

Young Republican

Official magazine of Na Fianna Éireann



www.fiannaeireann.com

Issue 4 Spring 2005

Brits out of Ireland!!! Brits out of Iraq!!!



British Soldier abusing Iraqi Prisoner



British Soldier on the streets of Ireland

More British Soldiers in Ireland than Iraq!!!

In March 2003 Britain invaded Iraq for the second time in just over sixty years having first invaded the country in 1941 under the familiar pretence of regime change and with the falsely stated goal of stabilising the Middle East. On both occasions the British claimed to be the peacemakers but their true nature soon became apparent to all. Recent reports of seven soldiers of the British Parachute Regiment being charged with the murder of an Iraqi civilian sadly come as no surprise to the Irish people. The same regiment was responsible for the murderous assault on the Bogside in Derry which left 14 Irishmen dead on what is known around the world as Bloody Sunday. With the signing of the Good Friday agreement people seem to think that the British Army have left Ireland. This could not be further from the truth as they still occupy part of this country with a garrison larger than what it currently has in Iraq. Exact numbers are hard to find but it is likely that there are almost 12,000 British Soldiers still stationed in Ireland compared with 8,000 in Iraq. The British Army do not belong in Iraq and Na Fianna Éireann supports all legitimate Iraqi resistance to their unwanted presence in that country. Likewise the British do not belong in Ireland and Na Fianna Éireann supports the current campaign by the Continuity IRA to rid Ireland of this unwanted scourge forever!

Brits out of Ireland and Iraq!!!

Join Na Fianna Éireann!!!

DRUMBOE MARTYRS

Yet again there was a strong turnout in Ballylongford on the 20th of Nov to remember a volunteer of Oglai Na hEireann, Eddie Carmody, who died at the hands of the Black and Tans during the war of Independence. The parade was led by the colour parade from the local RSF followed by Fianna. The speaker Liam Cotter gave a fiery speech that made the hair stand up on the back of your neck.

Afterwards everybody went back to the bar for some ceol agus craic organised by the Munster OC. There we headed up to the local hall for a camp. It was late before we got to sleep but a good night was had by all.

P.S. Thanks Tony for the wake up call!

Young Gun

EDEBTUBBER MARTYRS REMEMBERED

The weather held out for the commemoration which was a change to previous ones. It was led by a piper from the Glens of Antrim followed by a colour party from Tyrone and then Na Fianna. Two bus loads from Dublin and Bray full of members of Fianna and Republican Sinn Fein made the journey along with Fians from Derry.

The Commemoration was in honour of the Edentubber Martyrs who died in a premature explosion in 1957. There was a precision march from Na Fianna but special praise has to be given to the young Fians from the Liam Mellows Midlands Slua and the Patsy O Connor Slua who were an inspiration to all of us. There was also a young Fian from Bray who was on her first march who done brilliant-ly.

The main oration was delivered by Brendan Magill a lifelong Republican and former P.O.W. Of all my time in Na Fianna over the years I dont think Ive heard a more powerful and emotional oration given. As Brendan spoke to the 100 plus crowd he talked about his fallen comrades Frank Stagg and Michael Gaughan who died on hunger strike and how Adams and McGuinness sold out on the true Republican ideal.

Speaking after the commemoration

the Adadant General of Fianna had this to say "What a speech. It really hit a nerve with everyone there to hear. Brendan spoke with such raw emotion and passion"
I could not agree more.

Young Gun

EASTER COMMEMORATIONS

Na Fianna Eireann will be present at marches in the following areas this Easter:

Easter Sunday

Dublin, Belfast, Derry, Galway,
Cork, Kerry, Donegal

Easter Monday

Offaly, Donegal, Dublin

See Saoirse closer to Easter for full details.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS...

Sincere Sympathy to the family of Frank Gartland who died recently.

From Ard Choiste
NFE

.....

Sincere Sympathy to Nesson Curran on the death of his Father.

From Ard Choiste
NFE

.....

Easter greetings to all supporters at home and abroad.

From Ard Choiste
NFE

.....

Solidarity greetings to Continuity I.R.A. P.O.W.s in Portlaoise and Magaberry

From Ard Choiste
NFE

.....

Easter greetings to Stephan Daly and comrades

From John Dempsey slua Belfast
Fox/Hughes slua Antrim
Keenan/Gartland Derry

.....

Easter greetings to Timmy King/
Paddy Deery

From Liam Mellows slua Midlands

.....

Easter greetings to Timmy King
From Colm Mitchel, USA

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Fianna Motto

Glairie inár gcroí
Purity in our hearts

Neart inár ngéaga
Strength in our arms

Beart de réir ar mbriathar
Truth on our lips

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Interview with CIRA Prisoners



FIANNA: WHAT IS THE CIRA PRISONERS NORMAL ROUTINE IN PORTLAOISE PRISON?

PRISONERS: WE ARE UNLOCKED FROM OUR CELLS AT 8.30am SO WE'D ASSEMBLE AT THE RECREATION ROOM FOR BREAK-FAST. OUR CLASSES START AT 9am AND ALL CIRA PRISONERS PARTICIPATE IN EDUCATION, AFTER ALL, REPUBLICANS DIED FOR THAT RIGHT TO EDUCATION. WE MAKE USE OF THE YARD TIME AND ALSO WE WOULD USE THE GYM.

FIANNA: HOW DO YOU GET ON WITH OTHER GROUPS?

PRISONERS: WE RECOGNISE THE FACT THAT WE HAVE TO CO EXIST TOGETHER ON THE WING REGARDLESS OF EACH GROUPS POLICIES. WE ARE FOR A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC SO IN ANY DEMOCRACY WE HAVE TO ACCEPT AND RESPECT EVERY PERSONS RIGHT TO POLITICAL VIEWS. CIRA PRISONERS DON'T AGREE WITH FIGHTING AMONGST REPUBLICAN GROUPS, AS THE ONLY BENEFICERIES TO SUCH INCIDENTS ARE THE FREE STATE AND THE BRITS.

FIANNA: WHATS THE CURRENT PROBLEM ARISING TOWARDS REPUBLICAN PRISONERS?

PRISONERS: THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE NOW SOUGHT TO BE INCLUDED INTO THE PRISONS CRITERIA WITH A VIEW TO CRIMINALIZE REPUBLICAN PRISONERS

- MANDATORY DRUG TESTING
 - WHEN A REPUBLICAN PRISONER IS AT HIS PRE RELEASE TERM, HE IS BEING ASKED TO FILL IN A FORM WHICH CONTAINS REFERENCES AS TO WHETHER THE PRISONER REQUIRES METHADONE AMONGST OTHER THINGS.
 - ONLY 1 VISIT A WEEK
 - DURATION OF VISIT TO BE DRASTICALLY CUT
 - ONLY 6 PEOPLE TO BE ALLOWED TO VISIT A PRISONER DURING THE LIFETIME OF HIS SENTENCE AND ITS AT THE GOVERNORS DISCRETION TO ALLOW-THE NOMINATED NAMES TO GAIN ENTRY
 - PRISONERS CHILDREN WONT BE ALLOWED ACCESS UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A NOMINATED VISITOR
- NEW ARRIVALS ARE TO BE INTERVIEWED AT THE GATE BY THE GOVERNOR AND ARE REQUIRED TO FILL IN THESE NOMINATION FORMS ON ARRIVAL. THE NEW RULES ABOLISH AN OC FROM MEETING THE PRISONER ON ARRIVAL. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, YOU MAY EVENTUALLY SEE CRIMINALS BEING FORCED ON THE LANDING. CIRA PRISONERS WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS CRIMINALIZATION POLICY BY THE STATE.

FIANNA: DO THE REPUBLICAN PRISONERS FEEL THAT ENOUGH IS BEING DONE BY OUR ORGANISATION FOR THE PRISONERS?

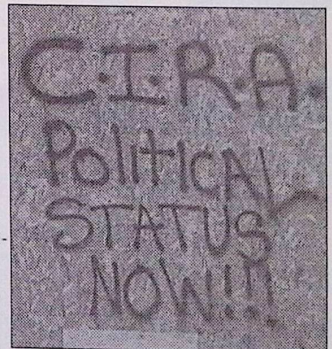
PRISONERS: WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THE INPUT INTO THE PRISONERS WELL BEING BY NA FIANNA EIREANN AS NA FIANNA'S EXCELLENT WORK IS NOTICED BY OUR GROUPS PRISONERS. WE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE CONSTANT COLLECTIONS NA FIANNA DO FOR CABHAIR. NA FIANNA IS NOW GOING GREAT NATIONALLY AND DO THEMSELVES PROUD AT EVERY COMMEMORATION THEY PARTICIPATE IN. YOUNG REPUBLICAN IS A GREAT MAGAZINE AND ITS GOOD TO SEE AN INPUT FROM REPUBLICANS GETTING AN EQUAL VOICE ON THEIR OPINIONS AND GIVES THE GRASSROOTS A CHANCE TO EXPRESS THE VIEWS AND CONCERNS. NA FIANNA IS IMPORTANT TO THE MOVEMENT AND WE COMMEND ALL MEMBERS AT HOME AND ABROAD FOR THEIR EXCELLENT WORK.

FIANNA: WHATS THE REPUBLICAN PRISONERS THOUGHTS ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE?

PRISONERS: IT'S PLAIN TO SEE THAT THE BELFAST AGREEMENT HAS FAILED. THE ONLY WAY FORWARD IS THROUGH REPUBLICAN SINN FEINS EIRE NUA POLICY. THE BELFAST AGREEMENT HAS INCITED SECTARIANISM AND COPPER-FASTENED PARTITION. ITS TIME WE STOPPED TALKING ABOUT WHAT OTHER GROUPS HAVE DONE AND LAUNCHED A MILITARY CAMPAIGN AND SHOW AN ALTERNATIVE TO REPUBLICANS DISILLUSIONED WITH ALL THIS TALK OF ELECTIONS AND LOCAL ELECTIONS WE ARE MEANT TO BE A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT NOT A PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL MACHINE.

LAZINESS SEEMS TO BE CREEPING IN AND MAYBE THE WILL ISNT THERE FOR A CAMPAIGN. IF WE HAD AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MILITARY CAMPAIGN, THEN REPUBLICANS AT EACH OTHERS THROATS WITHIN OUR MOVEMENT MAY THEN START TO FEEL A SENSE OF COMRADESHIP INSTEAD OF DOING WHAT THE STATE AND BRITS WANTS US TO DO.

LETS NOT UNDERMINE EACH OTHER. LETS GET A CAMPAIGN GOING AND UNITE OUR COUNTRY ONCE AND FOR ALL, LESS TALK AND START SOME BADLY NEEDED ACTION. ITD BE A GREAT BOOST FOR A REPUBLICAN PRISONERS MORALE.



Political Wall Slogan

The Fianna Code

1. A Fian is patriotic

He learns all about his country, knows its history and language, its resources and industries, and his one aim in life is to serve it to the best of his ability. With that end in view, he makes it a rule to do at least ONE thing every day for his country's cause. He plays Gaelic games, sings the songs of his country and he supports and encourages the purchase of home manufactured goods.

2. A Fian is reliable

He is truthful. His honour can be trusted. His word can be relied upon. He does not exaggerate or spread false alarms. He controls his tongue, and wins the respect of his friends and superiors. "He let me down once": This is one of the most damning things that can be said of a person. It means that he will never be entirely trusted, never quite believed, never fully relied on again. Never let this be said of a Fian.

3. A Fian is diligent

He works conscientiously for his employer and his country, and by study and perseverance he gets to the top in his particular trade or profession. He is at the top because he remembers while doing his daily tasks, that it is not for himself alone that he works; that he is a Fian; that the good name of the Fianna is at stake; and that he is not going to let it down.

4. A Fian is kind

He is polite in his manners, conduct and language towards others. He knows that the kind word and the kind deed stamp him as a Fian, and he is ever ready to lend a hand to those who need it. He is a friend to dumb animals and will not harm or hurt them.

5. A Fian is obedient

He renders strict obedience to his superiors. He learns to obey before he commands; he learns to discipline and control himself before he aspires to teach discipline to others.

6. A Fian is cheerful

He never sulks. He always has the cheery word and does

his duty with a smile. His ever bright and smiling countenance radiates the sunshine of life wherever he goes.

7. A Fian is thrifty

He does not unnecessarily destroy what may be useful to others. He is as careful of other people's property as he is of his own. When training or camping he is careful of the farmer's crops and fences, and replaces the falling stone and repairs any other damage he may have caused. He does not gamble or spend his money foolishly.

8. A Fian is brave

He faces danger, knows no fear, and stands for right on all occasions.

9. A Fian is clean

He keeps his body and mind clean and pure. Every Fian learns to swim. He always turns up on parade with clean face and hands, clothes brushed and boots polished. A Fian does not associate with anti-social elements.

10. A Fian is humble

His aim is not to gain promotion so as to have authority over other Fian, but to work to make himself a better Fian and a better citizen of Ireland. Fine epaulettes and uniforms are not everything. In the Fianna there is no room for vain glory or self-importance. In the Fianna all Fian are equal: there is neither distinction of class or creed. We seek equality.

11. A Fian is temperate

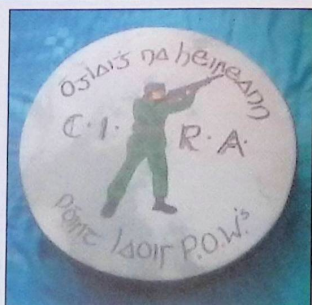
He eats, drinks and behaves in moderation at all times. Moderation is his motto.

12. A Fian is punctual

He is always on time. He makes it a point, whether on parade or at work, on business or pleasure, to be a couple of minutes before the appointed time. It is by strict observance of punctuality that it soon becomes a life long habit.

The Fianna ideal can save the future -- Liam Mellows

CIRA POW CRAFTS



Passing the buck on Anti-Irish racism in the West of Scotland.

As the Irish travelled the world in search of a better life, as Britain cruelly ruled our land with an iron fist, they reached the shores of the various nations they visited in the hope they would be welcomed by the natives there. The welcome was not always forthcoming and one of the coldest welcomes of all given to the Irish was from their Celtic neighbours - Scotland. As was in the case when the Irish visited the USA, they were met with cold looks and derision by the local, mainly Protestant Scot's. A lot of water has passed under the bridge since the mid/late-1800's and the Irish that emigrated to Scotland have now incorporated themselves into Scottish society and have become the biggest ethnic minority in Scotland (around 17% of the population), although this is not something the media here always recognises.

Recently a report here found that nearly 70% of all racist/sectarian crimes are carried out against the Catholic community, which is a frightening statistic when

you think of the other sizeable minorities in Scotland, like the Asian community. With this in mind it is alarming to think that the media here in Scotland tend to blame the Catholics schools and their very existence for the scourge of religious bigotry in Scotland. Effectively, what they are saying is that it is your own fault you are discriminated against, it's you and your schooling system which is to blame!

What that attitude basically does is get the real bigots off the hook. Only a blind man could see that the anti-Catholic feelings that still exist in the West of Scotland today amounts to simple anti-Irishness, as it was there in the 1800's and is still present today. You need only look at the massive numbers that line the streets in the West of Scotland to support the Orange Order parades with songs about being up to their "knees in fenian blood" and "Kick the Pope". What other so-called democracy would allow anti-Jewish bands or anti-black African bands march through their streets? It wouldn't be permitted, so why are anti-Irish Catholic bands accepted by the establishment in Scotland and their lackies in the "mainstream" media?

With the signing of the Stormont Agreement in the 6 counties, there has been a lot of talk of "institutionalised sectarianism", and this is the reason for many peoples opposition to the agreement as it gives official recogni-

tion to the sectarian divide in the North of Ireland. What is given little credence by political commentators is the fact that there is a lot of institutionalised anti-Irishness in Scotland and without much opposition to it either.

One example of this was the opening of a famine memorial, just outside Glasgow, in a Catholic grotto. It was due to be opened in Carfin, which is a largely Catholic community, with a lot of people who would have been descendants of the Irish people who had to flee Ireland due to economic, daily hardship and of course the Great Hunger of 1843-47. It just so happened to coincide the with an "Old Firm" derby (Celtic v Rangers). Frank Roy MP for Wishaw/Motherwell, who's constituency covers the Carfin area, in his infinite wisdom called for the ceremony to be postponed due to the fact that with the game on later on that day it might provoke "sectarian riots". With pressure from himself and the media the ceremony was postponed to a later

more "convenient" date. Now although this was used by Frank Roy (an ex-member of the AOH) as a classic case of political opportunism to get his ugly mug in the daily papers, if you analysis the scenario deeper you will realise how the seeds of anti-irishness rared it's ugly head again. How possibly could a memorial dedicated to people who fled for their very



Loyalist 'protestors' try to disrupt Glasgow Bloody Sunday march

lives, due in large to an oppressive occupation, be deemed offensive to anybody? Would anybody in England or Wales find any such memorial offensive? Of course they wouldn't, so why is it so in Scotland? Is it the old chestnut that it is their schooling system, perhaps? What is it that these dirty Taigs bring all this onto themselves that they cannot even commemorate in peace their own innocent people dying a low painful death as they starved to death? Would a memorial to the people who have died in the Ethiopian famine in East Africa, that so many rallied around to help, be found offensive by anybody in the West of Scotland? I think people are well aware of what I'm getting at here and it plainly obvious that there is a problem in Scotland with sectarianism, and in particular anti-Irish racism, and it is not the fault of the Irish/Catholic community in Scotland or their schooling system - it is the ignorance that was shown to the Irish coming off the boats all those decades ago that is still prevalent today in Scottish society as it was then.

Killing of Palestinian girl shatters family

Ten-year-old Nuran Iyad Dib went to school as ecstatic as any schoolgirl should be. But this crisp winter day was special: she would receive her bi-annual report card. As it turned out, she passed with flying colours, which meant a gift from her parents, who had been saving up their dwindling funds for this occasion. The teacher's comment on top of her report read: We predict a very bright future for Nuran. But Nuran would have no such future, and her gift lies abandoned in a corner of her family's grieving home. On the afternoon of 31 January 2005, Israeli sniper fire ripped through her face as she stood in her school's courtyard, lining up for afternoon assembly.

The last thing Nuran's mother remembers of her daughter before she left for school that morning was hearing her say her morning prayers, during which she recited a verse about God having created death - and life - as a test for mankind. In retrospect, Nuran's mother believes it was a premonition of what was to come. "Then she left for school. She was a completely selfless child. She was thinking of her sisters till the last second. She came back after she had left the house, and said: 'Mommy, it's cold - please put some sweaters on my sisters before they leave'," her mother said. "What more can I say except that she was a breath of fresh air in these hard times? Her name was Nur [light] and that's exactly what she was."

Her death has many here questioning Israel's commitment to a ceasefire amid a one-sided truce and virtual period of calm. "We extended an olive branch to them and instead of reciprocating they cut our hand off," Nuran's mother cried, sitting in an unpainted cement-block bedroom with nothing but thin foam mattresses on the ground. "What did she ever do to deserve such a fate? Or her sister, who saw Nuran die in front of her? Every night she wails out in her sleep: 'Bring me my sister, bring me my sister'".

Nuran was the fifth Palestinian child to be shot dead or maimed by Israeli occupa-

Gaza this year alone - and one of 644 killed in Gaza since the start of al-Aqsa Intifada in September 2000. Two girls were shot dead in separate incidents in Rafah and Khan Yunus last year while sitting at their desks, and a little girl was permanently blinded in March 2003. According to UNRWA's spokesperson, Paul McCann, the UN relief organisation has repeatedly protested against the Israeli military's indiscriminate firing into civilian areas in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Nuran's school, which is about 600m away from the border, has been hit on numerous occasions since the start of the conflict, he said. This is the first time the shots have had tragic consequences. "We want to ask the world: Was Nuran holding an explosive belt around her waist? Was she toting a Kalashnikov? She knew no politics, only love," her aunt Iktimal Husayn asked rhetorically. "She was supposed to bring home her report from school, but instead she brought home her death certificate." Nuran's mother says minutes before receiving news of her daughter's death she sensed something was not right.

"I asked her father about a beautiful picture of Nuran we had taken a few years back. I wanted to see it. And then her baby sister dropped a large jar of chili sauce on the floor. Witnesses say the children were clapping their hands and singing the national anthem when the firing started. One bullet pierced the hand of Aysha Isam al-Khatib, while the other hit Nuran in the head. She fell to the ground at once. Bystanders say they assumed she was unconscious until they noticed the pool of blood beneath her shattered skull. A third bullet hit a young girl's book bag, and was stopped in its tracks by one of her folders, just inches away from her spine. Eleven-year-old Salwa al-Khalifa was next to Nuran when the bullets struck. She described with disturbing composure well beyond her years the details of that bloody hour: "A bullet went in through her nose and came out of her neck. We all ducked. Several other bullets hit the window and school wall over there."

A day after the incident, Israeli authorities said their initial investigation indicated it was fire from jubilant Palestinian police celebrating the return of Hajj pilgrims, not Israeli sniper fire, that killed Nuran. But the pockmarked wall of the UNRWA school, which stands 600m away from an Israeli sniper tower and far away from residential blocks, tells a different story. "There is nothing around us here, and there were no pilgrims that we know of celebrating that day. There is just an outpost a few hundred metres away - one from which sniper fire has frequently hit our school," school principal Siham al-Ghaff said.

Al-Ghaff says if the fire was indeed Palestinian, the bullet would not have hit Nuran in the face but rather landed on top of her head, as rifles fired in celebration usually point upwards. Both Palestinian security sources and UN officials confirm the account, saying that the way the bullets were scattered, along with witness testimonies, point to Israeli gunfire. "Everything is pointing to the fact that it was the Israelis. There were a number of shots, and the way they were scattered gives us an indication of the direction where they came from, and that corresponds with witness reports that the firing came from an [Israeli] APC or tank in the area," one official said. Meanwhile, in Nuran's school, life goes on. Girls who received top marks this term were rewarded with tins of toffee that they passed out enthusiastically to all visitors, a step taken by school counsellors to attempt to normalise an abnormal situation.

But in Nuran's fourth-grade classroom, the mood was far from celebratory. "The children are too afraid to go out for their recess, and many simply go to the bathroom and weep all day," principal al-Ghaff said. Counsellors have been trying to help the children work through the trauma of recent days. When asked to portray their classmate's death, most drew tanks and Apache helicopters invading their school. "I thought there's a truce now, something like this would never happen. Now we're trying to pick up the pieces," al-Ghaff added.

The Palestinian Authority has filed a formal complaint with the Israeli side about the girls' shooting, but it is unlikely Nuran's family will ever get answers about their daughter's death. Back in her family's home, Nuran's mother sat gazing in disbelief at her daughter's report card, while her father Iyad stood weeping silently. Nearby, an Israeli tank shell rattled the windows of the room, which together with young Nuran's death served as a reminder that if there is any calm it has not yet reached Rafah.

"When Nuran died, a part of me died also," her mother said. "She was a bright light that was extinguished. For me, there can be no more peace."



A Child's bloodstained book after the attack

tion forces while on the premises of their UN-flagged schools in the past two years. She was also one of 172 children killed in



History of Na Fianna Eireann

Immediately after the Rising a meeting of all available officers was held at An Chead Sluagh hall when a Provisional Committee of Control was appointed, as follows: -- Eamon Martin (Chairman), J Pouch, T Fitzgerald, and Joseph Reynolds.

With the release of the bulk of the internees in December 1916. The HQ Staff was re-constituted as follows: Ard Fheinne, Countess Markievicz (still in prison); Chief of Staff, Eamon Martin (in USA); Adjutant General, Barney Mellows (re-arrested February 1917); Quartermaster General, Garry Holohan; Assistant QMG, A White; Director of Training and Acting Chief of Staff, Seán McLoughlin.

With the release of the remaining prisoners a further re-organisation resulted in the following appointments which remained static until the Truce in 1921: Ard Fheinne, E de Valera, 1917-18; Ard Fheinne, Madame Markievicz, 1918-1921; Chief of Staff, Eamon Martin, until July 1921; Adjutant General, Barney Mellows; (P Stephenson was Acting Adjutant General while Barney Mellows was in prison); Quartermaster General, Garry Holohan; Assistant QMG, A White; Director of Training (also C/S), Eamon Martin; Assistant Director of Training, H O'Neill; Director of Organisation, Liam Langley.

Fianna took an active part in all militant activities during the year, which included marching at the funeral of Thomas Ashe, the anti-conscription campaign and several raids for arms.

The Annual Ard-Fheis in 1919 at the Mansion House pledged its allegiance to the Government of the Republic, as the Fianna of today continue to do.

In 1920 the Fianna Commando offered to attempt the rescue of Kevin Barry. They were instructed to stand by but the order was later cancelled.



From 1919 to 1921, Na Fianna

took an active part in the fight for freedom throughout the country. They carried despatches for the

Volunteers, reconnoitred barracks etc, engaged in intelligence work of all kinds and rendered first aid to the wounded. Officers and senior scouts succeeded in securing arms and actively engaged the enemy on numerous occasions. The heroism of the boys of Ireland during this period would require many volumes to tell the full story and cannot be dealt with properly in this broad outline.

At the Ard-Fheis held after the Truce, the Director of Organisation gave the strength of the organisation as around 25,000. The Chief of Staff's opinion was that this was an "on paper" figure and that half to two-thirds that figure would be a closer estimate. The "returns" were always on the "generous" side.

At the general parade of all national bodies which took place in Smithfield, Dublin, to celebrate the Truce, the Fianna who paraded from the Dublin Brigade, under Garry Holohan, numbered 2,100 all ranks. This is an accurate record.

The year 1921 came, a year that

promised so much for the new resurgent Ireland. England had called for a truce and negotiations were in progress. Many noble Irish boys had died and suffered that Ireland might be free. But Ireland's sorrowful tale was to continue and many more were to die in the "second defence of the Republic". The voice of Ireland's youth again spoke fearlessly through the GHQ of Na Fianna, proclaiming their allegiance to the Republic and offering their lives in her defence.

In the terrible second war made on the Republic, the boys fought as bravely as the young warriors of the old Fianna of Fionn. Hundreds of lads were thrown into prison and stood true, neither giving away under torture nor shirking the hunger strike. Some died in battle, many were kidnapped and murdered by men fighting to hold Ireland for the British Empire. Two of the Fianna Headquarters Staff - Liam Mellows and Joe McKelvey - were treacherously shot to death by Irishmen, at the bidding of the English Cabinet, after being held prisoner for five months.

The Republican Army laid down its arms in April 1923 after nearly two years of heroic resistance, but it made no surrender of principle. The Free State Government was established to rule or misrule the 26 Counties, and an Orange Government set up in the Six Counties to do likewise. Na Fianna Eireann was proclaimed an illegal organisation in the Six Counties, but continued to function actively as it does today.

Part Five next Issue

Easter Greetings

Easter Greetings to Criostoir Mac Carthaigh and Dan McFaul on E4, Portlaoise. From your comrades in Na Fianna Eireann.

The Younger Fians

I have been a member of Na Fianna Eireann for over a year now. I joined Na Fianna because republicanism has always been in my blood. I grew up going to marches with my dad who used to be in a colour party himself and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. I had seen Na Fianna marching in Bundoran and Bodentown and decided that is the way I wanted to go and organisation I wanted to be in. I wanted to commemorate Ireland's fallen patriots and learn more about my language, culture and history.

Since joining Na Fianna I have taken part in various commemorations throughout the country including ones in Kerry, Donegal, Offaly, Louth and Dublin. I have also taken part in other Fianna events such as a 24 hour fast and pickets for the prisoners. I liked this as I think the prisoners need as much support as they can get. I have also gone on camps and days out with the other members. I have stepped up a mark from wearing the orange neckerchief to the shirt and glasses and have become one of the 'big boys' as they call it. I enjoy being in Na Fianna and love what I do.

Even though I am one of the few girls in Na Fianna and probably the oldest, I get on with all of them. They are like big brothers (haha!) and we always have a great laugh together. I also have a brother and sister in Na Fianna and they love it as much as I do. We have all grown to be great comrades and friends. I wouldn't change being in Na Fianna for the world and I have no regrets in joining. In conclusion I would ask young people to get involved and learn their culture and language to help hasten the day we get rid of the brits for good!

Adjacent Liam Mellows Slua



Day out for the younger Fians



As you know Fianna is a youth movement so what better for the young members than a game of bowling and a trip to McDonald's. It also gives the parents a few hours to themselves. Those present included three members from the Liam Mellows Midlands Slua, two members from the Patsy O'Connor Slua, Dublin, and one from the Michael Dwyer Slua, Wicklow.

Under the watchful eye of some of the older Fians a game of bowling was played. Although there was a bit of cheating going on it was all in good fun! Afterwards they headed over to McDonalds for some well earned food and drinks. It was great to see the younger members strike up a friendship that will hopefully last for years to come!

Young Gun

Pictures of the Week



The Provos launch their new "Snowball and Ballot Box" strategy



While McDowell launches his new election campaign

Frank Gartland R.I.P 1951 - 2004



Frank attending prison protests in Dublin

With great sadness it has come to the attention of Na Fianna Éireann of the untimely death of Frank Gartland. Frank was a member of Fianna Éireann in his youth, and was always regarded as a comrade of Fianna Éireann until his untimely passing on.

In honor of Frank the Derry Slua of Fianna Éireann has adapted the name of it's Slua to Keenan / Gartland in memory of Frank. At this opportunity we would like to thank the family of Frank for their hospitality at this sad time. Frank Gartland will never be forgotten

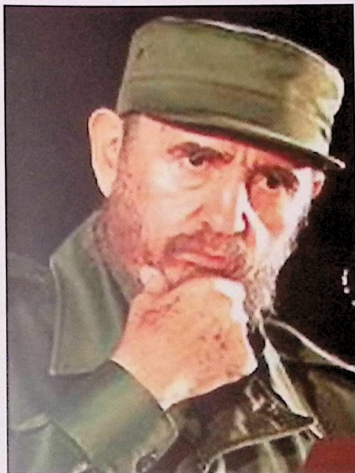
Frank Gartland R.I.P 1951-2004

Chief of Staff
Na Fianna Éireann



Fianna provide the Guard of Honour

Viva Fidel!



I mi na Nollaig 1956, faoi stiuradh fear darbh ainm Fidel Castro, d'eirigh na Fidelistas amach i gCuba agus le dha mhíle fear ar a gcúl, fuair siad an bhua ar airm rialtas na tíre. Scriobh siad san am faoi leanúneacht na ndaoine, gunai, lon cogaídh ach dúirt siad go raibh cuig phointe de dhíth leis an reabhlóid a bheith rathúil.

Chaitheadh stadus polítoíochta na tíre a bheith i gcrúachas, le feiceal o dífríochtai mora sóisialta, loigeacht i gnoithe eacnamaíochta agus an difríúil idir locht an airgid agus an bhocht le feiceal i ngach coirneal. Aidhm polítoíochta, bunaithe ar chúiseanna cearta agus corr a thuigear agus a thogfar na daoine mar príomh-aidhm an reabhlóid.

Rialtas mí-dhleathach na rialtas a bhfuil ag deanamh dochar don tír agus maoin na ndaoine nach bhfuil reitíú políteach ar an bhfadhb. Leis an aidhm políteach caithfidh cumann reabhlóideach siúl lámh ar lámh agus cos ar chos, cumann a bheas abalta ceannúnas rialta dílis a thaispeaint a thogfar croi na ndaoine agus spiorad an reabhlóid. An pointe deireannach agus go fóill fíor choir a bheith cuigeach bliain níos móille go gcaithfear i suíle na ndaoine, creideamh a bheith ag muintir na tíre go bheidh an bhua acu. An bhua agus an saoirse. Viva Fidel!

Belfast OC Speaks

As the New Year approached, I realized that it was nearly one year since republican activists from Belfast and the County Antrim area had met to discuss the current situation within republicanism. A private meeting was held within Co. Antrim to discuss present day republicanism or the lack of it. It was decided at that meeting that we would make contact with the wider republican movement as we knew we could not achieve our goal as independent republicans and needed to voice our concerns to other people.

After making representations to the republican movement, it was decided that a representative of Na Fianna Eireann would address us at a later meeting. Then within a couple of weeks two representatives from Fianna met with ourselves to discuss the future of republicanism for young activists within the six occupied counties. The debate covered various topics and was addressed accordingly by the two members of Fianna.



After the debate Fianna gave the people the opportunity to apply for membership within the organization. As each person made their own decision, it was with great success that the John Dempsey slugh of Na Fianna Eireann was formed in Co. Antrim.

As we have now entered 2005, we strengthen our commitment to Na Fianna Eireann and the republican movement, standing shoulder to shoulder with them we continue our pledge of continuity to the republican struggle and opposition to compromise with the brits. We say to the irish youth of today to reject drugs and anti-social behaviour with the option of joining the revolutionary republican youth movement (Na Fianna Eireann). On ending we send greetings to all republican P.O.W's in Portlaoise and Maghberry continue our support for political status.

OC Belfast, South Antrim
John Dempsey Slugh N.F.E

Ulster Statement

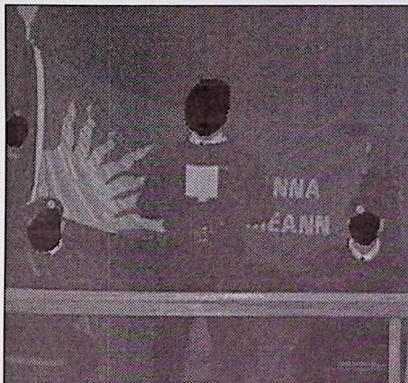
A big year has approached and as more of Republican volunteers have been imprisoned in British or Free State jails. The war is now more of a highlight than it ever has been. As provos sit up in stormont and try to set British rule in Ireland, the true republicans out there just won't let that happen.

As the growing membership of Na Fianna here in Ulster, there has been two new slughs formed in the Antrim area, John Dempsey slugh in Belfast/South Antrim and Fox/Hughes slugh in North Antrim.

I would also like to say with great pride since the death of Frank Gartland (Dundalk RSF member) the slugh name of Derry has been renamed to Keenan/Gartland slugh as suggested by the Derry O.C. I would just like to finish off by sending greetings to Republican prisoners all over Ireland and that the war isn't over the youth are still here and with more strength than ever.

Ulster Divisional O.C.
Na Fianna Eireann

STATEMENT REGARDING TABLOID ARTICLE



A front page article in today's morning edition (Fri Feb 04) of the Evening Herald tabloid claimed that Na Fianna Éireann were under the command of the Provisional Movements military wing.

As public relations officer for NFÉ I would like to make it absolutely clear that these claims are completely unfounded and are nothing more than gutter press lies.

Na Fianna Éireann is under the command of its Ard Coiste, anyone who does not fall under the command of the AC is not a member of NFÉ. Na Fianna Éireann are not the youth wing of any military organisation. Na Fianna recognises Republican Sinn Féin's Eire Nua policy as the only viable option for a united and peaceful Ireland. Na Fianna recognises the Continuity Army Council of Oglagh na hÉireann as the only legitimate fighting force of this country. NFÉ do not so much as recognise the Provisionals as being a Republican Movement.

We will not allow our organisations noble name to be dragged through the mud by politically influenced tabloids in their attacks on the provisional movement.

To clarify: Na Fianna Éireann is an independent organisation, which although recognising the legitimacy of Republican Sinn Féin's political policies and the right to carry out a military campaign by the Continuity IRA, does not fall under their or anyone else's, command. NFÉ does not train Irish children in the use of guns nor do its members progress into the military wing of the provisional movement.

Information on the actual activities of NFÉ can be found at www.fiannaireann.com. Na Fianna would also like the Evening Herald and its contributors to know that their misrepresentations of our well established and fully legal organisation do not go unnoticed and are taken into account

P.R.O.
Na Fianna Éireann

Na Fianna Éireann Ard Fheis 2004

Na Fianna Éireann recently held its annual Ard Fheis in October of 2004, at the Ard Fheis a new Ard Choiste and a new C/S were appointed with the outgoing C/S delivering his report on the growth of Fianna Éireann and also the activities and commemorations that had taken place in the last year.

The Ard Fheis was attended by the selected delegates from within each slua of Fianna Éireann and also by members of the Republican Movement. At the Ard Fheis Fianna Éireann reaffirmed its allegiance to the Sovereign Independent Irish Republic, proclaimed in 1916 and ratified in the National Parliament of the Irish People on the 21st January 1919, it also sent greetings to the Republican POW's incarcerated in gaols in the Free State and Occupied 6 Counties of Ireland. Some of the motions put forward were:

1. That this Ard-Fheis continues to highlight the plight of Republican Prisoners who currently languish in Free State and British Goals.
2. That this Ard-Fheis urges the youth of Ireland to resist the continued occupation of our country.
3. That this Ard-Fheis condemns the US Government for their attempt to criminalize Sinn Féin.
4. That this Ard-Fheis strongly condemns the illegal occupation of Iraq by American and British soldiers.
5. That this Ard-Fheis sends solidarity greetings to the oppressed people of Palestine.
6. That this Ard-Fheis extends its greetings to the nations of this world who are under illegal occupation by other countries.

The Ard Fheis ended with the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

New Year Message

We of Na Fianna Éireann send years greetings to all Continuity I.R.A. volunteers currently held in British and Free state gaols. We would also like to send solidarity greetings to the Continuity Army Council of Oglagh Na hÉireann, Republican Sinn Féin, Cumann na mBan, Cabhair and all supporters of the Republican movement at home and abroad.

Na Fianna have had many great successes in the last year but suffered an irreplaceable loss with the sudden death of our great friend and comrade FRANK GARTLAND on the 20th of December. We would like to send our deep and sincere sympathy to his family. A former Fian, Frank was an important member of Republican Sinn Féin and lent his full support to the wider republican movement. We were truly honoured to have provided the guard of honour at Frank's wake and funeral. He was a great man, both personally and politically and his commitment to the struggle should be an example to all young republicans.

Na Fianna marched on many occasions last year, from Derry to Kerry to pay homage to the fallen comrades. Its an honour to uphold the memory of these brave sons of Ireland, whether at Bodestown and Bundoran or at lesser known events, for example like Pat Cannon or Richard Goss commemorations which are equally as important.



Confidence and morale within the ranks of Na Fianna are also at a all time time after the blatant lies printed last year in the Free state tabloids and spreadsheets proved to be a major factor in encouraging new recruits to join, rather than the opposite, as was intended by the dubious sources of those lies. It is heartening to know that much of today's youth recognises Free state untruths for what they are and also that same youth is capable of making the right decision as to know best....correct the injustices of today's Ireland.

We are unflinching in our belief that the occupation of the six counties and the partition of our Island is ILLEGAL and that the current powers held by Leinster House are illegitimate. We are unyielding in our dedicated support to the Republican movement. Most of all, we are unreserved in our undying love for Ireland.

Na Fianna Abu
Tíocfaidh ar la
An Ard Choiste

www.fiannaeireann.com



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

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