

# YOUNG REPUBLICAN

NEWSPAPER OF NA FIANNA ÉIREANN (REPUBLICAN YOUTH MOVEMENT)



Issue 2 January/February 2003

## Criminals in Uniform!! Get them Out!!

834 years of illegal occupation in  
Ireland

Countless killings of innocents

Torture, imprisonment, collusion

"Shoot-to-kill"

Endless, endless, funerals.....



With all the talk over the last few years, and demands for weapons bought by the Irish people for the defence of the Irish Republic to be destroyed, it has become even clearer that the only thing we need to decommission is British rule in this country.

After centuries of fighting and revolt, we have seen as of late a major attempt by the British, the Free Staters and many ex-revolutionaries to 'normalise' the 6 occupied counties in the north of Ireland. The message that must be outlined to people by organisations such as Na Fianna Éireann and Sinn Féin Po-blahtach is that the British occupied counties in Ireland are NOT 'normal', and should be scorned upon for what it is - a British state there to suppress the all Ireland Republic.

Now more than ever true Republicans must defend the Republic, and we as one unit must counter-act the propaganda of the media in demonising Republicans who refuse to accept the Stormont Agreement. Óglaigh Na hÉireann are not dissidents. They are there to defend the right for Irishmen/women to bear arms in a disciplined manner against the foreign oppressors in this country.

We must defend the Irish peoples right to national self-determination, and the right to defend it in arms if necessary. Reject British rule, and all its institutions, be it Stormont, the RUC/PSNI or the British army.

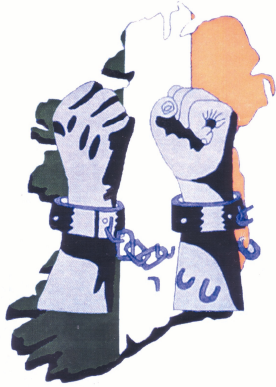
Join Na Fianna Éireann and defend our right to protect the Irish Republic.

**Brits/RUC/PSNI CRIMINALS OUT OF IRELAND NOW!!!**

## Fianna Prisoners Committee

**Na Fianna Éireann set up prisoners committee to help raise funds for Republican POW's:**

Na Fianna Éireann has recently set up a committee to work with Cabhair ( Irish Republican prisoners dependents fund ) to help raise funds for true Republican prisoners and their families. It will work closely with Cabhair in trying to alleviate some of the strain on the prisoners, and their families. We have set this up because we recognize the hardship many suffer in their day to day lives, and realise they have made this sacrifice because of their political beliefs.



The name of the committee was democratically voted as the Michael Flannery Committee after the founder of the Irish Freedom Committee, which is the US support group for Sinn Féin Poblachtach. He was a tireless worker throughout his life for the Republican cause, and the cause of the prisoners. We thought it fitting that we honour his life's work by naming this committee after him.

The newly elected chairperson of the Michael Flannery Committee taking to Young Republican stated: "It is something that we felt we had to do, we have collected a lot of Cabhair, but felt we needed to do it on an official basis, and to work closer with Cabhair on how best to raise as much money as possible for the POW's. We get great satisfaction from the setting up of this committee, it gives us a platform to help the prisoners, at a time when most have forgotten about them."

Donations can be made to Cabhair at the following address:

**Cabhair, 223 Parnell St, Dublin 1, Ireland**

Na Fianna Éireann made a large donation to Cabhair in early December to help Cabhair alleviate some of the pressure they are under annually trying to provide for Republican POW's and their families. It is widely recognised as the period most difficult for Republican prisoners families, but we send this message to our readers; it is difficult for them 365 days of the year, and Cabhair need our help all year round not just at Christmas.

## Kevin Barry remembered in Carlow

Na Fianna lead the annual commemoration in Barry's home town of Rathvilly this year. They marched the short distance to a monument in his honour in the town centre.

Ex-Pow Josephine Hayden gave the main oration, with the proceedings chaired by newly-elected vice-President of Sinn Féin Poblachtach, Des Dalton.

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## How to Get the Mag

We will only request a minimum donation from supporters to receive a copy, to cover costs and P&P. If you want to put a little more that would be great.

The prices per issue including P&P are as follows:

Ireland: €1.50

Britain €2.00

USA & Canada €3.00

Rest of World €3.50

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## Letters to the Editor

If you would like to comment on any issues raised in this magazine or if you would like to submit an article you can do so by sending it to [info@fiannaeireann.com](mailto:info@fiannaeireann.com) or 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1

**Next Issue March**

[www.fiannaeireann.com](http://www.fiannaeireann.com)

# Edentubber Martyrs commemoration 2003

On a cold and blustery Sunday afternoon in November the Republican Movement lead by a colour party from Wexford/Armagh, followed by a colour party from Na Fianna Éireann consisting of Fians from Dublin, Louth, Derry and Kerry marched the short distance to the monument in honour of the Edentubber Martyrs who died in a premature explosion along the border town in 1957.

Wreaths were laid by the various attending sections of the Republican Movement, including Na Fianna Éireann, whose wreath read - In honour of the Edentubber Martyrs, they lived and died as soldiers of Óglaigh Na hÉireann.

The main oration was delivered by Sinn Féin Poblachtach Ard Comhairle member Fergal Moore. In it he highlighted the border areas assistance to the struggle, and how the people of that area have helped to give the support that the Republican Movement needs to continue to function to do its vital work. He also recognised how the people had become hardened against because, "It is this areas that breeds the hardest of Republicans because for to them the occupation is a very visible personal affront.



**Marching to the Commemoration**

He called on Republicans to reject the upcoming British Stormont elections by adding, "The Republican Movement asks you to boycott these British elections. If you think the enemies of the Republic might steal your vote, then spoil your vote. Tell your friends, your family and your colleagues at work to do likewise. There is no Republicans standing for election

to Stormont for to do so would be to deny the Republic.

Fergal, an ex-member of Na Fianna, singled Na Fianna Éireann out for special mention, "The young members of Na Fianna Éireann that we see here today are an inspiration to the younger generation and a spur to the older. Their fine turn out is a great morale boost to all Republicans. Their dedication and tireless work for the Republic is very refreshing to see.

Fergal finished with a rallying call to all Republicans, "We will only accept British disengagement by Britain and the re-establishment of an All-Ireland Republic. This is what the Edentubber Martyrs fought and died for, and this is what we have fought for in the past, and will continue to fight for.....an Irish nation free from the centre to the sea. An Phoblacht Abú! This was met with great applause.

Speaking after the commemoration the Leinster O/C of Na Fianna made this statement to Young Republican. "It is always a pleasure to come and commemorate our fallen dead, and the turn out by Na Fianna was excellent to see, and also it was nice for the main speaker to acknowledge that, and we would like to thank him for that. It is symbolic at a time, when the bases around the monuments of the Edentubber Martyrs, are almost seen as acceptable, we will see these people come here soon who have accepted British rule to commemorate these men and at the same time have accepted all these men fought died for. It was maybe a sign of the times with our growth and turn out today, that the special branch decided to pay us some 'special' attention. They should have learned by now, it doesn't work and will continue not to work. I'm sure they could be better used harassing the many drug dealers that frequent our communities without fear of arrest".

After the annual commemoration

for the Edentubber Martyrs as members of Na Fianna Éireann were changing and preparing to go home they were approached and tackled by member of the special branch. It resulted in an assault of a member of our organisation, and the further harassment of the members as they tried to drive home. After the assault they set up a road block on a lonely road they knew the Fians had to travel to reach where they were going. At the temporary 'checkpoint' the Fians had all their details taken by uniformed Guards, and suffered more blatant harassment.



**Special branch harassing Bus Driver**

The Fian involved gave us this Statement to Young Republican: As myself and other members of Na Fianna were waiting in a mini-bus I noticed the special branch asking the driver questions, I took my camera-phone out and started to take pictures which they didn't like, I noticed a car and a special branch man coming towards me at this time. I switched my phone off knowing they wanted the phone, and put it in my pocket, at this time the branch man on foot grabbed me by the neck and as I turned around he caught me with his elbow hard into my nose, so I grabbed him, and then I received a punch to the rib by another branch man.

At least 5 members of Na Fianna came to my aid, and then all off the branch men had come over (about 10 in total). The situation was defused, and we left only to be stopped at a checkpoint by uniformed Free State policemen, under the close watch of the thugs in the special branch.

# Tommy McKearney Interview

**In your opinion, what is the best way of creating unity among anti-agreement republicans?**

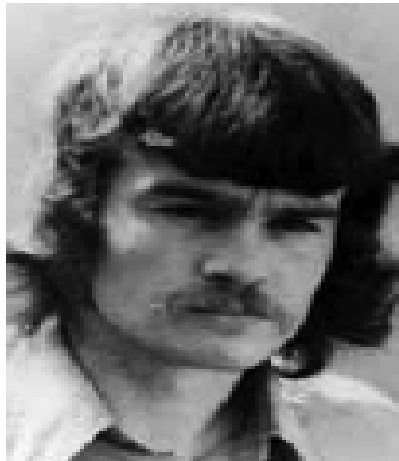
I think it takes a fair amount of work and there is no simple answer to that. I think one of the best things is for people to recognise that for any sort of a viable programme around which we can build unity, we are going to have to look at getting the support of the people and that it is not possible to build unity around one small group of people claiming the leadership of republican Ireland. It is something we have to talk through, work through and we have got to be prepared to give and take in terms of meeting one and other. Overall we have to recognise that we have to win the confidence of the people and the support of the people and not just dictate to the people.

**What do you see as the best way of organising a left republican alternative/opposition to the agreement?**

Again it is based on having the confidence of the people and the support of the people but in terms of a left alternative I think we have to go back and look at the founding fathers of republicanism and look at what they were proposing. The objective of breaking the union with Britain was not on the basis of nationalism, not on the basis that we don't like English people but on the basis that we want to establish a democratic Republic on this Island and that the only way to do it was to break away from the monarchists and the imperialists who were controlling us through their control of Britain. If we take that as our starting point our objective is to establish a socialist republic, its not to do anything else. We battle, we work, we struggle to establish a republic organised on socialist means. Now if we accept that then we start to put in place the means and measures of how we organise a left republican alternative. One of the mistakes of republicans in the past is that they were content to say we are for a socialist republic but that is something that will come after we have broke the union and have established a thirty two county state.

**With experience as a hunger striker in 1980, could you support a hunger strike occurring amongst anti-Agreement republicans in the future?**

Hunger strike is always the last option that anyone employs. It has to be taken into consideration whether you have the ability to win out with a hunger strike or not. If people went on hunger strike I certainly would never condemn them but I advise them to think long and hard and not to make quick superficial judgements. Twelve months ago I heard people saying that a hunger strike might bring widespread support to anti agreement republicans who were being forcibly integrated in Maghaberry prison.



Tommy in the 1970's

My calculation at the time and my advice at the time was not to go on hunger strike on the basis that the support wasn't there for it and it would have been too easily isolated. Keep in mind that for every successful gathering of support for a hunger striker, the price was enormous in terms of those human beings themselves and their families. What success they gained was liberating the minds and thinking of the people. For example the massive support that came for the republican movement in the aftermath of Bobby Sands death. Against that instance there are many other times when republicans have died on hunger strike to the almost cruel indifference of the people. For example the death of Sean McCaughey and its not to take away from the heroic sacrifice of the individual but the population of Ireland hardly knew that Sean

McCaughey had died because of the censorship at the time. Those are things people have to keep very closely in mind. Just because you go on hunger strike and just because you die on hunger strike does not necessarily mean that you will either achieve what you set out to do or you will gain substantial support and I think in that case you have to be very careful and not encourage or allow even one of your comrades to die just to be part of a gesture.

**What would be the circumstances in which you would support a return to armed struggle, if any?**

I take a Leninist-Marxist approach to the use of force. It has been said that for example that those who don't recognise the role of force in society are tantamount to saying they don't recognise the force of gravity. Force is there and is employed on a daily basis by the government of every state in this universe. The very fact that they have a police force and army means that they are willing to countenance the use of coercive force under certain circumstances. However in terms of the revolutionary use of force and we are talking here about Ireland we have to be very careful that we don't see force as a substitute for widespread support.

There are certain basic factors that come into play here. First that nothing else is available because it would be criminal to deploy force if another option was available without any further comment and that has been endorsed by as a militant revolutionary as Che Guevara. If you have another option you cannot use force. Secondly have you sufficient support so you can operate as a democratic republican and that is a very important thing. That you have a democratic mandate for the use of force.

Clearly the IRA in the aftermath of the 1918 election had a democratic mandate but you have to be sure you have the support of the people. The IRA in the early seventies had sufficient support in terms of protecting a community. There is always the option if its a question of



defending the revolution or a section of the population then people are entitled to defend themselves by whatever means are appropriate. In the circumstances there are at the moment in Ireland a number of factors I would suggest argue against a resumption of the armed campaign.

The primary one is that we do not have even a modicum of support for an armed campaign which by its very nature dooms an armed campaign to disaster. In that case what we are doing is pinning the republican cause on a gamblers throw of the dice. At this point in time I would be very opposed to any resumption of an armed campaign as it would undermine the cause of republicanism by equating it with a small armed conspiracy when it should be the broad thrust of the people.

**How did you feel the outside (Republican) leadership represented/supported you and your situation whilst in jail?**

I had mixed feelings about the leadership. In many ways political parties get the leadership they both want and deserve so I don't subscribe to the theory that for example the leadership of PSF has bamboozled all of the membership. A huge number who vote for PSF at the moment are happy to vote for them knowing what they are. Partly because in the north people grew very tired of pursuing a war. I wasn't universally critical of the republican leadership and the republican movement but in terms of my own political development I started in the late seventies early eighties to fear that the republican movement was drifting towards a position of reformism. Due to some extent to the fact that our entire campaign had to be critically reviewed towards the end of the seventies.

We had a number of options. One of which was to continue with a purely military campaign and we all recognise the limitations of that. The other option was to opt for a reformist, political agenda which has been followed by the leadership of PSF.

**On a personal level how did you feel having to kill someone for the cause?**

I don't ever talk in terms of personal feelings because they are not personal feelings. I was a member of an army, the Irish Republican Army and I don't believe that any member of the IRA should view their operations or their actions in terms of personal emotions whether they are good bad or indifferent. I was part of an organisation and as such we moved forward and back together. What our army did we were all responsible for and what I did my army was responsible for. On that basis when I joined the IRA I was content to work as I was asked to work, to act as I was instructed to act and I did so.



Tommy today (on the right)

My point of view is that if people have personal emotions then they have no place in an army. Now they are emotions that people can't avoid such as fear and panic in the course of a campaign and I experienced all of them. I also experienced the pride and comradeship that goes with it on the other hand. It's a duty which with we fulfil as part of the army we join.

**Do you believe that the current political process can deliver a United Ireland?**

It cannot and will not deliver a united Ireland, it cannot and will not deliver a republic and it cannot and will not deliver on socialism. It's merely a process which will at best alleviate some of the civil rights issues within the north. At worst it will exacerbate many of the problems in so far as it reinforces sectarianism in the six counties because it forces people to identify themselves as either nationalist or unionist. Moreover it has and gives to the people no power. Power resides in London so not only have they no power to change the political and economic situation, the good Friday agreement has no mechanism within it to take us to-

wards a united Ireland or a Republic. It's an administrative device which will reinforce the status quo constitutionally on this island.

If anything PSF are actually stemming the possibility of a united Ireland by their participation in the executive in Stormont which actually makes the six counties viable. They are assisting with the administering and running of the partitioned area.

It's allowing the north to remain part of the "United Kingdom" because it makes it function. How can anyone claim by allowing the north to function as an entity that it is undermining its position as an integral part of the United Kingdom. It's not possible to make the north a viable entity on the one hand and to undermine it on the other. It's such a contradiction in thinking that anyone applying logic would howl with laughter at the thought.

**Do you have any words of wisdom or suggestions for the younger members of the Republican Movement?**

I think the main thing for young people in republican circles is to use their god given brain to think and to analyse and to question and not simply listen to others or to take their world view from a book, a magazine or a newspaper. You have a mind, you have an intelligence, you have an ability to analyse, use it! Examine every situation and do so critically. Hear other views, challenge them and challenge your own views but don't just sit and sup up every idea that is set in front of you because in that case you are not a free agent. At the end of the day the best you can do for republicanism is to give it freedom, that it is not taken its orders from somewhere else.

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Tommy McKeearney is a former H-Block Blanket man and was on Hunger Strike for 53 days in the first hunger strike in 1980. He is the editor of Fourthwrite magazine, journal of the Irish Republican Writers Group of which he is a founding member. He is an outspoken critic of the Stormont agreement. This is an edited version of the interview. The full version can be found by going to -

## Evening Herald Slander Na Fianna Éireann!!!

In a front page splash the Evening Herald led an assault on the integrity of our organisation. The headline "Sick spectacle of kids on parade" was covered on the front page with a further article on page 6 condemning the movement for including children in their colour parties. We also had the master "intellect" Peter Howick with an all-out assault on the intelligence of our members. The articles as usual with the gutter press were without foundation and was obviously not researched at all. Never once were we consulted about the article or their plans to put a front page story about us.

What was laughable was the sheer lack of fact in the articles. They could not even get the fact that Ruairí Ó Brádaigh was president of Sinn Féin Poblachtach right. How then could they then be expected to put together an accurate analysis of a movement they could not even get the basic facts right about??!!

In live interviews on Newstalk Radio and RTÉ Radio One, the Na Fianna Éireann PRO tackled the misconceptions put out about the organisation. He stated that Na Fianna was not a military organisation and our aims were to educate the youth of Ireland in their

history, culture and language. He also stated the Republican Movement wanted peace as much as anybody, but we wanted a real peace, with real justice and freedom on this island.



Then, in the Sunday Independent a notorious anti-republican rag they continued with a further attack on Na Fianna comparing us to child abusers.

In the article it again tried to put false perceptions into peoples heads that we were in some brainwashing young children, and in the words of the articles author we were "filling them with hate and a blood lust". How did the author come to this conclusion? How many of our parades has she been

to? How many times has she come in contact with us? The answer to all of these is NEVER! So where did she get all these perceptions of us from? You see the media don't need facts when it comes to republicans, they go on what their pay-masters in the special branch feed them. Of course what they are being fed is lies, and what we as republicans must do is to ignore the lies, in the knowledge we are right, and to continue to carry the noble tradition of republicanism in its purest form with honour.

To inform our readers that may have read also the disgraceful article in the Evening Herald by Peter Howick, which also fed a line to the people that we were in some way an organisation with sinister motives, we twice went into their offices to challenge Peter Howick to talk to us in person to tackle the misconceptions he had orchestrated about us, and twice he refused to speak to us, instead sending out a secretary to tell us to send in letters of protest. But Peter seems to think we are people without "political thinking", so we felt the need to bring our "political thinking" to him. It's a shame he isn't so brave as he is sitting spreading lies at his PC!

## CIRA Offensive continues in six occupied counties



The run up to the recent elections to the British parliament in Stormont vividly highlighted the differences between those who espouse revolution and those who meekly call for reform. As the Provisionals emulated the SDLP position that they once despised others were taking more direct action with regards to the illegal British occupation in the six north eastern counties of Ireland.

Revolutionary force was used on two occasions by volunteers of the Continuity IRA in a brazen show of resistance. The first attack

was against a British Army barracks in Dungannon, Co Tyrone, where a 60lb device was left. The bomb partially exploded as a number of British Colonial Police (RUC) members were standing close by and it was only sheer luck on the part of the enemy that prevented serious crown force casualties. As this was happening another unit of the Continuity IRA launched a gun attack on the Newry Road RUC Barracks in Co Armagh. A number of the high velocity bullets struck the building and only the very heavy steel fortifications prevented crown force casualties.

It is clear from these two incidents that there are those who will continue the republican campaign until it reaches its conclusion. The tide of resistance might be out to sea at the moment but history tells us it will turn again and when it does the Brits won't have defences strong enough to stop its onward surge.

# Who is Óglaigh Na hÉireann?

A chairde,

To be a Republican is the noblest of all traditions, it stretches back centuries and we no doubt will continue for centuries to come.

But to understand Republicanism we must first understand the history. I know its sometimes a boring word, people don't want to reflect on the past, but to go forward successfully, you must first reflect on the past as to not make the same mistakes in the future. So I'll try and explain in the simplest way.....

In 1916 Ireland was proclaimed a nation by the self-proclaimed government and army. This proclamation as it came to be known was received by the English government, who in turn ordered their army to destroy this insurrection. The war was fought and lost by those who fought for Ireland. In the following years a political organisation called Sinn Féin (Ourselves alone) ran for election, they won the majority vote by the people of Ireland and in democratic defiance established Dáil Éireann (Irish assembly) and on January 21st 1919 it had its first meeting in the Mansion House in Dublin, where the self-proclaimed army of 1916 was officially recognised as the national army 'Óglaigh Na hÉireann'.

This newly elected government was not recognised by the British, so another battle was fought for nearly 2 years. Our army and government fought the British to a truce. A group of men where sent to negotiate with the British but the British government would not accept Ireland's right to independence, they said the most they could offer was 26 counties, not 32 counties.

In the following days the delegation returned to Dublin and the leader of the delegation, Michael Collins, said that he had accepted Britain's conditions but the newly elected government had to accept the terms before it

was passed by law.

An assembly of the Dáil was called and the majority of the government wanted to accept the treaty, so a group of deputies stood up and walked out because the deputies who accepted the treaty were breaking their oath of allegiance to Ireland thereby sacking themselves!

The delegates who walked out were recognised and continued to function as Dáil Éireann but this time not only were they not recognised by the British but also the group of ex-deputies who continued to call themselves as Dáil Éireann, which was recognised by the British.



In the following days and months the men and women who still gave allegiance to Ireland were ordered to reclaim the streets and government buildings which were occupied by those who accepted the 26 counties or the 'Free State' as it was known. Another battle erupted, a civil war. The Free State side were supplied with weapons and munitions by the British.

Óglaigh Na hÉireann suffered massive casualties at the hands of the Free State forces, the major war was over but the war continued up until 1938 when Dáil Éireann was depleted and could see no other option but to declare martial law and effectively delegated their powers of government to the army council of Óglaigh Na hÉireann, this was made public by the proclamation of 1938.

So in the following years Óglaigh

Na hÉireann brought the war to Britain destroying economic as well as commercial targets. The war continued up until 1969 when something else happened, its something similar to 1921 the army council of Óglaigh Na hÉireann -IRA, wanted to instruct Sinn Féin members to enter the Free State government, so at an army convention this was proposed and defeated, but the section of the army and Sinn Féin split but this time the section who wanted to recognise the Free State government as the national government kept the title and this time were recognised by the Free State and British government, while the people who still gave allegiance to Ireland reorganised as the Provisional IRA (Óglaigh Na hÉireann), and Provisional Sinn Féin, they continued to resist British and Free State rule in Ireland.

So this brings us up to 1986 when another section of Óglaigh Na hÉireann wanted to instruct Provisional Sinn Féin members to recognise the Free State government, this time the majority of both organizations wanted to just as in 1921, men and women got up and walked out.

This time the men who walked out reorganised and elected an executive, who in turn elected an army council of the Continuity IRA, as did the section of Sinn Féin, who reorganised under the name Republican Sinn Féin.

That's everything in a nutshell, there are of course more things which happened, but it'd take a book to explain!

People are asking "that's grand, what happens now?", But just remember when your sitting at home criticising the army, join the Republican Movement and change it!!

Tiocfaidh Ár Lá

*Republican POW  
Portlaoise Gaol 2004*



## Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam



As siocair go gcuireann teanga tuairimí agus smaointe in iúl freagraíonn si don ghné is bunúsai don duine. eis na cianta cairbreacha tá an teanga s'againn ag freagairt d'anam mhuintir na tire seo. Is í is seanda againn ó thaobh urlabhraíochta. Freagraíonn a friotal don chóras smaointeachais againn. Fágann an gúm sin gur dream ar leith sinn. Tá muid mar atá muid de thairbhe gur fáscadh sinn as dlúth agus inneach ar sinsir.

D'fhág ár sinsear againn an teanga. Maireann si inár n-ainmneacha, ár sloinnte, ár logainmneacha agus nithe nach hiad. Gan tuigbheáil ar an teanga tá muid dall ar an léamh a rinne ár sinsear ar an tírdhreach. Chomh maith le sin tá cnuasach

mór de litríocht ár sinsir gur mó an sásamh atá le baint aisti a léamh sa teanga inar scríobhadh í. Le blianta beaga anuas tá aird ar leith dírithe ar an litríocht Cheilteach. Tá na siopaí leabhar breac le saothair a bhaineann leis an saol Ceilteach - dúshrath saothar liteartha ár sinsir. Tá bunús na leabhar sin as Bearla ach is fearr í a léamh sa bhunteanga ar mhaithe leis an sásamh.

D'aithin polaiteoirí le fada an lá an tábhacht a bhí leis an teanga. Nuair a bunaíodh an saorstát bhíodhas cinnte den tábhacht a bhain léi agus cuireadh tús le hiarrachtaí í a thabhairt i réim in athuair. Ar an droch-uair ní raibh na hiarrachtaí a socraíodh chomh héifeachtach agus ba chóir dóibh a bheith. Lena chois sin is bréagchráifeacht a bhí i gceist cuid mhaith. Ní thig dallamullóg a chur ar dhaoine i rith an ama. Roimh i bhfad thuig an pobal a raibh ar siúl agus theip ar a misneach cuid mhór. Ná bíodh sinn lagmhisniúil de thairbhe bréagchráifeacht na bpolaiteoirí.

Tá sé de dhualgas orainn an seod luachmhar seo - an Ghaeilge - a tháinig anuas chugainn le na mílte bliain a chaomhnú. Ní thig sin a dhéanamh muna labhrann sinn an teanga agus muna dtugann sinn ar láimh í don ghlún atá ag

teacht.

Beatha teanga í a labhairt.

*Regular Irish Lessons have been set-up by Na Fianna Éireann in the Leinster area for its members. The lessons are free, and are held once a week, to help members get a better grasp of their native tongue. We hope to expand on this with the continued growth of the organisation around the country.*



## Join Na Fianna Éireann



Provide colour parties at commemorations for Ireland's fallen patriots.

Help raise funds for Irish Republican prisoners and their dependants.

Outdoor activity.

Support the wider Republican Movement and campaign for a United 32 county Socialist Irish Republic.

Learn your history, culture and the Irish language.

**For further information or to join contact us at:**

**info@fiannaeireann.com**

**NFÉ C/O 223 Parnell Street, Dublin 1**



## Na Fianna Éireann after the '86 split

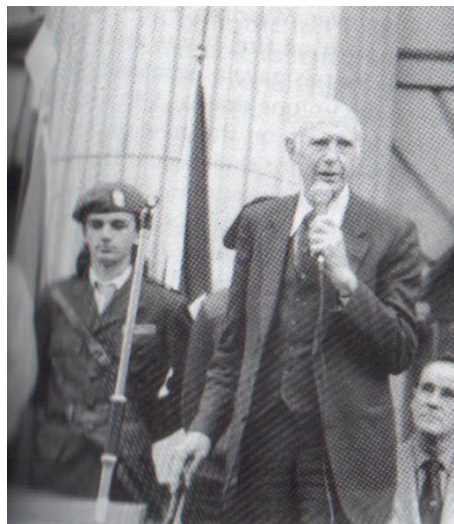
The few years immediately following the sell out by the Provisionals in 1986 were chaotic ones for Na Fianna Éireann. Uniforms and equipment were seized by the Provisionals supporters and the organisation was effectively shut down. My brother had been a senior member of the slua in Dundalk at the time of the split and he could testify to just how acrimonious and damaging the betrayal was. The Republican Movement saw the importance of Na Fianna and in 1988 it was revived. It was then that I joined the John Dempsey Slua aged sixteen. Luckily we still had access to some older uniforms of a green blazer type similar to those worn by Cumann na mBan. More importantly we had an intact constitution.

I attended the first meeting where we discussed the role of Na Fianna and a liaison with the greater Republican Movement was appointed. At the second meeting we elected an officer board and I was appointed QMG. We adopted the pre 1986 constitution with a few adjustments and reaffirmed our opposition to Leinster House and our support for the All Ireland Republic. We also declared that we did not recognise the legitimacy of the Provisional Army Council and we did not believe that they were the lawful inheritors of the Second (All Ireland) Dáil. Even though we were only young lads we were very politically aware. I suppose because the split was so recent and we had seen it first hand we knew who we were and what we believed in.

I think I would be correct in saying that our first parade was from the Mansion House to the GPO. I can't remember the occasion too well but I'm pretty sure Sean O'Bradaigh spoke in French at the rally so it may have been a 1798 commemoration. Soon we were regularly parading at commemorations around the country. We paraded from one end of the country to the other, from Bun-

doran to Limerick and many places in between. We were instructed in drill by a former member and we gave a good account of ourselves. At Bodinstown 1989 we were joined in the parade by some Fians from Dublin. It was a very hot day and one of the Dublin Fians fainted in the graveyard. The order was given to "Lig Amach", which we gratefully did for the duration of the speeches. We did however reform to parade back to Sallins. At these parades there was usually someone rattling a tin for us and we soon had sufficient funds to organise a camp.

The camp was attended by Fians from the Dundalk slua and from Dublin and took place in the Dublin Mountains. We spent three nights sleeping outside and cooking over a camp fire. This was the best fun I had had as a member of Na Fianna and helped to build camaraderie amongst us. There are several stories which are in hindsight amusing that I will not go into here but even with the marching in the wrong direction, the soaking and the puking I'd love to do it again.



Eve of All Ireland Rally Sept 1989

I have always regretted the fact that we did not keep any pictures from Saoirse or have some taken for ourselves. There are some pictures of us attending an Eve of All Ireland Rally outside the GPO in the Michael Flannery biography but I have seen precious few others. On another occasion at the

GPO Na Fianna was asked to address the crowd. With no notice whatsoever what felt like a ream of paper was pushed into my hand. Then I was introduced by the great Daithi O'Conaill and I started to read. I have no memory of what was in those pages of hand written text but it seemed to go on forever. My apologies to anybody in the audience that day for the length of the speech but I did not write it.

Around Easter or shortly after it I was appointed OC. This was a time when things weren't going great for us in the Dundalk area. It was always hard for us to recruit new members. The Provos were still involved in a campaign against the Brits and there was no visible military alternative to them. Most young lads couldn't care less about Leinster House or politics; it was the glamour of the guns and the bombs that they craved. Members started to drift away from us.

One Fian left due to pressure from his family, another because his Provo friends put pressure on him. By autumn only the original OC and I were left and we realised that the John Dempsey Slua was effectively defunct. Uniforms were handed over to Dublin and that was the end of my membership of Na Fianna Éireann.

Only it wasn't, not in my heart anyway. Over the decade and more since I have come to believe that "once a Fian always a Fian." Every time I see them parade my chest swells with pride, every time someone is critical of them I bristle with indignation. Na Fianna today is much bigger and better than it was when I wore the uniform and I'm glad to see it. I'm confident that the Fians of today are the future leaders of the revolution. Keep up the good work lads and we'll soon have our Republic.

*Fergal Moore*

# The History of Na Fianna Éireann

The Organisation progressed steadily and the next sluaite to be formed in Dublin were the Drumcondra and North Dock units. The first sluagh formed in Belfast was organised by Miss Annie O'Boyle, a young woman who worked devotedly and untiringly for the cause. There were sluaite in Dublin, Limerick, Derry, Cork, Belfast and Clonmel by December 1910, and the first Ard Fheis had already been held.



**Seán Heuston**

The Belfast Sluagh, wearing Fianna uniform, climbed Cave Hill, and standing at McArt's Fort just as Wolfe Tone had done, promised to work un-

ceasingly for the independence of Ireland. The second Ard Fheis which was held in July 1911, revealed that the organisation had spread to Dundalk, Newry and Waterford. In that year Liam Mellows joined. Seán Heuston was then O/C of Limerick Sluagh. All conventions were held in the Mansion House prior to 1916.

When the Executive examined the financial situation in 1912, it realised that progress was jeopardised by lack of funds. Money was needed to finance the spread of the organisation. Liam Mellows volunteered to give up his job and become a full time Fianna organiser at a salary of ten shillings a week.

He began his work in April 1913 and never relaxed his ceaseless activity for the Republic until his death before a Free State firing squad on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. 1922.

When he commenced his great task as first Fianna organiser, he was met with indifference almost

everywhere. but within a year the future of Na Fianna in Ireland was assured. The organisation spread throughout the country due mainly to his great organising ability. The Fianna established hurling and football teams, pipe bands and ambulance-corps, in every part of the country.

Seán Heuston returned to Dublin in 1913 and took charge of Sluagh Robert Emmet. He was a born leader and had a great capacity for work. He laboured long in Fianna HQ at 12 D'Olier Street where he could be found up to midnight working on details of organisation and training.

Na Fianna played an active part during the 1913 strike and a Fianna officer, Patsy O'Connor, was batoned on the head by R.I.C. while giving first aid to an injured person, following a police baton charge. This lad died sometime afterwards. When the Volunteers were formed in the same year, the value of the work undertaken by Na Fianna became obvious.

The senior boys were ready and competent to train the Volunteers and accustom them to discipline and, in short, to transform raw recruits into disciplined soldiers. Four Fianna officers were elected to the first Executive Council of the Volunteers and Liam Mellows became the first effective secretary. The Fianna drill halls and equipment were at the disposal of the Volunteers and they grew rapidly in strength, along with Na Fianna.

Na Fianna was well represented at Bodenstown the same year when Pádraig Mac Piarais led the historic pilgrimage to the grave of Wolfe Tone. This has remained an annual event for the organisation ever since.

The year 1914 saw further progress for Na Fianna when the first handbook was put in the hands of the Organisation. This year also marked Na Fianna's first event of national importance, the Howth

gun running. They marched from Dublin with the Volunteers, bringing their trek-cart with them, and were the first to reach Erskine Childers yacht *The Asgard*.



During the return journey to Dublin they were entrusted with some guns and the ammunition because of their high standard of discipline. After clashes with the military they succeeded in delivering it to its destination. A Fianna officer was in charge of the cycle detachment at the Kilcoole gun running, which took place soon afterwards.

From 1915 onwards they threw themselves wholeheartedly into anti-British activities, and that year the funeral of O'Donovan Rossa was the occasion of a great display of strength.

*Part Three next Issue*

## I gCuimhne

**Percy Hannifan Tralee, Co Kerry. Died from wounds received in action with Black and Tans in Tralee, January 1922**

**Michael Sloan Belfast. Died as a result of accidental shooting while on active service. January 11, 1972**

**Eamonn McCormick Ballymurphy, Belfast. Shot by British Army while on active service. January 16, 1972**

**Gerry Donaghy Derry City. Murdered by British Forces in Derry City on Bloody Sunday. January 30, 1972**

**David McCauley Ardoyne, Belfast. Died as a result of accidental shooting while on active service. February 19, 1972**

# Uladh Na Fianna Éireann - Ulster O/C



Fian in picture is from six counties where Na Fianna is "proscribed"

When Ireland was partitioned, so too was the ancient province of Ulster. Na Fianna Éireann is organised throughout the province without regard to the partitionist boundaries. Unjust British laws have proscribed (i.e. banned) the organisation throughout the Six Occupied Counties, but we cannot accept that a foreign occupying power has any right to impose its laws on the Irish people. The Stormont Agreement was forced on the Irish people on the basis that it could deliver peace - the only alternative being war. It was sold to unionists as a means for strengthening the Union; conversely nationalists were assured it was a stepping stone towards a united and independent Ireland. Irish history has shown where these "stepping-stones" lead. This latest British policy has copper-fastened English rule, taking a section of the "nationalist" people on board. England can now rely on former Republicans to police nationalist areas to help maintain her colonial rule. Furthermore it has institutionalised sectarianism. Na Fianna Éireann "recognises not treaties or bounda-

ries which make of Ireland anything less than a Sovereign, Independent State from the centre to the sea".

Young Republicans should join the ranks of the only truly Republican youth movement in Ireland and reject British occupation. They must also reject the new-look RUC and its willing collaborators. We ask them to see other so-called "Republican" youth groups for what they really are. In particular the organisation styling itself "Ógra Shinn Féin" (Provisional Sinn Féin youth) seek to recruit young people into promoting and maintaining a new Stormont. The only solution to the "Irish Question" is a British declaration of intent to withdraw permanently from our shores. There can be no normality whilst British interference continues.

We congratulate the Republican prisoners on their partial victory in the ongoing campaign for political status, gaining segregation from Loyalists and ordinary criminals. Our hope is that everyone will support the just demands. Ten courageous Irish soldiers died on hunger strike so that their comrades would be recognised as Prisoners of War. Former comrades signed away this right under the terms of the 1998 Stormont Agreement.

"The Fianna ideal can save the future" - Liam Mellows (executed by Free Staters 8/12/1922).

An Phoblacht Abú!

## Poem by Áth Cliath Fian

Na Fianna marched with class and dignity, soldiering on through the wind and rain.  
Remembering these men with pride and continuity. Commemorating Irelands volunteers slain.

These soldiers executed by foreign invaders, defending their mother-land with all their might.  
Being honoured today as Republican warriors, the commemorations today is an honourable sight.

Speaking now of these brave men, for the cause and struggle of Irish freedom,  
wondering would they do it all again. The answer is not a difficult conundrum.

The last post being played by the lone piper, as the flags are lowered as a sign of respect.  
These men died continuing the fight knowing in my head their death is so incorrect.

Resisting the crown, and all occupation, ending the ceremony with a soldiers song.  
I leave the ceremony with emotions racing, knowing inside the fight must go on.....

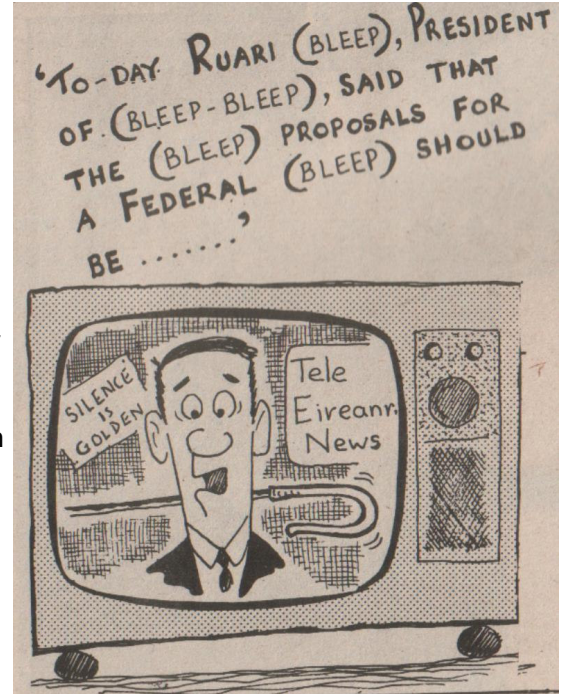


## *Gagging the True voice*

It is now over 10 years since Section 31 of the broadcasting Ban in the 26 counties has been lifted but it has to be asked can those who advocate true republicanism notice any difference? Those who continue to present an undiluted Republican position are conspicuous by their absence from television, radio and in the print media whilst the media falls over itself to accommodate those former revolutionaries who are now so eager to implement British policy in Ireland for them.

Censorship comes in many forms. The most obvious one is the denial of airtime to those who advocate a radical alternative to both failed partitionist states which is aimed at preserving the status quo. Representatives of Republican Sinn Féin appearing on television might make people start asking awkward questions about the British presence in our country. Another form of censorship is the use of black propaganda to misrepresent the ideals and goals of the republican movement. The connection between many of the newspaper articles by so called "security experts" and the special branch in Harcourt street has to be questioned. These "experts" have a free range to print whatever they want without fear of repercussion and invariably refuse to print statements by the movement denying their lurid accusations. The subtle use of language is another way used to attack us with words like dissidents and micro republicans now almost compulsory. Sadly these words have entered the vocabulary of those who were once on the receiving end of the same propaganda themselves.

Dissidents is a phrase conjured up by the British in 1998 in an effort to undermine support for Republicans who do not support an internal settlement. The Continuity IRA were not called dissidents in 1996 or 1997 by Provisional Sinn Féin supporters. It is only since the British introduced the word that this has happened. Those using this British created slur legitimise all the black propaganda that went before it.



Nothing has changed—Cartoon from the 1970's

We need to counter this censorship by every method at our disposal. Republicanism is the most progressive ideology on this Island therefore we must promote it by progressive means. We must learn to adapt and change the methods of its promotion. If we hold a picket or protest we should try make it different from the last one so as not to produce apathy from its participants and the general public who we are appealing to. In a word we need to be Dynamic. We need to adapt to the latest technologies and the latest trends. That's why Na Fianna Éireann has spent so much time developing its internet presence. Our message is getting out and people from every corner of the world are hearing it. We are winning people around to our way of thinking and are gaining support where once none existed. It is through magazines such as Young Republican that the true voice of Irish Republicanism will be heard.

The road to the Republic is a long one which we will have to travel by our own means. There is no public transport on this road. It is a seemingly unending journey that must be taken by all those of Republican persuasion. The rewards of an Irish Nation free from British Rule at the end are surely worth it.

*Sliabh Ruadh*

## Fianna Winter Camp



A hugely successful winter camp was held recently in the Munster area by Na Fianna Éireann. Fians from throughout Ireland attended and great fun was had by all. A number of outdoor activities were organised over the two days with a visit to the paintball range being the most popular.

Plans are now already well under way for the spring and summer camps. Na Fianna would like to thank the locals for their warm hospitality throughout the weekend.

## New Year Statement: Na Fianna Éireann 2004



Na Fianna Éireann sends revolutionary greeting to our friends, supporters and fellow Republicans in Ireland and indeed throughout the world. The past year has been an historic one for Irish Republicans being the 200th anniversary of Robert Emmet's rising in Dublin. Emmet's aim of a free and independent Ireland is our aim having been passed down to us from the successive generations. Sadly his epitaph still remains unwritten after all these years.

The suspension of Stormont clearly illustrates that Irish independence and unity cannot come from this British created institution. The Belfast document like those before it is destined to failure as it does not address the root cause of the conflict in Ireland, ie British rule. Those claiming otherwise are enemies of a 32 county republic on this island.

We note the continuing opposition to British rule in Ireland by the Continuity IRA and we applaud their brave stand against all the odds. It is a source of inspiration that there are still men and women willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for a cause they believe passionately about. The tag of dissidents does not belong on the volunteers of Óglaigh Na hÉireann but on the counter-revolutionary movement of the Provisionals!

The situation in Maghaberry prison was watched with great concern by our members. The British again seemed intent on criminalising the Irish struggle but they will always fail, as you cannot criminalise freedom fighters no matter what tactic you use. Na Fianna Éireann throughout the year supported the Republican Movement in their campaign for political status. Although a partial victory was won through segregation, we will continue to campaign for full political status. We have distributed thousands of leaflets highlighting the fact that political status has not been granted, and have held pickets around the country. The response has been positive, and it seems not everybody has sold out or has forgotten the POW's. We wish to take this chance to thank everybody who has supported us in this campaign, and it is worth stating that we have received support from as far a field as America with supporters distributing our leaflets for us there.

We send a message to the Special Branch police in the 26 counties. You will not stop us in our goal of a independent Ireland free from British interference. Your attempts to intimidate our membership do nothing but solidify our commitment to tearing down this sham of a state and creating a 32 county Socialist Republic in its place.

We appeal to the youth of the nation to join us in our historic campaign. No matter what your previous affiliations may be there is a place in our movement for all those of good character. With an ever-increasing membership across the country and support across the world this organisation has a bright future. Our new website and magazine launched this year have given us a new avenue to express our opinions and views to counter-act the censorship of the establishment media. Our voice is strong and it will be heard. We are the voice of the revolutionary youth of Ireland, the voice of the faithful republican youth. We will march on with a purpose until that certain day.

## Eddie Carmody remembered in Kerry

Republicans from throughout Ireland assembled in Ballylongford on the 22nd of Nov to remember a fallen soldier of Óglaigh Na hÉireann, Eddie Carmody who died at the hands of the Black and Tans during the war of independence. Lead by a colour party from Limerick/Kerry, and followed by a slua from Na Fianna Éireann they marched from the Eddie Carmody GAA club grounds to the spot where he was murdered unarmed by the Black and Tans in 1920.

Chaired by ex-POW Seán O Sé, Eamon Walsh from Offaly gave the main oration, where he gave a short history of Eddie Carmody, and focused on his attributes that seen him rise through the ranks of the IRA.

The proceedings ended with the playing of the national anthem.



## GHADAFI SAYS...

"What can I say so many things I could write but I'm not going to write another Provo sell out, I say leave them to it!!!! So now on to business, Like to thank everyone who went to the Christmas swim and to everyone who jumped in but in future lads leave the Christmas socks at home. A POW out on Christmas leave came to show his support".

" Its a crazy world on the 5/1/04 two young Fianna lads got front page news in Dublin for... wait for it..... marching on a road and wearing dark glasses and berets. The Evening Herald printed nearly three pages on the "sick" event as they described it. But I don't know how they employ reporters nowadays, they got the RSF president wrong and claiming we are

aligned to the "real" I.R.A. (not true Peter Howick) well its a little better than been aligned to the Provos!!!!

NO SURRENDER NO SELL OUT

*Ghadaffi*



# Movement takes the plunge for POW's!!



Members of the Republican Movement and their supporters once again supported the Republican POW's in Free State and British jails at Christmas by attending the annual Christmas swim. Ten hardy souls braved the freezing conditions in Inchicore Dublin and dived into the ice-cold canal opposite the Black Horse Inn. As the crowd cheered them on, some of the swimmers gave defiant gestures as they dived into the canal, most coming out looking a little shocked at just how cold the water actually was! Members of Na Fianna Éireann were among the fools, eh sorry, the swimmers who took the plunge. The amount of money raised has yet to be determined, but it sure to be a high amount due to the excellent support again shown for the swim.

The swimmers had a warm log fire awaiting them, and some hot whiskeys for the more mature swimmers! With the rebel songs blasting away, and the Christmas spirit in the air, we still had some unwelcome company in the form of the Dublin special branch, who even on Christmas day came to harass the revellers. With the cry of lack of resources to tackle the increase in gang-related crime, the special detective unit, even on Christmas day managed to muster three car loads of detectives to watch people swimming! At least we know our taxes are going to a worthy cause, eh?!

John Horan, PRO, Sinn Féin Poblachtach, gave an oration on the Lough to the assembled crowd and stated that if it weren't for Britain's 800 years of illegal rule people would not have had to assemble on days such as Christmas day and jump in freezing water to show their support for incarcerated Republican soldiers. He declared that we must finally rid Ireland of our age-old problem of British interference in Irish affairs, and if need be, we will fight for another 800 years to get back what is rightfully ours.



A Republican POW out on Christmas leave attended the swim to show his support for his comrades in Portlaoise. Na Fianna Éireann made a presentation of a watch with a small inscription in it to him as a sign of their support to him, and also a sign of our gratitude to people like him who refuse to be bought or bribed into accepting an already failed Stormont Agreement.



We would wish to congratulate the members of Cabhair who helped organise the swim, who had to again sacrifice time with their family on Christmas morning to help set-up the swim. It is sometimes forgotten the work that goes into this swim, and as people would recognise it isn't easy to organise people to help with no public transport on the day, but again it showed the support behind our prisoners when so many turn up on Christmas morning to support the prisoners. Well done also to the swimmers, and in particular Michael Logan who had travelled from London to spend Christmas in Ireland.

Finally, to the swimmer who just before jumping into the freezing canal shouted, "F\*\*\* the branch ya wa\*\*\*\*s!".....we salute you!!!

POW Welcome Home Function  
Mother Redcaps, Dublin. March 5th  
9pm to late  
Band T.B.C  
Taille 8 Euro



Organised by Na Fianna Éireann Áth Cliath

Raffle of Republican POW crafts in aid of  
Cabhair on the night



## Francis Hughes Cumann, Scotland, True Republicanism across the water.....



The tradition of active involvement by the Irish community in Scotland in their native country's revolutionary movements is deep and longstanding. In every campaign there has been a significant input by the Irish in Scotland. Several hundred Irishmen armed and readied themselves to take part in the Young Ireland rebellion in 1848. In 1921 the Scottish Brigade of the IRA had five battalions containing a total of thirty-one companies, and Sinn Fein had over 70 Cumann. Na Fianna Eireann and Cumann na mBan also had a significant presence at the time. When the Movement split over the Treaty, the vast majority of Republicans in Scotland remained loyal to the Republic and kept the Fenian flame alight in the subsequent decades down to the present day.

As members of the Francis Hughes Cumann of Republican Sinn Fein, we are proud of the support that earlier generations have given to the freedom struggle, and consider ourselves to be the true inheritors of the Republican tradition in Scotland. Our Cumann was originally formed in 1982 due to an upsurge of support for Republicanism among the youth. This was in direct response to the Hunger Strike deaths of the previous year, which inspired

many young people of Irish descent and caused a reawakening of Irish identity and national sentiment. Many of them became politically active for the first time in their lives. While a lot of them joined the many Republican flute bands that sprang up, the more politically aware chose to join Sinn Fein.

Since then up until Sinn Fein in Scotland and England was disbanded in 1984, the organisation was mainly involved in organising support for the POWs in England, fundraising, and selling Republican literature and merchandise. In 1992 several prominent ex members decided to organise in support of Republican Sinn Fein, and the Cumann was soon reorganised. It has been very active in a whole range of activities. These have included organising the annual 1916 Commemoration in Glasgow, fundraising in support of the organisation in Ireland and the prisoner's dependants fund CABHAIR. The Cumann has organised commemorative marches and ceremonies to honour prominent Republicans of former generations whose graves are in Scotland. One of our most successful activities has been to organise Irish history talks for the Irish community. They have been well attended and have proved to be very educational for the participants. We have a good relationship with the Gaelic League and Comhaltas, and fully support their efforts on behalf of the language and Irish traditional music. The Cumann also enjoys a good relationship with the Scottish Republicans, and a representative spoke at last year's Anti Sectarian Rally to commemorate the Massacre of Glencoe.

Last year the Cumann sent delegates to the Ard Fheis which was an uplifting experience. We also had contingents at the Sean South Commemoration in Limerick, the Wolfe Tone Commemoration in Bodenstown and the annual Hunger Strike Commemoration in County Donegal.

Our political activities have not escaped the notice of the State. Members of the Cumann have experienced attention from the Special Branch, and one member was visited by MI5 with the intention of recruiting him as an informer. This harassment has only succeeded in strengthening our resolve, and nothing will stop us from going about our legitimate political business.

Over the last year in particular, we have experienced quite a lot of interest from people that have become disillusioned with the Provisionals and the Good Friday Agreement. We have been able to convince them of the correctness of the Republican analysis. We would expect this trend to continue once it dawns on people that the Provisional organisation is not working to a Republican agenda.

As we enter 2004 we are optimistic about our ability to grow in strength and to enhance our standing in the Irish community. We intend to increase our profile among young people of Irish descent in particular, and hope to involve them in practical activity in support of the Republican cause.

*Stephen Coyle*



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# Just when you thought it was safe to sign a petition!

Walking down towards a political status picket in Dublin on a cold October afternoon, I came across a petition on O'Connell street in Dublin. It was for the anti-bin tax campaign. I was unsure who was running the stall they had, all I could see was the petition on show for the anti-bin tax campaign there. So I decided (although late for POW picket) to take a moment to sign the petition. You would expect to sign it, and then be on your merry way.....I was wrong!



**Socialist Workers Party—Vultures**

I approached the stall and quickly signed the petition. I heard a voice but I wasn't sure who he was talking too, so I looked up and heard him ask, "ah have you gone to any of the pickets or meetings out in your area", which I answered I had, and supported the campaign when time permitted me too. He talked for a bit, and asked various questions about my own beliefs on socialism, I assumed it was all innocent. Then I was asked to buy their paper "The Socialist Worker" ( paper of Socialist Workers Party), which I did, and then went to go my my way as I had been delayed enough, but I was stopped in my tracks by someone who had been listening to what was been said, and asked maybe I would be interested in getting their paper sent to me home, and have it hand-delivered ( I was told by someone later they do this to get another chance to talk to you again, and try and get you to join ). I refused the offer and

said I would make an effort to maybe get it any time I was around the city centre. So with that they then asked me more questions....( I was ready to ask was I under arrest at this stage of questioning! ), so finally they got around to ask me if I wished to join, which I refused and they asked "why not? You seem very socialist". I pointed towards the picket at the GPO and said I was with them and very happy where I was. They finally left me alone.....

What I have to ask after this, that in the space of a few minutes they very cleverly asked me questions to gauge my political opinions, and used a stall in support of the anti-bin tax campaign to try and gain membership for their party and for people to buy their paper. Is that what groups like these are using the anti-bin tax campaign for? To further their own cause and group? Is it not about fighting for the peoples rights? I didn't think it was to get people to join your group and to sell some more of your papers. Self-promotion under the banner of the anti-bin tax campaign really is sinking low, even by their standards!

That same day I seen posters issued by the Socialist party advertising themselves and urging people to join, as 'Joe and Clare had fought for them'. I couldn't help thinking here was another case of people exploiting the situation for their own means.

I can recall the first anti-bin tax campaign I attended about a 18 months ago outside of Bertie Aherns office in Drumcondra. It had about 40 people, which was quite good at the time, and was nearly just ordinary working class people who were not happy about the planned taxation of their bins. And guess who was there selling their paper. I'm afraid there's no prizes for guessing this one.....!!

## Na Fianna Éireann on the Web



To coincide with launch of the Magazine Na Fianna Éireann has redesigned its website. The site now boasts an extensive archive on the history of the organisation as well as up to date news and hundreds of photos and videos. An extensive section on Republican history is planned. Na Fianna Éireann also runs a very active discussion forum known as the Irish Republican Bulletin Board (IRBB) which gets over 150 posts a day and has nearly 500 members. It can be accessed by going to -

**[www.fiannaeireann.com](http://www.fiannaeireann.com)**