which England continues to perpetrate on the Irish nation by retaining the Lane paintings in contravention of the expressed last wish of the late Sir Hugh Lane."

No one was ever made amenable for this action which was highly popular in Ireland fifty years ago.

On May 10, the British occupation regime in Cyprus handed two Cypriot patriots, Michael Karaolis and Andreas Demetrious. Two days later, EOKA announced that it had hanged and secretly buried two British soldiers in retaliation for the "judicial murder" of the two Cypriots.

"We regret to announce the execution on May 10, 1956 of Corporal Gordon Hill and Corporal Ronnie Shilton," the EOKA statement said. It was a "necessary reprisal", it continued, may God have mercy on their souls.

"We do not hate British soldiers but are determined to be free. We are compelled to use for the conquest of freedom the same means that are used by the occupation forces for suppression."

"When the majority of the people are not allowed to decide their own future according to the democratic principle of self-determination, it has no choice but to fight. We shall answer hanging with hanging and torture with torture."

The statement was signed "Digenis" (an ancient Greek hero). This was revealed to be General George Grivas, a native of Cyprus and former Greek Army Officer. The British placed an award of 10,000 pounds on his head. Free passage to anywhere in the world by air or sea was promised. He was never betrayed. (*Irish Times*, May 12).

Two British army officers were dismissed following a court-martial for using a chain to strike a Greek Cypriot suspected of EOKA membership. They were Captain Robin Linzee and Captain Gerald O'Driscoll.

Meanwhile, a statement from Archbishop Makarios was read at all Greek Orthodox Masses on the island on Easter Sunday. It forbade anyone to negotiate with the British, pending the release from exile of the Cypriot political leaders. (*Irish Times*, May 4).

And the anti-colonial movement was warming up in Egypt – against British occupation and ownership of the Suez Canal zone ...

(More next month. Ref: *An t-Éireannach Aontaithe/The United Irishman*, May and June 1956; *Resistance – The Story of the Struggle in British Occupied Ireland* by J McGarrity (Seán Cronin); *Derry Journal*, May 11; *Sunday Press*, May 15; *Irish Press*, May 12 and 17; *Irish Times*, May 4 and 12.)



# Fenian Notes

## From our Washington Correspondent

AMERICA uses various vessels to spy on other nations and societies and this includes spying in friendly nations. The United States and Britain have not only had a special relationship, but a secondary "hidden relationship" whereby they allow spies of the UK into the US and the US spies into the UK.

They both believed this spy trade-off would be beneficial giving another layer of intelligence domestically. There were no particular restrictions put on either nation's operatives.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is not under a brief to spy in the United States, so their British counterparts are allowed to do so. The British spies operate out of the British Embassy and their various consulates in American cities.

American spies operate the same way with particular attention given the US Consulate in Belfast, who acts as the eyes and ears for the British as well as its own agency.

From the start of the present Irish Resistance, the United States and their British partners colluded to control the rebellion while various Irish factions exhausted themselves and the society as a peace process, a glorified status quo could be imposed and the British would still be able to maintain control. Further, the Six Counties was a live fire zone, a laboratory for guerrilla warfare and resistance.

The Six-County experiment has paid off in places like Afghanistan and Iraq and potentially other nations, which the US and Britain will invade in the future to impose their will. Right wing elements in the US Republican Party and the British Conservative Party have had an alliance and they both dominate the spy agencies in both nations whether they are in power or not.

### SUB-GOVERNMENTS

They act as sub-governments. For most of the 20th Century, it was the Communist element that acted as the bogeyman and it is world terrorism in the 21st.

A little known, but major player in the underground spy conspiracy is the Church of Jesus Christ of latter Day Saints, commonly called the LDS or the Mormons. They have an army of missionaries; young men for the most part, aged 18-22 and totally mesmerized to follow their leaders without question.

The idea to use the missionaries as unwitting American spies was that of right wing fanatic Ezra Taft Benson, a high LDS leader and flame throwing exponent of the 'Red Scare' and the fear of Communists.

His church believes in the missionary aspects of America's divine mission. That mission is to make America a theocracy and to carry it worldwide as the secular political messiah. Benson and his American church believe that they are the vehicles of that messianic mission.

The theology of the Mormons includes the American Constitution as part of their scriptures. The basic text of the church is the book of Mormon which is supposed to be a tale of ancient America which portrays dark races as cursed by God as inferior, however if a dark-skinned man is righteous his skin colour will become white.

When they were persecuted in 19th century America they went to the Utah Territory to regroup and begin their theocracy and plan to rescue America. Its first Governor, Brigham Young, LDS church president, introduced legislation into the territorial legislature changing Utah from a free territory into a pro-slavery one to accommodate slave-owning Mormons. Slaves were dark skinned people by definition, three fifths of a human being, which coincides with his church doctrine that God curses the darkies. The LDS Church from its founding also believed in the superiority of the US/British partnership. The British influence is venerated as the basis of American society.

Ezra Tate Benson was the secretary of Agriculture in the Eisenhower administration from 1952-1960. He believed God ordained his service so he could be the shepherd of the US during the Red Scare and to be the administration's watchdog against communist infiltration.

He encouraged the persecution of anyone suspected of being a communist. He condemned Martin Luther King Jr as a communist and the Civil Rights Movement as communist dominated and controlled. When the Irish demanded their rights under the British, he condemned the Irish activists as a communist front group.

He equated Africans and Irishmen as co-conspirators against the Anglo-



American God-ordained political religion.

Benson had nothing but praise for the Orange Order which he viewed as the group that would help save the British way of life as he saw the John Birch society in the United States. The latter was a group of bigots like the Orange Order.

To help the British contain Irish Republicans, he ordered the leaders of the Mormon missions in the Six Occupied Counties in Ireland to have the missionaries gather intelligence for M15.

When LDS missionaries went door to door preaching their American religion, they were told to observe the decorations around the homes. Most Irish home would display photos of the Queen of England if they were pro-British and if they were anti-British there would be photos of the 1916 martyrs or present day heroes of Irish resistance. This information was given to their group leaders who then passed it on to the British intelligence people.

The British made a list of homes they concluded were pro-IRA and gave the list to loyalist groups. Many innocent people were killed as targets of pro-British hit squads based in part on the information gathered by the Mormon missionaries. An Irish-American Mormon leader Paul H Dunn, who was anti-British and came into conflict with Ezra Taft Benson when the latter became LDS Supreme Leader, confirmed this activity.

Dunn was later removed on 'health grounds' but he told sources that it was because of his defence of Irish right to remove the British. That was considered as blasphemy. In addition John McKeague, a leader of loyalist hitmen, said they got information that was gathered by Mormon missionaries.

Most of the young missionaries did not know what their information gathering was going to lead to but they were operating on blind obedience of their leaders. They were told it was just part of the work of the Lord and they would never dare to ask questions.

### PROTÉGÉE

Benson's protégée was and is

Senator Orrin Hatch of Utha, who has been a British operative in close contact with the British Embassy. He monitors the activity of Irish activist organisations and the British suggested he befriend some Irish Americans and support some anti-British causes to establish his credentials. Hatch was a worshipper of the Regan-Thatcher political marriage in power in the eighties.

Senator Richard Lugar, another British operative, was open and had members of the British in his office participating in matters affecting the British. Hatch was more covert.

Hatch and Lugar got involved in the Joe Doherty issue and the political offence exception to the extradition process. The exception meant that America would not deport Freedom Fighters who killed policemen or soldiers, only innocent civilians, which made them terrorists.

The British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher did not think this exception should apply to Paddy who she considered a common criminal and should not receive the exception.

Her best political friend President Reagan, a lapsed Irishman and British lapdog, was willing to sell out his own to please Thatcher. He called in Lugar and demanded the law be amended against the Irish.

Hatch reached out to the Irish while reporting all his moves to the British. Hatch also linked up with Senator Ted Kennedy on Irish issues.

Initially Kennedy, Hatch and others were opposed to changing the law in favour of the British. Reagan would pull out all the stops to force the bill through suggesting that any who opposed it would be helping terrorists.

Hatch and Lugar told the British that they were going to win and the British said to Hatch to vote against them and then to follow the lead of Ted Kennedy who would never support any radical activity against the British.

Hatch would join those who would follow the lead of John Hulm. Many initially opposed to the bill would flip over to the British as Lugar and Hatch predicted.

When Hatch began to team up with Kennedy, Irish-Americans decided to put Hatch to the test and requested him to call a hearing on the denial of visas to Irish Republican leaders. He had no time for them even those he had developed as contacts.

He said he had researched the issue and this consisted of going to the British and they told him that they were to be kept out at all costs. Hatch was told that the Irish government fully backed the British position on this issue.

The Irish American leaders had a

meeting with Hatch and gave him a list of people they wanted to come to speak in the United States. He looked at it and said that there was evidence they were all the British and Irish governments said they were. When they asked to see any evidence to justify a denial of visas, Hatch admitted it was political and the government was behind the British as a vital ally.

Hatch was now solid with Ted Kennedy and behind the non-violent campaign of John Hume who they listened to as the exclusive guru of the Six Occupied Counties. The Republican Movement was now demonised by Hatch/Kennedy and Hume, which offered as an alternative support of the British status quo.

Hume had long been a British operative as well as a Free State one. The FBI and CIA rely on him for intelligence on the IRA. Hume did not disappoint.

Hume blacklisted people and set them up. Which was worse: Donaldson or Hume? Take your pick.

Hume is what politicians look for, a man who they can follow without controversy or in any way sticking their necks out and claim they are involved with the Six Occupied Counties. The reader can see a pattern of pro-British operatives in powerful positions in the USA.

A group exists in the US Senate which was (is) out to stop the goals of Irish republicanism. They are Ted Kennedy, Orrin Hatch, Richard Lugar, Joe Biden, Chris Dodd and others who are out to ensure there is peace without the justice of full Irish unity and freedom.

It was this group which acted along with Hume to get the Provisional Movement to buy into the British Peace Process and surrender unilaterally. General Benedict Arnold sold out to the British during the American Revolution. Now we have others who have sold out to the British during the Irish struggle for the same republican principles as Americans won.

Better a war with the British than an unjust peace controlled by the enemy. Let us remember our Patriots who fought in 1916 and those still not surrendered in continuity with them today and our deepest respect to our hunger strikers who never surrendered to the Queens shilling or accepted thirty pieces of silver.

Finally a tribute to Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, longest serving President of Sinn Féin, unbought and uncompromised.

— Peadar Mac Fhínín

## British agent found dead in Donegal cottage

THE body of former leading Provisional and British agent Denis Donaldson was discovered on April 4 at the remote Co Donegal cottage where he had lived since last December when it was revealed he was a British agent.

Donaldson had been head of administration at Stormont for the Provisionals until 2002 when he and others were arrested for being part of an alleged Provo 'spy-ring'.

The revelation that he was a spy for over twenty years whilst operating at the heart of the Provisional's political leadership proved damaging to the Provos. In New York in the late 1980s he said to have sidelined anyone opposed to the Provisional leadership's reformist strategy.

## Beannachtaí

GET well wishes to Ned Murphy in Weston-super-mare, England, a former member of the Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair in the 1950s, currently hospitalised. Wishing you a speedy recovery Ned. From Terry Gavin, Paddington, London.

## Comhbhrón

**BROGAN** – Deepest sympathy is extended to the Brogan family, London, on the death of Andy. From John O'Connor, Dublin.

**BROGAN** – Deepest sympathy is extended to the Brogan family, London, on the death of Andy. From the Ard Chomhairle, Republican Sinn Féin.

**BROGAN** – Deepest sympathy is extended to the Brogan family, London, on the death of Andy. From Mick Kennedy and all Republicans in London.

**BROGAN** – Deepest sympathy is extended to the Brogan family, London, on the death of Andy. From The Republican Movement, Donegal.

**BROGAN** – Deepest sympathy is extended to the Brogan family, London, on the death of Andy. From Joe O'Neill, Bundoran.

**DOYLE** – Deepest sympathy is extended to Seán Doyle, Antrim, on the death of his father John.

From Republican Sinn Féin, North Antrim.

**DOYLE** – Deepest sympathy is extended to Seán Doyle, Antrim, on the death of his father John. From Republican Sinn Féin, Belfast.

**DOYLE** – Deepest sympathy is extended to Seán Doyle, Antrim, on the death of his father John. From Comhairle Ceantair Átha Cliath.

**DOYLE** – Deepest sympathy is extended to Seán Doyle, Antrim, on the death of his father John. From Republican Sinn Féin, Derry.

**DOYLE** – Deepest sympathy is extended to Seán Doyle, Antrim, on the death of his father John. From Republican Sinn Féin, Donegal.

**DOYLE** – Deepest sympathy is extended to Seán Doyle, Antrim, on the death of his father John. From Michael Logan and comrades in England.

**DOYLE** – Deepest sympathy is extended to Seán Doyle, Antrim,

on the death of his father John. From Willie Stewart/Joe Conway Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Newry/Dundalk.

**DOYLE** – Deepest sympathy is extended to Seán Doyle, Antrim, on the death of his father John. From Paddy White and family, Newry.

**KEANE** – Deepest sympathy is extended to the wife and family of the late Tom Keane, Tubber, Co. Clare who died recently. From the James Connolly Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Ennis, Co. Clare.

**O'NEILL** – Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Liam O'Neill, Belfast, who died recently. From the Ard Chomhairle, Sinn Féin Poblachtach.

**PRUNTY** – Deepest sympathy is extended to Prunty family, Tiercahan, Swanlinbar, Co Cavan on the death of Oliver who died on April 26 after a short illness. From the Kieran Doherty Cumann, Republican Sinn Féin, Cavan.

**PRUNTY** – Deepest sympathy is extended to Prunty family, Tiercahan, Swanlinbar, Co Cavan on the death of Oliver who died on April 26 after a short illness. From Fermanagh Comhairle Ceantair, Republican Sinn Féin.

## I gCuimhne

**H-BLOCK MARTYRS** – 25th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Ray McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara whose 25th anniversaries occur in May. From the Republican Movement, Newry.

**H-BLOCK MARTYRS** – 25th Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Volunteers Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Ray McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara whose 25th anniversaries occur in May. From the Willie Stewart/Joe Conway Cumann, Newry & Dundalk.

# Legacy Of 1916

**W**HEN the DUP decided to attend their first North-South cooperation meeting they knew what they were doing.

Following the decision to scrap the Belfast agreement they realise that if their little statelet is to return completely to the happy days of a procrastinating state for a procrastinating people they will require the ongoing support of nationalist Ireland.

Some may remember that as its part of the Belfast Agreement the Free State held a referendum and removed Articles 2 & 3 from its constitution. Some may also remember that following a

Supreme Court decision when a Mr McGimpsey brought these articles to their attention the learned judges decided these articles in the constitution were not a mere wish-list but entailed a 'National Imperative' which each incoming government must prioritise and pursue.

Now with the demise of this Agreement the politicians of the Free State are relieved that tiresome burden of Articles 2 & 3 are no more. Neither the Church or the State have queried their removal on what was clearly spurious grounds. Come next November the Brits are clear that everything will return to the *status quo*. They

will re-introduce direct rule and the Free State can go take a running jump.

It is all very convenient. Come July, the old Guard of the Dublin Fusiliers, those Irishmen who joined the British army and freed up other soldiers to serve in the North on days like Bloody Sunday will emerge from the shadows and commemorate the British Army heroics at places like Derry, McGurks Bar, and support their part in training the agents like David Rupert who targeted Omagh some years ago. And in some way we are to believe that the men of 1916 have some part to play in all of this.

What is clear is that the men

of 1916 were put to death by system of British government which will be returning in its totality to the Six Counties in November 2006. Paisley and his followers realise that the Free State as they have in the past needed to be allies of unionism if the old ways are to return. It is only with the cooperation of the Free State that England's writ can run in any part of Ireland.

**W**HERE does this leave Gerry Adams and his Limited Intelligence group? That is a big question with a short answer. They are now at the very centre of British policy in relation to all parts of this island.

Having attempted to get a foothold in Irish politics in the Six Counties and finding the Brits have denied them there is no where to go but Leinster House. When they get there, on whose behalf will they be influencing that body?

It's a complicated old world. One thing is for sure. The moment Gerry and Limited Intelligence surrendered their arms the landscape changed, changed utterly, a terrible ugliness was born and they are the ones who unleashed it. One is reminded of the prophetic words of Patrick Pearse when he wrote 'my own sons have sold their mother'.

Depressing as that thought may be Pearse summed up what the real legacy of 1916 would be when in the midst of the realities that are human nature he reminds us of what is immutable when he wrote 'my sons were faithful and they fought' needless to say he was not referring to some colonial quarrel which resulted in the slaughter of the Somme.

And what of the Dublin Fusiliers and the British army plans to commemorate their dead? I just think they should be encouraged to have as many commemorations for as many dead as possible anywhere and everywhere.

— Mac Cool

## 'Today's Ireland does not flow from 1916'

**REPUBLICAN Sinn Féin held a national commemoration in Dublin on April 22 to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Easter Rising.**

The parade assembled at the Garden of Remembrance and marched to the GPO on O'Connell Street led by a colour party of Sinn Féin Poblachtach and Cumann na mBan.

At the GPO Des Dalton, Vice-President of Sinn Féin Poblachtach chaired the proceedings. He then introduced Padraig Ennis, Dublin, who read the proclamation in English. Róisín Hayden, Ard Chomhairle, Dublin read the poem *My Own Red Blood*. She was followed by Tomás Ó Cleirigh, Ard Chomhairle, Dublin who read the proclamation as Gaelige. Sarah Murphy from South Armagh read *The Rebel* by Pádraig Pearse and Richard Walsh, Ard Chomhairle, Derry read James Connolly's statement at his court-martial.

The main speaker was a t-Uachtarán Ruairí Ó Brádaigh who said:

"The Easter Rising of 1916 brought about the birth of the world-wide anti-colonial movement, caused the renaissance of idealism in Ireland and broke the imperial myth that the Irish people could not resist English occupation in arms.

"On this weekend 90 years ago the alternative of the historic Irish

nation 'taking her place among the nations of the earth' as a sovereign, independent Republic, as opposed to a partitioned Home Rule partnership in managing the British Empire was asserted defiantly before the world.

"Every Easter since 1916, faithful Republicans have commemorated and celebrated this historic action, have distributed the Easter Lily, brought out in its present form by Cumann na mBan in 1925, and have worn it proudly in memory of the men and women of Easter Week and all, in every generation, who have died for Irish freedom.

"They have done this in good times and in bad, have had their commemorations banned and attacked by British and 26-County forces, have had the carrying publicly of the national flag prohibited and have suffered imprisonment for insisting in honouring 1916.

"On the other hand, the 26-County State has ignored and neglected any public homage to 1916 for more than a generation - for 35 years. Some would hold that in withdrawing such recognition for a long period of that nature it has forfeited all right to be associated with the deeds of



• Ruairí Ó Brádaigh addressing the 90th Anniversary Rally in Dublin on April 22.

the men and women of that period.

"Those in charge in the 26 Counties have gone on record as saying that they neglected 1916 in order to deny any support to those resisting British rule in the 26 Counties. In that way, they have admitted the direct connection between 1916 and continuing efforts to end British occupation in Ireland.

"The Proclamation of the All-Ireland Republic first read in this historic spot, and signed and sealed by the leaders of the Rising in their own blood, declared 'the right of the Irish people to the ownership of Ireland' to be sovereign and indefeasible'. That right could not 'ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people'.

"This Irish charter of liberty

guaranteed 'civil and religious liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all citizens', yet one in seven children in the State were in consistent poverty according to the Central Statistics Office (2003). More than one fifth of the population were functionally illiterate.

"The English government still rules the Six Occupied Counties and two-thirds of the laws in the

other 26 Counties are enacted by the EU in Brussels. All this is very far from the situation visualised in the Proclamation.

"The Ireland of today did not flow from the Rising of 1916, but from the denial of the Proclamation and of the First (All-Ireland) Dáil by an Act of the British Parliament, the Government of Ireland Act 1920.

"The public auctioning of items associated with the Rising and its leaders is in keeping with the failure to fulfil the ideals of that time.

"History teaches us that the active struggle to end English rule here will continue. It will end in due course, but the work of liberation will go on.

"The alternative to the failed Stormont Agreement of eight years ago lies in the ÉIRE NUA programme for a new federation of the four historic provinces. This will provide for the distribution of power and decision-making naturally, according to local majorities, among nationalists and unionists alike.

"Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter' can be united on the basis of such a programme, with mutual respect and full access to self-government by all communities. Such a situation would be in keeping with the ideals and guarantees of the 1916 Proclamation."

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