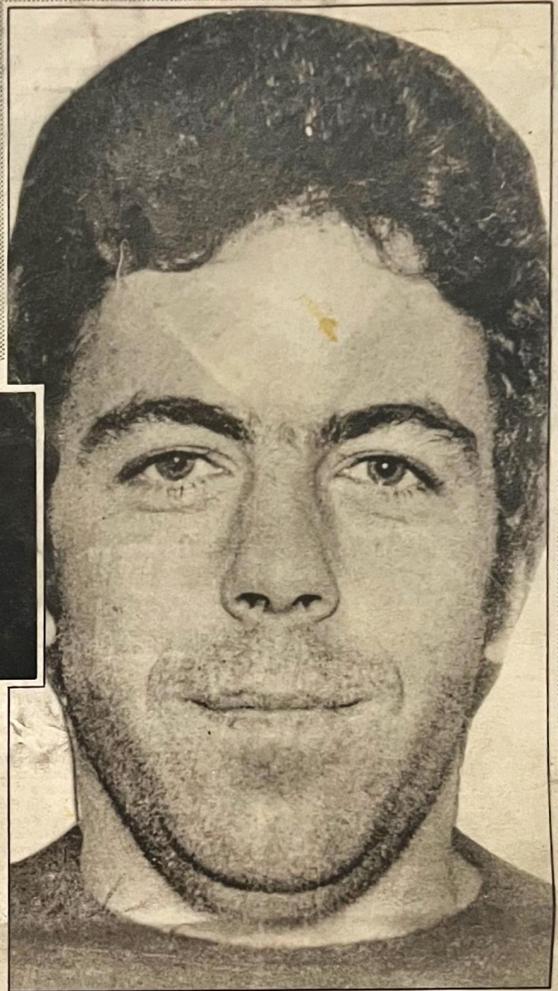


# An Phoblacht REPUBLICAN NEWS



Sraith Nua Iml 4 uimhir 46 Deardoin Samhain 18 Thursday, November 18th, 1982 (Britain 25p) Price 20p

# DEATH OF A BUTCHER



• Lennie Murphy: responsible for the death of over 20 nationalists

IN EXECUTING the UVF leader Lennie Murphy, the 'Master Butcher', on Tuesday evening, the IRA has eliminated a sadistic killer who claimed his last victim, Joseph Donegan, less than one month ago.

It has also reaffirmed its ability to gather intelligence and operate effectively even in the most hostile areas.

The IRA has also, in claiming the killing, reiterated that it has no part of random sectarian attacks, but will selectively hunt down, wherever possible, those who are responsible for, and actively direct, sectarian onslaughts against the nationalist community.

The horrific bestiality of the killings which Murphy and his associates specialise in cannot be dismissed as mere criminal depravity without recognising the political motivation behind them.

Their very ferocity and random

nature was designed to strike terror in the hearts of the nationalist people and cow them into submission.

For that reason, the British involve themselves in, encourage and tolerate, to different degrees at different times, such loyalist attacks as part of their 'low intensity operations' in attempting to subdue a risen people.

But the frequent method of such murders, in particularly ferocious knifings and mutilations, is also rooted in the British occupation of Ireland down the years. And it has been a trade-mark of loyalist killings long before the present decade.

The near-ritualistic killings reflect the racist British attitude which insists on the 'inferiority' of those it oppresses. The knife or hatchet-wielding killers act out this 'superiority' role in attempting to dehumanise their victims.

Sectarian killings are therefore personalised political acts aimed at maintaining loyalist domination. They are the logical results of prejudice and refusal to acknowledge Catholics and nationalists as 'equal' human beings.

It is an attitude fostered by unionist politicians who, posing as 'respectable citizens', make racist speeches against the nationalist community.

It is yet another prop of British rule in Ireland which the IRA has shown its determination to destroy.

(see also page 3)



• Thousands of people followed the funeral cortege of IRA Volunteers Gervais McKerr, Sean Burns and Eugene Toman through Lurgan, County Armagh last Sunday, after their murder by the RUC the previous Thursday

(for full story see pages 6, 7 and 12)

# HAUGHEY LABELS FINE GAEL 'BRIT-LOVERS'

## The well-worn card

BY KEVIN BURKE

WITH THE opinion polls giving little comfort to Fianna Fail after one week's electioneering, the party, with boring inevitability, brushed the dust off its 'republican' tag and played the well-worn nationalist card. And, of course, Fine Gael attempted to trump it.

That is not to say that the North became an election issue, it certainly did not. There remains the total refusal of both parties to publicly face the issues of Britain's oppressive presence — and their own practical support for it.

The action began on Wednesday of last week with a speech from Fianna Fail's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gerry Collins, in which he accused Garret FitzGerald of allowing himself to be used by the British to support Prior's assembly.

Collins referred to a speech by the Duke of Norfolk in the House of Lords, after a meeting with FitzGerald, last July when the latter was said to see the assembly as 'a wonderful step forward'.

### KEEP OUT

The following day Haughey delivered another attack on Fine Gael. He told the British to keep out of the Free State election, referring to the hints and clues for a Garret FitzGerald victory coming from British politicians and the British media.

In a speech in Meath, Haughey boasted:

*"We arranged their departure from our country 80 years ago and we don't want them coming back in 1982. We want a resounding victory in this election as an indication of your support for the freedom and independence of Ireland as a whole."*

Of course, Haughey goes no further in putting flesh on the bones of this rhetoric with any details of his plans to achieve this 'freedom and independence'.

Nor does he admit that his policy on the North still rests on his 'special Anglo-Irish relationship' which collapsed on the Falklands and which he was desperately trying to revive even as his government fell.

The back-tracking on the Falklands, by the Free State's abstention at the United Nations last month on the Argentinian call for a resumption of negotiations on the sovereignty of the Falklands (a resolution backed by the United States), is not the kind of thing Haughey wants to discuss when looking for the 'Brits Out' vote.

### REPLY

Fine Gael has been very aware of the 'pro-Brit' tag they have had emphasised over the last year or so, and it is understood that they have pleaded with the British to tone down their enthusiastic praise of FitzGerald during the election campaign.

But FitzGerald did reply to Haughey's attacks and raised the Falklands issue, with the old line that it was not good to upset the British too much if something was required from them in Ireland. But he added, sniping at Haughey's 'special Anglo-Irish relationship':



● Charles Haughey, not able to buy votes on this occasion, is getting desperate for election-winning ideas

ationship:

*"I never thought it was right to put such trust in the British government or to turn aside from the question of improving relationships directly between North and South."*

But FitzGerald also asserted that he was not going to make the North an election issue and would be devoting just one speech in the campaign to the matter. It is an approach he has adopted in previous campaigns in the style of a father who tells each son on reaching the age of 13 the facts

of life in embarrassed, mumbling and meaningless phrases and then thankfully leaves well enough alone.

However, the controversy flared up again on Tuesday night this week when James Prior on tour in the US announced in advance what FitzGerald would be saying in his speech. Fianna Fail were again quick to accuse the Fine Gael leader of secret plotting with the British.

### LIVING

Meanwhile, Haughey, on Monday of this week, had been introduced on to a Waterford platform as 'the

greatest living republican' and again gave a 'FitzGerald's a Brit' speech.

Unfortunately for him, some of his audience spoiled his flow by raising the issue of the jailed local councillor Eddie O'Doherty, Section 31 and the imprisoned Nicky Kelly.

Haughey's only answer was to scream abuse at them, describing them as, among other things, 'fascists'.

The national question is certainly not up for debate in this election.

# SOME REAL ISSUES RAISED

BY KEVIN BURKE

IF THE MAIN Free State political parties are offering little choice to the voters in next Wednesday's general election, there is still a good selection of independents who are taking the opportunity to raise important issues at local level.

The one candidate who has this angle of local community affairs developed *par excellence* is, of course, Tony Gregory himself, in Dublin Central, who is certain now to be deservedly in contest for the poll-topping position rather than for one of the lower seats.

But there are others who will be very content to put their message across, without coming in contention for a seat, and they will be looking for as many number ones as possible from those who feel their particular issue is one which warrants a sharp reminder to the established politicians.

### TRAVELLER

Perhaps the most welcome development comes from one of the most deprived groups of people and gives a clear indication of their determination to, at long last, fight for their rights in an organised fashion.

Nan Joyce, a 41-year-old mother of 11 from Tallaght, is going forward in the Dublin South-West constituency. She is unique in being the first traveller to stand in an Irish election.

She is supported in her campaign by the Committee for the Rights of Travellers, which was formed earlier this year and consists of both travellers and members of the settled community. She will be very much dependent on the latter as a source of votes, given that very few travellers are registered on the electoral roll.

Nevertheless, her intervention will be of interest, particularly in the Tallaght area where efforts to stir up almost racist anti-traveller



● NAN JOYCE



● TONY GREGORY



● BERNADETTE McALISKEY

hysteria earlier this year were successfully opposed by a combination of travellers and local residents.

### FISHERMEN

Also campaigning on an issue recently in the news are two candidates in south coast constituencies who can be sure of a good-size protest vote.

Joe O'Shea in Kerry South and John L. O'Sullivan in Cork South-West are both standing to highlight the sell-out of Irish fisheries.

O'Shea is one of the five fishermen who were held in Mountjoy last month for herring-fishing. Their campaigns are also pointing to the on-shore benefits in employment in processing industries which would result from a properly planned approach to fishing.

Among independents in the Dublin constituency, who include a number campaigning on unemployment, are some now regular campaigners.

Sean Loftus, the somewhat eccentric en-

vironmentalist candidate, is attempting to win back the seat he held briefly between June 1981 and February 1982 in Dublin North-East. He could be one 'watchdog' which has had its day.

### FEMINIST

In Dublin South-East, the campaigning feminist Liz Noonan enters her third contest and will be aiming this time for another increase in her vote, if only as a result of staying-power.

In Louth, journalist Aine Ni Ghidhir of Boyneside Radio seeks to highlight the claims of independent radio stations and meets the seasoned electoral dis-jockey Frank Godfrey, who is also Drogheda-based.

In the north of that same constituency the independent councillor Michael O'Donnell will be looking to pick up the nationalist vote there. He was prominent in the successful election campaign of Paddy Agnew on the H-Block ticket in June of last year.

With the nationalist vote well tied up in his constituency, Neil Blaney in Donegal North-East seems certain to take his usual seat on the first count.

And on the broader anti-imperialist front, the IRSP are putting up just one candidate in this election, Jim Lane in Cork South-Central.

They have apparently swung back from a boycott attitude in the recent Northern elections to a policy of seat-taking in the Southern ones. However, the question is purely hypothetical and Lane will no doubt settle for an increase in the 550 he got in the North-Central constituency in February.

### McALISKEY

The most prominent candidate of this anti-imperialist area is Bernadette McAliskey who returns to contest the Dublin North-Central constituency of Charles Haughey.

Many of her supporters were rather disappointed with the 2,085 first preferences she got in February, which left her out of contention for a seat. But having established a base in the area she has expressed confidence that she will improve her position this time having, as promised, returned to the contest.

### LANGUAGE

Issues being raised without being the focal point of any particular candidate include the Irish language.

Eighteen major Irish language and cultural organisations, including Conradh na Gaeilge, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and the GAA, have urged their members to vote only for candidates who will initiate positive measures which will get to grips with the crisis facing the Irish language.

### SECTION 31

And Sinn Féin has continued to urge its members and supporters to lobby all election candidates on the blatant political censorship of republicans under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act.

# UVF assassin executed

IN an obviously well researched and planned operation on Tuesday night this week, November 16th, the IRA's Belfast Brigade tracked down and executed Lennie Murphy, a prominent UVF assassin and leader of the notorious 'Shankill Butchers', who were responsible for at least 19 killings during the mid-70s.

The three IRA Volunteers involved in the operation caught up with Murphy's Rover saloon car at Forthriver Park in the Upper Shankill area of Belfast, where he was about to enter his girlfriend's house, and two of them opened fire on him with a 9mm sub-machine gun and a .38 Special. Murphy died on the way to hospital.

The blue van used by the Volunteers - which had neither been commandeered or stolen, but bought specifically for such an operation some time previously - was abandoned and set on fire in nearby Glenside Park, a predominantly loyalist area of North Belfast.

The siting of the abandoned vehicle, and the fact that Lennie Murphy had recently been involved in internal feuding within the UVF, led the RUC to concentrate their follow-up activity in the wrong direction.

And, taking full advantage of this confusion, the IRA delayed its statement claiming responsibility for the execution until Wednesday morning.



● Lennie Murphy's Rover saloon car, after the IRA execution last Tuesday night

## IRA statement on execution

IN A STATEMENT issued on Wednesday, the Belfast Brigade of the IRA said that it had executed Lennie Murphy the previous night and continued:

"Lennie Murphy ('Master Butcher') has been responsible for the horrific murders of over 20 innocent nationalists in the Belfast area and the murders of a number of Protestants.

"The IRA had been aware for some time that

since his release recently from prison, Murphy was attempting to re-establish a similar murder gang to that which he led in the mid-70s and, in fact, he was responsible for a number of the recent sectarian murders in the Belfast area.

"The IRA takes this opportunity to restate its policy of non-sectarian attacks, while retaining its right to take unequivocal action against those who direct or motivate sectarian slaughter against the nationalist population."

# Lennie Murphy's bloody career

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE

THE LIST of sectarian killings in which Lennie Murphy was directly involved is understood to have begun as early as 1972. And the almost ritualistic use of the knife in the gruesome attacks, was one of the most frequent phenomena.

In July 1972, the almost unrecognisable body of Francis Arthurs, Fallswater Road, was found with bullet wounds and numerous small stab wounds covered many parts of his body.

A month later, Thomas Madden, of Cliftonville Park Avenue, was found dead. He had been strangled, but he had also been stabbed, approximately 150 times.

In September 1972, a 32-year-old Protestant, William Pavis, suspected of friendship with nationalists, was shot dead at his home by Murphy and another man, Mervyn Connor. When both were arrested, Connor agreed to turn queen's evidence against Murphy, but in April 1973 Connor died of cyanide poisoning in Crumlin Road Jail, forced to drink it by Murphy who also coerced him into leaving behind a let-

ter withdrawing his statements implicating Murphy.

### FREED

At his trial for the Pavis killing, in June 1973, Murphy was acquitted and freed.

By November 1975, Lennie Murphy had formed the gang which was to carry out the seven 'Shankill Butcher' killings which began with the murder of Thomas Crossan in November 1975 and covered an 18-month period.

Six of these victims were to be found with horrific knife wounds including having their throats cut from ear to ear, right back to the spine. The seventh was bludgeoned to death with a hatchet.

In that November, Murphy also killed loyalist Noel Shaw in a crowded UVF drinking club. In full view of all present he first pistol-whipped Shaw, who was strap-



● Joseph Donegan: the final victim of Murphy, the 'Master Butcher'

ped to a chair, and then shot him in the head. None of the eye-witnesses dared testify.

As well as the 'Shankill Butcher' killings, Murphy led his UVF unit in the shooting of Catholic Ted McQuaid on Cliftonville Road in January 1976, and also in a gun attack

on Corry's timber lorry in Cambrai Street in February 1976 which resulted in the deaths of two Protestant workers.

In March 1976, Murphy was arrested following an attempt to shoot dead two Catholic women in North Belfast. He was later acquitted of the attempted murder charge and was sentenced to 12 years on pleading guilty to possession of weapons.

Meanwhile, on the outside, Murphy's 'Shankill Butcher' gang carried on their attacks, which were to include the fatal bombing of the Sticks' Easter commemoration in 1977.

### MUTILATION

In spite of the gang using the same *modus operandi* for many of their killings, frequently using a taxi (one of them, William Moore, was a taxi-driver) on their murderous excursions after lengthy drinking sessions, and leaving many other clues, the RUC were inactive against the 'Butchers', who included a serving UDR soldier, Edward

McIlwaine, until one of their victims, Gerard McLaverty, miraculously survived their mutilation.

The arrested members of the gang, who later received a total of 2,000 years in jail, including 42 life sentences, having been found guilty of 19 killings, named Lennie Murphy as their leader, but, although named in open court, he was never charged.

In the H-Blocks, Murphy was commander of the UVF prisoners, and, having earned full 50% remission, was released after six years in August of this year.

### UPSURGE

On his release, Murphy moved back into the hierarchy of the UVF and his return coincided with an upsurge of sectarian killings and attacks against Belfast nationalists.

His involvement in killings since his release has been identified particularly in two cases.

The first was part of an internal struggle in which Murphy shot dead a Bangor

garage-owner, who was high in the UVF, on the Shankill Road.

The second was the killing of 48-year-old Catholic Joseph Donegan from the Whiterock area. Kidnapping Mr Donegan, on October 22nd, on the pretext of bartering him for UDR Sergeant Thomas Cochrane, Murphy took him to a house off the Shankill Road which he had owned up to two days previously.

There he killed Joseph Donegan with a hatchet, mutilating his body terribly with recognisable sadistic ferocity. The body, wrapped in a blanket, was found a few yards away, dumped in an entry.

In the house were found blood-stains and Mr Donegan's false teeth. Murphy was arrested but released without charge.

But the killing of Joseph Donegan was Lennie Murphy's last murder. Just three weeks later, the IRA finally caught up with the 'Master Butcher' on November 16th at Forthriver Park.

... WAR NEWS ... WAR NEWS ... WAR NEWS ... WAR NEWS ...

# IRA ATTACKS

IRA VOLUNTEERS in Crossmaglen fired three high-velocity shots at a British army patrol in the South Armagh village on Tuesday night, November 9th, but claimed no hits and withdrew safely.

It was the fourth IRA attack in the Crossmaglen area in the space of six days.

### GOLF CLUB BOMBED

The IRA in South Down carried out a successful bomb attack on Newry golf club on Wed-

nesday night, November 10th, causing extensive damage.

Volunteers armed with rifles planted the bomb at the clubhouse on the Forkhill Road and cleared the vicinity of civilians. The bomb exploded, as planned, 40 minutes later.

Unfortunately, a landmine which was intended for Brits and RUC arriving to investigate the bomb blast, was discovered by them and eventually defused.

### LANDMINE DEFUSED

IRA Volunteers operating in County Down were involved in an elaborate booby-trap and landmine attack earlier this week, which caused massive disruption for 48 hours before the bombs

were defused.

The drama began after a car, commandeered on Friday, November 12th, on the Falls Road in West Belfast, was found abandoned on the Newcastle-Ballynahinch road in County Down on Sunday.

Unfortunately the Brits spotted what they believed to be a bomb nearby, and sealed off a three-quarters-of-a-mile stretch of the road.

The road was only cleared finally on Tuesday afternoon, November 16th, when a booby-trap bomb found in the car had been defused, and when they had located and defused a massive 600 lb landmine comprised of four kegs

and a milk churn, all of which contained explosives and which had been concealed in a culvert.

The car had been planted by the IRA as a deliberate lure to bring them into proximity with the landmine.

### UDR ATTACK

A 35-year-old UDR man in Donaghmore, County Tyrone, was lucky to escape when he became the object of an attack by Tyrone Brigade IRA Volunteers on Tuesday night, November 16th.

The soldier was climbing out of his car when the IRA struck, but he managed to jump clear and suffered only slight injuries.

# WORDS FROM ABROAD

HILDA MacTHOMAS

IT WILL take some time for the British and Irish establishments to fully recover from the shock of last month's elections. Sinn Fein's results, an encouraging, yet relatively modest, beginning if put in perspective, have nevertheless dealt a major blow to the self-confidence of those establishments.

On Sunday, November 14th, British direct-ruler Jim Prior flew to the United States, in yet another visit, this one being prompted by the election results and the wide coverage they got in America, as well, of course, as the acquittal by a New York jury of five Irish-Americans on gun-running charges.

Jim Prior still hopes to convince the Irish-American community to stop supporting the IRA and give his assembly a chance. But it seemed that his message had been lost, somewhere between Brezhnev's funeral reports and the latest on the Space Shuttle. And on Monday, hundreds of Irish-Americans picketed the British Consulate in New York, where Jim Prior was staying.

## VISAS

However, American trips by British or Free State politicians, are mainly for home consumption, and Jim Prior's tour was no exception. On Monday, Prior exhorted the SDLP to take part in the assembly, which prompted the SDLP's Seamus Mallon to engage in a trans-atlantic debate, courtesy of the *Irish News*, and deny that SDLP abstentionist tactics were 'playing into the hands of extremists'.

Republicans, who have consistently been refused entry visas to the United States, will see the irony in Jim Prior's declarations to assembly members before he left for the US. He urged them to fly to America at least once a month to 'counter IRA propaganda' and 'point out all the facts' to the American public.

"It is not an easy task," he said, "and that is why we have to go across there so often."

## ASSEMBLY

As for the assembly itself, it is now in a two-week recess, after a much-heralded opening. But James Molyneux, the leader of the biggest party in the assembly, the Official Unionist Party, looks certain to face a serious challenge to his leadership having failed to secure the position of presiding officer for a member of his group.

The Official Unionists were totting Orange Order leader Martin Smyth for the job, before switching at the last minute to John Carson. The latter would have been very acceptable to the Alliance Party, but by then they had pledged their support, with the DUP, to the independent unionist Jim Kilfeather who secured the £18,000 per year position.

## OPPOSITION

On Wednesday, November 10th, a private



● Prior's Stormont assembly gets underway whilst Sinn Fein mobilises nationalist opposition to it

## Church manoeuvres

THE HIERARCHY of the Catholic Church appears to be attempting to cut some of its losses in the face of continued nationalist resistance to British rule.

The appointment of Cathal Daly as Bishop of Down and Connor (which includes Belfast) last month, was obviously part of an effort to stem the growing disaffection from the church and to refurbish its image as spiritual leader of its flock.

In a dramatic purge, Daly has removed the most prominent of his predecessor Bishop Philbin's men, including the demotion of Fr Toner, previously bishop's secretary and now curate of St Agnes's in Andersonstown. Toner was one of those involved in attempts to demoralise prisoners during last year's hunger-strike.

Another popular move will be the lifting of a ban imposed seven years ago by Bishop Philbin on Fr Des Wilson, preventing him from saying

Mass or preaching publicly. Des Wilson, well-known for his community work in Ballymurphy, was one of the few priests who found the courage to speak up against the hypocrisy and complacency of their leaders in the face of British repression.

However, it must be noted that the newly-appointed vicar-general of the diocese is Canon Montague, who in December 1975 refused to receive the remains of IRA Volunteer Paul 'Basil' Fox into St Paul's Church.

## SPOTLIGHT

On Friday, November 12th, the BBC current affairs programme 'Spotlight' dealt with the response of the Catholic Church to poverty and deprivation in West Belfast.

In contrast to his predecessor, the new bishop, Cathal Daly, laid the blame for unemployment and bad housing on the authorities.

However, he showed himself as ready as any other prelate to give way to patronising arrogance and plain falsity.

He attributed Sinn Fein's 10,367 votes in West Belfast 'largely' to 'bored young men' who 'do not come to church'!

And he added that people who had voted for Sinn Fein did not know they were voting for 'violence', because "we were dealing with a high-powered organisation with subtle propaganda which carefully reserved its support for violence until after the elections."

Given the media, and television in particular, obsession with seeking and obtaining Sinn Fein's clear position on the war in the North throughout the election campaign only a few weeks previously, the bishop's analysis on the same medium displays an all too familiar old-style hypocrisy of the church leaders.



● BISHOP CATHAL DALY Bishop of Down and Connor

meeting took place in Dungannon, to which anti-Stormont groups and individuals were invited by the Sinn Fein elected representatives. The meeting, to examine the ways in which mass opposition to the new assembly could be organised, was boycotted by the SDLP, although one local councillor of that party sent apologies for his absence on grounds of ill-health.

It was attended by the IIP, IRSP, People's Democracy, and independents, including Bernadette McAliskey. The IIP showed only muted enthusiasm for a broad campaign to mobilise opposition. And they persisted in pressing the Sinn Fein elected representatives to resign their seats, a call which was opposed by all the others present at the meeting.

The IIP is obviously shaken by the emergence of Sinn Fein as the radical leadership of the nationalist people. To them, as to the SDLP, Sinn Fein must now seem more than ever a threat to their old ambition of reaping the political benefits of IRA successes.

But Sinn Fein is not about to abdicate its newly-won position.

# Brothers in distress

BY BRIAN MARTIN

THREE elderly Dublin brothers, Patrick, James and William Flynn, have been living in such appalling conditions in a house in Ballybough, near the city centre, that there is serious concern for their ability to survive the winter months if they are not re-housed.

Their house, at 42a, Portland Row, has no roof and the men cover their belongings with black plastic bags to keep out rain and dampness. Conditions generally are both unsafe and unhygienic. Torrential rain, one weekend recently, forced the brothers to seek refuge in a cell at Fitzgibbon Street Garda barracks.

A few offers of alternative accommodation have been made by Dublin Corporation, but Christy Burke, Sinn Fein community officer in Dublin,



● The Flynn brothers in their damp-ridden home

points out that these were in other condemned areas such as Shamrock Cottages and North Strand or in Finglas which is far away from the area where they have lived most of their lives.

## DUPLICITY

Burke, who is pursuing their case with the Corporation, accuses housing

officials of duplicity in dealing with the brothers whom they want to ship off to a mental institution as socially inadequate. He points out, however, that given decent housing in their familiar area, the Flynns are quite capable of surviving in a community from which they can benefit.



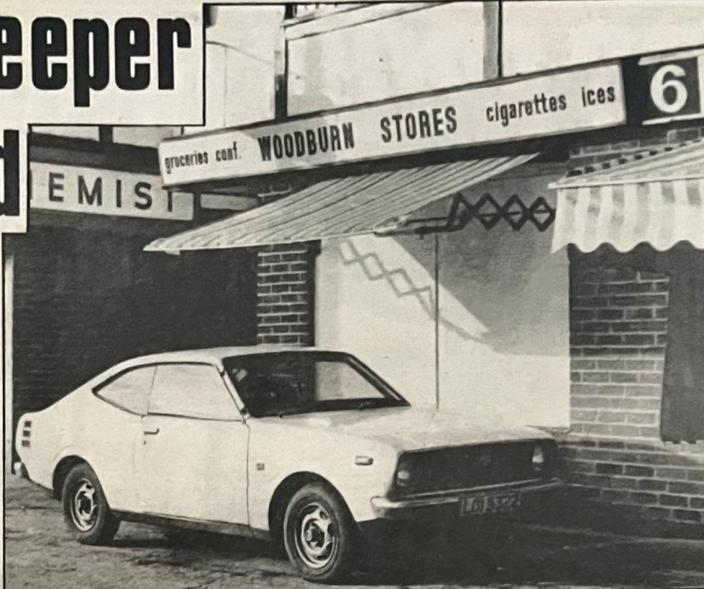
● The ceiling in the Flynns' house, rotting away and vitally dangerous

# Shopkeeper gunned down

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

ON Tuesday morning, November 16th, 64-year-old father of six, Patrick Joseph Murphy, a Catholic who owned the Woodburn Stores in Mount Merrion Avenue, in the predominantly loyalist South-East Belfast area, was gunned down by an assassin as he served customers. He died from his wounds an hour later in the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Mr Murphy had served his murderer only 45 minutes earlier when a youth wearing a yellow crash-helmet asked him for some apples. At 9.40am the youth returned wearing the helmet and a scarf



● The scene of last Tuesday's sectarian murder which claimed the life of 64-year-old Joseph Murphy

wrapped around his face. He entered the shop and shot Mr Murphy three times in the stomach.

Mr Murphy's two daughters, Colette and Clara, were in the back of the shop at the time and ran out to find their father lying crumpled on the floor, bleeding heavily from his wounds.

The gunman then ran out to his accomplice who waited for him on a red and black Honda motorcycle which had earlier been stolen

from the Annadale Flats, a well-known UVF haven, and both sped off up the Rosetta Road.

This is the second assassination of a Catholic in the Rosetta area in a two-month period. On September 30th, 28-year-old Gerard O'Neill, from the Markets area, was gunned down at McGlade's filling station on the Ormeau Road, where he worked.

In a statement following this latest killing, Joe Austin, of North

Belfast Sinn Fein, said that it "highlights once again the age-old logic of the loyalist murder gangs in attempting to drive Catholic nationalists from the so-called fringe areas and confine them to the ghettos where they supposedly belong."

"No doubt the men who carried out this latest sectarian killing were motivated to a large extent by the public rantings of certain prominent loyalist/unionist politicians."



● CATHY CLARKE had 'UVF' scraped on her neck

## Twinbrook girl assaulted

THE EVERYDAY act of going to post a letter turned into a nightmare for a 17-year-old Twinbrook girl, Cathy Clarke, on Monday afternoon, November 15th, when she was physically assaulted and threatened with a knife by two loyalist youths in the Protestant Dunmurry area.

With the closure of Twinbrook post-office for several weeks now, people from the area who normally use that office have the option of either making the long journey into Belfast city centre or risk attack and abuse from loyalists by going to Dunmurry post-office.

Cathy Clarke decided to take her two-year-old niece with her to Dunmurry to post a letter because, she says, young vandals in Twinbrook have set post-boxes there on fire on several occasions.

On her way back, two youths followed her from outside the Dunmurry Inn and through the railway station. Frightened, especially with the baby, she called to a friend's house in Ashleigh Park, but found no-one at home.

She tells what happened next: "The two fellas came up behind me, grabbed my arms and pushed my face into the wall, grazing it. The other one pulled out a knife but his mate told him to 'wise up'." "He then lifted a piece of glass and scraped 'UVF' on my neck. The baby was crying and they let me go but they shouted that I wasn't the first they'd got, nor would I be the last."

## UDR beat youth

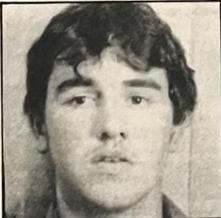
A 19-YEAR-OLD Tyrone youth received hospital treatment last weekend after being brutally kicked and beaten at a UDR checkpoint in the early hours of Saturday morning, November 13th.

Shortly after midnight, Raymond McGurk, from Gortreagh, near Cookstown, and two friends were stopped at a UDR road-block on the Pomeroy/Cookstown road. When McGurk declined to give his date of birth, as he is entitled to do, he was taken out of the car and brought down the road about 20 yards to another landrover.

His two friends were ordered to drive on, and did so believing McGurk to have been arrested.

However, Raymond McGurk was in fact given a lengthy beating and kicking by the UDR soldiers who warned that if he moved he would be shot dead. He was then thrown into a hedge at the side of the road and the UDR lifted their checkpoint and drove away.

McGurk managed to drag him-



● RAYMOND MCGURK

self out of the hedge and hitch a lift from a passing motorist, and was later admitted to Dungannon Hospital where he was treated for shock, concussion and bruising, mainly around his legs.

## Loyalists injure Banbridge men

TWO Banbridge men received severe injuries last weekend when they were attacked by a large loyalist mob as they left the Sportsman's bar in Portadown's Woodhouse Street.

The two, having been identified as nationalists, were savagely beaten and one, Stephen McArdle, had a bottle smashed into his face.

The RUC, who arrived on the scene, did not intervene or make any arrests of the attackers. When an ambulance arrived, McArdle and his companion were taken to the Craigavon Hospital where McArdle received a total of 35 stitches to lacerations in his face.

His friend, who was in a more serious condition, was transferred to Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital suffering from internal abdominal injuries.



● STEPHEN MCARDLE received 35 stitches



● Tenants from Rossville Flats picket the Housing Executive offices in Derry's Bishop Street

## Anger in Derry flats

ANGRY residents in Derry's Rossville Flats are complaining that a £2 million repair programme in operation since November 1981 is having no effect on the appalling conditions there. They now say that demolition is the only satisfactory long-term solution.

Many of the flats on the top floors have been destroyed by flooding, and furniture, bedding, clothes and carpets are repeatedly being soaked. Residents have been told by Husing Executive officials not to use electricity when it rains - in flats dependent on electricity for heating, lighting and cooking.

And residents contradict Housing Executive claims that there are no longer any children on the top floors. Moreover, the Housing Executive is accused of cynically allocating

the worst flats to the most socially disadvantaged families who are ready to accept any roof over their heads, even a leaky one.

After a weekend visit to the flats, where he examined the conditions complained of, Sinn Fein's elected representative, Martin McGuinness, joined a picket outside the Housing Executive's Bishop Street office on Monday, November 15th. He also accompanied a delegation of residents to a meeting with housing officials.



# A VICIOUS AND COLD-BLOODED MURDER

**THE SHOOTING** dead of three unarmed republicans on the outskirts of Lurgan, County Armagh, a week last Thursday, November 11th, has caused shock waves of revulsion among Northern nationalists towards their RUC killers.

Nowhere was the total rejection of the 'official' version of events — that the men were pursued and their car shot at, after it crashed through a checkpoint — more clearly shown, than at the massively and emotionally attended joint funeral last Sunday which spanned many of the political divides in the nationalist community.

AP/RN examines the evidence of what really happened that night, an RUC revenge ambush of almost ritual ferocity.

● Gervais McKerr's bullet-riddled car which shows clearly a concentration of bullet holes in the driver's door, fired from the side, and which refutes RUC claims of shooting at a fleeing vehicle

IN ONE SENSE at least, it was as much the determination and personal commitment to the republican cause of IRA Volunteers Gervais McKerr, Eugene Toman and Sean Burns, as it was the bullets of their RUC assassins, that led to their deaths on a dark Lurgan roadside at 9.40pm last Thursday November 11th — unarmed victims of a cold-blooded and particularly vicious revenge attack for the deaths, in an IRA landmine explosion near Lurgan, of three RUC men two weeks earlier.

Both Eugene and Sean had recently insisted on returning to active service involvement in Lurgan, despite going 'on the run' and leaving the town for a short while, after Sean had been identified during an IRA operation. They had even turned down the offer of operational involvement in a different battalion area in the North, where they would not have been recognised, arguing that they were most needed by the IRA in Lurgan.

On Thursday evening, having been away on business, both 21-year-old Volunteers had again slipped back into the town, only three hours before they were to be murdered. All of the intervening period was spent in Gervais' house waiting to be driven to a 'safe house' for the night.

The car they were eventually to be driven in was Gervais McKerr's own, a green Ford Escort, registration UPF 77S. It was possibly an unfortunate choice because the car was well-known to the local RUC and UDR. Not only was Gervais' IRA involvement suspected by them, but he was renowned for using his car continually to help other people, whether republican or not, if they needed running about. His wife, Eleanor, used to joke that he used his car like a taxi. Except that he never took money for petrol.

One thing, above all, was certain. If the RUC, or even the members of an individual RUC patrol, were intent on revenge for the earlier IRA ambush, Gervais McKerr would have made an ideal target, instantly recognisable by his car as he approached the RUC. It is worth recording that the RUC and UDR in the Lurgan-Portadown area have a strong tradition of involvement in sectarian murders, including the Miami Showband massacre, and of dual membership with the UVF.

### RELAXED

A girl who was in the McKerr's home in the Tegnnaven estate that evening remembers that Eugene and Sean were relaxed and joking as usual:

"Just before they went out I asked them if they wanted anything to eat,

Eugene said: 'I'll take tea and toast'. He always said that: 'don't forget the toast'. Seanbo took cornflakes. I just poured them into a bowl and let him put his own milk and sugar on, but he laughed and said I was brilliant at making cornflakes! I told them to watch themselves as they went out."

Two minutes after the three men left, she — like everyone else in the vicinity of Tegnnaven — heard the torrent of gunfire, and intuitively knew they had been shot, but kept her suspicions to herself for hours so as not to alarm Eleanor McKerr, Gervais' wife.

Gervais had first driven, alone, to a couple of friends' houses, returning within minutes to collect Eugene and Sean. They then all left his house, shortly after 9.35pm. Minutes later, less than half a mile away at Tullygally Road East, they met their deaths in a hail of RUC automatic gunfire.

The version of events subsequently peddled by the RUC is that Gervais' car approached a checkpoint they had set up at the junction of the Old Portadown Road and Tullygally Road East, initially slowed down, and then accelerated through the checkpoint knocking an RUC man down and slightly injuring him (so slightly in fact that he did not require hospital treatment).

Other RUC men then, they say, pursued the car for a short distance, opening fire; it went out of control on a bend, careered into a ditch and all three occupants were moments later found to be dead from gunshot wounds.

### AFTERMATH

In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, the RUC cordoned off the area around the crashed car, at the bottom of Tullygally Road East, and for almost five hours, that is from 9.40pm to 2.30am, totally refused access to the bodies. That refusal extended both to ambulances, whose crew were unable to examine the men to see if they were still alive, and to a local priest, Fr Poland, who was forcibly restrained by three RUC men from approaching the bodies to administer Last Rites and who was obliged to give the Acts of Contrition from a distance of ten feet from the car.

That five-hour delay is a crucial consideration in the light of subsequent medical evidence that the backseat passenger in the car, Sean Burns — far from receiving the brunt of the gunfire as would have been expected had the car were speeding away from a checkpoint — received only one bullet wound, in the side of the body, and may well have died from shock and loss of blood over a period of time rather than from an initially fatal wound.

While the precise details of what did occur are unclear, there is certainly enough evidence, both forensic and from witnesses too frightened to come forward publicly, to show beyond doubt that the RUC deliberately opened fire into the car while stationary with the sole purpose of killing its three occupants outright.

Firstly, it has been established that the RUC fired about 60 shots into the car, largely from automatic weapons. That excessive rate of fire alone indicates that the RUC were not merely trying to stop the car, but to kill its occupants.

Secondly, there are (as can be seen from subsequently published photographs of the car) at least 27 shots into the bodywork of the car on the driver's side, not to mention the unknown number of bullets which shattered the driver's door window. By contrast, there are merely 5 bullet holes in the bodywork of the back of the car, although it is precisely here that the majority of bullets fired at a fleeing car would have been expected.

### STATIONARY

Even more revealing is the concentration and distribution of the bullet holes in the driver's door, fired directly from the side, and not at an angle from the rear.

This in itself is sufficient to indicate that at least the majority of the bullets were fired at short range into the car while it was stationary, and is consistent both with the evidence of several local people who believe that there was no checkpoint on the road, and with the RUC's refusal to allow cameramen from television crews to film the position of spent shells, or the initial location of the car.

Not surprisingly, the most appalling injuries were inflicted on the driver, Gervais McKerr, whose body was almost unrecognisable after the shooting. Eugene Toman, the front-seat passenger, was found lying beside the car, having apparently tried to

get out. He had been shot repeatedly, not in the back or side, but in the chest!

In addition to all of this, several local people — so traumatised by the event and so frightened for their own safety that they have insisted on anonymity — have since approached the Republican Movement with pieces of circumstantial evidence.

While it is only reasonable to be cautious about the complete accuracy of all that these people claim to have seen or heard, their accounts do add up to a consistent construction of events that suggests that there was no checkpoint at the location the RUC have claimed, and that the RUC opened fire on the car after it had stopped, or, having stopped the car, after they had allowed it to proceed.

This construction of events would mean that the RUC stopped the car, not at the junction of the Old Portadown Road and Tullygally Road East, but much further down Tullygally Road, very close in fact to where it and the bodies were found.

### CHECKPOINT

Several of them agree that not only was there no checkpoint, but that at least one car, a brown Ford Cortina believed by them to be an unmarked RUC vehicle, was parked in a lay-by along Tullygally Road East from 7pm onwards, and was repeatedly sighted there. Another sighting, by a local man who travelled along Tullygally Road East at 7.30pm and, again, minutes before the shooting, to and from a nearby pub, 'The Stables', reported two RUC vehicles partially concealed in a cut-in on the Tullygally Road, which were there at both times.

The man's curiosity had been aroused by the unusualness of seeing RUC vehicles parked there for a prolonged period.

But perhaps the most interesting evidence has come from a man living some miles away, and who is not familiar with the Lurgan area. That evening, before going to bed, he tuned in, as he was accustomed to doing out of curiosity, to listen to RUC

messages for a while on

He later reported hearing exchanges at around that night, between the RUC travelling in an unmarked 'green car' with these three men in the RUC car. The RUC with English accents the man listening in. They to follow the car with a 'ro' along the road into a 'ro' were setting up.

### COMPEL

His evidence is at least that, with no knowledge he was able to deduce changes that the road vehicles was downhill, had established a road clearly visible to the alternative nearby road McKerr's car to travel at the RUC were waiting gally Road East (down travelled by Gervais' car) sides by banks covered good cover to anyone addition, there is one Gervais could have use was going.)

If the evidence of dropping can be accepted then emerges that Gervais followed earlier in the undercover British so arranged effort to force him, into an RUC ambu-

Within that scenario, car of Eugene Toman for the RUC, an unexpected bonus which they took. Despite having died the aliases, they would in been recognised once company.

### AMBU

Nonetheless, whether ing was the result of attempt to ambush Gervais, or whether the RUC, or whether the full advantage of the suspected IRA Volunteer recognisable car, drove on a dark and lonely main that in flagrant co own supposed probe assassins in RUC unit and repeatedly fired in viciously determined side.

The shots themselves Tegnnaven itself and in were those of calculated burst of automatic short, regular intervals of gun fire, then final and deliberate shots.

One full minute after gun, it stopped, leaving Volunteers of the IRA



● The mother of Sean Burns (centre) mourns the loss of her son at his funeral

ND  
ED  
R



● The funeral cortege, escorted by IRA Volunteers and followed by thousands of nationalists, passes through Lurgan

... on the radio.  
... hearing a series of radio  
... that time on Thursday  
... the RUC and three men  
... unmarked van who were  
... 'three suspects'.  
... referred to by  
... friends', spoke to  
... agents, according to  
... They were instructed  
... 'three suspects'  
... a 'roadblock' the RUC

... compelling  
... is at least compelling in  
... knowledge of the Lurgan area,  
... deduce from the radio ex-  
... the road travelled by the  
... ownall, and that the RUC  
... a roadblock which was  
... the three suspects, on an  
... by road, to force Gervais  
... travel along the road where  
... waiting. (In fact, Tully-  
... is downhill in the direction  
... Gervais' car, bordered on both  
... covered with bushes, giving  
... anyone concealed there. In  
... is one alternative road  
... have used to get where he

... of this radio eaves-  
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... Gervais' car had been  
... in the evening, possibly by  
... British soldiers, in a pre-  
... to force him, and pursue  
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... omano, the presence in the  
... omar and Sean Burns was,  
... unexpected but welcome  
... they took full advantage of.  
... dyed their hair and assumed  
... out in all probability have  
... once stopped in Gervais'

... AMBUSH  
... whether the RUC's shoot-  
... of a carefully planned  
... Gervais McKerr in re-  
... RA's earlier fatal attack on  
... the RUC simply took  
... of their luck when three  
... Volunteers, in an instantly  
... drove into their clutches  
... lonely road, the fact re-  
... grant contravention of their  
... procedures these loyalist  
... C Uniform cold-bloodedly  
... fired into a halted car in a  
... bid to kill those in-  
... themselves, heard clearly in  
... and neighbouring estates,  
... calculated assassins: a long  
... matic fire, followed with  
... intervals by shorter bursts  
... finally by several single  
... shots.  
... after the firing had be-  
... leaving three unmarked  
... IRA dead or dying.

# Thousands mourn dead Volunteers

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

A BITING, ICY COLD WIND swept across the North Armagh town of Lurgan last Sunday, November 14th, chilling to the bone the thousands of mourners who accompanied the remains of Volunteers Gervais McKerr, Eugene Toman and Sean Burns to their final resting place in St Colman's Cemetery.

Outside Sean Burns' home in the Kilwilkie estate, friends and neighbours, muffled against the driving wind, stood in silent respect. His Tricolour-draped coffin, his beret and gloves placed on top, was then carried by relatives and friends for several hundred yards through the estate to St Peter's Church, 1½ miles away.

On the opposite side of the town, an almost identical scene was simultaneously taking place outside the homes of Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman, whose two funeral corteges met outside Eugene's home in Lurganratty and proceeded the short distance to the church, along Edward Street, Church Place and North Street. One by one the three coffins, Tricolours removed, were carried into the church for a consecrated Requiem Mass, but the vast majority of mourners remained outside, unable to get in.

### TRICOLOURS

Afterwards, as the three coffins were placed side by side, there were emotional scenes as the Tricolours, berets and gloves were replaced. And from the crowd stepped an IRA guard of honour of 10 Volunteers in full battle-

the lonesome air of his laments lost in the buffeting wind, which, however, did not drown out the drone of a Brit helicopter hovering overhead.

Hundreds joined in along the route, young and old, adding to the already immense swell of people who moved slowly along, past Sean Burns' home again



● The body of Eugene Toman is borne by Sinn Fein elected representatives Jim McAllister and Gerry Adams (left and far right); in the foreground is one of Eugene's brothers, Malachy



● Eleanor McKerr kisses her husband's coffin in one last loving farewell

and left into the North Circular Road and on to St Colman's Cemetery.

Relatives of the dead Volunteers stood closely huddled together, united in their grief, around the republican plot, the sound of their sobbing tearing at the hearts of everyone present. Eleanor McKerr leaned over her husband's coffin, kissing it before it was interred with that of his two comrades, in the one grave. The bugler sounded the 'Last Post', and a lull fell on the mourners, each sunk deeply in their own memories of Eugene, Sean and Gervais.

As a final tribute to their fallen comrades, a masked IRA Volunteer stepped forward and fired a single shot over the grave, in salute to their courage and dedication.

Hundreds of wreaths were laid, including those from the three families, relatives and friends; and the Republican Movement, including the North Armagh Brigade, Ogligh na hEireann, North Armagh Sinn Fein comhairle ceantair, and the local Francis Hughes Sinn Fein cumann. A decade of the rosary was recited in Irish by Charlie Lavery, and George O'Toole chaired the ceremony. Both are members of the Lurgan National Graves Association.

### ORATION

Referring to the dedication of the three dead IRA Volunteers to both their country and families, Armagh's Sinn Fein elected representative, Jim McAllister, who delivered the oration, accused the RUC of carrying out a policy

of summary execution on the streets. Recalling the murder of Peter Corrigan in Armagh city only last month and that of the Volunteers, he said:

*"Britain murdered Peter Corrigan because he wasn't afraid to show his patriotism and desire for a new Ireland. It was also Britain, through her paid lackies in the sectarian RUC, who murdered these three men last Thursday night. This is the harsh reality of British rule in Ireland. This is the British dimension. There is no law in the six counties nor was there in any other country which she held by force of arms. But despite Britain's might, there are still men and women in Ireland determined to carry on the republican cause. Men like Gervais, Eugene and Sean who risked everything for our freedom."*

Urging those present to continue in pursuit of their ideals and take example from their courage, he added:

*"Only in attaining their objectives will we build a fitting memorial to their memory. We must expose in the eyes of the world that the British terror tactics which murdered these men will not deflect republicans in their fight for freedom, an Ireland visualised by them as an Ireland with justice for all but privilege for none."*

The mourners dispersed gradually from the windswept graveyard as semi-darkness crept over the townland. Their thoughts remained there with their dead and with it the bitter reality of knowing why they were murdered and who was responsible.

# The Turkish ballot box

BY SEAN HALPENNY

LAST WEEK, Turkey's 20 million voters went to the polls to approve by a proportion of nine to one a new constitution for the country which severely restricts civil liberties, trade union rights and press freedoms; bars all former political party leaders from taking part in politics for the next decade; and fixes firmly in office as president for the next seven years the military dictator General Kenan Evren.

The 90% vote in favour was not that surprising. Many of those urging a 'no' vote had been arrested and critical comment of the proposed constitution had been banned in the press, with two journalists jailed for defying it. Voting was compulsory and the ballot papers immediately indicated the choice of the voter — white for 'yes', blue for 'no'.

The draconian new constitution also 'legalises' the military coup which put Evren in power two years ago.

## NATO

Turkey, an important member of NATO, has seen several military interventions in its political life this century, all of them bloody, and the one prior to this ending in 1973.

The latest coup, as the others, arose as a response to political unrest in the face of economic collapse. Between 1975 and 1979, inflation in Turkey increased by 319%. It was accompanied by savage attacks by the government on workers striving to maintain living standards. A fascist organisation, the Party of Nationalist Action, also known as the 'Grey Wolves', became particularly active in political assassinations against left-wing activists.

In 1978, the People's Republican Party of Bulent

Ecevit formed a government with the declared aim of 'restoring stability'. At that time, the Turkish left-wing was held to be the best organised in Europe, better armed than the Turkish army and second only to the Palestinians in the Middle East area.

But Ecevit's social democratic policies bitterly divided the left and, even though right-wing attacks were escalating, many laid down their arms.

In 1978, 3,000 were killed in political violence and Ecevit, under pressure from the military, declared a state of emergency. May Day demonstrations were repressed and trade union and left-wing militants were arrested.

Ecevit fell from office in October 1979 and the centre-right Justice Party of Suleiman Demirel took office. Key industries which had previously been nationalised were denationalised, and the Turkish currency was devalued by 48%. Workers and peasants were weighed down with even further hardships.

Repressive legislation was passed to combat opposition. In late December 1979, 4,000 students were arrested, six of them were killed in protests.

In February 1980, striking workers in Izmir were besieged for three weeks by the Turkish army. Fifty were killed and many thousands



● Turkish police and gendarmes shoot down people on the streets of Usak in 1978

arrested. By that September, 50,000 workers went on strike in Turkey and another 100,000 had voted for strike action. Twenty people each day were being killed by the military and the 'Grey Wolves'.

## MILITARY COUP

On September 12th, 1980, the military staged a coup, dissolved the parliament, banned all political parties and ordered all strikers back to work. They also banned all the major trade unions and arrested over 15,000 workers. By the end of 1981 there were over 100,000 political

prisoners in Turkish jails and hundreds had been sentenced to death. Many have been executed, more still await their fate. The vicious system of repression is now firmly entrenched.

The brutal oppression of workers and peasants in Turkey and the repression of any left-wing political leadership rests mainly on Turkey's value to the Western powers whose support the military dictatorship enjoys. The 'legitimisation' of the military coup by the referendum satisfies any embarrassment there had been in the West during the last two years.



At the present time, Turkey has one of the largest armies in NATO with over 600,000 troops and is seen as the Western military alliance's policeman in the area, strategically placed between Europe and the Middle East and close to the USSR. The United States has 60 military bases in the country. Its importance to the 'free' world does not allow freedom for its people.



● Euro-MP Balfie at the meeting in TCD

## Prisoners meeting

A MEETING on Irish political prisoners in jails in England was held in Trinity College Dublin on Wednesday of last week, November 10th. About a hundred people attended the meeting which was chaired by Declan Hayes of Dublin Sinn Fein.

The main speaker was Richard Balfie, the British Labour Party Euro-MP who has been identified with many campaigns in support of nationalists in the North. He was recently instrumental in successfully introducing a motion in the European parliament condemning the use of plastic bullets.

He is now hoping to persuade the parliament to take a stand on the issue of Irish political prisoners in England, a move in which Irish Euro-MP Neil Blaney is also involved.

In a detailed address on the subject, Balfie spoke of the 'unmatched system' of ill-treatment of the prisoners, including solitary confinement, extra punishments, constant transfers, visiting difficulties and the refusal of repatriation.

Dublin journalist Paddy Prendiville gave a wide-ranging speech on the political situation facing the Irish community in Britain, including the use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, under which he had himself experienced several days' detention in London some years ago.

# Strip-searching resumes

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

ON TUESDAY, November 9th, several women remand prisoners in Armagh Jail were individually strip-searched before going to court, having been threatened by the prison administration that their refusal to comply would result in 'forcible measures' being taken against them.

A number of the women were menstruating at the time and had the added indignity and embarrassment of not being allowed to keep their underwear on during the search. Instead, all items of clothing were removed in the presence of 11 screws who then subjected them to a degrading visual search, examining their vaginal and anal areas.

In future, according to the prison administration, all prisoners leaving and returning to the prison from court will be subjected to these searches which they justify on the pretext of 'security grounds'. Furthermore, they add, any prisoner who does not voluntarily remove her clothing will be acting in breach of prison 'regulations' and will therefore be forcibly strip-searched.

This callous action by the prison administration is the latest outrage in a long list of pettiness which has led to a very tense situation in the jail. Prisoners have been put on 23-hour lock-up, and loss of all privileges, for merely switching from one TV channel to another during association time or for talking to other prisoners.

Individual prisoners have also been singled out for a specialised form of harassment; Briege Brownlee and Mairead Nugent have been on 24-hour confinement in the loyalist 'B' Wing of



● POWs in Armagh have warned that unless segregation is introduced "a bloody outcome seems inevitable"

the prison, cut off from the majority of their comrades in 'A' Wing. In a statement, issued on Tuesday, November 16th, the women republican prisoners report that:

"Both women have requested to be moved off the wing having received threats to their lives from loyalist inmates. The administration have continually refused to move these women

and the two believe they are being held as hostages by the prison administration regardless of their safety."

The prisoners warn: "The situation has grown increasingly worse in recent weeks and a bloody outcome seems inevitable unless segregation is introduced immediately."

# Hang 'em high

**Burke's at the back**  
BY KEVIN BURKE

GIVEN the fact that both of the Free State's current election choices - Fianna Fail or Coalition - offer no real difference in policies, many have enquired what I would consider to be the best possible outcome of next Wednesday's election in the circumstances.

And, I fear, many supposed republican abstentionists display a rather too active interest in the subject!

Well, I will say that the prospect of any strong government of either of the conservative groups is bad news for those suffering economic and social deprivations as well as those pursuing republican objectives.

Whereas a parliament hung on the vote of one nationalist or socialist deputy just might mean that the most extreme measures in either area are impossible.

Small comfort, I admit, but that is it. Stable government is alright for horses, but I don't like it a bit.

☆☆☆

The Workers' Party insist they take their politics seriously and shun gimmicking in favour of discussing the real issues.

The view is not shared by at least one-third of its parliamentary party.

Paddy Gallagher, clinging desperately to his ultra-marginal seat in Waterford has a deep political message on his posters.

'Score with Gallagher', they say, depicting a football entering the top right-hand corner of a soccer net. And the equally significant political message blaring from his election car speakers is the non-stop music of the 'Match of the Day' theme from BBC television.

This strange obsession with 'foreign' sport will also be of interest to the members of the St Saviour's GAA club in Waterford, of which Gallagher is currently vice-president.

☆☆☆

I see that Austin Currie, the SDLP assembly member in Fermanagh/South Tyrone, is facing drunken driving charges.

Not only obnoxious but dangerous as well.

☆☆☆

And two weeks ago I noted that the SDLP's member in Armagh, Seamus Mallon, was at the funeral of UDR Sergeant Thomas Cochrane, but not at the funeral of murdered Sinn Fein member Peter Corrigan.

He was not at the funeral last Sunday of the three Armagh republicans murdered by the RUC, either.

Which didn't prevent him from attempting to gain a bit of political capital by issuing a bogus call for the British to hold an inquiry into the killings. Presumably whitewash soothes the SDLP conscience.

☆☆☆

A member of the UVF, John Irvine, aged 47, from North Belfast, appeared in the Belfast High Court last week on charges of buying arms from a neo-Nazi group in Belgium.

The court was told that the deal ran into a hitch because the Nazis wanted the guns to be used against Jews whereas the UVF wanted to use them against Catholics.

☆☆☆

A man who was beaten up by RUC detectives in Castlereagh interrogation centre in 1977 was awarded £1,000, plus costs, by a court in the North last Friday.

Michael Lavelle of Lisnaska has sued the former chief constable, Sir Kenneth Newman. The judge said that in the absence of independent evidence it came down to the credibility of the opposing parties.

The police were unshaken in their evidence.



● This apparently genuine photograph of Solidarity members in a Polish prison has appeared in several newspapers but many readers will wonder how a well-known Belfast republican came to be sharing their cell

he said, and Lavelle's evidence had 'an element of exaggeration', but despite this his credibility was 'quite compelling' and he had proved his case on the balance of probability.

Sounds like one judge who is due for retirement.

☆☆☆

The list of UDR suicides was added to on Sunday, November 7th, when the body of 45-year-old UDR soldier Thomas Watson was found lying next to his army-issue revolver in his home at Comber, County Down.

He died in hospital an hour later.

☆☆☆

Our Australian correspondent sends news of another sensational win by Sinn Fein. This time it is a horse by that name which won the major championship race at Gloucester Park in Perth, Western Australia, at the end of last month.

Sinn Fein, the report says, staved off challenge after challenge to win by three metres.

'Good on yer, cobber,' I think is the correct comment to make on that news.

☆☆☆

I have been flooded with mail since the announcement of my ascendancy to the editorship. And since I cannot reply to all of them individually I would like to take the opportunity to reply to them collectively here:-

No, under no circumstances can refunds of advance subscriptions be made on cancellation.



● Belfast's Tom Hartley: 'definitely not in Poland'



## WHAT'S ON

**EDDIE CARMODY COMMEMORATION**  
8.30pm Friday 19th November  
The Carmody Memorial Hall  
**BALLYLONGFORD**  
County Kerry  
Speakers: Jim McAllister & J.B. O'Hagan  
Call to follow commemoration in the Carmody Memorial Hall

**RELEASE NICKY KELLY FUND-RAISING SOCIAL**  
8.30pm Friday 19th November  
Brigid Burke's  
**TALLAGHT**  
County Dublin  
Admission £2 (unemployed £1)  
Buses 49 & 49A

**DISCO-DANCE**  
8 pm Thursday 25th November  
Jonathan Swift's  
New Street  
**DUBLIN**  
Admission £1

**KERRY SINN FEIN ANNUAL SOCIAL**  
Featuring 'The Kerry Blues'  
Friday 26th November  
The Manhattan Hotel  
**TRALEE**  
County Kerry  
Dinner at 8pm sharp  
Admission £7

**DARTS COMPETITION**  
(prize: a turkey)  
9.30pm Friday 26th November  
The No. 5 Club  
5 Blessington Street  
**DUBLIN**  
Organised by Sinn Fein

**DANCE**  
Featuring 'Moonshine'  
10pm Friday 26th November  
Cloghan Lodge  
**BALLYBOFEY**  
County Donegal  
Admission £1.50  
Organised by Sinn Fein

**RELEASE NICKY KELLY RALLY**  
2.30pm Saturday 27th November  
GPO  
**DUBLIN**

**COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHEAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
2.15pm Sunday 28th November  
5 Blessington Street  
**DUBLIN**  
Two delegates from each cumann must attend

**CONRADH NA GAELIGE PUBLIC MEETING**  
(to discuss forming a local branch)  
9pm Monday 29th November  
Creighton Hotel  
**CLONES**  
County Monaghan

**'WELCOME HOME' IRISH NIGHT**  
(for P.McMahon, ex-Long Kesh POW)  
Featuring Jim Lynn & Anne & Francie Broily  
Thursday 2nd December  
Thomas Hotel  
**CUSHENDALL**  
County Antrim  
Organised by Sinn Fein

**COMHAIRLE CUIGE MUMHAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
2pm Sunday 5th December  
**LIMERICK**  
Two delegates from each cumann must attend

## Sinn Fein AGM

AT THE recent AGM of the Fearghal O'Hanlon Sinn Fein cumann, Monaghan town, held recently, the following officers were elected: chair: Eddie Gallagher; vice-chair: Pat O'Neill; secretary: Pat Arthurs; treasurers: Claran O'Reilain and John Toul; PRO: Caoimhin O'Caolain; and education officer: Vincent Conlon.

## Draw results

Offaly Sinn Fein  
£100: Eamonn Killeavy; £50: McCormack; £10: Mark Courtney, Michael Killeavy, Michael Dunne, Ma Lachunna and Gabriel Lawlor.





Sean Halpenny gives the Edentubber oration

# Edentubber commemoration

THE ANNUAL Edentubber commemoration took place on Sunday, November 14th, on the Louth/Down border, marking the 25th anniversary of the death of five IRA Volunteers who were accidentally killed in an explosion on November 11th, 1957.

The five were Oliver Craven, George Keegan, Patrick Parle, Paul Smyth and Michael Watters.

Several hundred people marched from the Border Inn to the Edentubber monument in bitterly cold weather led by a colour party of Dundalk Flanna Eireann followed by relatives of the five Volunteers.

There were contingents from Louth, Armagh, Down, Monaghan, Cavan, Dublin and Wexford.

The ceremonies at the monument were chaired by local Sinn Féin county councillor Fra Browne and included the laying of wreaths and the sounding of the 'Last Post'. The oration was given by Sinn

Féin's director of foreign affairs, Sean Halpenny, who paid tribute to the five men and to all those who have given their lives in the fight for national liberation.

He called on republicans throughout the country, and particularly in the twenty-five counties, to recognise the urgent need to organise and educate, directing efforts especially to the people who are oppressed the most — the unemployed, the homeless and badly housed, small farmers, youth and women.

# Irish Lesson 5

## REVISION

### SECTION A — TRANSLATE TO ENGLISH

- Tá mé beag, ní mé láidir.
- Tá sí aosta agus sí tinn
- Táimid anaf, níimid réamhar.
- Ní sé filíuch inínn.
- Ní sibh ard.
- Ní tú dorcha ná mór.
- Ta caillin aige, ní talamh aige.
- Tá infion agam.
- Ní stopa acu agus ní airgead acu.
- Tá tart agus ocraas orm.
- Tá slagháin air agus tá sé fear.
- Ní iontas orthu inínn.

### SECTION B — TRANSLATE TO IRISH

- You (ye) are cold.
- He is sick and cold.
- It is not dark.
- We are not strong.
- They are not weak.
- She has a house and money.
- I haven't a shop.
- We haven't a boy.
- I am hungry and thirsty.
- We are tired also.
- You are sleepy today.

**PRONUNCIATION:**  
The pronunciation given in brackets is as near as possible to the sound.  
**CH** is sounded as in **LOCH ERNE**.  
**D** and **T** before **A, O** and **U** are thick, spoken with the tongue pressed against the upper front teeth.  
**DH** and **GH** are like a **G** far back in the throat — almost a gargle.

### SECTION C — PHRASES TO TRANSLATE

- LATE**  
Dia dhuit.
- Conas 'tá tú?
- Tá sé fear.
- Ní stopa inínn, agus filíuch.
- Sugar, please.
- You, you.
- Thank you.
- You're welcome.

## ANSWERS

- SECTION A**
- I am small, I am not strong.
  - She is old and she is sick.
  - We are thin, we are not fat.
  - It is not wet today.

- You (ye) are not tall.
- You are neither dark nor big.
- He has a girl, he hasn't land.
- I have a daughter.
- They haven't a shop and they haven't money.
- I am thirsty and hungry.
- He has a cold and he is cold.
- They are not surprised today.

### SECTION B

- Tá sibh fear.
- Tá tú glan inínn.
- Tá sé tinn agus fear.
- Ní sé dorcha.
- Níimid láidir.
- Ní siad lag.
- Tá tigh agus airgead aici.
- Ní stopa agam.
- Ní buachaill againn.
- Tá ocraas agus tart orm.
- Tá túirse orainn freisin.
- Tá codladh ort inínn.

### SECTION C

- God bless you.
- How are you?
- I am cold.
- It is cold today, and wet.
- Tá sé ansin.
- Go raibh maith agat.
- Fáilte romhat.

# REMEMBERING THE PAST Unknown IRA Volunteers

BY PETER O'ROURKE

DURING THE winter of 1922, in addition to its policy of murder and internment, the Free State government began the quasi-legal systematic execution of republicans.

In September of that year, Richard Mulcahy, as Minister for Defence, put through the pro-Treaty parliament the Army Emergency Powers Act setting up military courts with powers to pass the death sentence.

The niceties of the legal procedures were of little concern to the government which was soon to shoot Erskine Childers as his sentence was being appealed to a higher court.

But on the day that Erskine Childers was being tried by the military court, it was announced that the first four rep-

ublican prisoners, rank and file members of the IRA, had been executed in Dublin.

They were James Fisher, Richard Twohig, Peter Cassidy and John Gaffney, who had been found guilty of possession of revolvers.

Kevin O'Higgins, explaining to the Free State parliament why unknown IRA Volunteers had been executed first, said: "If they took as their first case some man who was outstandingly active and outstandingly wicked in his activities, the unfortunate dupes throughout the country might say that he was killed because he was a leader, because he was an Englishman (a reference to Childers), or because he combined with others to commit raids."

Altogether, between November 1922 and the end of the Civil War in May 1923, 77 republicans were executed.



● VOL RICHARD TWOHIG

The first four were executed by firing squad on November 17th, 1922 — 60 years ago this week.

# DEEPEST SYMPATHY

● SEAN BURNS ● GERVAIS MCKERR ● EUGENE TOMAN

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** The Republican Movement, North Armagh, comprising Ogligh na hEireann, Sinn Féin and the National Graves Association, deeply regret the deaths of Vols Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman who were murdered by the RUC. Deepest sympathy is extended to their families and friends. "We must take no steps backward, our steps must be onward, for if we don't, the ghosts of the martyrs who died for you, for me, for this country, will haunt us for eternity." (Maire Drumm).

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** The Republican POWs in the H-Blocks extend their most heartfelt sympathy to the families, friends and comrades of Vols Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman, Ogligh na hEireann, North Armagh, who were brutally murdered on November 11th. Fhad's aif na hialgheanna seo in Eirinn, ní bheid síocháin ann saoire.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** The republican POWs in the cages, Lond Kesh, extend their deepest and heartfelt sympathy to the family, friends and comrades of Vols Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr, and Eugene Toman, Ogligh na hEireann, North Armagh, who were assassinated by RUC thugs on November 11th.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** The O/C, Staff and Volunteers, Ogligh na hEireann (Portlaoise), extend their deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Vols Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman who were brutally murdered on November 11th. May they rest in peace.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** It is with the deepest regret that we learn of the deaths of Vols Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman who were murdered by the RUC on November 11th. To their family circles we extend our sincerest sympathy. From the Tom Williams/Thomas Harte Sinn Féin cumann, Lurgan.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the families and friends of Vols Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman who were murdered by the RUC. From Peter and Paul Corey, Liam Haddock and Jim Byrne.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** Deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Vols 'Seambo' Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman who were assassinated by the RUC. From Eileen McNally and family and Dermot (H-Block).

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of our dear friends Sean, Gervais and Eugene who were murdered by RUC gunmen. From Tomás Mullan and family.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the families and friends of Vols Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman who were brutally murdered by RUC gunmen. From Peter and Lella Caine and family.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Vols Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman who were brutally murdered by RUC gunmen. From Gerard and Janet Lavery and family.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman who were brutally murdered by the RUC. From Joe and Bernadette O'Hagan and family.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of our beloved friend 'Seambo' Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman who were murdered by the RUC. From the youth of Killybegs, Shankill and Toghnan estates, Lurgan.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the families and friends of 'Seambo', Gervais and Eugene who were brutally murdered by the RUC. From their friend Tony Keegan, Lurgan.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** Most heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman who were brutally murdered by the RUC. From their friend 'Spock' Mahon.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** Deepest and sincere sympathy is extended to the families of Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman who were brutally murdered by their oppressors in life, the hated RUC. Ní dheanfar dearmad orthu. From Stevie, Kevin, Gerard and Maxie (Portlaoise).

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the families, friends and comrades of Vols Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr, and Eugene Toman who were brutally murdered by RUC thugs on Thursday, November 11th, 1982. Deeply regretted by their comrade Brendan McKenna (H2).

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family, friends and comrades of Sean Burns, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman. "Although your murdered bodies lie cold and confined, your spirit echoes loud the demand for justice in the voice of a risen people." From Aidan, Marlon, Owen and the McNulty/Cannon Sinn Féin cumann, Dublin.

**BURNS, MCKERR, TOMAN.** The O/C, Staff and Volunteers, Sinn Féin cumann, Dublin, extend their sympathy to the families, friends and comrades of Sean, Gervais McKerr and Eugene Toman who were brutally murdered by crown forces on November 11th. We must carry on their fight.

**CORRIGAN.** Deepest sympathy is extended to Issuile Corrigan and family on the death of Peter who was brutally murdered by British agents on October 27th. From Barry and Maureen Gray and Gerry Lavery.

**DONNELLY.** Sligo comhairle ceantair, Sinn Féin, extend their sympathy to Mrs Martin Donnelly and family circle on their recent bereavement.

**MCKENNA.** The Maire Drumm Sinn Féin cumann, Clondalkin, County Dublin, extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jeff McKenna who died recently. Jeff will be sorely missed but his tireless enthusiasm in the republican cause could probably best be summed up in the words: "Don't mourn, organise!"

**MCKENNA.** The McCabe/Gaughy Sinn Féin cumann, Ballymun, Dublin, deeply regret the death of Jeff McKenna, a tireless and fearless worker for a socialist republic. We, the family, who since died of Jeff McKenna who died recently. Jeff will be sorely missed but his tireless enthusiasm in the republican cause could probably best be summed up in the words: "Don't mourn, organise!"

**MCKENNA.** The O'Duill Sinn Féin cumann, Dublin, extend their deepest sympathy to the McKenna family on the tragic death of their son Jeff. McKenna, the O'Neana/MacRaols Sinn Féin cumann, Dublin, extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jeff McKenna. His energy never waned.

**MCKENNA.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Jeff McKenna who died as the result of a road accident on November 7th. From his friends and family, Frank and Rose.

**MCKENNA.** Sincerest sympathy is extended to the family, friends and comrades of Jeff McKenna who died on November 7th. Jeff's ties to the republican struggle and his sincerity in promoting its principles shone like a beacon and inspired all of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. God grant this gentle and noble soul eternal peace. From his dear brother anan naola. From Mick and friends, Monaghan and Tyrone.

**MCKENNA.** Sincere sympathy is extended to the McKenna family on the death of their son Jeff. Sadly missed by Linda and Tommy; and John McCaffrey, who was a friend of Jeff McKenna. Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jeff McKenna, Sinn Féin activist, who was the victim of a hit-and-run driver recently. Go ndána Dia trócaire d'anam.

**MCKENNA.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the families and comrades in Monaghan town.

**MCKENNA.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the relatives and friends of Jeff McKenna. From Stevie Belfast.

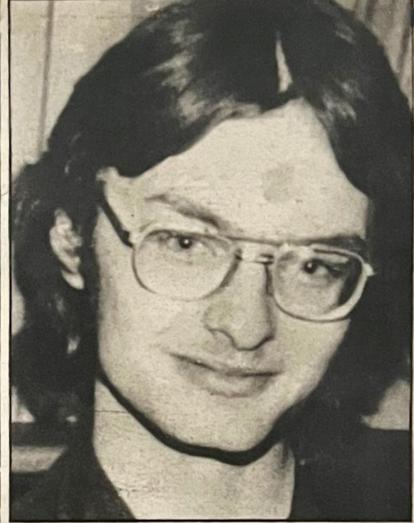
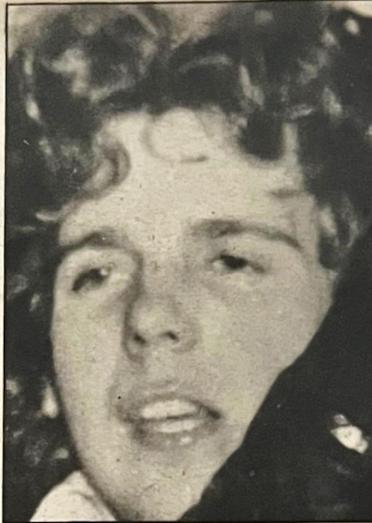
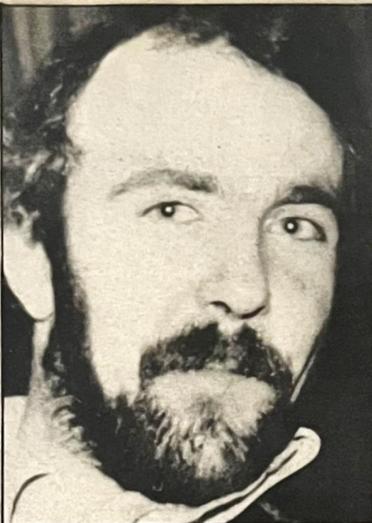
**MCKENNA.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family, friends and comrades of Jeff McKenna of Dublin Sinn Féin, who died so tragically in a road accident. From Pat, Charlie, Jim, Aidan, Dinser, Colm, Barry, Pete, Peter, Shane and Tommy (Portlaoise).

**MCKENNA.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jeff McKenna who died on November 7th. From Shane (Portlaoise) and Pat, Patricia, Leone, Gary and Jarlath, Rush, County Dublin.

**MCKENNA.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the McKenna family on the death of their son Jeff. From Gearoid, Siobhan, Clara and Aisling McConnell, Leixlip.

**MCKENNA.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the McKenna family on the death of their son Jeff. From Vincy, Monaghan.

**MCKERR.** Deepest sympathy is extended to the family, friends and comrades of Vol Gervais McKerr, Ogligh na hEireann, who was murdered by crown forces on November 11th. From Willie Greenan, Belfast.



**Gervais McKerr**

**Eugene Toman**

**Sean Burns**

THE Irish Republican Army claimed Gervais McKerr, Eugene Toman and Sean Burns as its Volunteers in a statement issued on Sunday 14th November, the day of the funeral. The text, which was largely ignored by the media, reads in full:

"The North Armagh Brigade IRA offers its sympathies to the families of our comrade Volunteers, Gervais McKerr, Sean Burns and Eugene Toman, slaughtered by the RUC whilst unarmed. "The circumstances of

the executions of our comrades, and political reaction to the shootings, have exposed the double standards of the various churches and establishment politicians. "The killing of Gervais McKerr, Sean Burns and Eugene Toman was an act

## They were our Volunteers - IRA

of war and is privately viewed as such by the RUC and loyalists though they have attempted to put trimmings on it. But because the RUC is supposed to operate within rules, they have tried to hide

behind the pretext that our comrades broke through a non-existent roadblock before they were shot.

"To find the double standards one only had to read back over the newspaper reports of reaction to the deaths of three RUC

men at our hands in the same area two weeks ago, when Catholic and Protestant bishops and politicians were unambiguous about making moral pronouncements in describing the circumstances of their deaths. The silence of the

Protestant bishops lays bare their sectarian partisanship, and the calls for meaningless enquiries from Catholic clerics shows a slavish attitude to fit what is an act of war into the framework of a normal society which the North is clearly not."

## Gervais McKerr



● Gervais with his family in happier times, on holiday in Blackpool last July

**VOLUNTEER** Gervais McKerr, from the Teghnaven estate in Lurgan, was 31-years-old and had been in the IRA for two years. He leaves behind his wife Eleanor, aged 30, and two young children, 8-year-old Jonathan and 2½-year-old David. His tenth wedding anniversary would have occurred on December 9th.

Gervais was extremely well-known and highly respected in republican circles, both in and beyond Lurgan, as a tireless activist, particularly in H-Block campaigning and more recently during the assembly elections as a worker on behalf of Sinn Fein candidate J.B. O'Hagan.

Less well known, except to his comrades in the North Armagh Brigade, was his active involvement in IRA operations in the Lurgan area, which he pursued enthusiastically and with considerable courage. One comrade of his recalls how he would spend a whole day at a time in the countryside around Lurgan looking for possible positions from which to launch attacks on the Brits, or RUC and UDR. He never once looked for anything in return, even for expenses incurred, but was always ready to put his hand in his own pocket to help a comrade in need.

### FAMILY

But notwithstanding all this, it is primarily as a family man, devoted to his wife and children, that Gervais McKerr is remembered by both republican comrades and by his family and neighbours.

One Volunteer recalls that he never knew Gervais to lose his temper or raise his voice. He had an easy come, easy go personality and not only helped people if he was able to do so, but often put himself to great inconvenience in the process. In particular, he is remembered for being prepared to drive anyone needing a lift wherever they needed to go, for which he never even accepted petrol money. Eleanor used to tease him about running a taxi.

## Eugene Toman and Sean Burns

**IN MANY WAYS** it is only possible to write about Volunteers Eugene Toman and Sean Burns together, since they had been inseparable friends since school.

Both Volunteers were 21-years-old, had spent several months on remand in the same H-Block cell, eventually receiving suspended sentences for their part in rioting during the hunger-strike, and — having been tempered and politicised by their jail experience — both applied to join the IRA on the day of their release, March 29th of this year.

In this short space of time, Eugene and Sean became an invaluable part of the IRA's speedy reorganisation in Lurgan, constantly active on operations and eager to do more than their fair share, eventually forced to go 'on the run' after Sean was recognised on an operation. He escaped the RUC, on that occasion, only by sheer raw nerve.

Despite being urged to transfer to another battalion area for their own safety, both Volunteers insisted that they were needed on their home ground in Lurgan. Barely two weeks after their return they were to meet their death at the hands of the RUC whose oppression they had so fearlessly resisted.

### ANECDOTES

Stories and anecdotes abound concerning the few months of their operational involvement. On one occasion in particular, Eugene and Sean were involved in commandeering a flat for a possible sniping attack against the RUC, under strict instructions that the flat's two occupants and anyone else who called at the flat were to be securely held. Unfortunately people kept calling to the flat, and Eugene and Sean ended up holding thirteen adults and three children in a back bedroom!

In republican terms, the two were totally dedicated, fearless and resourceful, 'Provos to the backbone' as one young friend re-

calls, and never let their comrades down. In operational terms they were relatively inexperienced, yet everything they did was right.

Socially, both Eugene and Sean enjoyed life to the full, and — recalls a comrade — got up to really crazy things, always laughing and joking. Sean was interested in traditional music and Irish dancing, Eugene was forever singing aloud, mostly rebel songs though his favourite was 'Willie MacBride', and was forever with a pen or brush in his hand, a 'professional graffiti artist' according to one friend.

Typically, the last thing he ever drew, in ornate lettering with a biro as he waited in Gervais McKerr's house that evening, were the simple words 'Ireland For The Irish'. At the top of the scrap of paper is the brief signature E.T. 11/11/82.

### ENGAGED

Eugene had been going with 20-year-old Colette Gaskin for the past six years and they were due to get engaged shortly. His mother was to learn of his death at 5am on Friday, her birthday.

Both Eugene and Sean were typical 'children of the troubles', persecuted, arrested and held for questioning for hours or days at a time, frequently since their mid-teens. Like many of their generation they resisted by instinct, finally gaining the commitment and experience that led them to an active and disciplined involvement in the Republican Movement.

Their death together, with Gervais, was a double tragedy for each of their families and friends because of their closeness to each other, and a profound loss to the republican cause they served.

And yet, as one of Eugene Toman's family said: "In a way it was fitting they should have died together. If only one of them had died it would have broken the other's heart."