

republican news

THE VOICE OF REPUBLICAN ULSTER

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Seig Heil! Seig Heil!

SOUTHERN TROOPS ARE BECOMING....

BRITAIN'S AUXILIARIES

The Free State body-snatching operation last week, served to highlight the increasing collaboration between the Leinster House, puppet Parliament and their British masters. It has long been general knowledge that Liam Cosgrove, like his father before him, is the vilest type of fascist. The blueshirt tradition, which was fostered and nurtured by William Cosgrove and his Cumann na nGaedheal party, in the 30's is now in the safe hands of that same organisation (now Fine Gael).

SHAME

One outcome of the macabre behaviour of the Free Staters during the Frank Stagg funeral, was the embarrassment and shame obvious on the faces of the Southern troops. Many openly admitted that they were disgusted and disillusioned with the Leinster House government and the military brass, many of whom are Fine Gael/Fianna Fail hacks. This growing apprehension has been evident long before the Frank Stagg funeral.

Cosgrove's paranoid obsession with the IRA threat to imperialist domination in Ireland has led to declining morale in the Free State

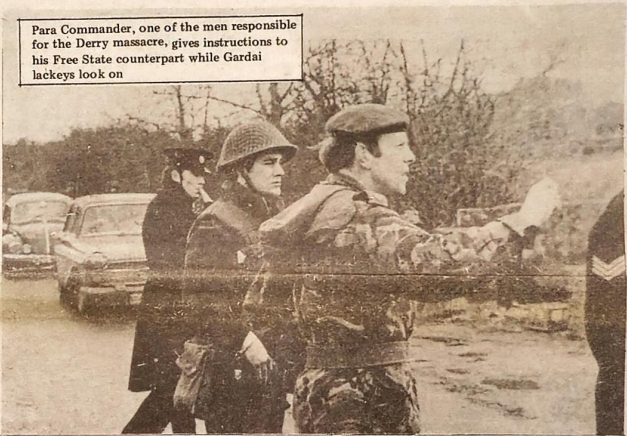
army. Troops stationed in the border areas have borne the brunt of the Cosgrove mania and are now little more than auxiliary wings of the British army.

SOLDIER SPEAKS

One southern soldier, a private stationed in Dundalk, told a REPUBLICAN NEWS reporter of feelings in the majority of the Free State regiments, speaking, following the barbaric cortege involving thousands of armed troops and gardai the previous day, he said:

"I joined the army for two reasons, one I was unemployed and could see little prospect of getting a job bar emigrating, a step which I could never take. Secondly I wanted to be prepared to defend my fellow countrymen if the Loyalist murder gangs go for UDI and begin to slaughter the people of the North. I was only in the bloody army a few months when Conor Cruise O'Brien makes a statement telling the world that the entire army could only manage to hold a small town like Newry in a Civil war situation. Now I find myself standing with other members of the regiment - the commander, walks across the border to get instruc-

Para Commander, one of the men responsible for the Derry massacre, gives instructions to his Free State counterpart while Gardai lackeys look on



tions from a British officer. Last November told us that we would have to move back beyond Flagstaff because the IRA wouldnt make an appearance while we were there. That's the God's truth, the British told us to frig off and our so-called commander kindly obliges them."

The sentiments expressed by that soldier are typical of the feelings of the vast

majority of the Free State army. Cosgrove's total control over the Southern army officer class is reminiscent of the years when Brookborough and his Orange hegemony were the effective GHQ of the RUC/B-Specials

BLUESHIRTS

Cosgrove has succeeded in welding the gardai into latter-day Blueshirts and has also reduced the Free State judiciary to the level

of animated hacks by the use of the repression Acts now in force. Little remains for the judges in the special Criminal Court to do but nod their heads and pronounce sentence.

We have reason to believe that Cosgrove's control of the southern army officers doesn't extend to the rank and file privates. Reports from the border areas lead us to believe that many of the State soldiers are on the verge of mutiny because of Leinster house dictates.

While acknowledging that the Free State army are part and parcel of the imperialist war machine we also recognise that many of them are reluctant to move against the republican resistance in the north. We now ask these soldiers to search their conscience and admit that their position is one of docile servitude to Britain, through her Leinster House Puppet parliament, when the Loyalist armies do move, and the UDA have already disclosed their plans to kill all Nationalists and take control of Free State territory, the only group which will stand between the Loyalist murder gangs and the Southern troops will be Orlaigh na hEireann - any attempt to weaken the IRA Freedom Fighters could prove to be fatal for the people of the entire country.



Frank Stagg's beret is carried in solemn procession through the streets of Ballina.

A DEATH ONLY FOR THE BRAVE . . .

A Chara.

As dawn broke on Thursday 12th February Frank Stagg, the man, died. He was now gained for himself a freedom that no man or system can ever take away from him. But although the man is dead his spirit and the memory of his courage will live on. The courage that was Frank Stagg can only serve as a beacon to all people throughout the world who are striving for liberty and freedom. That courage was that Frank Stagg had a set of beliefs and he would not or could not bend those beliefs. First and foremost he was a Republican who was prepared to take up arms to free his native Ireland and even after his capture he continued to rebel. To rebel against the British Penal system and in taking this stand he knew well the consequences of his actions. Yet throughout his courage never failed. him. He had dedicated his

life to his Republican beliefs and this belief was all the support he needed in his fight for reparation.

We are told that "he killed himself" - is this not rather that he chose to show his contempt for the living death of solitary confinement and humiliation in an alien land far from the land of his birth, and in displaying his contempt for them and their cruel laws he was prepared to give his life. This he did, a slow lingering, painful death was to be his, a death only for the brave.

ONE MAN AGAINST THE SYSTEM

One man against the complete British system. That system destroyed his body but not his spirit, such systems could never crush the spirit of a true man. Because Frank Stagg won his battle. Men so strong in their beliefs are few in any society and it is by their sacri-

fice that we can gain for ourselves the strength to carry on and finally achieve what he so strongly believed in and eventually died for.

Many people have now jumped onto the bandwagon of his death in order to gain political prestige, this is inevitable of the present breed mongrel as it is, of politicians. But I know and you know that Frank Stagg fought against the existing political system, that he was a revolutionary who fought and died for his beliefs, something that no politician could ever understand.

Frank Stagg will soon be home in his beloved Ireland and in our hearts we will keep and treasure his memory, always, together with all those who have died for their beliefs and justice shall be achieved for we shall never forgive nor shall we ever forget.

PRO. "A" Coy. Armagh Gaol. Liberty and Strength.

HONEST JOE FROM THE N.I.O.

A Chara.

We, Republican POW's in Long Kesh have become almost immune, through time, to all kinds of antics from the 'mercenary' Prison Warders - the 'P50' a week 'serews' who help the establishment here to incarcerate us. But from time to time they continue to amaze us with a few of the tricks they get up to.

One such incident took place in the month of December last when one of the men in the Cage received a parcel and on checking it found a new shirt missing.

Representations were quickly made through the well-oiled channels - items going astray from parcels in Long Kesh etc., a daily occurrence - first going astray from parcel in Long Kesh are a daily occurrence - first it was relayed to the P.C. in charge, then to the screws in charge of the parcels. As no word was forthcoming from these sources, a Board paper

submitted to the N.I.O. (the conventional way a prisoner is supposed to vent his complaint - and one from which no-one ever receives a reply!!!). Now, at the moment of writing, two months later, no word has been received on the whereabouts of the elusive shirt - an Christmas present, one which acquired through some poor mother scraping a few extra pounds together to have a small gift for her imprisoned son at Christmas. Now we POW's knowing the high integrity of the personnel who make up the Prison Officers Association in Long Kesh, have no reason to believe that any member would sink to the level of sacking the contents of some poor soul's parcel and remove a shirt. What need would these 'beauty hunters' have with the small pickings from someone's parcels. The £150 a week men, the honest JOE's (from the NIO's ad-

verts), imported from the 'mainland' to guard over the restless natives. They have never been known to commit such deeds. Well, at least that is what the NIO recruiting adverts would have us believe. "...good job for honest, upright citizens... willing to serve their community." I suppose the two Prison Officers who were found guilty at a local county courthouse recently, of stealing from their own mates in the screws quarters would come into the bracket of "honest, upright citizens..."

I wonder would a search of these same quarters would come into the bracket of "honest, upright citizens..." I wonder would a search of these same quarters reveal the elusive shirt, and, I'm sure the rest of the 'booty' which disappears daily from the parcels of POW's?

Is Mise, PRO. Cage 10. Long Kesh.

FREE MY LANDS . . .

FEED MY SHEEP

Dehr Editor, Please allow me some space in your paper to let the Irish people know - that I canvassed all the local Churches in Dundalk with the following notice: "Your prayers are earnestly requested for Francis Stagg who is dangerously ill in Wakefield Prison."

At the Redemptorist Church I was told the Community would pray in private - but no public prayers would be requested. I got similar answers at the Marist Fathers and the priest porter ordered me out of the priests house.

St. Patrick's cathedral parish Church would not specify if the prayers would be offered or not. The Dominican Church, The Friary was the only Church where the prayers were requested from the pulpit, and in Rev. Canon Mac Ivor's Faughart parish.

One of the precepts of the Church is "To Contribute To The Support of our Pastors." Contributions are constantly requested for the upkeep of Schools, and renovations to St. Patrick's Cathedral. Young people getting married

are asked to give a whole week's wages for the marriage ceremony - there are notices up in the vestries that a subscription of £1 is the minimum for a Mass offering. These are laws imposed on the faithful by the clergy, yet when a member of the Catholic Church was dying, he could not be assured of the comfort of assisting at the Holy Sacrifice, nor of having prayers said for his recovery at the point of death. Why support such pastors. Their unchristian attitudes are no examples to the laity. The Roman Missal says:

"It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins." Christ Himself laid His hands upon the sick, saying, "Thy Sins Are Forgiven Thee."

No priest nor Bishop has Christ's authority to be Judge of men's souls. Is it not a sign of the times the gospels remind us "That there shall arise false Christs and false prophets in as much as to deceive even the elect?" Yet we know Christ's words to priests were "Free my Lands - Feed my Sheep."

UNA TOAL.

Bargain

Historic back issues of the Republican News, going back to early '73 and a few '72. (90 papers, for only £3.00 including Postage).

Fill in the Coupon below and post to Republican News Office, 170a Falls Road Belfast.

Please send me back Issues Offer:

Name:

Address:

WE WILL NOT FORGET

He was only 10 years old when the British Army of Occupation came to keep the peace. Only 10 when he saw the houses burning, the old men and women crying, when he watched the youths and men fight of the screaming hoards who swept down on the districts to slaughter all before them. He was only 11 when the bite of CS gas, the curfew, the death of his people met his gaze, when the same British soldiers who came to keep the peace, trained their guns on his neighbours and friends. The babies cried out, he heard the sick cough and vomit, suffocated by the gas. He watched as others mopped away the blood of the fallen Irish dead.

He was only 12 years old when the booming sound of bin lids, whistles and shouts woke him from his slumber. Frightened and confused he

watched them drag his father and brother away. He saw the man next door, shoeless, rope strung around his neck as the self-same soldiers who came to keep the peace trundled all his loved ones away. Internment was another word his young heart learned that day.

He was just 13 young years when the streets of Derry were spattered by the blood of 13 men, when the British Army who came to keep the peace, slaughtered the men in Derry that day. He watched his mother cry, and the British huns they laughed, he heard the loyalist say 'it was a good Sunday'.

Fourteen was his age of reckoning when his approaching manhood came upon the notice of the British soldiers. Degraded, searched, screened and then allowed to pass, with foul abuse hurled after him. He was 15 when

he joined the same dole queue his father joined before him. At 15 he had joined the ranks of the long list of Irish men unemployed because of English crimes. At 16 he watched his friends mowed down, he watched their funerals pass, and he watched the British soldiers who came to keep the peace laugh and jeer and call them names.

In February 1976, this boy was 17, and he died fighting for his nations freedom, died in the ranks of Ogligha na h-Eireann, fighting the self-same huns who came to keep the peace. He will never see 18, this boy who never knew what it meant to play the games of childhood, who never knew his youth. He was dead and he was just 17 when a quivering from the SDLP slurred his young name, but we will not forget.

THE PEOPLE OF THE NATION

There are those who say that the Republican Movement thinks only of violence for its own sake, that they speak only through the barrel of a gun. The decision to fight to free this country was not taken lightly. It was forced upon us by the British Government. They took this country in violence and they maintained their domination over it by the threat of violence. They have maintained their control over this nation for the past 800 years.

The men and women who are fighting for the unity of this country today did not arrive here from a foreign country for a 4 month tour of duty. There are no mercenaries here apart from those in the khaki uniform of the British Army of occupation. The people fighting and dying on the streets of Ireland were born and reared in this country. The British soldier was brought here by boat,

and plane to serve a 4 month tour of duty on our streets and when that tour is complete he will be taken out again back to his own country. It is the Irish Republican volunteers who are fighting for our country's freed who will remain behind. The men and women, boys and girls who daily face the mighty Army of England are your sons, daughters, husbands and wives, neighbours and friends they are the people of this nation.

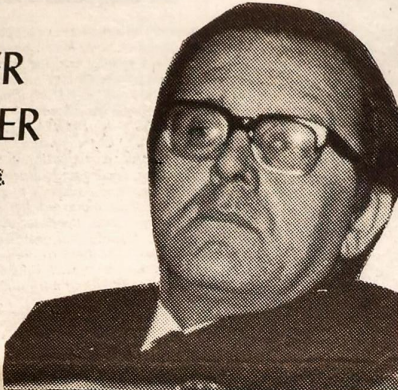
PRO, BELFAST COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR

REES' GUTTER SLANDER

Merlyn Rees, the SDLP and various other groupings have often attempted to portray the members of the Republican Movement as criminals, with nothing to offer the people of this country but death and destruction.

Whilst we treat this gutter slander with the contempt it deserves, we would point out that the Republican Movement's object is to establish a new society in Ireland through Eire Nua. In order to achieve that aim the existing system of undemocratic partition rule must be abolished and replaced whether a new one based on the sovereignty of and the unity of the Irish people, whether Protestant, Catholic or dissenter.

Sinn Féin has put forward its plan of Federated Government based on the 4 historic provinces of Ireland and these would incorporate (a). Regional (b). Provincial, (c). District Government. In this way the affairs of the Irish nation would be controlled by the people themselves. This method of Government



has been widely acclaimed throughout the world, and in recent months has been spoken about by the British themselves in reference to Scotland and Wales. It is ideally suited to Ireland in that each region would have a certain degree of autonomy within itself and problems peculiar to that region would be dealt with within the province.

In particular, in the context of Ulster the rights of the Ulster Protestant would be guaranteed, his culture and ideology safeguarded. Sinn

Féin has often been accused of being negative in outlook. We are negative when it comes to collaborating with a partitionist system. We recognise neither the 6 nor 26 county statelets. The Ireland we recognise has no borders, and no British Army of occupation patrolling its streets and wielding its laws over us. The Ireland we envisage is one which is free, free from the yolk of England, free to put Eire Nua into reality for the benefit of all the people of this island.

U.S. GOVERNMENT DENIES BRITISH CLAIMS ON U.S. ARMS AID

The U.S. Defence Department has denied a British government claim that 75 per cent of the arms and money sent to Northern Ireland come from the United States. Such claims were recently made by Prime Minister Harold Wilson, Stanley Orme and other British politicians.

The United States denial was contained in a Defense Department letter sent to the National Council of Irish Americans in Buffalo, New York. The letter is dated January 16th, 1976 and signed by Harry E. Bergold Jr. Mr. Bergold, Assistant Secretary of Defense, denied that US intelligence services had ever made such a claim and denied the existence of "any U.S. Military Intelligence Report on this

subject." Mr. Bergold emphatically denied the accuracy of a New York Times article which referred to the alleged US Intelligence Report.

A spokesman for the National Council of Irish Americans in Buffalo, New York, issued this statement.

"The British government has, once again, been caught fabricating the news. We are glad to note our government's denial of this story. This is just one more example of Britain's policy of fictionalising the news. British efforts to blame Irish Americans for Britain's Vietnam in Ulster, have failed. When Prime Minister Harold Wilson has to go so far as to fake news reports, we know how bankrupt British policy is in Northern Ireland."

Horror story

The activities of the Free Junta in relation to the snatching of Frank Stagg's remains reads like something out of a Burke and Haire horror story. Indeed never has so much pain and humiliation been heaped on one man alive and dead in the history of humanity.

The Free State Government's kidnapping of the coffin containing the body of Frank Stagg reeks of the behaviour of ghouls. The flaunting of the grief of the Stagg family must be the most cold-blooded attack over. How much more suffering must be inflicted on the sorrowing wife and mother of this patriot, before he is laid to rest in Irish soil.

In his last will and testament Staff Officer Frank Stagg requested a military funeral to be provided for him by the only organisation equipped to do this, the Republican Movement. This brave

patriot died the cruellest and most painful death of all, the loneliest death after 6 hours of hunger strike in an English prison. He died alone, among his enemies, who had so cruelly tortured him. Now his mortal remains have been vandalised and blasphemed by people who would dare to call themselves Irish.

In the long or short term, Frank Stagg will be accorded his honours from his comrades within the Republican Movement, and his name will be forever revered by a free Irish nation. We as Republicans will not forget the friends of the Free State Government for what they have done to our comrade, and as Republican our debt of honour to Frank Stagg will be exacted in full from those who have so horribly maltreated him in life and in death. We will not forget.

PATRICIA DAVIDSON,
Acting PRO.

WASHINGTON POST EXPOSE:

DIRTY TRICKS COMMANDOS

Does British military intelligence write the news for British and American newspapers? The prestigious Washington Post, one of America's most respected newspapers, says it does. In a special report on December 22nd, 1975 entitled, "Britain's Spies: Meddling Through," the Post exposed the slanting of "news" stories by what it said are paid military intelligence agents of the British SIS intelligence unit. The Post charged that all London newspapers were at least partially staffed by writers on the payroll of the SIS.

The Washington Post story quoted a Fleet Street editor

as saying that "more than half of that particular paper's staffers are on the SIS payroll." "That paper" is believed to be the London Telegraph, also known as the English Pravda by many American and European journalists.

The Washington Post article describes the SAS as "dirty tricks commandos" of the SIS. The SAS has operated in Northern Ireland since at least 1970. The Washington Post story lends some credence to IRA claims that the SAS and SIS are partly responsible for the many so called "sectarian" killings in Northern Ireland. In any

event, Irish readers now have had their suspicions about the SIS confirmed by the Washington Post. The English government is said to be incensed over the story.

The Washington Post article written by Bernard Nossiter, one of America's most respected journalists, has raised the ire of British Home Office Officials and top ranking officers of the British army. It is understood that Prime Minister Harold Wilson personally contacted President Gerald Ford in an effort to silence the editors of the Post. It was the Washington Post which exposed the Watergate scandal and brought about the resignation

of Richard Nixon. SAS use of assassination as a political weapon is described in the article and one British ex-diplomat is quoted as admitting that the British government does use assassination and has "plans for the assassination of leaders. It's perfectly normal in this sort of dirty game," according to the ex-diplomat.

Nossiter outlines SIS operations, pointing out that "SIS officers use the cover of businessmen. An unknown number are posing as journalists." According to Nossiter, the SIS and SAS carry out British policy and the "foreign policy line laid down by the foreign office."

The Post story is certain to cause Britain great embarrassment. Various American journalists societies have already indicated their concern over the use of journalists by the British Government.

The National Council of Irish Americans has already embarked on an investigation into the use of SIS written stories published in American newspapers. A representative of the Council is Buffalo, New York indicated that several U.S. papers were co-operating in the Council's investigation which will attempt to identify SIS operatives in Britain and the United States.



DETERMINATION

The pictures on this page are of Republican Prisoners-of-War incarcerated in Long Kesh concentration camp. All of these men are serving varying terms of imprisonment passed on them by the Orange judiciary. In a few days time Merlyn Rees will, like Merlyn the Magician of bygone days, wave his magic wand and proclaim that he has transformed hundreds of POW's into common criminals. Men and women who are captured by the British forces of occupation while participating in the Irish war of liberation will be, according to Rees' NI Office, forced to wear criminal garb and engage in punitive work. The faces of the POW's in these pictures tells, more vividly than words could hope to do, the determination to resist the British excesses. Republicans, inside and outside British jails, stand prepared to fight to the death to hold onto their political status until such time as Britain declare a total amnesty pending their withdrawal.

ICRA Demand Withdrawal of British Troops from Ireland

The Irish Civil Rights Association (Britain), condemn the British Government in the strongest possible terms for the inhumane treatment meted out to Frank Stagg who was tortured to death in Wakefield Prison Yorkshire.

The word torture is not being used lightly, it is the only word which describes most fittingly the conditions in which Frank Stagg was expected to live out his sentence. Total solitary confinement for the past eleven months in a tiny unheated cell, naked except for a thin prison blanket, no books, papers or radio, if he went to exercise, they expected him to do so in a filthy cage where the criminal elements in the prison had thrown

bags of excrement and urine. All this was made known to the British Government who fully agreed with this treatment and would not relent, so Frank Stagg died, murdered by the Crown on February 12th 1976.

Frank Stagg never committed any act of violence, he was imprisoned on a trumped up charge of conspiracy, his hunger strike was non-violent protest against the inhumane treatment being meted out to Irishmen serving sentences in Britain arising out of the Northern Ireland situation, and a plea for peace with justice for our crucified people in the six occupied counties of Ireland.

We ask the British people

to stop the atrocities which are being committed in your name in prisons throughout Britain, for the sake of peace in these Islands we ask you to demand that your troops be recalled from Ireland as this is the only reason why Irishmen are being imprisoned and tortured here in England. We the Irish people want our own destinies in our own hands, this is our birthright and what Frank Stagg died for, if there was no British involvement in our country there would be no need for Irishmen to go out and fight to reclaim our heritage.

To the people of Ireland we say, wake up before it is too late, you are living

in a police state, your rights as individuals are being eroded at every level. Do not let the Government who are raking in large salaries off your backs, buy you with hand-outs like the dole. If you have children be far sighted enough to question what their future will be, and firm in your resolve that an emigrant ship will not be their fate.

Frank Stagg died so that we may have peace with justice and our own destinies in our own hands, he loved you, he was willing to die for you, do not let his sacrifice be in vain.

GENERAL SECRETARY
THE IRISH CIVIL RIGHTS
ASSOCIATION (BRITAIN).

COWARDS AND BULLIES

Outgoing regiment in Andersonstown, the 'Queen's', have been proving their prowess to the new occupational forces in the area, the Royal Marine Commandoes, by stepping up harassment of the civilian population.

Special attention has been paid to women from the estate who are being stopped and abused daily. One member of the Queen's in particular, his name is known to the Republican Movement in the area, has been responsible for several previous assaults on women from the Andersonstown estate.

Last week he struck a 15 year old girl who refused to open her coat and be searched by the uniformed thug. On another occasion this coward, who shies off from stopping men, kept two young girls standing in pouring rain for an hour. One of the girls had been released from hospital less than 24 hours before the incident.

We imagine that when the Britishers in the Queen's Regiment write to their families telling of their courageous exploits in the face of 'terrorism', few will disclose the truth, that the bulk of the British army in Ireland are cowards and bullies.

LONG KESH ORATION TO FALLEN COMRADES

Oration in honour of Staff Officer Frank Stagg, Coventry Unit, 2nd Lieut. James McGrillen 'B' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast, Lieut. Sean Bailey 'A' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Belfast, Staff Officer James O'Neill, Na Fianna Eireann and Paul Best Sinn Fein Organiser Belfast.

This week Ireland has witnessed one of the most treacherous and degrading episodes of foul actions ever perpetrated in her name — I am Ireland, and great is my shame for my own children have sold their mother — Never, in the long history of our country have these words rung more true to our ears. Once again the harsh reality of our partitioned country in the hands of the quislings has been driven home to us in the brutal fashion. But at the same time all true Republicans can take a measure of hope from the actions of the illegal 26 county Government, for they are not the actions of men who are sure of their positions or even of themselves, rather they are the actions of frightened men. Not Tone, Emmet, Pearse, or Connolly has the dead man struck so much terror into the hearts and minds of the enemies of Ireland. But is Frank Stagg dead? To me he is still living. He is out in front of us, still fighting courageous ly to cast the genocide and greed of England out of

Ireland forever. He is above us, vigilant like a hawk, guarding us from the doves of compromise that would live by the wayside. He is before us protecting us with the true tenacity of a victor.

He is telling us that those who challenge — live, those who endure — conquer. Frank Stagg lives on to conquer the remnants of the impotent empire in Ireland. The 61 days of slow death, endured by Frank Stagg should always be a constant reminder to us of the dangers of carrying out 'half' a revolution and establishing a 32 county Free State in place of a Republic. He died for one thing and for one thing alone — justice, let there be no mistake about this. Let no man besmirch his name at any time in the future by telling us he died for the false trappings of a phony nationalism. The 26 County State is a fascist police state whose laws bear no resemblance to justice, but it has always been this which has sounded the death-knell of all such states the world over. Has not history repeatedly told us that 'those whom the Gods wish to destroy, they first make mad with power' it takes no stretch of the imagination for us to see how this applies to the regime of Cooney, Cosgrave, Donaghy and O'Brien. Just as the epitaph of Emmet must wait: 'Till Ireland takes her place amongst the nations of the earth' so too must Staff Officer Frank Stagg await

such time for all honours due to him. But these honours will be rendered of this let there be no mistake. Today we also pay honour to two Staff Officers of Oglagh na h-Eireann, Sean Bailey and James McGrillen and Staff Officer James O'Neill of Na Fianna Eireann, all of whom were killed on active service, and to Paul Best, Sinn Fein Organiser who died following injuries inflicted by the NLF. All those we honour today have met their death in various ways. These men also came from both the Political and Military wings of the Republican Movement and these two factors combined show us once again how diverse and difficult the struggle is and how plentiful are our enemies. It also shows us that no matter how numerous are our enemies and how difficult the challenges which face us that those enemies and their challenges will always be met regardless of the cost.

The past week has been a sad one for the Republican Movement, but it represents yet another sad page in the history book of Ireland, a history that is soaked in the blood of Irish men and Irish women. Patrick Pearse had told us that from this blood will spring a new living nation and if this is the requirement then each generation has shown that they are more than willing to pay it.

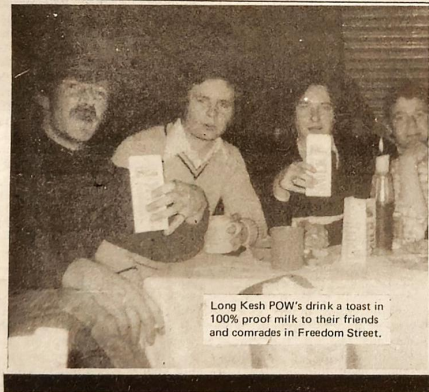
THE VIGIL

When Frank Stagg's body was being spirited from Shannon to Hollymount by helicopter members of the family present were, his brothers Sean and George and Georges wife, (Mary George). Other members of the family included Frank's mother and elder brother Joe remained through out the night at Dublin airport. Joe penned these lines during this lonely wait.

THE VIGIL

What care we, if bedless through the night,
We taste of your Gethsemane of pain?
We hunger, as you hungered in your fight,
And feel your mighty spirit hover, again and yet again.
"Thou, vultures drag your worn body on,
Your will remains, unflinching ever true.
By Shannonside with Sean, and George, and little Mary in eternal solidarity with you.

JOE.



Long Kesh POW's drink a toast in 100% proof milk to their friends and comrades in Freedom Street.

WILSON

'Perhaps instead of issuing gratuitous and unsolicited advice to the people of America, Prime Minister Wilson should heed the 61% of the people of England who have advised him to withdraw the 15,000 murderous troops and cancerous presence from Ireland....'

PAUL O'DWER,
President,
N.Y.C. Council.



fourth anniversary

DEEP DEEP SORROW

The fourth anniversary of Vols. Gerard Bell, Robert Dorrian, Joseph Magee and Gerard Steele was last week-end, they died on active service on the 21st February 1972, resulting from a premature explosion.



Vol. Robert Dorrian

two young wives and families. Gerard Bell and Gerard Steele were single and barely out of their teens. All four men had everything to live for. But yet they died.

And why did they die? Because they believed that British rule in Ireland must be squashed, that Britain must be driven from the shores of Ireland into the sea. They like many others realised that the only practicable method of achieving their objective was by joining the Irish Republican Army by becoming involved in the armed struggle for National Liberation, and to this end they strove relentlessly.

Many people will not have heard tell of these four men but to the people of Ballymacarrett and especially to the men and women who are presently involved in the



Vol. Gerard Steele

I feel deep, deep sorrow and regret whenever I recollect the happenings of that fateful day. I remember clearly how shocked I was after hearing the tragic news and vividly I can still see the anguish and grief expressed on the faces of the people whom I met in Ballymacarrett that afternoon.



Vol. Gerard Bell

The news of the tragic accident swept through the area like a bush fire. The people of Ballymacarrett were greatly stunned by the tragic event. This area grieves immensely whenever it loses one of its community but no words can express the feeling of hopelessness that existed following the death of these four men.

Two of the Volunteers Robert Dorrian and Joseph Magee were married with



Vol. Joseph Magee

armed struggle a special niche is carved in their hearts to the memory of four brave Irishmen who gave their lives for a 32 County Socialist Republic.

A COMRADE.

TURF LODGE PROTEST

A Chara.
The committee of the Martin Forsythe social club protest strongly at escalations in harassment by the British Army, against its members. Their 'normal' activity of the particular regiment concerned (the Queens own) is in itself bad enough, in that members of the club are nightly subjected to the usual visit. But recently, serious attempts have been made to provoke trouble on our premises by both that regiment and the incoming Royal Marine Commandos.

These have culminated in an attempted stage-managed riot in our club on Sunday night last when an excessive-

ly intimidating number of Brits forced their way into our club armed with the full regalia of riot weapons. In addition several members of the club committee were pointed out by name to the new soldiers, to come in for special attention.

The committee feel that in the interests of the members, this must not happen again. We have therefore decided that any attempted repetition will be met with closed doors, and that large numbers of Brits will not be permitted to enter.

On behalf of the committee,

Is mise,
THE COMMITTEE.

THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON HAS BEEN PORTRAYED BY THE IMPERIALIST MEDIA AS A 'RELIGIOUS WAR' SUCH DISTORTIONS HAVE BEEN USED BY THE PRESS IN BRITAIN TO UNDERMINE THE IRISH STRUGGLE: A SUPPORTER OF THE IRISH STRUGGLE WHO LIVES IN LEBANON PUTS THE RECORD STRAIGHT AND GIVES THE FACTS BEHIND THE LEBANESE STRUGGLE'

THE FACTS

For the last eight months Lebanon has seen vicious fighting that has spread to every town and village in the country. Lebanon was on the brink of an all-out armed conflict. The risk of such a conflict was considerably increased because Lebanon is situated in a part of the world which has become

South Lebanon against daily attacks from the Israeli forces, instead of using it to suppress popular demonstrations.

The regime which rules the Government and adminis-

Chairman Father Charbel Kasis, leader of the Maronite cult. His armed wing is called 'Rahbanyat'.

(d). The Front of the 'Guardians of the Cedar', a recently formed Fascist group whose leader is Doctor Chamali. He is also leader of the Lebanese Medical Assoc. Membership of the Front is limited to Maronites.

One other right-wing paramilitary group is the Tghorist Liberation Army led by MP Tony Frangie.

The common of all the right-wing organisation is the building of a front opposing the people's claims and safeguarding the privileges granted to the Maronite minority by the French colonists just before their withdrawal from Lebanon.

The President supplies all these groups with military equipment bought by the Lebanese army from imperialist powers. Recently a Spanish ship was discovered, loaded with arms, lying in anchor in a military dock. The prime Minister appealed to the President to arrest those involved in the smuggling of the ship but the latter publicly refused to do so. The right wing militia then openly unloaded the cargo with the assistance of the army.

THE LEFT

The open provocation by the right-wing militia and the army led to a counter attack from the people, the counter attack was remarkable not only in strength but by the mass mobilisation of the people. The organisations in the uprising are:

(i). The Progressive Socialist Party. Leader Mr. Kamal Sumblat, head of the Parliamentary opposition and chair man of the United Progressive Parties in London. This party has an armed revolutionary militia.

(ii). The Lebanese Communist Party whose general secretary is Nichol Chamli. This party has also an armed wing.

(iii). The 24th October Movement. Leader Farouk Mokaddam. This group works mainly in the North Lebanon area (Tripoli) its armed wing took control of Tripoli 3 months ago.

(iv). This group occupied half of Beyrouth during the recent conflict taking control of the luxury hotels. The leader is Ebrahim Kobellat.

(v). A revolutionary armed organisation exists in the city of Sidah, former leader was, Marrouf Saad, who was murdered while leading the workers demo.

(vi). The National Socialist Party. Leader Mr. Raad.

LEBANON THE FACTS

THE MYTH OF RELIGIOUS WAR.

All the above organisations are left-wing and have, during the past months, formed a united political/military front. Their membership spans all and non religious although most of the leaders are revolutionary Christians. Some young Maronites have recently joined the leftist front to fight against the exclusively Maronite establishment. Most of the Christian traditions outside the Maronites support the people's claims as they too have suffered under the boot of the sectarian Maronites.

The result of this situation is that the war is a conflict between the various religious sections of the Lebanese people and the ruling class. The ruling class are the Maronite churchmen and the political and religious feudalists who have ruled Lebanon since the French granted the country its independence.

THE EFFECTS OF THE COLONIAL LAWS COULD BE SEEN AND FELT AT EVERY LEVEL OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE STATE: THE PARLIAMENT WAS ESTABLISHED WITH A BUILT-IN MAJORITY.

ROOTS OF CONFLICT

If one wants to seek out the deep roots of the Civil War they would have to go back to pre-independence days when the Maronite community, then living in the mountains of Lebanon, had become one of the forces of the colonialist establishment. Maronite support of the French presence was open and active where as the other traditions had decided to wage a war of resistance against the occupation forces. When the French were finally forced to leave Lebanon they first sent up a constitution and laws that ensured wide privileges to their Maronite allies.

The effects of the colonial laws could be seen and felt at every level of administration in the state. The Parliament was established with a built-in Maronite majority although that tradition was itself a minor-

in Lebanon. The Maronites became the exploiters, holding all power and suppressing the Lebanese people. This divided the people into two distinct groups, 1st and 2nd class citizens. 1st Class for the Maronites, who enjoyed the protection of the French. And 2nd Class for the rest. Catholics, Armenians, Moslems.

ATTACKS ON PALESTINIANS

Shortly before the recent conflict started the Lebanese Government attempted to crush the Palestinian Resistance who are the natural allies of the popular movement, he President, Frangie, ordered his army Chief-of-Staff, the reactionary Alexander Chaneh, to launch massive attacks on the camps of the Palestinian refugees in Safih. For days tanks and planes were used against the refugees, when the smoke cleared the Lebanese army were on the verge of total defeat. The patriotic movement had realised the plot, mobilised all its members and took over Beyrouth, putting up barricades and repelling the Lebanese army.

The present scheme to liquidate the Palestinian resistance is the attempt to crush the popular movements using the right-wing militias. This is what started the armed struggle some 9 months ago, the right-wing parties, having failed to massacre the Palestinians and the popular movement, are now asking for Lebanon to be partitioned. Tony Frangie, some of the reactionary President, has publicly demanded partition and the setting up of a sectarian Maronite state in the North. This scheme is similar in many ways to the Israeli/American blueprint which gave birth to the Zionist state of Israel in occupied Palestine. A Maronite state would take pressure off Israel thus giving them breathing space, Palestinians would be offered the Southern parts of Lebanon to create a new homeland and, Israel hope, abandonment of the claim to occupied Palestine.

The people of Ireland will well understand the apprehension which is being felt by the working-class in Lebanon, partition could lead to more bitterness and bloodshed than has been experienced at any time in Lebanese history.

by
Bahu Aruri



Palestinian resistance fighter guarding Jewish synagogue from attack by right-wing Maronites during the conflict. Many Lebanese Jews had sought refuge inside the building.

a battle ground for all the great world powers. It has also given shelter to a great number of Palestinian refugees, forced from their own country by Zionism. Many people will find it hard to believe that centuries after the crusades, in Palestine, the same scenario is repeating itself with Moslems and Christians fighting each other. The imperialist press has in fact drawn such a picture in order to mislead the peoples of the world as to the true facts of the struggle.

THE ISSUES OF THE WAR

The truth is that the fighting in Lebanon is nothing whatsoever like a religious conflict. The resistance in Ireland has seen the British press attempt the same distortions in order to weaken the support for the Irish Republican Army. The Lebanon conflict began 8 months ago following the murder of the elected representative Maarouf Saad, who held progressive views. Saad was murdered while leading a demonstration of fishermen/labourers in Saïda. The real issues of the war revolve around the campaign for the betterment of the working-class increased salaries, guarantee of social security for the sons of the poorest etc. Saad also wanted the Labour Government to send the army to defend

tration i.e. the President, the Army GHQ, Police and 'Intelligence' (Special Branch to our friends in Ireland) plus other public institutions is exclusively in the hands of the Maronite aristocracy. (The Maronite Rite is one of the Christian traditions). The people wanted changes in the constitution so that the President would be elected after free elections and not, as he is now, by a Parliament representing political and religious feudalism. The mass of the people also demanded a constitutional army council to lead the army instead, of, as it is now, one right-wing Maronite officer who is a colleague of the President. They also wanted an immediate end to the armament race by the right-wing who had just created four Fascist type militia who were linked to 4 extreme right-wing parties.

These parties are:

- The Liberal National Party. Leader M. Camille Chamoun, Interior Minister. Former President who, in 1958, called the 7th American fleet to Lebanon to crush the popular rising against his corrupt regime. His militia are called 'The Tigers'.
- The Phalangist Party. Led by the MP Pierre Gemayel and his two sons. This party is very similar to Franco's Phalangies.
- The Maronite League

READER SLAMS REPUBLICAN INTERVIEW

MALONE ROAD BARD

Achara,

I would like to make some observations on the long interview published in Republican News February 1st 1976. In recent years the Republican Movement has gone through a big change in quantity and composition but not a corresponding change in political programme or methods etc., put bluntly, the great mass of youth in the vanguard of action against British troops come from the 6 counties.

Propaganda and political statements still make big concessions to middle class conceptions and idealisms holding never ending delusions for movements under middle class leadership but with a great bulk of working class rank and file.

'THE PEACE THEME'

The basic one is on the "Peace" theme. The establishment organisations call for peace - unconditional. The Movement genuflects to this Peace with Peace with Justice. At least put Justice first, Peace, that tenuous notion, second. For a long time we were given the illusion that loyalists were only innocent dupes of imperialism who were ready to embrace the IRA once the Brits were gone; in the meantime they were "Irish" enough not to attack fellow country men or do anything un-Irish like assassination, chauvinistic TV Militancy for sectarian gains culminating in the organisation of the UWC Strike by masses of workers under a Fascist banner. The Blueshirts have learned their lesson and have recently formed their own Trade Union Group. recent events have at last brought a public appraisal of what loyalism is all about; gone are the headlines - "The UVF are men." Many slogans often are idealistic and meaningless in relation to the struggle e.g. "73 year of victory" etc.

Great concessions too are made to the trendy ideology of "Christ was a communist," in the interview. In a populist way this can be argued as true, but it takes little account of the origins of present day society, it's material base and the unending opposition of capital and labour (the working-class) which have endured through the phase of Feudalism from slavery that Christ knew two thousand years ago in roman oppressed Palestine.

'MUTUAL CRITICISM'

There is an amount of mutual criticism between the Provos and the left - i.e. the Revolutionary left. Left wingers are often accused of being automatically stickies by Provos who feel the ultimatum of "Britain must go" is politics enough to sustain an anti-imperialist struggle in its fullest sense. The advantage of the Provos in Ireland is that Republicanism is the revolutionary tradition in the country, with a consistent past and a heroic history since the upsurge of bourgeois revolutions in Europe from France in 1789 which inspired the '98 men. Paradoxically however there are few revolutions anywhere today striving to set up an National Republic as such

with prime emphasis on language and culture. Today revolutions are fought on the aim of a Socialist Revolution, the working class fighting for it's own politics and leading that fight. There are many such struggles going today where working class leadership is in control, e.g. the MPLA, the Guerillas in Argentina. The Tupamoros, etc. Peasants too can and do have a vital support role in such struggles.

'IGNORER REAL INVOLVEMENT'

The Provos have ignored real involvement with the working class especially in Dublin in my experience. The leadership has consistently refused to support or encourage mobilisations from building sites and factories, which have occurred at crucial times of crisis in the past. There was widespread working class downing of tools to protest at the OASA Amendment and the McStiofan upsurges, workers who marched to Leinster House got a Government reply when they demanded action on the plight of Frank Stagg in November 1973 were looked on as somewhat of a wonder and useful for propaganda, the real political experience for Provos involved and wider significance was completely lost on the leader ship in Kevin Street.

No effort was made to relate to the Portlaoise Hunger Strike to workers around the industrial estates in Dublin despite Pat Ward being a well reputed militant on the building site in England.

'NOT WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT'

The Provos membership contains a lot of working class but it is not honest to claim to be a working class movement. It does not in principle use working class organisations to further it's goals and, from the experience, develop its programme according to the needs of those who comprise the "forces of production". The working class is their only ally and they must respond to it's needs, taking the Trade Union struggle to workers is not only about wages but about politics too, repression and harassment. No isolated group however pure minded will defeat imperialism in these times of advanced amalgamations of capital. This struggle is international. Lately a useful development is the encouragement apparently given to the T.O.M. This can be opportunism too: seeking to use such mobilisations as propaganda scoring points. With the slide towards repression both economic and political in the 26 counties the working class will come under the brunt of harsh measures. It is the job of revolutionaries to point out the fundamental political nature of unemployment, "the North", "the Budget," to workers, where they work and politicise and organise and build fighting organisations to defend these rights to work and liberty. The Republican movement will be irrelevant to those it aims to help by it's claim if it does not.

T. ENNIS.

B'K' McGuigan, stalward of the right-wing pencil, continues his assault on the eyes of the IRISH NEWS readership.

McGuigan, a Director in Hughe's Bakery, was one of the first Catholics to be admitted to membership of the Unionist Party. (pre-split era) His hate for all things Nationalist is paranoic and his ridiculous letters have, over the course of the past six years, become something of an institution.

The Malone Road bard has, in recent years, defended the Unionist groups with a fervour that would make the honourable Lord Haw-Haw blush. Recent attacks on the Republican Prisoners-of-War seem to have been inspired by the post-Sillitoe unit in Theipval Barnacks.

McGuigan, like all members of the capitalist class, fears the advance of socialism and will fight like a trapped rat to hold onto his privileged position.

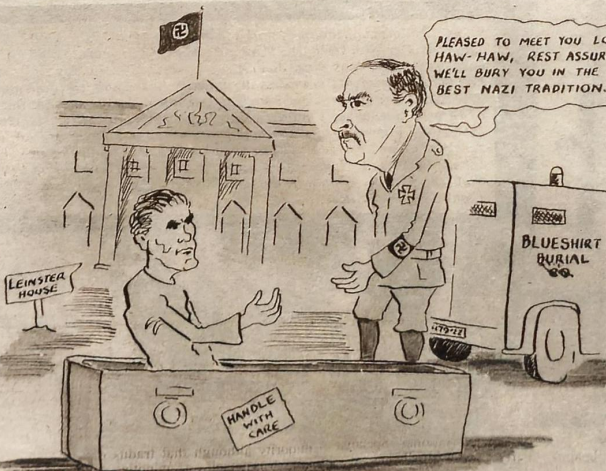
Derry



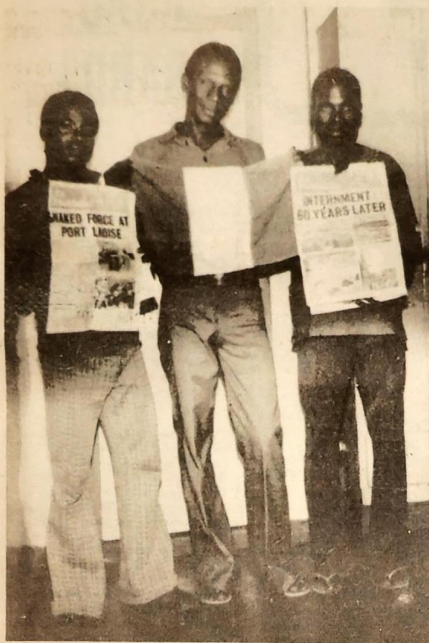
Picture showing injuries received by a young man at the hands of the RUC in Derry during recent protests.

FOLLOWING Frank Stagg's death on Thursday morning, the RUC ran amok in a way that hasn't been seen in public for some time in Derry. (Usually, they let the Brits do the dirty work in public, like last week's incident of breaking a baton over a young fellow's head). Provisional Sinn Fein had been very active staging daily protests against Jenkin's intended murder of Frank Stagg while this latest martyr was still hanging on to life in defiance of the British regime. The response from the RUC was always one of watchfulness - yet they never moved until the Brits had cleared the path for them. Thursday's incidents prove this pattern continues:

The first incident occurred at about 2 p.m. on Thursday. There was a Sinn Fein rally in Guildhall Square, which hundreds of workers downed tools and walked out of their factories to attend. Two minutes silence, was observed, and the RUC took advantage of this mark of respect for Frank Stagg to crash their Land Rovers through a human barricade which had spontaneously formed in Foyle Street by workers.



AFRICAN SUPPORT



Support for the Republican Movement in their struggle for liberation continues to grow throughout the world. Pictured above are three comrades from Ghana who are building up an impressive paper round. Sales of AN PHOBLACHT and REPUBLICAN NEWS are steadily rising in every corner of the revolutionary globe.

Tyrone National Graves

Association (Moy Branch)

Vol. Eugene Martin

Vol. Sean McKearney

Memorial Fund



CONCERT, DANCE & AUCTION of Long Kesh Craft

in FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, MONAGHAN
on FRIDAY, 27th FEBRUARY, 1976

STAFF OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS
S.W. ANTRIM BATT. CUMANN NA mBAN

deeply regret the death (as the result of a road accident) of their Comrade

ANN McCOY

(O.C. S.W. ANTRIM BATT. "A" COY.)

We extend our profound sympathy to her sorrowing parents and family circle, and also to DOMINIC McCANN, Cage 9, Long Kesh. MARY, QUEEN OF THE GAEL, PRAY FOR HER.

The Republican Prisoners-of-War in the 4th Battalion, Long Kesh Concentration Camp offer their sincere condolences to the families of their comrades who have been killed in action during the past two weeks.

THE DALY FAMILY, The Pious Stagg and extend their deepest sympathy to his family. RIP. regret the tragic death of FRANK DALY.

FIFTY YEARS LATERNOTHING CHANGED

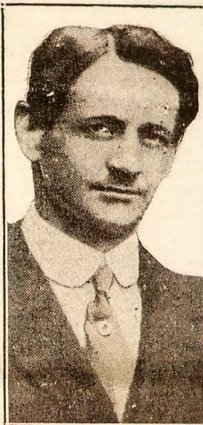
VENING POST, INC.

THREE CENTS

Within 200 Miles | FOUR CENTS Elsewhere

Mayor MacSwiney Dead On Hunger Strike 74 Days Irish Crisis Is Intensified

Ireland's Martyr



(C) Paul Thompson.

TERENCE MAC SWINEY

The Lord Mayor of Cork, who died this morning in Brixton prison, London, was on the seventy-fourth day of his hunger strike. It was the longest voluntary fast on record in medical history.

MacSwiney's Death Shocks Irish Here

Predict It Will Intensify
Conflict With Britain

"Led Forlorn Hope as Clearly
as Ever Soldier Did," Says
John W. Goff

Body to Be Taken to Cork for Interment

Britain May Restrict the
Funeral Arrangements

Demonstrations Feared — Vol-
untary Fast Longest in
Medical History

Belfast, Ireland, October 25—
A display of Sinn Féin flags in
honor of the late Lord Mayor of
Cork, Terence MacSwiney, re-
sulted in rioting to-day in the
Ballmacarrett suburb of Belfast.
One man was shot and killed.

[By the Associated Press.]

LONDON, October 25.—Terence Mac-
Swiney, Lord Mayor of Cork, died at
Brixton Prison, this city, at 5:40 o'clock
this morning.

His death followed a hunger strike
of more than seventy-three days,
eclipsing any in the annals of the med-
ical world.

MacSwiney, who had been uncon-
scious for several days, did not recover
his faculties before he died. Father
Dominic, his private chaplain, and his
brother, John MacSwiney, were with
him when the end came. Father
Dominic was at the prison all night
and did not leave until several hours
after MacSwiney breathed his last.

John MacSwiney and the chaplain,
who had been waiting downstairs in
the prison, were told by prison officials
at 4:35 o'clock that they should go to
the Mayor's bedside, as they thought
death was approaching. The brother
asked for the privilege of communicat-
ing with other relatives who were not
present, but the officials, it is said, re-
fused him the use of a telephone.

Will Take Body to Ireland

Arrangements are being made to
take the body to Ireland for burial.
Some of MacSwiney's death were not
known.

An anonymous contributor sent us a faded copy of the NEW YORK GLOBE dated October 26th 1920, the front page leader in the paper could well have been used when Frank Stagg died. A sub-heading, 'Britain May Restrict the Funeral Arrangements' is chilling in similarity to the publicity following the Free State Government's body-snatching exercise. Public anger in the wake of Terence MacSwiney's murder led to fierce rioting in both the North and the South. Fifty six years have passed since the Lord Mayor of Cork was slowly murdered by the British in pursuit of elementary justice, the struggle for self-determination must be brought to a successful conclusion to ensure that Irish patriots will not be dying in English dungeons 50 years following Frank Stagg's sacrifice.



Members of the Stagg family, leading the parade

UNA

Last weeks issue contained
a letter, addressed to the
Archbishop of Birmingham,
which was signed Fr. Piarris
O'Duill. The letter was, in fact
fact, from one of our regular
contributors Mrs. Una Toal
from Dundalk.