

AN

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING  
POLITICAL WEEKLY

# PHOBLACHT

## Republican News

Sraith Nua Im! 6 Uimhir 50 Deardain Nollaig 20 Thurs 20th December 1984 (Britain 30p) Price 25p

### NEXT ISSUE — Thursday 3rd January

Because of the Christmas holidays, *An Phoblacht/Republican News* will not be published on Thursday, December 27th. The next issue will therefore be on Thursday, January 3rd 1985.

# Guarantee of freedom

## —MESSAGE FROM IRA LEADERSHIP

IN A STATEMENT issued for Christmas, the leadership of the Republican Movement has reiterated its determination to secure peace with justice in a free Ireland. The full statement is as follows:

THE leadership of the Republican Movement extends solidarity greetings to our imprisoned comrades in British and Free State jails and to our allies incarcerated in American prisons. To their families and loved ones we pay tribute for the comfort and loyalty which they have given throughout the last 12 months. That support has contributed to the morale of republicans actively engaged in struggle as well as to the strength of the political prisoners — especially our comrades in Armagh — to nobly bear all hardships imposed upon them by our enemies.

This December month has been particularly overshadowed by a succession of deaths of comrades who have laid down their lives so that we and our children may live to enjoy peace with justice in a free Ireland. To their families and to the grieving families of all our fallen Volunteers and members of the nationalist community who have fallen victim to loyalist assassination squads and Britain's shoot-to-kill policy we offer our sincerest condolences.

To our dead comrades we pledge never to bow the knee to our oppressors, never to compromise and never to lay down our

arms. To our people we make not the promise but the guarantee of freedom. That will be backed up by all the force at our disposal and by the strength of the moral superiority of our cause over that of naked British imperialism.

This year we have witnessed crown forces desecrate the burials of fallen comrades. We are not allowed peace to bury our dead with dignity, for the British fear even our republican funerals.

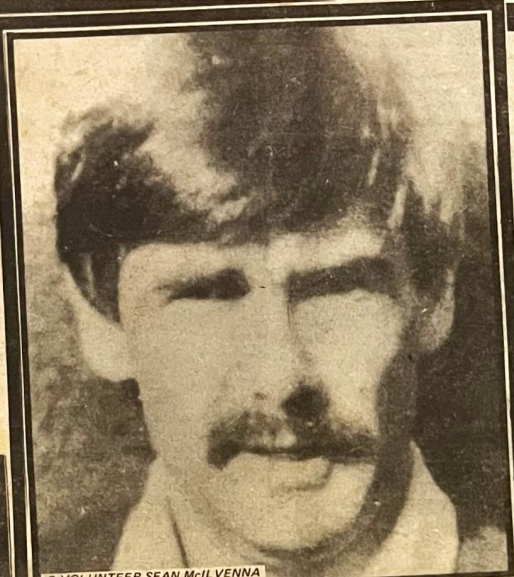
But no amount of intimidation or killings will cause the Irish Republican Army to swerve from the course upon which it is set.

In 1985 we will calmly pursue our struggle and we will strike not out of provocation offered to us but out of the justice of our cause.

Britain may realise by consideration of her inability to subdue us or, painfully, through the cost of our future operations that her fate in Ireland is sealed and the days of her presence are numbered.

Finally, to our loyal supporters, to our friends and comrades and their families, to our solidarity groups in America, Australia, Britain and Europe, may we extend greetings for Christmas and a revolutionary New Year.

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● VOLUNTEER SEAN MCILVENNA



● The remains of IRA Volunteer Sean McIlvenna, who was killed in action in Armagh on Monday morning, were brought to his native Belfast on Tuesday night. At the home of a family friend, an IRA guard of honour stood by the Tricolour-draped coffin from the time of its arrival until the remains were taken for burial on Thursday morning. At approximately 6.50pm on Wednesday, the coffin was taken to the front of the house where a firing party, consisting of three Volunteers armed with handguns and taking orders from a fourth, fired three volleys of shots over the remains of their comrade.



# NEW SINN FEIN CHAIRPERSON

BY KEVIN BURKE

**SINN FEIN'S first chairperson is Sean McManus of Sligo, unanimously elected by the Ard Comhairle at its meeting last weekend.**

The new position arises from a resolution passed at the Sinn Fein Ard-Fheis in November which provided for the election of only one vice-president this year and a party chairperson, to be selected by the Ard Comhairle on this occasion. In future years the position will be filled by election from the floor of the Ard-Fheis.

The chairperson will be responsible for party discipline and in particular for the co-ordination and accountability of Sinn Fein's local councillors and regional representatives.

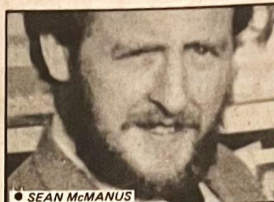
Another appointment made last weekend was that of Caoimhghin O Caolain to

the position of national organiser, a responsibility which he will combine with his present position as general manager of *An Phoblacht/Republican News*. And Longford County Councillor Sean Lynch has been named as Sinn Fein's spokesperson on agriculture.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

As part of a process of expansion and increased efficiency in the organisation, the Ard Comhairle has already appointed a planning committee, chaired by Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, to prepare detailed submissions on the work of Ard Comhairle members, regional representatives and the various Sinn Fein departments.

Already approved are reorganisation plans for head office and the work of the general secretaries, briefs on the role of



● SEAN MC MANUS

regional representatives and initial schedules in the areas of research, education, prisoners, finance and agriculture. All departments are at present under the planning committee's scrutiny and it will be producing detailed work plans in each case.

The Ard Comhairle has set up election directories, under a national committee, to

continue preparations for the local elections, North and South, in May and June next. A trade union conference for Sinn Fein trade unionists is also to be held in the New Year.

Regional representatives to the Ard Comhairle elected by comhairli limistéir are as follows: Richard McAuley (Belfast); Joe McHale (West Connaught); Jack Crowe (Dublin); Jim Dwyer (South Leinster); Donal Malone (North Munster); Sean Callaghan (South Munster); Benny McElwee (NE Ulster); Liam McElhinney (NW Ulster); Malachy Fooks (South Ulster/North Leinster); Brendan Curran (SE Ulster) and Francis Molloy (West Ulster).

Two comhairli limistéir have still to elect their representatives: Mid-Leinster and North Connaught/NW Leinster; the latter because of the appointment of Sean McManus.



● ANTHONY DOCHERTY

## Youth hit by plastic bullet

BY PAT DEENEY

**AN 18-YEAR-OLD Derry youth was seriously injured on Tuesday, December 18th, when struck in the face by a plastic bullet fired at him at close range by a British soldier.**

The youth, George Docherty, was shot while out with a brother and brother-in-law celebrating the acquittal of another brother, Joseph, one of those released with the collapse of the Gilmour trial.

As they made their way towards a restaurant on Waterloo

Street, the youths were spotted by a British soldier standing 20 yards away. He fired the plastic bullet which hit George Docherty in the face.

## DENIED

Subsequently, the British sol-

diers involved claimed that there had been heavy rioting in the area when the shooting occurred but this has been denied by the youth's family and by Sinn Fein elected representative Martin McGuinness, who said:

"Eye-witnesses I have talked to have told me that while some minor disturbances had been going on in and around that area, the situation did not warrant the firing of a plastic bullet. They were also adamant that George Docherty had not been involved in any confrontation with the Brits."

"There is no doubt in my mind that this was a deliberate attempt by a British soldier to kill a nationalist youth for no reason other than the fact that he is a nationalist."

George Docherty was rushed to Altnagelvin Hospital where doctors informed his family that he might lose the sight of one eye.

## Tragic death of Francie Hurson

**THE sudden and tragic death has occurred of well-known Tyrone republican Francis Hurson, brother of the late H-Block hunger-striker, Martin Hurson.**

A native of Cappagh, 35-year-old Francis Hurson was found dead in the garage behind his home in Altnagelvin, a few miles from Carrickmore, last Tuesday afternoon, December 18th.

At first it was thought he had been electrocuted, but a post-mortem is believed to have revealed that he died of a brain haemorrhage.

He was a leading member of Sinn Fein in the Mid-Ulster comhairle ceantair and was a major influence in the area.

The hospitality of the Hurson home was renowned, even beyond County Tyrone, and Francis and his wife Sally had forged many contacts throughout Ireland, especially in Longford, where Martin stood in the June 1981 election, and in the USA, which they visited earlier this year.

## NORAIÐ

Francie was also one of the main organisers behind the stay of the Noraid delegation in Carrickmore last August.

Because of the family's unflinching republicanism, they bore the brunt of continual harassment and raids to their home.

In one incident, in October 1979, Sally's uncle, Peter Groogan, died in a confrontation with the British army in the Hurson's front garden, when the Brits refused to allow the family to summon medical help.

At Christmas two years ago soldiers threw muck and stones at the house,



● FRANCIS HURSON

breaking the front door glass panel.

## ARRESTED

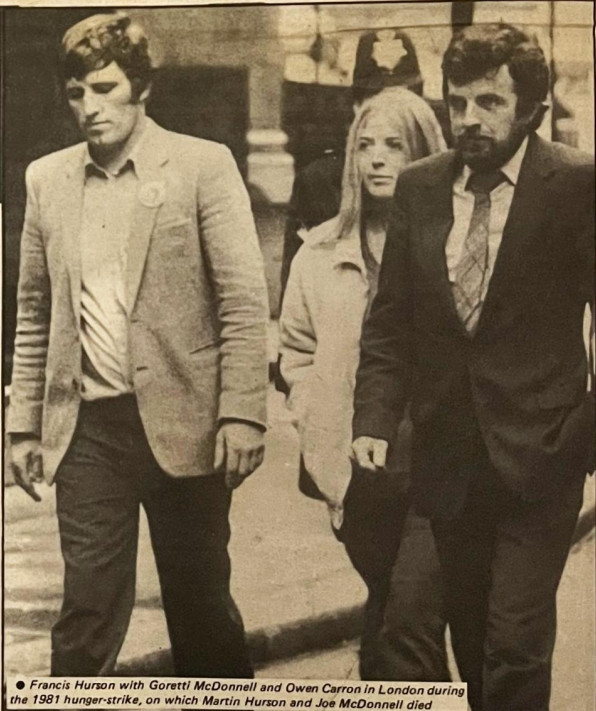
In October 1983, the RUC arrested Francis and took his three-and four-year-old sons, Cathal and Declan, into custody along with him, over an earlier incident of harassment.

Rather than pay a fine imposed on him for this, Francis went to Crumlin Road Jail. Recently he spent seven days in Gough Barracks under Section 12 of the PTA.

And just a few weeks ago, *AP/RN* carried two stories about further harassment and arrests of Francis Hurson and his in-laws, the Hughes family.

## CONDOLENCES

Sinn Fein elected representative for Mid-Ulster Danny Morrison, on behalf of the Republican Movement, has expressed



● Francis Hurson with Goretta McDonnell and Owen Carron in London during the 1981 hunger-strike, on which Martin Hurson and Joe McDonnell died

his condolences to Sally Hurson, who has been left with seven children, and to Francis's father Mr Johnny Hurson and his family. He said:

"The news of Francis's death came as a great shock to all of us. Indeed, if ever we were to anticipate his death it would have been at the hands of the crown forces to whom he would never bow, rather than in this way."

"Francie was a stalwart of the Republican Movement in the Carrickmore area and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. It was a privilege to have known him."

The funeral of Francis Hurson was scheduled to take place on Thursday, December 20th, after Requiem Mass in Carrickmore chapel.

Go ndeana Dia trocrair ar an am.









● Prisoners' relatives picket outside Portlaoise Prison last Saturday

# Support for republican prisoners

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

SINN FEIN president Gerry Adams MP has exposed the latest attack on prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh in a statement released on Thursday, December 13th, saying:

"In their ongoing campaign of harassment of republican prisoners, the administration has engineered confrontation in several of the H-Blocks, notably H4, resulting in prisoners being put on the boards.

"The implementation of the controlled movement system is one of the methods the administration is using although cell searches are carried out frequently.

"The administration has also taken the unusual step of carrying out a number of strip-searches.

"The prison authorities are obviously intent on increasing the level of harassment already suffered by republican prisoners in Long Kesh."

## PORTLOAISE

Sinn Fein's Prisoners' Week activity started with a mass picket on Portlaoise Prison organised by the Portlaoise Prisoners Relatives Action Committee. Nearly 100 people gathered at the prison in support of the prisoners demands on Saturday, December 15th.

Fianna Eireann demonstrated their support for the POWs in Irish and English jails by marching from Parnell Square to the GPO in Dublin on the same day.

A Fianna colour party led the march and a spokesperson read out a statement, outlining the prisoners demands, at the GPO.

## ARRESTED

An AP/RN photographer was

arrested while taking photographs of the march, and the PRO for Dublin Sinn Fein was also arrested when he tried to find out what had happened. Both were charged with obstruction and breach of the peace.

Father Niall O'Brien, who was earlier this year released from orison in the Philippines, visited Portlaoise Prison on Monday, December 17th. He had a 2½-hour meeting with Gerry Tuite in the governor's office.

He was not allowed to speak to any of the prisoners on his own and was surrounded at all times by the governor, the deputy governor, warders and gardai.

## MINIBUS

Monaghan comhairle ceantair launched their Prisoners Dependents Minibus scheme this week. The 12-seater minibus was purchased after a fund-raising drive by a prisoners' relatives committee in the county. POW officer for Monaghan Sinn Fein, Sean Tierney, arranged the bus's first journey to Portlaoise for Friday, December 21st, to coincide with Prisoners' Week.

A motion condemning the use of plastic bullets and the strip-searching of women prisoners in Armagh was passed by Clare County Council on December 9th by Sinn Fein councillor P.J. Burke. It was seconded by Councillor Martin Foran (FF) and passed unanimously.

A group of religious met at Benburb Friary in Armagh on Sunday, December 9th, to discuss the strip-searching of women prisoners in Armagh.

A motion condemning the practice was passed and a statement was issued to the press signed by Fathers Des Wilson



● The recent Christmas party held in Dublin for prisoners' children was a great success



● March to the GPO, Dublin, led by a Fianna Eireann colour party



● Gardaí harassing demonstrators during the Dublin march

from Belfast and Joe McVeigh, Irvinestown.

As part of the Prisoners' Week activities, leaflets were distributed in the Blanchardstown, Dun Laoghaire, Ballymun and Liberties areas of Dublin, and in South Down, Lifford, Tralee, Limerick

and Monaghan.

Former POW Linda Quigley addressed a public meeting on strip-searching in Ballyfermot, Dublin, on Wednesday, December 19th, and former POW Liz McWilliams was due to speak in O'Connell Street, Dublin, on Thursday dur-

ing a Day of Action organised by the Stop the Armagh Strip-Searches Campaign.

## RELEASED

Catherine Moore, one of the 27 people released after the evidence of paid-perjurer Raymond Gilmour was rejected by Judge Lowry in Belfast Crown Court on Tuesday, December 18th, described how she was strip-searched "hundreds of times" during her remand in Armagh Prison.

"I was strip-searched twice a day, each time I left Armagh for a remand hearing. I was stripped naked on returning from the court and my naked body scrutinised.

"If I refused to be strip-searched I was held down by up to 16 prison officers and forcibly stripped naked and searched.

"The mental strain of the court case plus having to go through this degrading ordeal was unbearable. There is no justification for this inhuman and degrading practice."



BY JANE PLUNKETT

IN AN elaborate attempt to shore up the paid-perjurer strategy and to lend an appearance of 'impartiality' to the North's colonial judicial system, Lord Chief Justice Lowry on Tuesday called an abrupt halt to the Raymond Gilmour show-trial, acquitting the 35 men and women charged on Gilmour's uncorroborated word.

By this stage of the trial, the evident unreliability of Gilmour as a witness, his contradictory and confused evidence, his 'lapses' of memory, had left Lowry with little other option - given the high degree of media and legal concern internationally at the show-trial system - than to accede to defence submissions and dismiss the case.

### DETAILS

Gilmour had slipped up even on trivial details, such as his birthdate, and had been unable to recall the ages of his two young children.

Moreover, defence lawyers had exposed serious contradictions in the claims of the RUC and Gilmour that, while a paid-informer, Gilmour had allegedly joined first the INLA and then the IRA. Major discrepancies were revealed between the RUC's account of what Gilmour had been paid and his own testimony.

Exposing further contradictions, the defence also established that though Gilmour allegedly had supplied the RUC in advance with details of IRA operations in which a British soldier was killed and several British crown forces were seriously injured, the RUC had been unable to explain in court why, at the time, they had taken no action either to prevent the incidents or to make arrests subsequently.

### BRIBED

Delivering his 15-minute judgement in Belfast Crown Court, trial judge Lowry, the figurehead of the Orange judiciary, left no doubt that the North's court will continue to convict on the evidence of individuals bribed or blackmailed by the RUC into signing incriminating statements against others.

The problem, Lowry said, was not even Gilmour's "scandalous character, oblivious to every natural obligation or marital and fatherly affection and friendship", but that he considered Gilmour to be "entirely unworthy of belief".

The issue of uncorroborated evidence, by alleged accomplices,

# Show-trials whitewashed

● GILMOUR



● Some of the freed victims of the RUC's paid-perjurer Raymond Gilmour

Lowry emphasised explicitly, had no bearing on his decision to ignore Gilmour's evidence.

Such testimony, of course, is the basis of the RUC's paid-perjurer strategy and Lowry's message was spelt out later that night by Official Unionist Assembly member and lawyer Bob McCartney, who crowed that Lowry's verdict had 'endorsed the use of informers'.

And on Wednesday, an editorial in the unionist *Belfast Telegraph* was even clearer as to Lowry's motives: "Rather than providing ammunition for the critics (of the use of alleged 'supergrasses') the independence of the judiciary has been clearly demonstrated."

### BIGGEST

When the Gilmour trial began last May, it was the biggest trial in British or Irish legal history, with 39 Derry men and women facing over 180 charges. Subsequently, four of the accused suc-

cessfully applied to be tried separately.

The affair had begun in August 1982, when Gilmour went into RUC 'protective custody', along with his wife Lorraine (who subsequently left her husband).

Shortly afterwards, 1,000 British troops and RUC saturated nationalist areas of Derry, in allegedly the biggest single operation since 'Motorman' and began making arrests, their large numbers evidently intended, unsuccessfully, to intimidate and demoralise local nationalists.

Many of those released on Tuesday and held since that August have thus spent the equivalent almost of a five-year jail term in prison without trial.

Tuesday's verdict was met by spontaneous cheers, and tears, from relatives watching in the public gallery of Crumlin Road Courthouse. One of the 26 who walked free was 25-year-old Catherine Moore, who while held on

remand in Armagh Jail suffered the added inhumanity of being strip-searched literally hundreds of times.

Nine of the defendants remain in custody, having been jailed on the uncorroborated word of another RUC perjurer, Robert Quigley.

On Wednesday, another of Gilmour's victims, Noel Moran, who had obtained a separate trial, was also freed after Belfast Crown Court was told there was no evidence against him.

### CONFERENCE

On Wednesday afternoon, most of those freed attended a press conference in Derry's Bogside Inn. The proceedings were opened by Mitchell McLaughlin, chairperson of Sinn Féin in Derry city, who described Lowry's verdict as a hint to the RUC to "refine" its strategy and as a confirmation that "there is no judicial objection to the use of paid-perjurers".

Taking up this theme, several

of those released described their detention as "internment by remand" and the show-trials as "a mockery of justice".

Speaking for all the victims, Christopher McKnight described Gilmour as a "puppet" who had been "used by the RUC" and stressed that his victims felt no resentment or bitterness towards Gilmour's wife and family.

Another victim, Martin Connolly, pointed out that "two wings of Crumlin Road Jail are full of people being held on the word of people like Raymond Gilmour". Referring to the nine defendants in the trial who remain in custody on Quigley's word, Connolly added:

"Everybody felt very bad... those people were convicted on the same type of evidence that we were acquitted on. Where is the justice of that?"

"I've lost 2½ years of my family, my three children, my wife. What kind of money can compensate for that?"

BY ROBERT CARLIN

A 19-YEAR-OLD British soldier, Ian Richard Thain from Doncaster, was found guilty of the murder of Thomas 'Kidso' Reilly on Belfast's Whiterock Road on the anniversary of internment last year.

The outcome of the trial was announced on the same day that UDR Corporal David Henry Baird was acquitted of the manslaughter of Armagh teenager Martin Malone. Baird had earlier been acquitted on a charge of murder.

Sentencing Thain to life for the murder of Reilly, Judge Higgins said in Belfast Crown Court that he did not accept the accused's testimony "that he believed he was about to be shot at and reacted to that danger by shooting in self-defence".

The life sentence is not the end of the matter, however. The inevitable appeal is likely to produce a drastically reduced sentence or, given the almost apologetic manner of the Orange judge's sentencing of Thain and the contradictions in the evidence of prosecution witnesses, the Brit will walk free.

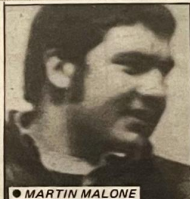
### DECLINED

Higgins declined to make any recommendation in Thain's case, something that

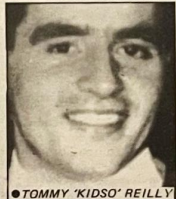
## COURTS BIAS REMAINS



● NORA MCCABE



● MARTIN MALONE



● TOMMY 'KIDSO' REILLY

would be inconceivable if the accused were a nationalist. And, in the event of Thain actually serving time for the murder of Reilly, he will, of course, serve his time in an English prison.

Thain's failure to concoct a reasonable lie about the murder of Reilly ultimately led to the Higgins decision. The fact that the shooting happened in broad daylight, that Reilly was stripped to the waist and

had been shot in the back, made an efficient cover-up difficult to effect.

No such difficulties were encountered by UDR soldier David Henry Baird, who sailed through charges of murder and manslaughter in the way he would have expected.

Baird had been left facing a charge of manslaughter, a charge based on the premise that he may have been 'reckless' in dis-

charging his weapon. Summing up, Higgins said:

"In the light of the situation, I do not feel that the failure to check the position of his safety catch amount to recklessness."

### ACQUITTAL

The ease with which Baird gained his acquittal undoubtedly eased the fears of the British army, RUC and UDR that their shoot-to-kill policy had been endangered by the verdict in the Thain case.

Meanwhile the British Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, has rejected calls for a public inquiry into the death of a Belfast woman, Nora McCabe, killed by an RUC plastic bullet in July 1981.

According to Havers, the Director of Public Prosecutions considered that the evidence did not warrant bringing charges against anyone. This is despite overwhelming evidence of RUC guilt, graphically illustrated in a recent television programme which showed the shooting.



## Sinn Fein AGMs

AT the recent AGMs of the branches of Sinn Fein the following officer-boards were elected:

**Barna Uaidh executive, Dromintee/Killavey:**

Chair/agriculture: Eamonn Larkin; vice-chair/electorate officer: Martin McNally; secretary: Sara Murphy; treasurer: Patrick McDonald; education/culture: Dan McCarthy; organiser: Liam Harter.

**Cill Dara comhairle ceantair:**

Chair: Geraldine English; vice-chair: Edward Nynne; secretary/treasurer: Aine Ni Chomáin; education: Plunkett Corr; PRO: Martin Carroll; organiser: Brian Mac Eoin.

**Clerc comhairle ceantair:**

Chair: Matty Finucane; vice-chairs: Martin Callaghan, Jack Browne; secretary: Mary Casey; assistant secretary: Mick O'Connell; joint-treasurers: Paddy Rowe, Martin Callaghan; youth: Peter Flanagan; women: Margaret McNulty; PRO: Eoghan Mac Logáin; organisation: Mick O'Connell; director of elections: Des Brennan; regional reps: Paddy Rowe, Des Brennan.

**Connaught/East Leinster comhairle limistéar:** Chair: Frank Guickan; secretary: Deirdre McKenna; treasurer: Jenny Farrell; PRO: Mary Mulvihill.

**George Plant cumann:** Chair: J. Farrell; vice-chair: G. Fahy; secretary: Michael Ceitinn; PRO: Richard Fennedy; education: Jack O'Brien; comhairle ceantair delegates: Jimmy Farrell & Michael Ceitinn.

**John James Kelly cumann, Castlefinn:** Chairperson: Seamus O'Laughlin; vice-chair: Seamus O'Kane; secretary: Martin Holmes; treasurer: Jacinta Holmes & Phil Elliott; PRO: Thomas McGinley; committee: Des Brennan, McGinley & Mrs Mary Brolly.

**Louth comhairle ceantair:** Chair: Rory Duggan; vice-chair: Fra Browne; secretary: Jean Lalor-Fitzpatrick; treasurer: Ann Shiels; PRO: Malachy Foots; finance: Liam Cassidy; education: Arthur Morgan; youth: Olivia Kenny; women: Angela Taggart.

**McGinn/McLaughlin cumann, Lifford:** Honorary president: Tony Tracey (Portlaoise); chair: Frankie Herron; vice-chair: Edward McGrath; secretary: Liam MacElhinney; treasurer: Thomas Quinn; PRO: Eamonn McNulty; News-sheet editor: Tony McDaid.

**Maurice McGrath cumann, Carrick-on-Suir:** Honorary president: Terry O'Donovan; chair: Liam Walsh; secretary: Eddie O'Doherty; treasurer: Michael O'Doherty; PRO: James Smith.

**Michael Gaughan cumann, Dundalk:** Chair: Kieran McBride; secretary: Martina Gaughan; treasurer: Cormac Connolly; PRO: Malachy Foots.

**Robert McLoughlin/Jim McGinn Sinn Fein cumann, Lifford:** Chair: Frankie Herron; vice-chair: Eddie McGrath; secretary: Liam MacElhinney; treasurer: Thomas McNulty.

**South-East Ulster comhairle limistéar:** Regional rep/organiser: Brendan Curran; chairperson: Jim McAllister; vice chair/PRO: Paddy Fitzsimmons; secretary: Sheena Campbell; treasurer: Leasha Dempsey; finance: Jimmy McCrash; education: Brendan McKenna; women: Lorraine Canavan; agriculture: P.J. Carragher; trade unions: Paddy Young.

**Cumann Toirbheach Mac Suibhne, an tSianna, Cúdaie an Chliar:** President: Charlie Murray; chair: Paddy Rowe; secretary: Peter Flannigan; treasurer: K. Murray; assistant treasurer: Frank McLaughlin; PRO: Eugene Logan; women: Brielle Elman; youth: Laurence Murray; AP/RN: Frank McLaughlin.

**Wexford comhairle ceantair:** Chair: Pat Whelan; vice-chair: Oliver Murray; secretary: Sean Collins; joint treasurers: James Kavanagh & Mick Kane; PRO & organiser: Jim Dwyer; education: Sean Finn.



● Premier Dairies, Dublin

# Bord na Mona workers turfed out

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

A PROTEST organised by the FWU was held in Thurles, County Tipperary, on Saturday, December 15th, to highlight the strike of 250 workers at Bord na Mona's Littleton Works over management proposals to lay off permanent workers and re-employ them on a seasonal basis.

Some of the 64 workers who have been selected for lay-off have service records with Bord na Mona of up to 34 years.

The march was supported by over 500 people and led by the Moycarkey/Borris Pipe Band. Local union branch officials Paddy Bolger, Thomas Nolan and Michael Alexander say that Bord na Mona are trying to implement job-shedding by transferring the winter pay bill of the workers concerned to social welfare. Workers at Bord na Mona's Lullymore plant in Kildare are also out on strike over the same issue.

A strike by 39 craft workers at Premier

Dairies depots in Dublin continues over the non-restoration of a differential between craft and production workers.

Workers at Lee Strand creamery in Tralee are still on strike after nearly three months. The 40 workers are in dispute with management over new work practices.

Two members of the Dunnes Stores strike committee are visiting England at the invitation of the Anti-Apartheid Movement to publicise their 23-week-old strike against the sale of South African produce in the Henry Street, Dublin, branch of Dunnes.

Mary Manning and Catherine O'Reilly attended a torchlight vigil at London's South African embassy on Wednesday night and will be meeting GLC leader Ken Livingstone and striking Kent miners as well as black and Asian groups during their three-day visit.

The Dunnes strikers are suffering severe

financial hardship and a special Christmas/New Year appeal has been launched for donations to be sent to the strikers' union, the IDATU, at 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1.

The Galway consultant firm, Kerry and Partners, have been instructed to recognise the union, AUEW, which has been trying to represent workers at the company.

The 60 workers on strike at J. McMahon, the Dublin timber merchants, are protesting at the conditions attached to the offer of a 10% pay rise by the company.

A march on Dunnes Stores, Wexford, on Saturday, December 8th, by 400 trade unionists was in support of the 50 workers who are still occupying the store after a two-month strike over the company's refusal to pay an agreed Christmas bonus last year.

Management at Burlington Fabrics Ltd in Longford are seeking a further 30 redundancies in their workforce.

Fifty jobs are at risk at the Silver Pail Dairies in Fermoy, County Cork. A receiver was appointed to the company last week.

The NET fertiliser plant in Arklow, County Wicklow, laid off the bulk of its workforce, 450 workers, on Monday, December 17th, because of a dispute with shift workers over plans to cut 32 jobs.

The unemployment figures in the twenty-six counties rose by 4,227 in November.

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

TWO SINN FEIN representatives attended an important conference in Bolzano, Italy, on December 1st and 2nd. The two-day conference, 'Europa dei popoli, Europa della nazione' was well-organised and over 200 people took part.

Representatives of minority groups and liberation struggles in Europe met to discuss the problems existing in their respective countries and how they implement their policies. The conference was extensively covered by both TV and local press and Italian national TV also gave it coverage.

Bairbre de Brun, of Belfast Sinn Fein, spoke in the session 'Languages and Cultures at Risk' giving the historical background, the present situation, Sinn Fein work on cultural resistance and hopes and plans for the future. Denis Donaldson, also from Belfast, gave the main Sinn Fein speech on the history of the struggle, the development of Sinn Fein and present strategy.

Other speakers were from Democrazia Proletaria, Herri Batasuna Euskadi, MCA Corsica, Sardinia, and minority groups in Italy.

The Sinn Fein representatives gave interviews on radio, TV and in the press which were widely carried by the Italian media.

## PERUGIA

A conference in Perugia, Italy, in October was attended by two Sinn Fein representatives, Sile Darragh, head of the Foreign Affairs Bureau,

# SINN FEIN IN ITALY



● Sinn Fein's Denis Donaldson and Bairbre de Brun (second and third from right) at the two-day conference in Italy

and Mitchell McLaughlin, Derry Sinn Fein. The conference, on October 20th and 21st, was organised by the Fondazione Aldo Capitani and sponsored by the regional government of Perugia.

Representatives from many different European movements and from liberation movements in Central America, the Middle East and

Africa attended. The Sinn Fein representatives had meetings with comrades from the Filipino Democratic Front, Eritrea Popular Front, El Salvador, the Kurdish movement and Democrazia Proletaria. They were interviewed on national radio and TV and in the press. Mitchell McLaughlin also attended meetings and gave interviews in Castella, Bologna and Rome.



# Dublin sights lowered

**"NO LOWERING OF SIGHTS,"** Free State deputy-premier Dick Spring had promised last month. Some three weeks later, there is no doubt that sights have been considerably lowered.

Speaking in Belfast on Thursday, December 13th, Spring said that Mrs Thatcher had not "altogether" rejected the Forum report. She had agreed on "the need to recognise the two traditions", he said. So this was the result of "the greatest political initiative since partition: an admission that there were nationalists and unionists in Ireland."

Later, Spring added that all his government wanted really was to get the "minority community in Northern Ireland to identify with the administration, the judiciary, the security forces". Nationalists must be "weaned from alienation" he added, as if they were addicted to the stuff.

'And what of the Free State government's executive role in the North?', Spring was asked. No reply: that too, obviously, was out. And, indeed, according to British direct-ruler Douglas Hurd, all the Free State government had was a "legitimate interest in expressing views" about the North. They were permitted to speak — just.

It was therefore hardly surprising that on Monday, December 17th, a *Guardian* report suggested that Dublin was ready to drop Articles 2 and 3 from its constitution in return for enforced power-sharing in the North.

The swift denial from both

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

governments rang hollow. "Totality speculative", Dublin said, "it wouldn't work." "Rubbish", British sources said, suggesting that for FitzGerald to recognise partition would amount to political suicide.

## ACCURATE

A very accurate suggestion, made against the backdrop of FitzGerald's ever-falling popularity in the opinion polls: down to 37%, while Haughey's Fianna Fail has soared to over the 50% mark. And it is indeed ironic that the government that proclaims to speak for the Northern nationalists does not even, by the look of it, speak for its own electorate.

So confident is Haughey of his ascendancy that he staged an opposition walkout in Leinster House last Friday after FitzGerald had criticised him for his handling of the first London/Dublin summit in 1980.

Coincidentally, the outline of an internal package has begun to materialise in the North.

While the unionist parties are making noises about a 'Bill of Rights' which they hope would secure them devolution, and a return to the good old Stormont days, the British government's own 'Advisory Commission on Human Rights' has suggested three-judge Diplock courts and

some limits on the use of uncorroborated 'accomplice' evidence, and on arrest and search powers.

## COSMETIC

Meanwhile, the British government is unlikely to get much other than cosmetic proposals from its opposition leader.

During his brief visit to the occupied six counties on Thursday, December 13th, British Labour leader Neil Kinnock, who said he supported the British government's decision not to speak to Sinn Féin elected representatives, announced that he favoured "some measure of joint authority on economic matters" between the London and Dublin governments.

Later, in an RTE Radio interview, he moderated his daring proposal to 'joint activity' — on economic and 'security' matters.

As for British withdrawal, he did not support it, he said, nor would he support Tony Benn's attempt to have it discussed by introducing a 'British withdrawal by 1987' Bill.

And as if to further illustrate the petty reactionary attitude of British politicians and media on the subject of Ireland, a furore erupted at the weekend when a media report 'revealed' that last November a British Labour MP, Jeremy Corbyn, had brought two former republican prisoners into Westminster.

The two ex-prisoners, Linda Quigley and Gerry McLoughlin, had been invited to discuss the



● British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock talks to the ATGWU's John Freeman



● (From left to right) Jeremy Corbyn, Gerry McLoughlin and Linda Quigley

plight of republican prisoners in Armagh and English jails with some MPs. The unrepentant Corbyn had to weather the storm

of hysterical abuse for bringing "two convicted bombers" into Westminster "only two weeks after Brighton".

# All-Ireland British court

BY ROBERT CARLIN

THE COMPLICITY of the Free State Supreme Court in rigging the case against Dominic McGlinchey was emphasised in a Belfast court this week when affidavits which McGlinchey was forced to give in his fight against extradition from the South became a central part of the case against him in the North.

And in his ruling on Monday this week that the affidavits were admissible as evidence, trial judge Hutton said that British legislation passed in 1951 still applied in the twenty-six counties despite its claim to sovereignty in 1949.

His implication that the Free State is still

legally tied to the British Empire met no protests from Dublin where, days earlier, Supreme Court officials had handed over photocopies of the sealed and certified affidavits to the gardai who, in turn, gave them to the RUC.

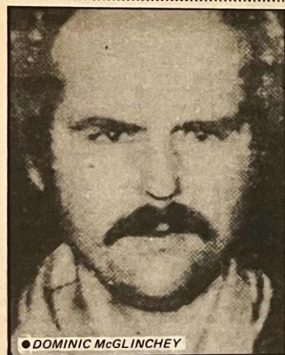
Extracts from the alleged affidavits were read to the court, claiming that McGlinchey said that in 1977 he was working on behalf of the IRA, and was an active member of a South Derry active service unit.

## ALLEGATION

In reference to the allegation that McGlinchey's fingerprints had been found on a car involved in the incident in which an RUC Reservist's mother, Mrs Hester McMullan, was shot dead, defence

counsel told the court that McGlinchey had been working as a mechanic in the South Derry area in 1977 and that his fingerprints would therefore be found on a large number of vehicles.

Two Amalgams were produced in court on Tuesday. It was claimed that the two weapons had been used in attacks on the RUC in South Derry and North Antrim. The weapons had been recovered after a stake-out by the SAS which resulted in the murder of 15-year-old John Boyle in April 1977 and an attack at Abigail RUC Barracks in which three RUC men were seriously wounded, were raised in a crude attempt to prove McGlinchey guilty by association, as no evidence was produced to link him with any of the attacks. The case continues.



● DOMINIC MGLINCHEY

# Rebuff to Brits from New York judge

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

A FEDERAL JUDGE in New York has turned down a request by Britain to extradite New Lodge man Joe Doherty, one of the ten republicans who escaped from Crumlin Road Jail on June 10th 1981.

One week ago, on Thursday, December 13th, Judge John Sprizzo ruled that Joe Doherty's actions presented "the assertion of the political exception in its most classic form". He was referring to the US Extradition Act, which states that no extradition should take place for "offences regarded as of a political character by the requested party".

Doherty, who was arrested by the American authorities in June 1983 at a bar where he was working, had been among the Volunteers captured after the killing of Captain Westmacott of the SAS on the Antrim Road in May 1980. In what became known as the

'M60 Trial', a Belfast judge sentenced Doherty and several of his comrades to life imprisonment.

He gave his verdicts to empty benches however, as Doherty and nine others had decided not to wait, and made their bid for freedom on June 10th 1981, two days before judgement was passed.

## TESTIMONIES

Doherty's case, which came to court last Spring, relied on testimonies by, among others, Bernadette McAliskey, Sean McBride, and *Irish Press* editor, Tim Pat Coogan. Ironically, Doherty's lawyers also used one of the reports published by the New Ireland Forum, *The Cost of Violence*, to show that 'violence' in the North was politi-

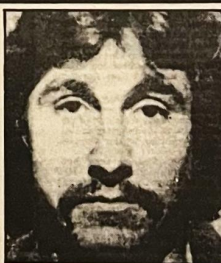
cally and that in Ireland extradition was decided on political, not legal grounds. No doubt many of the Forum participants must have cringed when they learned of the weight given to their report by an American judge.

In his final ruling, Judge Sprizzo noted that Doherty's actions were "not directly against civilian representatives of the government". The IRA, he continued, "has both an organisation, discipline and command structure that distinguishes it from more amorphous groups such as the Black Liberation Army and the Red Brigades".

And he pointedly concluded that history was "replete with examples of political and insurrectionary movements that have succeeded in effecting political changes that were believed improbable, if not impossible".

## WELCOMED

Noraid publicity director Martin Galvin welcomed the ruling: "Judge Sprizzo has by implication



● JOE DOHERTY

ruled that the IRA is waging a legitimate political struggle against British rule," he said.

And indeed the implications of the judge's decision did not escape the unionist establishment in Ireland. "This

sort of judgement does not help us," said an RUC spokesperson, shocked to discover that some judges are not unionist.

"The decision gives the IRA important and far-reaching authority", DUP leader Ian Paisley admitted, while OUP leader James Molyneux called the US government "hypocritical", and Alliance leader, John Cusack objected that the IRA "used politics as the cloak of respectability for a host of crimes".

Meanwhile, the total absence of reaction from Free State politicians points to their extreme annoyance and profound embarrassment. The New York court ruling shows them up for the craven collaborators that they are, particularly as Belfast High Court is witnessing the RUC's frantic efforts to unearth the shreds of evidence to jail Dominic McGlinchey, handed over by the Free State government to the Brits last March for reasons of political expediency.



**Now available**



## IRIS No.9

THE December issue of *IRIS* — the republican magazine is now available.

The theme of the issue is political involvement in the community and there are articles on planning in the Donegal Gaeltacht, the campaign against heroin in Dublin and Sinn Féin's involvement in housing in Belfast.

Elsewhere in *IRIS* there is an interesting exchange of views on the relationship between pacifism and the campaign for nuclear disarmament, between Peter Emerson of CND and Sinn Féin's Danny Morrison.

Other articles examine unionism's academic front at Queen's University, analyse the campaign for segregation within the North's prisons and review the IRA's military operations in the period July to November.

A special feature in the magazine is the publication for the first time of IRA documents gathered by the late republican leader Ernie O'Malley which provide a fascinating insight into the critical early months of the Civil War.

*IRIS* — the republican magazine is available from the usual republican outlets at £1 sterling or IR£1.20 or directly from IRIS Distribution, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast (plus 50p p & p).



## ON SALE NOW

THE following items are available from Republican Publications, 2a Monagh Crescent, Belfast. Tel: 620768 or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Tel: 726932.

**1985 Republican Diary.** Bound in an attractive dark-green durable plastic cover, the diary contains features on Irish history and various aspects of the republican freedom struggle. Price £1.75 each.

**1985 Republican Resistance Calendar.** This colourful and excellently produced calendar is priced £1.50 or IR£1.20 (please add postage).

**Christmas Cards.** A set of three illustrated Christmas cards, the work of Portlaoise POW Francis 'Lucas' Quigley, depicting crown forces harassment in Christmas settings. Price 15p each card with special rates for bulk orders.



● Repairs being carried out on the Liverpool houses, Lenadoon — materials containing asbestos are still being used

# DEADLY HOUSING RISK

BY JANE PLUNKETT

**DESPITE** a recent Housing Executive pledge to remove lethal asbestos from dwellings wherever it is found, asbestos-containing building materials are still being installed in Executive homes in West Belfast, tenants discovered last week.

This potentially serious health risk was exposed by residents of the Liverpool houses, Lenadoon, where contractors employed by the Executive are currently replacing old and inadequate wooden cladding on outside walls with new insulation board.

To date, work has been completed on 64 of 257 homes scheduled for improvement.

Several months ago, the Liverpool Housing Action Group (LHAG), on the advice of Sinn Féin, sent two samples of the insulation board, which is known as 'mastercladding' and 'master-board', for testing through Belfast City Council's community service office.

### TESTS

Last week, they received the results of tests carried out by the industrial science division of the Department of Economic Development, which stated categorically that "the samples were found to contain chrysotile asbestos type". Chrysotile is generally known as white asbestos.

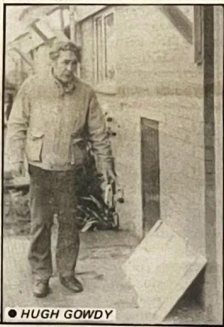
Grave concern at these findings was expressed last Thursday by Sinn Féin's West Belfast MP Gerry Adams, who also strongly criticised the Housing Executive's repeated denials over the issue. Adams said:

"While not wishing to cause unnecessary alarm, medical and scientific opinion stresses the dangers of all forms of asbestos, brown, blue and white."

The inhalation of tiny amounts of asbestos dust can cause death and debilitating diseases, including cancer, even 20 or 30 years after initial exposure.

### CAMPAIGN

The LHAG, which fought a long campaign to obtain the overdue improvement scheme, has been angered further at the Housing Executive's lack of concern over the possible presence of asbestos. Residents are also extremely worried that young children may have been exposed to dangerous levels of asbestos dust. Workmen too are concerned at the hazards.



● HUGH GOWDY

At a well-attended meeting on Sunday in the local community centre, residents decided not to allow any more asbestos-containing material to be installed. They will also be demanding that the Housing Executive remove the board from houses where work has already been completed.

The secretary of LHAG, John Reid, told *AP/RN* that from last April the group had repeatedly raised the issue with the local Executive official.

Reid said: "We were assured that no as-

bestos was being put in and residents are angry and very worried. Workmen were cutting the board in the streets and children were playing with it. In the summer, children were walking to school through great clouds of this dust."

In a letter to the LHAG dated October 26th, regional housing manager E. McKeown stated categorically that "investigations have revealed that there is no asbestos content in mastercladding".

### CLAIMED

Last Friday, an Executive official claimed the backing of scientific tests but so far these have not been disclosed to the tenants themselves.

The Housing Executive's lack of concern was again strongly criticised on Monday by LHAG chairperson Hugh Gowdy, who stated:

"When the asbestos hazard was confirmed, last Thursday, the Executive came round and collected piles of cladding boards which had been stacked on pavements, but sheets of board are still lying in alleyways around the estate. And the Health and Safety Executive still have not responded to our request that they inspect the site."

# RENTS BURDEN

Strongly criticising the rent rises, Sean Keenan said:

"How the DOE can justify such an increase is beyond comprehension, considering the Housing Executive's abysmal record on repairs and improvement schemes, especially in West Belfast. What is needed now is a rent freeze, not persistent rent increases."

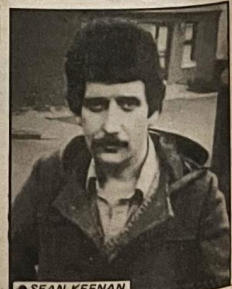
### CONTEMPT

Also on Thursday, Patten provided a further example of the British government's contempt for the housing needs of Northern nationalists when he announced

that new house building by the Housing Executive will be cut back even further in the coming years.

The planned level of new starts, which last year stood at an already inadequate 3,000, will fall further to between 2,250 and 2,500 from this year. In line with Tory private-enterprise ideology, Patten envisages an increasing role for private sector building.

Such a policy, of course, cannot possibly solve the chronic housing shortage in nationalist West Belfast, where for most people home-buying is financially impossible.



● SEAN KEENAN



# BURKE'S AT THE BACK

By Kevin Burke

FOR THOSE who rule over us, it is Christmas every day.

Take Free State Chief Justice Thomas 'McGlinchey' O'Higgins for example. He is swapping his £44,355 per annum job for a £60,000+, tax-free number in the EEC Court.

(By the way, all EEC Court business is conducted through French, O'Higgins hasn't a word of the language - obviously you don't need to know what's going on there either.)

Because O'Higgins hadn't done the 15 years necessary to qualify for a pension, his daughter's father-in-law, Sir Garrett, has kindly pushed through legislation reducing the period to a mere five years for all judges - so fast, that the Public Service Department couldn't even make a guess at how much this will cost.

So when his lordship retires he will get a pension of around £27,000 per annum from the Free State courts, and at least £30,000 per annum from the EEC Court.

Even though he hasn't retired he already receives a 'pension' of £8,626 per annum since he stopped being a member of Leinster House.

Let us hope that he takes the recent advice about not keeping the money under his mattress.

★★★

Another exemplary public figure with a bulging Christmas stocking is the retiring Free State EEC Commissioner Richard Burke, who is also a current £6,000 per annum Leinster House 'pensioner'.

So popular was he with his fellow commissioners that they made him a vice-president for the last 12 days of his term (coinciding with the Christmas holidays) and thus qualified him for an extra £12,300 severance pay.

So Burke, who has had to scrape by so far on a tax-free salary of £72,000, plus the same again in expenses, will receive a total of £123,000, tax-free, over the next three years to help soothe the trauma of losing the job.

And when he reaches the age of 65, his present £6,000 'pension' will be topped-up by another £23,000 per annum from the EEC.

★★★

Now, seeing as we are paying for this generosity, we might be driven to march to Leinster House and topple the whole lot of the occupants.

However, this would be a pointless exercise since the same occupants departed for their Christmas holidays on Friday, December 14th, and won't be back until 5½ weeks later, on Tuesday, January 22nd.

They don't come in on the Monday because they are entitled to the bank holiday on New Year's Day, which they would have taken off had they not been on holiday.

★★★

This being the case, we could instead make it a trade union demand that we all get pensions after five years at work, plus 5½ weeks holidays at Christmas.

This too has its drawbacks however, since 20% of the workforce is unemployed and has little hope of ever clocking up the length of service required.

Not even the 12 days necessary to qualify for Richard Burke's £12,300.

A Happy Christmas to you all

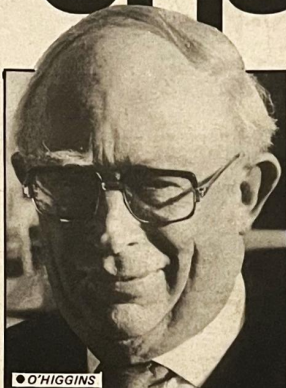
★★★

Another historic event this week as Margaret Thatcher blithely signs away British sovereignty over five million British subjects in Hong Kong.

It appears that the residents of Hong Kong are not too happy with the idea of merger with China but have had no say in the matter.

In fact, they never have had any say in

# The price of justice



● O'HIGGINS

any matter since there has never been a right to vote in the colony which is ruled by a British-appointed governor.

Who says that the loyalists in the North have not to worry about her majesty's democratic government in London?

★★★

Lists of jobs currently being circulated around all universities and colleges in Ireland by the British-based Graduate Careers and Appointments Services include some interesting offers.

For example, students are informed of career opportunities in the RUC and the relevant information reads:

*"A limited number of vacancies for appointment as constable arises each month as a result of natural wastage..."*

★★★

Another example of the blood-thirsty sectarianism of loyalism was the remarks last week of the OUP's John Taylor who attempted to put the lives of every nurse from the twenty-six counties working in the North at risk.

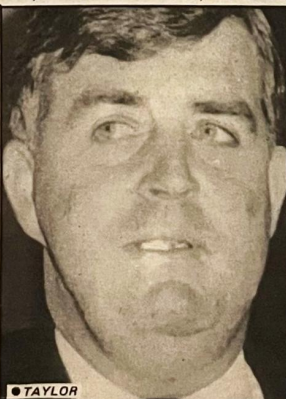
"Many of them," he claimed, "are probably IRA sympathisers."

No doubt he is hoping that some of his lunatic supporters will provide the action to back up his words.

Taylor, of course, is not on the Dublin government's blacklist of people who have to renounce violence for political ends.

★★★

More antics this week from British paratroopers stationed in Belize, the Central



● TAYLOR

American British neo-colony.

Falklands 'hero' Private William Quigley was entertaining his drunken mates last May with a 'Zulu dance', a court martial was told last week back home in Aldershot.

This involved prancing on a table whilst lowering his 'Union Jack underpants'. At the crucial moment a fellow private (there seemed to have been plenty of privates around), named Jeffrey Watson, bit him in what was described as "the most painful of places".

Later in the evening Quigley attacked Watson, attempting to cut off pieces of his anatomy with a machete.

He was jailed for two years.

★★★

Two garda Special Branchmen are the latest heavies to appear in the dock arising from assaults on a person in custody.

Detective Sergeant Tim Callaghan and Detective Garda Con Sullivan were found guilty on Wednesday this week of assaulting Emmet Walsh in the now-famous Tralee Barracks.

During the beating, Walsh was sexually assaulted by Sullivan who repeatedly squeezed his testicles.

The overwhelming medical evidence ensured the conviction in spite of the gardai's denials.

However, the two got off lightly with a six months suspended sentence each.

★★★

Attempting to recruit informers is not confined to the North. A South Dublin man, Billy O'Brien (21), was arrested on Saturday, December 8th, as he left the house of his cousin Michael O'Brien, a well-known member of Sinn Féin in Ballybrack.

He was taken to Kill o' the Grange Barracks where he was questioned about his cousin. During the course of the interrogation, one of his captors offered him £100 per week if he would gather information on local republican activities.

He wisely declined the offer.

★★★

The gardai have been saving a special Christmas surprise for James Doherty and his family of Kincasslagh, County Donegal, and a particularly vindictive one it is, although typical of its style.

Nearly two years ago, Doherty was convicted for refusing to buy a television licence because, as a republican, he objects to the censorship of Section 31.

Since then, at regular intervals, the gardai have informed him that he would be going to jail.

On Monday this week, as Doherty went to sign on the dole, the gardai arrested him and gleefully transported him to Mountjoy Jail in Dublin to begin a 30-day prison sentence.

There he refused to wear prison uniform and the following day was transferred to Loughan House in County Cavan where he looks set to spend the Christmas period.

★★★

Jumping in the canal on Christmas day, as I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, is one mad-cap way of raising funds, but what about the latest sponsorship scheme in South Armagh.

Ghostbuster Martin Smith, of Beleaks Sinn Féin, is planning to raise funds by spending a night, over Christmas, in the local graveyard.

I hope he keeps his spirits up.

## Imeachtair

**SOCIAL & DRAMA**  
"They shoot to kill children"  
8pm Thursday 20th December  
An Sean Mhulleann  
Conway Street  
BELFAST  
Taithe £1

**IRISH NIGHT**  
Music by The Brothers  
Friday 21st December  
Hogan Stand  
DUNDALK  
Taithe £1

**IRISH SOCIAL NIGHT**  
9pm Friday 21st December  
Tower Bar  
OMEATH  
County Louth  
Organised by An Cumann  
Cabhrach

**PORTLAOISE POWs PROTEST & TORCHLIGHT VIGIL**  
2.30pm Saturday 22nd December  
GPO  
DUBLIN  
All Sinn Féin members to attend

**STREET DISPLAY & PICKET**  
4.6pm Saturday 22nd December  
Church Square  
MONAGHAN  
Organised by the Stop the  
Armagh Strip-Searches Campaign

**STREET DISPLAY & PICKET**  
(including display of Portlaoise  
visiting box, and torchlight vigil  
from 4.5pm)  
Monday 24th December  
Church Square  
MONAGHAN  
Organised by the Portlaoise  
Relatives Action Committee

**SOCIAL & SUPPER**  
Thursday 27th December  
Southfork Lounge  
ARVA  
County Cavan  
Taithe £3  
Organised by the Republican  
Prisoners Dependents Fund

**CABARET**  
Featuring Chisel Ballad Group  
Thursday 27th December  
Commercial Hotel  
BALLINAMORE  
Organised by Sinn Féin

**O'HANLON MEMORIAL LECTURE**  
(Fourth annual)  
3pm Sunday 1st January  
Swan Lake Hotel  
MONAGHAN  
Prominent speaker  
(preceded by wreath-laying  
ceremony at Latturcan Cemetery  
at 2.30pm)

**FRANK CARROLL COMMEMORATION**  
3pm Sunday 6th January  
WALSH ISLAND  
County Offaly  
Dublin bus from  
The Oasis, Cabra, 1pm  
The Black Lion, Inchicore, 1.30pm

**SEAN SABATH COMMEMORATION**  
2.45pm Sunday 6th January  
Assemble: Bedford Row  
LIMERICK  
Speaker: Jim McAllister

## TORTHAI CRANNCHUR

Congaugh/Ulster EEC Election draw  
£300: Bridie Moffatt, Sligo; £200:  
Mary McCourt, Monaghan; £100:  
Eddie Healy, Sligo.  
All prize-winners will receive an  
item of republican craft.  
Irish Republican Prisoners Transport,  
Turf Lodge Branch  
Christmas Ballot: 1st Prize: D.  
Maguire, c/o Dundalk; 2nd: P.  
Ward, Whitecock Gardens; 3rd: M.  
Brannigan, Thornhill Avenue; 4th:  
M. O'Riordan, Oakman Street.  
Kerry Cumann Cabhrach Christmas  
Draw  
1st Prize: John Corey, Tralee; 2nd:  
Pat Dunne, Ballyneil; 3rd: Peg  
Sullivan, Listowel; 4th: Frank Maun-  
sell, Clonagh; 5th: M. Corrigan,  
Moyvane; 6th: F. Sugrue, Tralee;  
7th: Sean Sullivan, Killorglin; 8th:  
Richard Tuite, Listowel; 9th: D.  
Cowell, Ballybunnion; 10th: Jim  
Casey, Scarraigling; 11th: Eddie Boyle,  
Castelland; 12th: John O'Shea,  
Tralee.  
Prizes can be collected from 2  
Moyderwell, Tralee.

## Buiochas

AN CUMANN CABHRACH Dublin  
Committee thanks all those who  
contributed to the success of the  
Mini-Fair held in Ballyfermot on  
Saturday, December 1st.



# Some surprises on the Christmas box

BY JOHN JOE KING

AP/RN'S TELEVISION REVIEWER John Joe King has been battling through the morass of candyfloss, bilge and insults to the intelligence due to hit your screens over the Christmas holidays and has come up with a surprising number of programmes which he is prepared to recommend.

● **Friday, December 21st**  
*Battle of Algiers*  
(Ch4 10.45pm)

Fascinating film about Algeria's war of independence against the French between 1954 and 1962 made in a dramatised documentary style. The parallels with Ireland are still all too obvious, certainly a film not to be missed.

● **Saturday, December 22nd**  
*Sports Stadium*  
(RTÉ 1 2.45pm and 4.20pm)

*Gaelic Stadium* brings the goals and saves of the hurling year. And later a look at the achievements of Barry McGuigan in the week of his titles' defence. If you have political problems with this, don't watch.

● **Sunday, December 23rd**  
*The Old Man and the Sea*  
(BBC2 2.50pm)

A brave attempt at translating Ernest Hemingway's story on to film, with Spencer Tracy as the old Cuban fisherman who finally joins combat with the great fish.

● **Sunday, December 23rd**  
*Review*  
(RTÉ 12 noon)  
Always worth checking to see

if it is one of the rare occasions when a plain speaker is on the panel. A touch of honesty always throws the regular insincere political hacks into entertaining confusion.

● **Close Encounters of the Third Kind**  
(RTÉ 1 3.45pm)

Spielberg's perfected and revised edition of the original remarkable movie. An epic with more than a touch of social comment and philosophy along with entertainment.

● **A Painful Case**  
(RTÉ 1 10.05pm)

Jamie Joyce drama first shown in October but worth seeing if you missed it then if only for the performance of Mark Lally, alias Miley Byrne, who had strayed from his Glenroe vaudeville round.

● **Christmas Eve**  
*The Crucial Sea*  
(BBC2 2.50pm)

From the novel of the same name by Irish-hater Nicholas Monsarrat, a classic war film which really shows the bloody nature of the thing but also demands that the Brits do their usual mindless duty.

Dark Enemy

(Ch4 6pm)  
Sobering production from the Children's Film Unit on what life after the holocaust might be like. All the cast are under 17.

● **Storing the Bastille**  
(RTÉ2 8pm)

The rise and rise of Carrick-on-Suir's international cycling star Sean Kelly, top-ranked in the world of 1984.

● **The Quiet Man**  
(BBC2 10pm)

If you often wonder why tourists act so strangely when they come to Ireland then you obviously haven't seen this film, so here is your chance. John Wayne makes the most unlikely returned Yank but is not out of place in what could be termed an insulting piece of stage-Irishy, if it wasn't Christmas and us in a generous mood.

● **Angels in the Annexe**  
(BBC1 10.50pm)

Siobhán McKenna leads the cast as a teacher on the verge of retirement battling against the encroachment of modern ideas on her sacrosanct Christmas play.

● **Christmas Day**  
*Raiders of the Lost Ark*  
(RTÉ 1 4.10pm, UTV 8.30pm)

Pure escapism, for the viewer as well as for the adventurous archaeologist Indiana Jones. But it's Christmas, so why not?

# CHRISTMAS



● Sarah Miles and Robert Mitchum in a scene from *Ryan's Daughter* (UTV, December 28th)

● **Duck Soup**  
(RTÉ2 6.05pm)

If you are into Marx and revolution, this is for you. Four Marx brothers in fact in the rebel-thrashed state of Freedonia, land of the spire and home of the knave. (Also on BBC1 at 12.20 on New Year's Night).

● **Kaos**  
(BBC2 8.55pm)

Not light viewing, but highly-recommended Italian film, set in Sicily and telling four separate folk tales.

● **Airplane!**  
(RTÉ 1 9.50pm)

If you insist on letting the brain-cells continue to wither unchallenged, this is still the best send-up of up-in-the-air disaster movies.

● **Scrub Throat**  
(RTÉ 1 11.15pm)

Donaghy's Tory Island and its unique artists.

● **St Stephen's Day**  
*The Great Dictator*  
(BBC2 3.05pm)

Charlie Chaplin's parody of Hitler is brilliant in its satire

as well as its humour. Made in 1940 it was a courageous film in a United States which had still not entered the war.

● **Raie**  
(RTÉ 1 11.30pm)

Seáil le Antoine Ó Flatharta faoi phobal síochánta ag dísteacht le pobal atá dá gciaipadh ag cogadh. Filmed on location in Connemara.

● **The Front**  
(RTÉ 1 11.30pm)

Woody Allen in a film which tackles seriously the McCarthy era in the United States and the witch hunts in the film and television industry. Who says it couldn't (doesn't) happen here?

● **Thursday, December 27th**  
*Arms and the Man*  
(Ch4 3.10pm)

Written before the turn of the century, it was not until after the experience of the trenches that London audien-

ces crowded to see George Bernard Shaw's now classic play.

● **Oh! What a Lovely War**  
(Ch4 10pm)

The First World War as seen from the end of Brighton pier, mixed with the slaughter and political hypocrisy.

● **Review of the Year 1984**  
(BBC1 10.10pm)

Chance to see the Brighton bombing again.

● **World in Action: The first 21 years**  
(UTV 11pm)

An hour-and-a-half of clips from the investigative series is sure to revive some interesting memories.

● **Friday, December 28th**  
*A King in New York*  
(BBC2 2.50pm)

Charlie Chaplin's attack on McCarthyism.

● **Top Ace '84**  
(RTÉ2 6.55pm)

The final, at Groke, of the

## O'Flower Almanac

# Christmas crackers

BY RORY O'MORE

THERE HAS been some cynicism about the efforts of the superstar collection, Band Aid, to raise funds for Ethiopian famine victims. For example, 'The publicity might not do any harm,' I have heard it said by the usual begrudgers, or, 'Why should Moslems need to know it's Christmas anyone?' from poseurs who have suddenly discovered their deep anti-racist attitudes.

This is nonsense. *Do They Know It's Christmas* is set to put £10 million worth of food in empty stomachs thanks to the inspired efforts of Ireland's Bob Geldof. It is worth noting that Irish people have contributed more per head to this famine relief than any other country.

The Dublin government, unlike Thatcher, has been embarrassed into promising to hand over the VAT on the record so that all proceeds go to the intended destination. One promise they had better keep, but the EEC food mountains still remain.

Geldof's Boomtown Rats have a current single of their own on the market. Entitled *Dave*, it tells the story of a heroin addict - another current tragedy. It is good stuff (the record I mean) but I wonder will the Rats ever make a real comeback?

Two albums which are selling like hot cakes are the new ones from Foster and Allen and the Furey Brothers entitled *The Best of Golden Days* respectively.

It is easy to sneer at these as mushy music and accuse the latter, in particular, of exchanging ethnic art for schmaltz. I disagree; the ballad, romantic or otherwise, has an important place in Irish music.

ic and certainly can claim responsibility for sponsoring the rediscovery of the more purist traditional music.

Foster and Allen, by the way, have proven that when you don't have to look at the leprechaun gimmick (which worked, didn't it?) they are two very fine singers and their increasing international success is well-deserved.

So be superior if you feel threatened, but buy one or both albums this Christmas and have a listen.

...  
If you live in the twenty-six counties and are going out at all this Christmas, the chances are that you will stumble over a Stockton's Wing gig. They are taking a break on Christmas Day but you will find them in your area at sometime over the holiday period.

Stockton's Wing are, without any doubt, the best live Irish group of the moment and proved it yet again at the launch of their Christmas tour in Dublin's Olympia Theatre last week. The bill also included Phil Lynott's proteges Clannad and the man himself, Ronnie Drew. A powerful night's entertainment during which the new Stockton single, *Avondale*, came over well.

...  
It's several weeks since



● BAND AID



● BOB GELDOLF

Freddie White began his totally comprehensive current tour but he finally wends his way back to the Olympia on Sunday, January 13th.

If you've not seen him this time, make sure to save him five pounds from the Christmas money for the occasion and an

extra few pounds for his new album, *Long Distance Runner*, which seems to have missed the Christmas market but should be out in time to cash in on the record-token gifts from lazy relatives.

...  
Some time last year a bunch of comedians put on late night performances at the Project Theatre in Dublin which seemed set to go on for ever they became so popular.

One of those involved was Mannix Flynn, another was Kevin McAleer. Both are back at the project on December 20th and 21st with a Christmas Comedy Gig which promises slide shows, comedy, jazz, blues and dirty songs. If they've not lost it, then it is an occasion not to be missed. Reducations for the unemployed, so no complaint.

# Read all about it

BY JOHN JOE KING

IF THE pitches freeze up this Christmas, if the racers at Leopardstown are frozen and if the local snooker hall has closed down until 1985, it might be an idea for dedicated sports followers to have a suitable book handy to take refuge in.

This being the year that it is in, there seems to be a book produced for every year of the GAA's existence. Although the centenary celebrations began with only a few literary works, it ended with a torrent. And all are reasonably priced and good value, which is highly commendable for all concerned.

To look at some of them briefly, for anyone casting around for Christmas present ideas, I may as well begin with the one I enjoyed most and then take them in no particular order; all prices are in pence.

Over the Bar by Brendan O'Hehir (Ward River Press £4.95) is a personal account of a life-time's love affair with the GAA. From his native Aran Islands and through every parish in the country, O'Hehir has GAA stories not only from the field but from the bars afterwards, hence the ambiguous title.

He impresses on his reader the great entertainment value of, and indeed, cultural value of Gaelic games and even throws in a few murders for good measure!

Michael O'Hehir is, of course, Mr GAA, and a book from him in centenary year was inevitable. It is entitled *The GAA: 100 Years* (Gill and Macmillan £5.95) and is a valuable collection of photographs over the years, which is fasci-

## Sport

ating. Unfortunately, O'Hehir confines himself to captioning the photographs and often captions them too briefly, which is frustrating.

But it is a considerable photographic achievement and a well-produced publication.

IMMORTALS

Raymond Smith, who writes for the *Irish Independent*, has two special editions of his regular publications on the market for centenary year. *Football Immortals* (Limerick Press £4.95) give a wide selection of outstanding players, matches and moments and even though the books are a collection of unconnected chapters, they make excellent volumes to dip into.

Perhaps the most readable history of the GAA is *The GAA in its Time* (Ward River Press £5.50), by the late Padraig Puirseil who wrote for the *Irish Press* and died in 1979. Brought out from his almost completed work, through the efforts of his wife, it is an honest tribute to the GAA and, indeed, to the author himself.

Every county, of course, has its own centenary publications on the market. Just to select one, outside my own county, *Kildare GAA: A Centenary History* (Kildare Coun-

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(BBC2 3.15pm)  
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(UTV 10pm)  
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(RTÉ 1 10.20pm)  
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● Sunday, Decembe...  
Ordinary People...  
(RTÉ 1 9.15pm)  
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● New Year/Eve...  
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● MICHAEL O

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# REVIEWS

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tion of Frank O'Connor's story of his early years, filmed on location in Cork. Why didn't RTE think of it first?

● **New Year's Day Modern Times** (BBC2 6.10pm)  
Chaplin again this time in an automated factory delivering a devastating message about man versus machines.

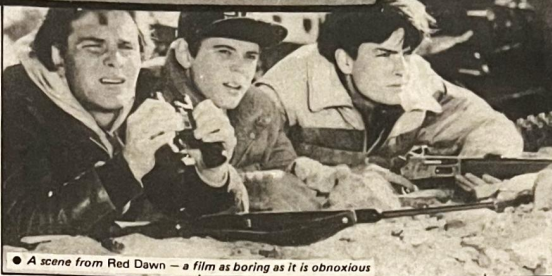
● **The Deer Hunter** (BBC2 9.10pm)  
Oscar-winning epic which shocks American attitudes to the Vietnam war.

● **Gallipoli** (RTE2 9.45pm)  
Idealism tested by the battle in the Dardanelles in the First World War, when thousands of lives were casually thrown away by uncaring politicians in London. The most successful Australian film to date.

● **Wednesday, January 2nd King of the Castle** (RTE1 9.15)

Eugene McCabe's drama of life in rural Ireland won an award for the best new play, 20 years ago, still worth seeing. ● **The 20th Century Remembered** (BBC2 10.55pm)  
Remembered by a remarkable woman of that century, Dora Russell, who was once married to the late Bertrand Russell.

● **Thursday, January 3rd Columbo: Killswitch** (RTE1 9.15pm)  
Former Guardian editor Alastair Hetherington reckons he knows what the 6th-Century Derry saint would have made of the North today.



● A scene from Red Dawn — a film as boring as it is obnoxious

following the shooting of policewoman Fletcher. On hearing that the *Mail on Sunday* had launched a mission of mercy and, at enormous cost, had brought the animal back to Britain, its owner remarked 'I wish I had eaten it'.

The 'Room Service' award, no contest, goes to the Grand Hotel, Brighton.

On the cinematic front, things were a lot less lively though the year did begin with Clint Eastwood chasing one homicidal maniac in *Sudden Impact* and ended with Clint Eastwood chasing yet another homicidal maniac in *Tightrope*.

Clint should really be chasing the guys who write his scripts.

## OBNOXIOUS

In the contest for the worst film of the year I can't decide between *The Evil that Men Do*, the Charles Bronson IO cruncher, or the poisonous anti-Red baiter, *Red Dawn*, which was as boring as it was obnoxious. *Red Dawn* wins out because I had to watch it all to find out what happens at the end. With Charles Bronson you never have to stay awake and, for that, be thankful.



Also in the pretty damnable category comes *Never Say Never Again*, where 53-year-old Sean Connery made a come-back as James Bond. It may be unfair but true to say that maturity has done less to expand Bond's character than his waistline.

From Britain and America came two acclaimed films which failed to come up to scratch. *The Right Stuff* was about America's first astronauts and, while it had some amusing moments, it went on far too long and flag-waved far too much for my liking. I'd much prefer a film about the pooch the Russians sent up into the atmosphere.

From Britain came the acclaimed *1984*. Again it was worthy but too slow and depressing.

## LOVE STORY

Oh, but let's not forget *Cal* — the sincere and moving film with a love story set amidst the tragedy that is

'Northern Ireland' (I think I got all the clichés in). This was the film that tried to persuade us that Martin McGuinness was a candidate for Belfast and that that city looks like, of all places, Dundalk, where the film was shot. This was a piece of reactionary politics masquerading as a love story and contained a performance, John Kavanagh as the effeminate 'mastermind Prove', Skellington, that was as hilarious as it was pathetic.

As far as genuine entertainment is concerned, the pleasant and enjoyable films of the year included *Romancing the Stone* which was quite similar to the Indiana Jones movies but quite a lot better than the blockbuster *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*. Also highly enjoyable were *Broadway Danny Rose*, the Woody Allen comedy, and *The Company of Wolves*, from the talented Irish chaplain Neil Jordan. Well, at least I'm keeping him from writing pretentious books.

## EDDIE

Best performance of the year? For the second year running the *AP/RN* Oscar (hereby called an Eddie) goes to Meryl Streep for her part as Karen Silkwood, the girl rumoured to have been murdered by the owners of a nuclear power plant before she spilled the beans on their lack of safety precautions. In the disaster of the Union Carbide lighter it is a film with a message that can only be ignored at our peril.

As far as my favourite films were concerned, it is a close-run thing between *Under Fire*, the film that lifted the lid for Americans on the appalling Somoza regime before the Nicaraguan revolution, and *Paris, Texas*, the moving story of a man trying to reunite his son with his ex-wife who ran away to the deep South and ended up in a sex experiment catering to men's fantasies. The scene where Travis addressed his wife for the first time in years, from behind a two-way mirror that shields his identity must be the most moving for a long, long time.

Patsy McArdle was forced to restrict his huge volume of material to a pitifully small book. The result is that he appears to rush from one point to the next and the moving parts are sparse on many of the incidents mentioned.

There appears to have been a number of glaring omissions as well. Left out is the rapid communications network which has been built up between the gardai and the RUC over the years. The significance of the new garda barracks in Monaghan town as part of this network can hardly be ignored since, as McArdle himself shows, information about republicans living in the border counties is already being relayed to the RUC by the gardai.

One last gripe, before I conclude, is the price of this book which, at £4.50, is a real tear for a plan paperback.

Anyway, if you've had your head buried in the sand for 15 years and don't know the sort of collaboration that has been going on in your absence, and in your name, or if you know somebody in a similar situation, this book is a must.

And if you feel you can't justify spending so much money on yourself at Christmas then buy it as a present for someone else in your family and then borrow it back. OK?

● *The Secret War* by Patsy McArdle is published by the Mercier Press. Price £4.50.

# A stack of awards

BY EDDIE STACK

GOING DOWN to the cinema (if that is an option) won't do much to relieve your Christmas hangover this year. The crap that has arrived on our shores in 1984, even leaving out Ronald Reagan, has, in cinematic terms at least, rarely been worse.

When the year begins with Sean Connery trying to save the world while holding on to his wig and ends with a film, *Red Dawn*, that confirms your suspicion that Nicaragua has invaded America, then you know your luck has got real bad.

'I'll never sneer at a Polish cartoon again.

It's around this time of the year that I hand out my quotation awards — a highly prestigious occasion which takes in all the rubbish and wisdom that has been spoken by persons famous or infamous throughout the year.

These awards are not just open to people, however, and I must give my 'Barry Norman Film Critic of the Year' award to the kangaroo which was supposed to persuade us that the awful *Thorn Birds* was

shot in Australia and not Hawaii. As soon as filming started it ran for the hills and suffered a heart attack.

## TREASON

The 'Silly Brits' (singular) of the 'Year' award goes to Michael Bettaney, the MI5 officer jailed for treason. He was in a drunken stupor when arrested and told police:

"You can't arrest me — I'm a spy."

The 'Silly Brits' (plural) award goes to the men on HMS *Jupiter* who... well, let them explain.

"A strong Thames tide threw her and she... er... landed against London Bridge. Our ships do not make a habit of crashing into bridges in broad daylight."

The 'Hypocrisy on a World Scale' award goes to the Amer-

## GOTCHA

The Sun 'Gotcha' Headline of the Year award goes, of course, to the Sun for 'Hop off you Frogs'.

The 'There's No Answer to That' award goes to the owner of Honeydun, the rabbit which was left behind in Libya when the Brits withdrew in protest

# Cross-border intrigue

BY JACK MADDEN

PEOPLE looking for a book to read this Christmas could do worse than to pick up a copy of *The Secret War*, the latest in the *Make Up Your Mind Series*, published by the Mercier Press.

*The Secret War* is written in the sharp style of its author, freelance journalist Patsy McArdle, who is widely known for his reports from the border area in a number of provincial and national newspapers and on Downtown Radio.

Indeed, it might be argued that at times in this book McArdle is trying to deal with too many issues and that, as a result, the central points he raises are dealt with rather sketchily.

There are in fact two central points; first the individual and often combined attempts by the British and Irish governments, using the British army/RUC and the gardai, to defeat the IRA. The second point is that the British collaboration with the British has increased considerably over the years while the root cause of violence — partition — is ignored.

## ARMY OF OCCUPATION

McArdle begins his story in South Armagh, contrasting the role of the British

army as an army of occupation with the role of the IRA who are part and parcel of the community.

In the absence of community support, the British army, he argues, have resorted to secret tactics of counter-insurgency, recruiting informers and carrying out summary executions of people they believe to be republicans.

Nor have the British shown any reluctance in carrying their secret war across the border into neighbouring Monaghan and Louth. Despite this affront to Free State sovereignty, says McArdle, the invaders, when apprehended by the gardai, are treated as guests and simply escorted back across the border.

Only two prosecutions, ending in slap-on-the-wrist fines, have followed British army/RUC incursions, despite the obviously murderous intent of many of the groups involved. McArdle reminds us too of the revelations by a former British intelligence officer in Armagh, Fred Holroyd, who told how loyalist



murder gangs were recruited to carry out operations against targets in the South.

## COLLUSION

Far from adopting measures to prevent such activities, Free State efforts have been directed almost exclusively against the Republican Movement and McArdle suggests garda collusion in 'winning' extradition for the British. And, he concludes, even with this 'co-operation' and even with the huge financial burden of propping up Britain's border, successive Dublin governments have failed to deal with the basic problem — partition.

But this book deals not only with the failure of the Free State political parties but also with the failure of

the churches and the media to deal with the root causes of violence.

Dealing with censorship, McArdle points to the pro-British role of the gardai in warning at least one provincial paper not to carry matters relating to the IRA. So intimidated is the media by this pressure that 'the policy appears to be the killing of Sinn Féin stories' by several provincial papers.

*The Secret War* is an absorbing exposé of methods and activities used by the British and their allies, south of the border, to try to defeat the IRA.

## SPARSE

Interesting as it is, however, it must be said that



PAUL O'HEIR

£5.95) proved that names not always have much to be out. A well-written by Eoghan Corry can remember, has on some award for journalism at the *ibane*. is also the editor of mainly the most att- of the year, *GAA Youth Ann- (GAA na nOg or any younger in- GAA games it is a is full of a century of great moments and tips and hints. rone follows there by blow account of GAA's 111 points in (The final — an tie, experience, y, a farewell per- on a player now for- juries to quit the*

BOXING  
of the GAA, I  
left space to men







# Sammarina na Nollag



**ARBUCKLE, Laurence.** Wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year. From Paddy and Anne.

**ARMSTRONG, Billy.** (Hull). Christmas and New Year greetings and special good wishes for your birthday on St Stephen's Day. Le gach deagh shuí beannacht, Tiocfaidh ár lé. From Leo, Maureen and family.

**ARMSTRONG, Billy.** (Hull). Birthday greetings and best wishes for the future. From An Cumann Cabhrach, Mallowtown, Dublin.

**BAKER, Liam and Paul.** (Hull; H7-Block). Christmas greetings to my both. Thinking of you both always, but especially at this time of the year. Love from Mum and your brothers and sisters.

**BAKER, Liam and Paul.** (Hull; H7-Block). Christmas greetings to you both. From Aunt Mary Ann, Aunt Teresa and family. Aunt Agnes, Aunt Brid and family, and from Uncle Joe and family.

**BATESON, Anne Marie.** (Armagh). Christmas greetings to Anne Marie and all the girls. From Ned and Bernie Hamilton.

**BATESON, Anne Marie.** (Armagh). Christmas greetings to Anne Marie, Finbar and Peter. (Armagh; Long Kesh). Christmas greetings to Anne Marie, Finbar and Peter. From Mum.

For your loving wife Catherine and son Michael.

**BROWNE, Mick; FERRIS, Martin.** (Portlaoise). All the very best wishes of the season to you, lass, God bless and you both, now and always. UTP.

**FROM MICK.**

**BYRON, Anthony.** (Portlaoise). Season's greetings and happy New Year. From Mum and Dad.

**BYRON, Anthony.** (Portlaoise). Merry Christmas and all the best.

**THE TONY AHERNE SINN FEINN CUMANN, CLONES,** sends Christmas and New Year greetings to all republican POWs in Long Kesh, England and America. We send special greetings to George McDermott, Sean McGilgan, Junior McPhillips, Jim and Colin Lynagh and Michael Kinsella (Portlaoise), Sean Kin-Eamonn McElroy and Kieran Leonard (Long Kesh), Gerry Mulligan, (Lillickin). Ní bealach síocháin gan saoirse.

**BATESON, Anne Marie.** (Armagh) and Peter. (Armagh; Long Kesh). Happy Christmas to Anne Marie, Finbar and Peter. From your brothers Jim, my, Eddie and Patsy and sisters Mary, Dolores and Claire.

**BEATTIE, Christine.** (Armagh). Merry Christmas and a happy birthday, Christine. My thoughts are with you and all your comrades during this holiday season. May 1985 bring you and your loved ones happiness. Greetings too to all your comrades. From Frank, Charlestown, LA.

**BELL, John.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas and a happy New Year. From Jim Vincent Lynch.

**BELL, John.** (Portlaoise). Merry Christmas, John. From all the Lynch family, Kentstown.

**BELL, John.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas and a happy New Year to you, John. Hope you get better soon. Love from Tricia.

**BELL, Pat; KEOGH, Nick.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas and happy New Year to Pat, Bell and Nicky KEOGH and all Irish republican POWs everywhere. God bless you all and send victory songs. From the Kieran family, Cabra West.

for the New Year. From Jacinta, Stephen, Shirley, Deborah and Aisling. XXX

**CHILLINGWORTH, John and Billy.** (H3-Block). Happy Christmas, John. What's another year? See you soon. Love from Maelle and Niel. XXX

**BURKE, John.** (H7-Block). Happy Christmas, John. See you soon. Christmas, Uncle John. See you soon. From John Paul and wee Niel. XXX

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**BURNS, Mick.** (Portlaoise). Wishing you and all your comrades a very merry Christmas, and a happy and free New Year. From Paddy, Liz

**BELL, Pat.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings. Pat. From your loving wife Caroline and children.

**BELL, Paddy; DOHERTY, Martin; GORMAN, Mick.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas and a happy New Year. We have a drink on you, lads. From Paddy Dundon, UTP.

**BOYLE, Dermot.** (Magilligan). Christmas greetings to our son Dermot. From your mother, father, brothers and sisters, and all at home.

**BOYLE, Dermot.** (Magilligan). Christmas greetings. Keep off Lough Neagh in time of storm. From Stan, Kate and Eddie.

**CUMANN CATHAÍ UL AODHA SINN FEINN, RATHMINES, DUBLIN,** sends Christmas greetings to all republican POWs in Long Kesh, England and America, particularly to our former member Liam O'Dwyer (Portlaoise) and to Mary McGinnis and Marian Cogle (Limerick).

**THE BAILE DÚIN FINN SINN FEINN, LEANING, DUBLIN,** sends Christmas greetings to all republican POWs everywhere. Happy Christmas.

**BOYLE, Paddy.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings. Paddy and a happy New Year. From your loving wife Eileen. XXX

**BOYLE, Paddy.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Dad. Love from your daughters Frances, Katie and Sarah.

**BOYLE, Paddy.** (Portlaoise). Thinking of you at Christmas. From your sister Margaret and John.

**BOYLE, Paddy.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Paddy. From your loving mother.

**BOYLE, Paddy.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Paddy. From your brother Francis, Bernard and Tim.

**BRADLEY, Seamus; HOLLAND, Christine.** (H3-Block). Have the best Christmas possible and lots of luck in 1985. Far apart but close to our hearts. From Jan and Ise (Baarda), Holland.

**BROLLY, Liam.** (Portlaoise). Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. From your loving wife Anne. XXX

**CHILLINGWORTH, John and Billy.** (H3-Block). Happy Christmas and a happy New Year to you both and to all our POWs at home and in English jails. God bless: From Chris Clarke and family.

**CLARKE, Jim.** (Portlaoise). I know Christmas is not as you planned, but I try and make the best of it. Sorry I can't write. Don't worry, 'our day will come. I love you. Keep smiling. All my love from the 'ex-Christies'. xxx

**CLARKE, Jim 'Foggy'.** (Portlaoise). Wishing you the happiest Christmas possible in that hole. I'll always remember the good times we shared. God bless. My love always. From

**BOYLE, Paddy.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings. Paddy and a happy New Year. From your loving wife Eileen. XXX

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**BRADLEY, Seamus; HOLLAND, Christine.** (H3-Block). Have the best Christmas possible and lots of luck in 1985. Far apart but close to our hearts. From Jan and Ise (Baarda), Holland.

**BROLLY, Liam.** (Portlaoise). Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. From your loving wife Anne. XXX

**BROLLY, Liam.** (Portlaoise). Wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year. From Mum, Dad, sisters, brothers, little Tara and Granny. XXX

**BROLLY, Liam.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings. Liam. From Jacinta and children.

**BROWNE, Tony.** Merry Christmas.

**CAMPBELL, Peter.** (H3-Block). Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. From John and Kathryn, Ardee.

**CAMPBELL, Philip.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas and happy birthday to you, Flair. Don't drink the afterglow, you'll go blind! From Skip.

**CAMPBELL, Flair.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas and happy New Year to you, Flair. Write soon! Love from Tricia.

**CAMPBELL, Flair.** (Portlaoise). Nollaigh shona duit. All the best in '85. From Kev, Der, Jackie, Ned, Ailish, Pearse and James.

**CAMPBELL, Philip.** (Portlaoise). We'll be sure to get drunk. Happy birthday and Christmas greetings. From Kev, Der, Jackie and Proper Charlie.

**CAMPBELL, Philip.** (Portlaoise). Merry Christmas, darling. All my love. From Jackie. XXX

**CAMPBELL, Robert.** (Portlaoise). Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you, Fat, love. Thinking of you always. Love and miss you a lot. From your ever-loving wife Mother. XXX

**CAMPBELL, Robert.** (Portlaoise). Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to our daddy, Fat. We wish you were here. We love and miss you, Daddy. From your children Patricia, Eileen, Robert and Joseph. XXX

**CAMPBELL, Robert.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings to our dear son, Robert and all the lads in Portlaoise. From Dad and Mary.

**CAMPBELL, Robert.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings to our favourite uncle. We love and miss you. From nieces Christine, Marian, Lisa, Andrea, Paula, Michelle and Sadie, and nephews Manuel, Patrick, Robert, Christopher, Gerard and Joseph. Also Karen and Eddie.

**CAMPBELL, Robert.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings to our brother

**AUSTRALIAN AID FOR IRELAND** sends Christmas and New Year greetings to all Irish political prisoners in the occupied six counties, Free State, British and American jails. We remember with pride all Irish republicans who have sacrificed militarily and politically operative and who have made the supreme sacrifice for their country.

**AUSTRALIAN AID FOR IRELAND, WEST AUSTRALIA,** sends sincere greetings to Irish republican POWs in English and Irish jails. A special greeting to the women in Armagh jails who refuse to be broken by the hideous and obscene practice of strip-searching.

New Year, all our love from Anne, Joe and Seanna. xxx

**CLARKE, Tony.** (Parkhurst). Merry Christmas, Tony. From your happy New Year, Tony. Who will run faster? (ha! ha!). Good luck. From Michael (H7-Block).

**THE BELLAGHY REPUBLICAN POW WELFARE ASSOCIATION** sends Christmas greetings to all POWs in Long Kesh, England and America.

**THE BRUGH/O' CIANNAIGH SINN FEINN CUMANN, RATHCOOLE, DUBLIN,** sends revolutionary Christmas greetings to all republican POWs in jails throughout Ireland, England and America.

**THE FRANK CARROLL/THOMAS ASHE SINN FEINN CUMANN, CABRA, DUBLIN,** sends season's greetings to republican POWs in English, Irish and American jails. Wishing you all the best wishes for the Christmas season and a peaceful New Year.

**THE CASEMENT/NOLAN SINN FEINN CUMANN, STILLORGAN/BLACKROCK,** sends revolutionary Christmas and New Year greetings to republican prisoners everywhere, but especially to those incarcerated in England. Onwards to a thirty-two county socialist republic!

**CLARKE, Tony.** (Parkhurst). Merry Christmas, Tony, and a very happy New Year. We will be thinking of you when we are out (ha! ha!). All our love. From Theresa, Alan and baby Alan.

**COLEMAN, Martin.** (Cages). Christmas greetings and best wishes to Martin and John Patrick. (Long Kesh). Christmas greetings and best wishes to Martin and John Patrick. From Father, James and family.

**COLEMAN, Martin.** (Cages). Christmas greetings and all my love. From Helen.

**COLEMAN, Martin.** (Cages). Christmas greetings and all my love. From Anna and Vincent.

**COLEMAN, Sean.** (Crumlin Road). Christmas greetings, dear son. We are with you all the way. See you soon. From Mother and Father, Buncrana. UTP

**COLEMAN, Sean.** (Crumlin Road). Happy Christmas, brother. United we stand, brother. From Nola, Paddy, Fergal and Shauna, Bandywell, UTP

**COLEMAN, Sean.** (Crumlin Road). Happy Christmas, Sean. Hope your next is spent in freedom. From your friends in Buncrana and Letterkenny: Maeila, Clara, Fergal, Mary, Suilinn, Mary, Brian, Sean, Malraed, Emmet and Oghran; Martin, Terri, Barry and Sarah.

**COLEMAN, Sean.** (Crumlin Road). Christmas greetings, Sean. From John, Patsy, Aine and Caoimhe, Waterside; and Marion, Emmet and Christopher.

Happy Christmas and a happy New Year. From Peter, Vincent Lynch and Stan, Kate and Edie.

**CORRIGAN, Peter.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Zip. From your loving wife, Bernie. XXX

**CORRIGAN, Peter.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas and a happy New Year to you, Peter. Love from Tricia and all the Lynch family, Kentstown.

**CORRIGAN, Robert.** (H3-Block). Christmas greetings, Bob. God bless. From your father and mother.

**CORRIGAN, Robert.** (H3-Block). Christmas greetings, Bob. Good luck. From your brother Seamus and Margaret.

**CORRIGAN, Robert.** (H3-Block). Christmas greetings, Bob. God bless. From sister Sally and family.

**CORRIGAN, Robert.** (H3-Block). Christmas greetings, Bob. God bless. From Anthony, Bernadette and wee Ann.

**CORRIGAN, Robert.** (H3-Block). Christmas greetings, Bob. God bless. From sister Marie, Granny Corrigan

and Granny Doyle.

**COYLE, Marian; MCGING, Mary.** (Limerick). Christmas greetings to Marian and Mary. From Christy Burns and Ann O'Sullivan.

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**COYLE, Marian; MCGING, Mary.** (Limerick). Christmas greetings to Marian and Mary. From Christy Burns and Ann O'Sullivan.

**CRAWFORD, Geraldine.** (Armagh). Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year, Brian. From Sas and Eugene McNamee.

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**THE BARNEY MORRIS SINN FEINN CUMANN, CROSSMAGLEN,** sends Christmas greetings to all republican POWs in jails in Ireland, England and America.

**THE KEVIN BARRY FLUTE BAND, GLASGOW,** sends Christmas and New Year greetings to all republican POWs held in English, Free State and US Jails. Tiocfaidh ár lé.

**THE BELFAST STOP THE ARMAGH STRIP-SEARCHES COMMITTEE** sends Christmas greetings to the women prisoners in Armagh and Limerick and to the men in Portlaoise, Magilligan, Long Kesh, Crumlin Road and in jails in England and America. Bu ná an bá.

**COLLINS, Desmond.** (Crumlin Road). Don't be eating too much. Stay away from the ulce beatha. Nollaigh shona duit. From Der, Kev, Jackie, James, Pearse, Ned and Ailish.

**COLLINS, Desmond.** (Crumlin Road). Nollaigh shona duit. O do chaire Kev agus Flair (Portlaoise).

**COOKE, Jim.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Jim. From Dad.

**COOKE, Jimmy.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Jim. We'll have a drink on you behalf. From Mrs Fay and family.

**COOKE, Jimmy; RYAN, Pete.** (Portlaoise). Best wishes at Christmas. From Suzanne. UTP

**COOMES, Joe.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas and a happy New Year. From Jim and Mary.

**COOMES, Joe.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas and a happy New Year. From Jim and Mary.

**CORRIGAN, Peter.** (Portlaoise). Wishing you all the best, Peter, for Christmas and the New Year. We are thinking of you and hope to see you soon. From Maureen, Danny and Janet with love. UTP

**CORRIGAN, Peter.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings and a happy New Year. From Shanna. UTP

**CORRIGAN, Peter.** (Portlaoise).

**CUSHINAN, Brian.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings to Brian. From Frances.

**CUSHINAN, Brian.** (Portlaoise). Merry Christmas and happy New Year. From the Lavery family, Toome.

**DEASY, Dan; O'CONNELL, Arnie.** (Portlaoise). Best wishes to Dan, Arnie and to all the Cork POWs in Portlaoise. From the Mallon family, Belfast, and the Covey family, Cork.

**DEERY, Pauline.** (Armagh). Happy Christmas, Pauline. See you in six weeks. Love and best wishes. From all the Ferguson family.

**DEMPSEY, Derek.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Derek. From Marie and Duki.



# Beannachtaí na Nollag



**DEMPESEY, Derek.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Derek, and wishing you all the best for the New Year. Love from Jackie. UTP, Tiochfaidh éirí.

**DEMPESEY, Derek; DUNNE, Jim; O'DWYER, Liam.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings to you lads. From Martin, Catherine and family.

**DEMPESEY, Derek; QUINN, Brian.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas and New Year. Derek and Brian. From Tanya.

**DEVENNY, Paddy.** (H-Block). Greetings to you for Christmas and the New Year, Paddy. Lots of love and luck to you and all your comrades. From Mum, Etsie, Dolores, Liam, Margaret Clare and Rose.

**DEVENNY, Paddy.** (H-Block). All the best for Christmas and New Year. We'll have a couple of bottles of 'Bo' on your behalf. From Danny, Deborah and kids; Barney, Deirdre and kids; Cathal, Kate and kids; Carmel, Kiala and Una; Súsie, Gerard and kids; Bernadette, Raymond and Sarah. And from anyone I've left out!

**THE CLANCY/CALLAGHAN SINN FÉIN CUMANN, LIMERICK,** sends Christmas greetings to Cyril MacCurtain and John Moloney (Portlaoise), Eddie Butler (Leicester), Mary McGinn (Limerick) and all republican prisoners everywhere.

**DEVENNY, Paddy.** (H-Block). Greetings to you for Christmas, Paddy. All the love and best wishes. From Geraldine, Derek, Maria, Tara and Paula; Con, Carol, Colin, Susan and Christine; and from Mollie, James and Lisa.

**DEVENNY, Paddy.** (H-Block). Have a good Christmas, mate. Only one to go - hopefully! From 'Zack' and all your mates in the Strand.

**DEVINE, John.** (Crumlin Road). Happy Christmas, son. From Mother and family.

**DEVINE, John.** (Crumlin Road). Happy Christmas, John. Love from Yvonne.

**DEVINE, John.** (Crumlin Road). Happy Christmas, John. From Paddy and Kathleen.

**DIGNEY, Eamonn.** (Long Kesh). Christmas greetings, Eamonn, and all the best for the New Year. From Donna, Triona and 'Pat'.

**DINES, Sammy.** (H-Block). Greetings to you for Christmas and the New Year, Sammy. They have you in their keeping but we have you in our hearts. From Mum, Dad and all your brothers, sisters, brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces. Tiochfaidh éirí.

Jackie and Patricia; and Michael, Marie and Aileen.

**DONAGHY, Jim and Kevin.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas to Jim and Kevin and all their POW comrades in Ireland, England and America and all Volunteers engaged

In the struggle for Ireland's freedom. Best wishes also for the New Year. Hoping that it shall see further successes for the Republican Movement. From the Donegan family, Dromintee.

**DONNELLY, Eamonn.** Christmas greetings. What's another year? Best wishes and God bless you and Patricia and the children. From Róisín and family, Dublin.

**DONNELLY, John.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings, son. The gurr cake will be ready for next year.

**DONNELLY, Jimmy.** (H-Block). Wishing you all the very best at Christmas, Patricia.

**DOUGLAS, David.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, David. From Mick Martin.

**DOUGLAS, David.** (Portlaoise). Wishing you a very happy Christmas and New Year. Lots of love. From Fil.

**DOUGLAS, David.** (Portlaoise). Best wishes David. Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year. From your loving family in Cabro.

**DOUGLAS, David.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings to you, David, and all the best for the New Year. From Nanny and the McGuire family.

**DOUGLAS, David.** (Portlaoise). Season's greetings, Dave. Wishing you a happy Christmas and a peaceful 1985. From all your friends in Cabro.

and throughout the New Year, Tiochfaidh éirí. Beir bua. From Frances.

**FANNING, Eugene.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Eugene. From the Ennis family.

**FANNING, Eugene.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Eugene. From your brother Malachy, Maureen and your sisters Maura, Tommy and Charlie and family.

**FARRELL, Mairéad.** (Armagh). Christmas greetings to you, Mairéad, and to your comrades in Armagh and in prisons North and South and in England. Love from Mum, Dad and all the boys at home.

**FARRELL, Mairéad.** (Armagh). Christmas greetings to you, kid, and

**FITZGERALD, Gerard.** (Portlaoise). Best wishes for Christmas, Fitz. From Frances and Rory.

**FITZPATRICK, Pat.** (Crumlin Road). Happy Christmas, Pat, and a holy New Year. From Mother and Ann.

**FITZPATRICK, Pat.** (Crumlin Road). Nollaig agus síocháin san áth Bhliain. From your brother Joe and Margaret.

**FITZPATRICK, Pat.** (Crumlin Road). Merry Christmas, Pat, and a happy New Year. From your aunts, uncles and cousins; and your wee niece Padraigin, xxx.

**FITZPATRICK, Pat.** (Crumlin Road). Christmas greetings, Fitz. From your mates Noel and Josie.

**FITZPATRICK, Pat.** (Crumlin Road). Wishing you a merry Christmas, Pat, and a happy New Year. From the Catney and McNally families; and Meechie.

**AN CUMANN CABHRACH DUBLIN COMMITTEE** sends greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all Irish republican POWs at home and abroad.

**AN CUMANN CABHRACH, DÚN DEALGÁN,** sends Christmas and New Year greetings to all republican POWs and their dependants.

**AN CUMANN CABHRACH, WALKINGHURST,** DUBLIN, sends season's greetings to all our brave prisoners-of-war. You are always in our thoughts.

**FITZSIMONS, Michael.** (H-Block). Merry Christmas, Michael, and a very happy New Year. As usual son we are thinking of you. Even though we are far apart, you are always in our hearts. From Father, Mother and Gerald, with all our love. XXX

**FITZSIMONS, Michael.** (H-Block). Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, Michael. We just can't wait to open all your presents (hal hal). From Theresa, Alan and baby Alan. XXX

**FITZSIMONS, Michael.** (H-Block). Merry Christmas, Michael. In the New Year I'll be able to run even faster as I get younger every year (hal hal). From Tony Clarke, Parkhurst.

**FITZSIMONS, Michael.** (H-Block). All the best at Christmas, Michael, and have a happy New Year. Thanks for the presents (hal hal). From Anne, Joe and Seanna.

**FITZSIMONS, Michael.** (H-Block). Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year, Michael. We are always thinking of you. From Mary, Manus and family; and Eamon, Marion and family.

**FLAHERTY, Gary and Paul.** Wishing you love and happiness this Christmas and for the New Year. From Gary and all the Fleming family, Gobsnals, UTP.

**FLYNN, Jokey.** (H-Block). Nollaig shona duit. From Kevin, Jackie, Desy, Der and Mairéad.

**FOX, Michael.** (Portlaoise). Best wishes, Michael, for this festive season. From your next one will be spent at home. From Catherine, Skin and Liam.

**GUSCO, Angelo.** (Portlaoise). Happy holiday to you. We know you are rubber duck. Keep it up, quick, quick, UTP. Regards from Jackie and Gary.

**GALLAGHER, Tommy; MCGURK, Aidan.** (Portlaoise). Nollaig shona agus faid mháide daibh, a chomradáiláidh. TS éirí ag teacht. Beir bua. From everyone in Carman and especially in Carrickmore Gaelic Football Club.

**GAVIN, Jimmy.** (Portlaoise). Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, Jimmy. Thinking of you always. From your lovely wife Phyl, Martina, Michelle, Mandy and Maxine. XXX

**GAVIN, Jimmy.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings, Jimmy. From you, From Maria, Alan and the children; and Essie, Paddy and family.

**GAVIN, Jimmy.** (Portlaoise). May your courage and strength be in top form to see you through the Christmas and may the nice things that you love do bless every day ahead of you. From our love, from Gran, Margaret and Peadar Murray, Mayo.

**GAVIN, Jimmy.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas from your other family in Mayo. I hope Santa brings you jelly

for Christmas. Who loves ya, baby! From Pearse, Sally and Garry; also from Rose and Danny; and Les, Bird and child.

**GAVIN, Jimmy.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Jimmy, and all the best for the New Year. From Jackie, John and baby Jonathan. Finglas; also from the 'Coddie' family; and Trisha and Bernard. T'night and Eileen.

**GAYNOR, Noel.** (Cage 11). Happy birthday on the 23rd to my favourite Merry Christmas and a lucky New Year. Thinking of you always. Solidarity and love from Noel.

**GAYNOR, Noel.** (Cage 11). Happy birthday and merry Christmas. It was lovely to meet you this summer. I'm back next year. Love from Dorthie, Denmark.

**GIBNEY, Jim.** (H-Block). Christmas greetings and a happy New Year to you and all your comrades. I am waiting for my visit. See you soon. From Maura, Alec and family. UTP.

**GIBNEY, Jim.** (H-Block). Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. From Dave.

**GIBNEY, Jim.** (H-Block). A very happy Christmas and New Year, Jim. Thinking of you at this special time of year. Who? Taking all your visits, eh? Forgotten your ole mate? Nudge! Nudge! God bless you. Love from Chrissie, Laura, Richard and kids.

**GIBNEY, Jim.** (H-Block). All the best for Christmas, the New Year, Jim. From Danny, Deborah and kids. Greetings also to Elbhinn. Much love, support and luck to you.

**GILLESPIE, John.** (Crumlin Road). Best wishes for Christmas and the

New Year. From your loving sister Anne.

**GILLESPIE, John.** (Crumlin Road). Best wishes for Christmas and all the best for the New Year. From Paschal, Jacinta and family.

**GILLESPIE, Eugene.** (Crumlin Road). Merry Christmas, Eugene, and a happy New Year. From Joe, Margaret and baby Padraig; also Pat Fitz.

**GILLESPIE, Eugene.** (Crumlin Road). Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. From Der and Kevin. UTP.

**GORMAN, Billy.** (H-Block). Christmas greetings to you, son. Holly. From Mum, Dad and all the family.

**GORMAN, Michael.** (Portlaoise). Happy 13th anniversary, Michael. Happy Christmas and a happy New Year. UTP. I love you very much, I'll be thinking of you. From your loving wife Eileen. xxx

**GORMAN, Michael.** (Portlaoise). Happy 13th anniversary, Dadda. Happy Christmas and New Year. From your son, John. Holly. Margaret and Róisín. xxx

**GORMAN, Michael.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Micko. From Mum, Dad and family. John and Marie Mooney and family.

**GORMAN, Michael.** (Portlaoise). Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, Micko. From Mick and all the gang; and the Fitzmaurice and McGuire families.

**GORMAN, Michael.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas and a happy New Year. From your son, Michael. From Jackie and Paul. UTP.

**GORMAN, Tommy.** (H-Block). Happy Christmas to a granddad from a grandy (and proud of it). From Rita, Brendan and family.

**GREEN, Leo and Laurence.** (Long Kesh). Christmas greetings and love to you both. From Aunt Mary Anna and family.

**GREEN, Leo and Laurence.** (Long Kesh). Christmas greetings and all the best for the New Year. From your mother, Kathleen and family.

**GREEN, Oliver.** (Crumlin Road). Happy Christmas, Oliver, and good luck in the New Year. From Cathy and David. XXX

**GUILFOYLE, Patrick.** (Albany). Warmest holiday wishes to you, Tipp, for your last Christmas in the New Year. From all your friends in Rochester, New York.

**GUILFOYLE, Patrick.** (Albany). The very best for Christmas and the New Year. Tipp. Here, hoping this is the last year behind bars. Lots of luck to you and all the lads.

**GUILFOYLE, Patrick.** (Albany). Warmest Christmas and New Year greetings to you and all the other boys. Keep the old chaps up, boys. From your pals in Australia, Barry and Rhonda.

**HACKETT, Patrick.** (Parkhurst). Loving wishes for a happy and happy New Year are sent to you, Patrick. Bridget and John look forward to see you through the Christmas and may the nice things that you love do bless every day ahead of you. From our love, from Gran, Margaret and Peadar Murray, Mayo.

**HACKETT, Patrick.** (Parkhurst). Happy Christmas from your other family in Mayo. I hope Santa brings you jelly

**DOHERTY, Eamonn.** Merry Christmas, Eamonn, and may the New Year bring you and your comrades hope and prosperity. Lots of luck. From Angela. UTP.

**DOHERTY, Hugh.** (Parkhurst). Lots of good wishes to you, Hugh, on your birthday and for Christmas. Regards to all there. From Mary. Tialee.

**DOHERTY, Hugh.** (Parkhurst). Love and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Thinking of you always. From Pat, Mary and Eileen.

**DOHERTY, Joseph.** (New York). Beannacht na Nollag do Sheosamh nór. Tá súil again go bhfuil ádh ort, agus go bhfuil a fhios agat go bhfuil mé ag smaoineán ort i gceol. Beir bua tíochead éirí. Ó, do dheirfíir is do chara, Maureen.

**DOHERTY, Joseph.** (New York). Christmas greetings to you, son. Hoping freedom is not too far away. Love from Mum, Dad and sister Pat.

**DOHERTY, Joseph.** (New York). Merry Christmas, Uncle Joe. Hope to join you for a few pints soon. Good luck for the New Year. Love from your nephew Sean.

**DOHERTY, Martin.** (Portlaoise). Merry Christmas, Doco, and a happy New Year. From Kathleen, Martin and all the Gormans.

**DONAGHY, Tommy.** (H-Block). Happy Christmas, Tommy, and all the best for the New Year. God bless.

**CLARE SINN FÉIN COMRAILE CEANTAIR** sends Christmas greetings to Harry Duggan, Joe O'Connell, Hugh Doherty, Patrick Hackett (Parkhurst), Eddie Butler and Brendan Dowling in Ireland, England and America. Tiochfaidh éirí.

**THE COMERFORD/PRICE SINN FÉIN CUMANN, LOWER BALLYFER.** Christmas greetings to Derek Fitzg, Rab, Nicks, Sean Hicks, Liam O'Dwyer, Brian Quinn, Stewart, and all the British near listen to the force of argument, they only listen to the argument of force.

**FROM DAD, JOHNNY AND ANN.** Christmas greetings, Tommy, and God bless. From your sister Mary and Barney and Granny O'Kane.

**DONAGHY, Tommy.** (H-Block). Happy Christmas and God bless you, uncle. From Sean, Claran, Barry, Patricia and the boys. UTP.

**DONAGHY, Tommy.** (H-Block). Happy Christmas, Tommy. From Aunt Rose, Johnny and family.

**DONAGHY, Tommy.** (H-Block). All the best at Christmas, Tommy. From John and Ann; and Gerard and Margaret.

**DONAGHY, Brendan.** (Crumlin Road). Happy Christmas, Brendan. All my love and all the best for the New Year. From Dad, Mum, Ann, and about you. From Dad, Mum, Ann, and about you.

**DOWD, Brendan.** (Leicester). Christmas and New Year greetings to Brendan Dowd and all the Kerry kids in Portlaoise, especially a tear baine. J.C., who is due out shortly. From Matt Leen.

**QUAGAN, Harry.** (Parkhurst). Greetings for Christmas, Harry. From Joe and Martina.

**QUAGAN, Kevin.** (Long Kesh). Christmas greetings to you, Kevin. From Gerald, Janice, Ross and Gerald.

**QUAGAN, Kevin.** (Long Kesh). Christmas greetings, Kevin. From Mum, Dad, Colin, Martin and Dermot. Greetings also from Tony, Geraldine.

**DUNCAN, Tony.** (H-Block). Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. From Dad, Mum and the Donegan family, Dromintee.

**DUNNE, Jim.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Dad. From Brian.

**DUNNE, Jim.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Jim. You'll be in our thoughts as always. We love you. From Dad, Mam, brothers, sisters and all the family.

**ELLIS, Dessie.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings Dessie. From John and Monica.

**ELLIS, Dessie.** (Portlaoise). All the best for Christmas and the New Year. Dessie. From Ma and Da, Noel, Sam, Patricia, Martha, John and all the family.

**ELLIS, Dessie.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings and all the best for the New Year, Dessie. From Miceal.

a very happy New Year. God bless you all. My thoughts are always with you. Love from Christie, Richard, wee Bronagh and Eoin.

**FARRELL, Mairéad.** (Armagh). Bobby. Have a happy Christmas Mairéad and Bobby. I'll be thinking of you when I drown myself in a few tents for you. Have a better New Year. Love from Deirdre.

**FEENEY, Aidan.** (Cage 11). Happy Christmas, Aidan. All my love. From Maggie, Armagh. UTP.

**FERRIS, Martin.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Martin. All my love and thoughts are with you for Christmas and every day throughout the coming year, as always. Love from Marie. xxx

**FERRIS, Martin.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Dad. We love and miss you so very much. Love, hugs and kisses from E.J., Oonagh, Toileasa, Deirdre and Cian. xxx

**FERRIS, Martin.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings to you, Martin, and to all the lads on the Marita Anne. From Martin, Catherine, Tiaight.

**FERRIS, Martin.** (Portlaoise). Best wishes, Martin. Take care. From Sean Fox, Wexford.

**FITZGERALD, Gerard; HUNTER, Rab; STEWART, Sean.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas to Sean, Fitz and Rab. I'll be thinking of you and I hope to see you soon. Love from Sandra Burke.

**FITZGERALD, Gerard.** (Portlaoise). All my love and best wishes for a very happy Christmas Ger. I love and miss you very much. From Kathy.

**FITZGERALD, Gerard.** (Portlaoise). Wishing you a very happy Christmas Ger. Love and best wishes from Bernadette, Gerry and family.

**FITZGERALD, Gerard.** (Portlaoise). All my love and best wishes for a very happy Christmas Ger. From Jimmy, Annie and Sila.

**ENNIS, Joe.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Joe. The academic scholar is back from the street and wide awake. We burned the midnight oil in the land of Kinsella recently. Looking forward to your visit. 'n' after (this) Christmas you'll have no need to go searching - for the difference that sets an old phrase burning! Nollaig shona duit. Loch Garman abú.

**FANNING, Eugene.** (Portlaoise). "No crime a man commits on behalf of his freedom can be as great as the crimes committed by those who deny his freedom." Christmas greetings from Mum and Dad and your sisters Pat and Róisín.

**FANNING, Eugene.** (Portlaoise). Every good wish for you at Christmas

and throughout the New Year, Tiochfaidh éirí. Beir bua. From Frances.

**FANNING, Eugene.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Eugene. From the Ennis family.

**FANNING, Eugene.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Eugene. From your brother Malachy, Maureen and your sisters Maura, Tommy and Charlie and family.

**FARRELL, Mairéad.** (Armagh). Christmas greetings to you, Mairéad, and to your comrades in Armagh and in prisons North and South and in England. Love from Mum, Dad and all the boys at home.

**FARRELL, Mairéad.** (Armagh). Christmas greetings to you, kid, and

**GAVIN, Jimmy.** (Portlaoise). Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, Jimmy. Thinking of you always. From your lovely wife Phyl, Martina, Michelle, Mandy and Maxine. XXX

**GAVIN, Jimmy.** (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings, Jimmy. From you, From Maria, Alan and the children; and Essie, Paddy and family.

**GAVIN, Jimmy.** (Portlaoise). May your courage and strength be in top form to see you through the Christmas and may the nice things that you love do bless every day ahead of you. From our love, from Gran, Margaret and Peadar Murray, Mayo.

**GAVIN, Jimmy.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas from your other family in Mayo. I hope Santa brings you jelly

for Christmas. Who loves ya, baby! From Pearse, Sally and Garry; also from Rose and Danny; and Les, Bird and child.

**GAVIN, Jimmy.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Jimmy, and all the best for the New Year. From Jackie, John and baby Jonathan. Finglas; also from the 'Coddie' family; and Trisha and Bernard. T'night and Eileen.

**GAYNOR, Noel.** (Cage 11). Happy birthday on the 23rd to my favourite Merry Christmas and a lucky New Year. Thinking of you always. Solidarity and love from Noel.

**GAYNOR, Noel.** (Cage 11). Happy birthday and merry Christmas. It was lovely to meet you this summer. I'm back next year. Love from Dorthie, Denmark.

**GIBNEY, Jim.** (H-Block). Christmas greetings and a happy New Year to you and all your comrades. I am waiting for my visit. See you soon. From Maura, Alec and family. UTP.

**GIBNEY, Jim.** (H-Block). Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. From Dave.

**GIBNEY, Jim.** (H-Block). A very happy Christmas and New Year, Jim. Thinking of you at this special time of year. Who? Taking all your visits, eh? Forgotten your ole mate? Nudge! Nudge! God bless you. Love from Chrissie, Laura, Richard and kids.

**GIBNEY, Jim.** (H-Block). All the best for Christmas, the New Year, Jim. From Danny, Deborah and kids. Greetings also to Elbhinn. Much love, support and luck to you.

**GILLESPIE, John.** (Crumlin Road). Best wishes for Christmas and the

New Year. From your loving sister Anne.

**GILLESPIE, John.** (Crumlin Road). Best wishes for Christmas and all the best for the New Year. From Paschal, Jacinta and family.

**GILLESPIE, Eugene.** (Crumlin Road). Merry Christmas, Eugene, and a happy New Year. From Joe, Margaret and baby Padraig; also Pat Fitz.

**GILLESPIE, Eugene.** (Crumlin Road). Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. From Der and Kevin. UTP.

**GORMAN, Billy.** (H-Block). Christmas greetings to you, son. Holly. From Mum, Dad and all the family.

**GORMAN, Michael.** (Portlaoise). Happy 13th anniversary, Michael. Happy Christmas and a happy New Year. UTP. I love you very much, I'll be thinking of you. From your loving wife Eileen. xxx

**GORMAN, Michael.** (Portlaoise). Happy 13th anniversary, Dadda. Happy Christmas and New Year. From your son, John. Holly. Margaret and Róisín. xxx

**GORMAN, Michael.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Micko. From Mum, Dad and family. John and Marie Mooney and family.

**GORMAN, Michael.** (Portlaoise). Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, Micko. From Mick and all the gang; and the Fitzmaurice and McGuire families.

**GORMAN, Michael.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas and a happy New Year. From your son, Michael. From Jackie and Paul. UTP.

**GORMAN, Tommy.** (H-Block). Happy Christmas to a granddad from a grandy (and proud of it). From Rita, Brendan and family.

**GREEN, Leo and Laurence.** (Long Kesh). Christmas greetings and love to you both. From Aunt Mary Anna and family.

**GREEN, Leo and Laurence.** (Long Kesh). Christmas greetings and all the best for the New Year. From your mother, Kathleen and family.

**GREEN, Oliver.** (Crumlin Road). Happy Christmas, Oliver, and good luck in the New Year. From Cathy and David. XXX

**GUILFOYLE, Patrick.** (Albany). Warmest holiday wishes to you, Tipp, for your last Christmas in the New Year. From all your friends in Rochester, New York.

**GUILFOYLE, Patrick.** (Albany). The very best for Christmas and the New Year. Tipp. Here, hoping this is the last year behind bars. Lots of luck to you and all the lads.

**GUILFOYLE, Patrick.** (Albany). Warmest Christmas and New Year greetings to you and all the other boys. Keep the old chaps up, boys. From your pals in Australia, Barry and Rhonda.

**HACKETT, Patrick.** (Parkhurst). Loving wishes for a happy and happy New Year are sent to you, Patrick. Bridget and John look forward to see you through the Christmas and may the nice things that you love do bless every day ahead of you. From our love, from Gran, Margaret and Peadar Murray, Mayo.

**HACKETT, Patrick.** (Parkhurst). Happy Christmas from your other family in Mayo. I hope Santa brings you jelly

for Christmas. Who loves ya, baby! From Pearse, Sally and Garry; also from Rose and Danny; and Les, Bird and child.

**GAVIN, Jimmy.** (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, Jimmy, and all the best for the New Year. From Jackie, John and baby Jonathan. Finglas; also from the 'Coddie' family; and Trisha and Bernard. T'night and Eileen.







# Beannachtaí

Christmas and a happy New Year. Hope to see you soon, and bless you soon. From Granny, Seamus and Harry.

McCRORY, Alec. (H-Block). Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Only one left to go, Alec. God bless. From Hucks, Jean and kids; also Lillian, Bobby, Harry, Paula and Seamus, UTP.

McCULLOUGH, Phil. (H-Block). Happy Christmas and a happy New Year. Lots of love. From Noreen. XXX.

McCURTAIN, Cyril. (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings to you Cyril. From Niall, Patricia and children. Padraig, Claran, Neil, Aine and Seamus. Hope to see you soon.

McCURTAIN, Cyril. (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings to you, Cyril, and to all Irish comrades at home and abroad. From all your friends in the Newmarket/Kishineu area.

Mac CURTAIN, Colraile. (Portlaoise). Nollaig faoi mhaise agus faoi shéan duil, a Choleirag agus do na príosainigh do bhainteacha go léir i gcéin agus in Éirinn. O gach ball de Shinn Féin i nár lárúil.

Mac CURTAIN, Colraile. (Portlaoise). Beannachtaí na Nollag agus gach de-shúil don Athbhiain. Ná ra gach uainn an saoirse. Le gach deamhain. O Máirín Uí Fhainín.

McDAID, Adrián. (H-Block). Wishing you a very happy Christmas, Adrián. Love from the Ferguson and McDaid families. UTP.

McDERMOTT, George. (Portlaoise). Lots of love and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. From Babs.

McDERMOTT, George. (Portlaoise). Best wishes, George, and lots of love for Christmas and the New Year. From the Sloan family.

McDERMOTT, George. (Portlaoise). All the best for Christmas, George. From Dad and family.

McDONNELL, Gerry. Wishing you a happy Christmas and New Year, Gerry. Always thinking of you, especially at this time. Tiocfaidh sí.

McDONNELL, Gerry. Happy Christmas and New Year greetings to my son Gerard. You are always in our thoughts. God bless. From Mother and Linda.

McDONNELL, Gerry. Christmas and New Year greetings to my brother Gerard. All our love. From Ann, Eddie and family.

McDONNELL, Gerry. Christmas and New Year greetings, Gerry. We are always thinking of you. From all at No 18.

McDONNELL, Gerry. Happy Christmas, Gerry, and a happy New Year. Hope you are keeping alright. You are always in our thoughts at this special time of the year. God bless and take care. From Collette, John and kids; Marie, Thomas and family; and Rosie; and Frank, Charlestown, USA.

McDOWELL, Maurice. (H-Block). Thanks for the big Christmas card but what happened to the present? (ha! ha!). Hope you have a nice Christmas. Love from Paula. xxx

McELHONE, Seamus. (Magilligan). Christmas greetings and best wishes, Seamus. From Mother, Father, Gerard and family.

McFADDEN, Con. (Wakfield). Christmas greetings to our dear cousin, Connie. Happy Christmas and belir busa. O Maureen, Eileen, Ann, Noeleen, Paul, Emmet agus Siobhán.

McFADDEN, Con. (Wakfield). Love to my dear son Con at Christmas. From Mammy.

McFADDEN, Con. (England). Happy Christmas, Con, and all the best for 1985. From John Fowley.

McFEELY, Thomas. (H-Block). Happy birthday, Thomas, and a very happy Christmas to you and to all republican POWs in Ireland and Britain. From Mary, Colm and family.

McFEELY, Thomas. (H-Block). Birthday greetings to Tom for the 24th and Christmas blessings to you and all your comrades in prison for their beliefs, especially local men Thomas Donaghy, Malachy O'Kane and Seamus Mullán. From the McFeely family of 258 Clend.

McGARRY, Jack. (H-Block). Christmas greetings to our son and brother Jack and all his comrades. Thinking of you all. From Mum, Dad, Theresa and the twins.

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McGARRY, Jack. (H-Block). Christmas greetings, Jack. All our love and best wishes. From Patricia and Pol.

McGEOGH, Peter. (Long Kesh). Christmas greetings and all the best from Sheena.

McGETTIGAN, Sean. (Portlaoise). Special Christmas and solidarity greetings to Sean and all the other POWs. Keep up the good work. Thinking of you always. Hope to see you in the New Year. Unesa tag wird kommen. From Sonja (Germany).

McGRIMLEY, Martin. (Magilligan). Happy Christmas, Marty. Hope your next one is spent in freedom. Love from Frances.

McGING, Mary. (Limerick). Christmas greetings Mary. See you soon. From Tommy, Ann, girls and baby.

McGING, Mary. (Limerick). God bless you, Mary. May you be strong

for the year. From Peador, Margaret and Pearse Murray, Newport, County Mayo.

McGING, Mary. (Limerick). Happy Christmas, Mary. See you next year. From Sally and Garry Kennedy, Newport, County Mayo.

McGUINNESS, Sean. (Portlaoise). A happy Christmas and New Year. Lots of love from Kevin and Brendan.

McGUINNESS, Sean. (Portlaoise). All the best for Christmas and the New Year, Seany. Love from Geraldine.

McGUINNESS, Sean. (Portlaoise). Greetings for Christmas and the New Year, Sean. From the wealthy widow and her family.

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Paul, and your brother Colin and wee Joanne.

McGUIGAN, Ellen. (Armagh). Christmas greetings to you, Ellen. Don't be drinking too much. From Tomas Mulholland and family; the McVeigh family; and Kathleen and Paddy McVeigh.

McGUIGAN, Ellen. (Armagh). Best wishes at Christmas, Ellen. If I had one wish, that wish would be, the keys to Armagh, to set you free. God bless you always. From Liam; and Chrissie.

McGUINNESS, Sean. (Portlaoise). Have a happy Christmas, mucker. Keep the chin up. From Zack.

McGUINNESS, Sean. (Portlaoise). To my son Sean, a very happy Christmas and all the best in the New Year. Love from Mum and family.

McGUINNESS, Sean. (Portlaoise). Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, Sean. Love from Theresa and the boys.

THE KEANE/McMAHON SINN FÉIN CUMANN, KILMURRY, COUNTY DUBLIN. Send Christmas greetings to Joe O'Connell, Harry Duggan, Brendan Dowd and all POWs in English jails.

THE EAMON LAFERTY SINN FÉIN CUMANN, STRABANE, sends Christmas greetings to all republican prisoners, especially the Strabane prisoners, in Ireland and England. Your courage is an inspiration to us all.

THE MCCANN/GRANT SINN FÉIN CUMANN sends Christmas greetings to Brian Cushman (Portlaoise), Lorraine McKeown, Kevin McCoy, Tommy Donaghy and all their comrades in Magilligan, Crumlin Road, Armagh and the Cages and H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

McGUINNESS, Sean. (Portlaoise). A happy Christmas and New Year. Lots of love from Kevin and Brendan.

McGUINNESS, Sean. (Portlaoise). All the best for Christmas and the New Year, Seany. Love from Geraldine.

McGUINNESS, Sean. (Portlaoise). Greetings for Christmas and the New Year, Sean. From the wealthy widow and her family.

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McKEE, Michael. (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas to my son, Michael. Lots of love. From Mum.

McKEE, Michael. (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, love. You are always in my thoughts. I love and miss you very, very much. All my love. From Patricia. xxx

McKEE, Michael. (Portlaoise). Merry Christmas, Daddy. We love and miss you very, very much. All our love. From Kevin, Karen, Patricia and Michael Anthony O'xxx.

McKEE, Michael. (Portlaoise). Merry Christmas, Beaky. Lots of love. From Donna, Marie and Laura; Michelle and Catriona; Aunt Phil Jim and family; Aunt Annie and family; Marie and Maurice; all the family in London and Australia; and Cynthia.

McKEE, Michael. (Portlaoise). Merry Christmas, Beaky. From Hughie and Mary; Marie, Sean, Bernadette, Susan and Hughie; Tony and Veronica; Kathleen and Aine; and all the family. All our love. From Liam, Ann, Michael, Deirdre, Paul, Alice and Jim; also Vivian and all nephews and nieces; and Tricia Lynch.

McKENNA, Claran. (H-Block). Christmas greetings and a happy New Year, Claran. From Ned and Bernie Hamill.

McKENNA, Claran. (H-Block). Christmas greetings and best wishes to Claran. From Mammy, Brendan, Michael, Kathleen and Aine.

McKENNA, Finbar. (H-Block). Christmas greetings to you, Finbar. See you in 1985. From Glen, Seamus, Big Joe, Dolores, Doc and all the lads.

McKENNA, Laurence. (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings to you, Laurence. All the best for the New Year. From Pat, Yvonne and family.

McKENNA, Laurence. (Portlaoise). Christmas greetings to you, Laurence. Good luck and God bless. From Mother, Aunt Cissy, Kevin, Alice and family.

McKEOWN, Laurence. (H-Block). Happy Christmas, Laurence. We hope your next one is spent in freedom.

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umb and all POWs there. From your brother Raymond, Mary and Patrick, Bunrana.

McLAUGHLIN, Colum. (Crumlin Road). Merry Christmas, Colum. You are always in our thoughts. From Kathleen and Paddy Coleman and families, Derry, Bunrana and Litterkenney.

McMAHON, Kevin. (Portlaoise). Birthday greetings to you, Kevin, on December 18th. Also a happy Christmas and a joyous New Year. Love from Eleanor. XXX.

McMAHON, Kevin. (Portlaoise). Best wishes for Christmas, Kevin. I'll be thinking of you and guys who will be slightly drunk. Lots of love from Deirdre. XXX.

MAC MATHUNA, Calomhín. (Portlaoise). Nollaig shona duit agus do chaidre. Bua do mhuintir na hÉireann. O Der, Kev, Jackie, Jamesy, Pearie, Neil, Ailish and Deirdre.

MAC MATHUNA, Calomhín. (Portlaoise). Have a very happy Christmas. From all the folk in Belfast and Fiar (Portlaoise). UTP.

McMANUS, Eugene. Happy Christmas, Eugene. Love from Mum, Dad, brothers and sisters; also Jean, Sinead and Michael.

McMANUS, Eugene. Happy Christmas. Lots of love. From Sadie and Tom. XXX.

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
McMANUS, Eugene. Happy Christmas. Lots of love. From Sadie and Tom. XXX.

McMANUS, Eugene. Happy Christmas. Lots of love. From Sadie and Tom. XXX.



that spare room, Jimmy. I'm  
used to luxury (hal hal). God b  
you, kid. UTP. From Martin  
family.

py Christmas, Liam, specially fro



SCOTT Eamon. (Long Kesh). Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you, Eamon, and all your comrades. From Jimmy and all the family.



**TOAL, Fergal, (Portlaoise).** Merry Christmas Fergal and best wishes for the New Year. From your friend Cathy.

**TOWNSEND, Liam, (Portlaoise).** Wishing my good friend Liam all the best wishes of the season. God bless you always, Liam. UTP. From Mick, family and friends.

**TRAYNOR, P.J. (H-Block).** Greetings for Christmas and the New Year. Hope you like the bird. Keep up the spirits. God bless. From your sister Mary and brother-in-law Pat.

**TRAYNOR, P.J. (H-Block).** Happy Christmas to the most wonderful uncle in the world. Keep your chin up and keep smiling. From your nieces Brieghe, Christina, Patricia and nephew David.

**TRAYNOR, P.J. (H-Block).** Wishing you a happy Christmas and a happy New Year. From your loving wife Bridie. XXX

**TRAYNOR, P.J. (H-Block).** Wishing you a very happy Christmas. XXX

**TUTE, Gerry, (Portlaoise).** Best wishes for Christmas, Gerry. You're always in my thoughts. From your fiancée Monica. XXX

**TUTE, Gerry, (Portlaoise).** Love and best wishes for Christmas, Gerry. From Mum, Dad and all the family.

**TUTE, Gerry, (Portlaoise).** Wishing you all the season's greetings, Gerry. We all miss you. Everyone sends you their best wishes. God bless you, old friend.

**TUTE, Gerry, (Portlaoise).** Nollaig shona mo chara. Grá & Éibhlín. UTP

**MAYO SINN FÉIN COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR** sends Christmas greetings to Mary McGing (Limerick) and to all republican POWs in Limerick, Portlaoise, Armagh, Long Kesh and Brixton.

**THE MILLIGAN/WARD SINN FÉIN CUMANN, CARRICKMORE, CREGGAN AND LOUGHMACRORY, COUNTY TYRONE,** sends Christmas greetings to our political prisoners at home and abroad, especially to POWs Aidan McGurk and Tommy Gallagher. In Portlaoise. You are a source of rejuvenation and inspiration to us when despair threatens to creep in.

**MONAGHAN SINN FÉIN COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR** sends Christmas greetings to all County Monaghan POWs in Crumlin Road, Portlaoise, Long Kesh and England and to all their comrades in prison at home and abroad. Also our best wishes to Seamus and the other escapes, wherever you are. Nollaig shona daoibh.

**TUTE, Gerry, (Portlaoise).** Happy Christmas, Gerry. Thinking of you always. UTP. Love always from Norman and all the family.

**TURLEY, Brian; CUNNINGHAM, Brian; TOAL, Freddie; HARTE Seamus; GREEN, Eoin; CUNNINGHAM, (H-Block).** Happy Christmas and happy New Year boys from Jackie, Peter, Jim, Molly, Thomas, Mac, Pat, Sas and all your friends in the Blaney area.

**WALSH, Martin, (H-Block).** Season's greetings, Martin. I always thinking of you. Look forward to seeing you again. Love from Ellen.

**WHELAN, Joe, (Portlaoise).** Happy Christmas, Joe. From Essie, Paddy and family, Finglas, Dublin.

**WHELAN, Joe, (Portlaoise).** Lots of love and best wishes for Christmas and the coming year. We will miss you. Love from Delirde and Alan. UTP

**WHELAN, Joe, (Portlaoise).** Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. You are always on my mind. Son. Won't be long now. Love from Mam.

**WHELAN, Joe, (Portlaoise).** Happy Christmas to our brother, Joe. You are forever in our thoughts. We can have a big celebration the one after next. Keep the chin up. From your brothers and sisters and families.

**WHELAN, Joe, (Portlaoise).** A very happy Christmas and New Year. Joe from Martina.

**WILLIAMS, Paul, (H-Block).** Happy Christmas, Paul. I always thinking of you with a brush you will be out for Christmas 1985, so I will have a drink for you. Keep the chin up. From Donna and Ray. UTP

**WRIGHT, Marie, (Armagh).** Happy Christmas, Marie. To you and all the remands, Siobhan, Mary, Anna, the two Catherine's, Pat, etc. God bless you all, especially because of having to endure degrading strip searches. Your strength is an inspiration to us all. Love from Christine.

**THE BOYLE FAMILY** sends Christmas greetings to P.J. O'Neill, Peter Kane, Owen Roe O'Neill, Terence Rafferty and Brendan Donaghy.

**THE FINN FAMILY, Wexford,** sends Christmas greetings to Seamus Swan, Dáithí Kavanagh and Peter Rogers.

**THE FITZMAURICE FAMILY** sends Christmas greetings to Michael Gorman, Martin Doherty, Paddy Devine, Gerry Heapes, Eddie Meagher and Derek Dempsey.

**THE FOX FAMILY** would like to wish a happy Christmas to POWs in Portlaoise, Long Kesh, Armagh, Crumlin Road, Limerick, Magilligan and in jails in England.

**THE HAUGHEY FAMILY, Lurgan and Dundalk,** sends Christmas greetings to Kevin, Maxi and Gerard (Portlaoise).

**THE MCCABE FAMILY, Crossmaglen,** sends Christmas greetings to Sean, Gerard, Pat, Jim, Sean, Kevin, P.J., Anthony and Frank.

**THE MCCAUGHEY FAMILY** and BreigheAnn send Christmas and New Year greetings to all republican POWs incarcerated in Irish, English and foreign jails, especially Bobby Storey, Brendy, Cally, Hektor, Spike, Skink, Harry, Malachi and all the lads in Magilligan and Long Kesh. Greetings too to Paul Norney, Martin Coughlan, Ronnie McCartney and all the lads in Portlaoise. Special greetings to the women in Armagh and a seasonal message — lay off the jungle juice (hel hel).

**THE McDONNELL FAMILY, Ander-**

**sonstown,** sends Christmas greetings to Bobby Storey, Tommy Gorman, Liam, Pickles, Seamy, John Green, Liam, Duce, Johnny Doc, Joe Watson, Joe Simpson, Ginty, John, Sean, Adams and Jim Gibney (H-Block); Ronnie McCartney, Martin Brady, Dickie, Glenholme, Paul Norney, Roy Walsh and Brian Keenan (H-Block); Marian Coyle, Marie Murray and Mary McGing (Limerick); Philip Campbell, Kevin McMahon, Joe Malone, Joe Whelan, Joe Kind, Stephen Gibson, Peter Rogers, George Russell, Lucas, Beaky, Dingus, Tony Sloan and Angelo Fusco (Portlaoise); Eddie Mallon, Geraldine Crawford, Ellen McGuigan, Jennifer McCann, Marie Wright, Siobhan O'Hanlon and all the women in Armagh.

**THE JIM MURPHY SINN FÉIN CUMANN, DERRY/LINN, FERMANAGH,** sends Christmas greetings to Liam Ferguson, Gerard Mulligan, Marcus Murray, Kevin Lynch, Eamonn McElroy, Gerald McElroy, James Tierney, Eugene Cosgrove, Claran Leonard and to T.V. Maguire.

**THE PORTLAOISE PRISONERS RELATIVES ACTION COMMITTEE** sends Christmas greetings to all republican prisoners in jails in Ireland, England and America and especially to the prisoners in Portlaoise Prison.

**THE PORTLAOISE TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** sends Christmas greetings to Danny McCauley, Eugene McKee, Tony Tracey, Pascal Stumes, Liam Broily, Anthony Bryson, Paddy Lyons, John Gallagher, Frankie Quinn, Mick Hogan, Tony Heaney, Jim Clarke, P.J. Branley, Gerry Meahan and all their comrades in Portlaoise and to Stephen Blake, Con McCadden, Hugh Doherty and all their comrades in English jails.

**Cunningham (H2), Shane Corrigan and Pete Ryan (Portlaoise).** Only a few more to go. Lots of love from Edie. Dublin. xxx

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to John O'Sullivan, Peter Sugrue, Paddy Boyle, Billy Kelly, Cyril McCurtain, Martin Ferris, Mike Browne, John Crawley and all republican prisoners in Portlaoise. From Bill O'Shea, Sallylongford.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Brendan Dowd, Joe O'Connell and all their comrades in jail in England, Long Kesh, Crumlin Road and to the women POWs in Armagh Jail. From Bill O'Shea, Sallylongford.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Andy and Paddy Mulryan (England), Mick Gorman, Paddy Devine, Gerry Heapes, (Portlaoise) and all republican POWs in jail everywhere. Venceremos.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to the Blessington Five. From the Chisler.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Dáithí Kavanagh, Peter Rogers and Rab Hunter (Portlaoise). From the Swan family, Wexford.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to all republican POWs in English and Irish jails and their families. From Raymond, Mary and Patrick. Buncrana.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Pete Sweeney, Martin Ferris, Michael Browne, Paddy Boyle and Billy Kelly (Portlaoise) and all your comrades in Portlaoise and English jails. From the O'Sullivan family, Wexford.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Joe Whelan, Fitzzy, Stewart and Rab (Portlaoise), Martin Coughlan (Hull) and Brian Keenan (Leicester), and to all republican POWs in Ireland and England. From Christy Burke.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to all POWs in England and Ireland, especially Kevin, Flair, Fitzzy, Stewart, Rab, Martin, Nicky and Peter (Portlaoise). From Ann in No. 5.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to all republican POWs in jails in North, South and in England. God bless. From Marie Moore and Mary H.

**THE SABHAT/ROGAN/LYNCH SINN FÉIN CUMANN, KENTSTOWN,** sends Christmas greetings to Seamus Lynch (Portlaoise).

**THE BOBBY SANDS/PEADAR CLANCY SINN FÉIN CUMANN, ENNIS,** sends Christmas greetings to Harry Dugan, Eddie Butler, Brendan Dowd and Patrick Hackett (England) and to all Irish republican POWs in Ireland, England and America. Tiocfaidh ár lá.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to all republican prisoners in Magilligan, Crumlin Road, Long Kesh, Portlaoise and Armagh. All the best wishes for Christmas. From Owen and Ann Smyth, Monaghan.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to all Monaghan republican prisoners and to Seamus and the rest of the escapes wherever they may be. Best wishes from Edie and Alan in the Sinn Féin office, Monaghan.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Eugene, Campbell, Mick Gorman, Jim Whelan, Eddie McLean, Martin Doherty and Kevin McGrogan (Portlaoise). Happy Christmas, lads, and the best for the New Year. From Davy Banks.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** and apologies to my North and comrades to whom I am unable to send Christmas cards because of the Brits' latest attempt to break our spirit by limiting the number of cards we can send. From Hugh Doherty (Parkhurst).

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** and a happy New Year to Anne, Dolores, Mairéad and all the girls in Armagh Jail. From Monica, Mich and the kids.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to 'Dinger' Bell, Joe Coombes, Barry Kerr, Deslie O'Hare, Colin and Jim Lynch, Bernard McGinn, Aidan McGurk, Patsy Mohan, Pete Ryan, Seamus Shannon and all their comrades in Portlaoise. Best wishes for the New Year. From Sam.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to 'Big Jazzant', Joe Coombes, Big Aidan and Captain Willie Brown and his crewmen of the Marita Ann. From Matt Leen.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to 'Nipper', Johnny Mac, Mike, Sean, Paddy, Billy, John, Peter, Angelo, Dingus, Fitzzy, Sherry, and all your comrades in Portlaoise and all republican POWs everywhere. From Marie Ferris and children.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** and best wishes for the New Year to Jimmy Gavin, Dáithí Kavanagh and Martin Coughlan (Hull). From the Donohue family, Clonsilla, Balle Átha Clith.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to the crew of the Marita Ann. Happy Christmas and New Year. From Marie, Sugrue family, and Brenda and Vincent O'Connor.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to the republican prisoners in jail in England and Ireland, especially Peter Rogers and Mick Fox (Portlaoise), Noel Gibson (Aibann) and Mick Murray (Hull). Ireland unfree will never be at peace. From Anthony and Mary O'Keefe and family, Stradbally, County Waterford.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to our friends and comrades in the Cages Mulland and family.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Martin Corey (Long Kesh) and Joseph Corey (Magilligan). You are always in our thoughts. From Mammy and Daddy and all the family circle.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Martin Ferris, Paul Leech (Portlaoise), Peter Campbell (H-Block) and Judith Ward (Durham). From Martin Kelly, Gavin and all the boys in Portlaoise.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Kevin, Gerard, Steve, Maxie, Peter, Brian and Pat. We wish you all the best and hope that 1985 will be better for you. We are doing our best for you. All from the Harte family.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to all Irish political prisoners at home and abroad. Tiocfaidh ár lá. From Liam Haddock and family.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Vivian Hayden, Mick Gorman, Jimmy Gavin, and all the boys in Portlaoise. From Louis Walsh and family. UTP

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** and a happy New Year to all Irish men and women in prisons throughout the



**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to all republican POWs in Magilligan, Crumlin Road, Long Kesh, Portlaoise and Armagh. All the best wishes for Christmas. From Owen and Ann Smyth, Monaghan.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to all republican POWs in jails in North, South and in England. God bless. From Marie Moore and Mary H.

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**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Gerry Carrville, Peter Doolan, Raymond Watson and Brian O'Kane. Love from Irene. Dink. xxx

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Jimmy Quinn, Tommy Gorman (Long Kesh), Fitzzy, (Portlaoise), Derek, 'Starky' and Eamon (Crumlin), Jackie, 'Daisy' and Pat (Armagh). Thinking of you always. From Danny, Ellen and family.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Eddie Butler, Brendan Dowd and Brian Keenan (Leicester), Hugh Doherty, Harry Dugan and Joe O'Connell (Parkhurst) and Billy Martin (Portlaoise) and all the POWs over here and all the best. From Mrs Dowd, Tralee.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** and a happy New Year to all the lads in Portlaoise. From the Whelan family.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to Stephen Blake, Eddie Byrne, Patsy Mulryan, Joe O'Connell and Roy Walsh (England). I'll have a drink and wish you all the best. From Kathleen. xxx

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** to all

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# CHRISTMAS

I ASKED FOR A PRESENT AND THEY TOLD ME TO MAKE DO WITH A PAST...

