

THE TATTLER

THIS BULLETIN IS ISSUED BY AN CUMANN LIAM MOPARLAND SINN FEIN

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THE BARRICADES ARE DOWN — BUT THE PEOPLE HAVE RISEN.

In a statement issued to the "TATTLER" this morning, the local unit of the Irish Republican Army congratulated the people of Ballymurphy and surrounding areas for the valiant stand they are making against British aggression. In spite of tremendous odds and severe hardships the people have maintained the humour, courage and comradeship which has made Ballymurphy famous throughout the world.

The British Army have attempted to humiliate and disillusion us on many occasions without success, and their Public Relations Officers are at this moment striving to boost the morale of their "Stormtroopers". Their latest effort was on Thursday when they declared that a soldier was fired on as he was being taken to hospital with a broken leg. The soldier was in fact taken to hospital, for he had been wounded by a local active service unit and the ambulance did not arrive until after the attack to take two soldiers away on stretchers. One was hit in the upper chest region or the throat, and the second was less seriously wounded in the shoulder.

The British Army have stated that all civilians killed in their recent purge were members of the I.R.A. They have omitted to mention their own casualties while the Irish Republican Army have claimed two of the Irish dead as volunteers. Since the introduction of Internment, units operating in the Ballymurphy area have wounded seventeen British soldiers in sniping and machine-gun attacks, and at the same time defended the area against U.V.F. gunmen. Our brother units in adjoining Company areas have also inflicted severe casualties on England's Army of occupation and the support at local level has kept the morale of Volunteers at an all time high. It is a fact that the barricades are down, but the people have risen.

The statement concluded with an appeal for continued support and co-operation.

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They Said: On August 6th. 1914, Asquith made a speech in the House of Commons in which he said....

"We are fighting to vindicate the principle which in these days, when force, material force sometimes seems to be the dominant influence and factor in the development of mankind, we are fighting to vindicate the principle that small nationalities are not to be crushed, in defiance of international good faith, by the arbitrary will of a stronger and overmastering power."

This is the reason Britain joined the two World Wars, but today we find her imposing that same overmastering power that she fought to destroy.

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THE LIAR'S CLUB.

Since last week, Mr. Faulkner, Maudling and mass-murderer Tuozo have been denying that there was any such organisation as the U.V.F. Perhaps we who have had to bear the attacks of these Orange extremists were imagining these things, perhaps it was only a fantasy that armed thugs had invaded some areas and ordered out people wholesale, perhaps it was only a dream that whole blocks of streets have gone up in flames, set on fire deliberately and in full view of the so-called security forces who were co-operating with these thugs to the limit.

A new liar, Brig. Tickell has now appeared on the screen and after denying the existence of this organisation, he about-faced on Friday 20th. and admitted that there were some U.V.F. men shooting, but of course only on a small scale. He also made the ridiculous statement that there was an element of provocation as some of the bullets fired at soldiers went into Protestant areas. Even so, it is an admission that armed unionists exist, and maybe the Army may finally decide to raid Unionist areas for the arms stored there. Perhaps they may even intern some of these people just to prove their oft repeated boast that they are impartial.

READ AN PHOBLACHT

READ REPUBLICAN NEWS.

"KNIGHTS OF THE RED BRANCH"

An Irish Times correspondent, who had recently been in Belfast, wrote an article in Irish on what he had observed during that visit. Above all things he commended the courage of the young people saying that he was amazed at their determination, courage and out and out bravery. In spite of this he said that he couldn't help feeling sorry for these young boys who in happier times would be playing about the streets, but who were now caught up in such a violent and brutal situation.

He continued, these youngsters show a kind of courage that hasn't been seen since the days of the notorious "Black and Tars". Their maturity and complete disregard for danger has got to be seen to be believed. This must be what the ancient Irish called Mire catha— or Battle fury, but we would just refer to it as "being Irish"

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THIS IS BRITISH JUSTICE.

An experienced English newspaper correspondent stated that in his opinion Internment was brought in not in the vain hope of making wholesale captures of Irish Republican Army personnel, because this was just not on. The aim of introducing Internment was to bring the ordinary people out onto the streets where the British Army could terrorise them by a show of force and in this way stifle all further civilian protest.

But even this experienced journalist did not imagine the lengths to which this show of force would go.

Men, women and children were shot down in cold blood.... British soldiers wrecked and looted homes..... The subsequent brutal and sadistic treatment out to prisoners is unbelievable..... The fact that these prisoners were refused the right to communicate with the outside world for over a week Relations were hindered in their efforts to locate their people, and even when they were granted a visit, they were subjected to the most intensive personal searches.

The evidence against the British Army is indeed overwhelming and has been known to the world. One wonders how the British government is going to get away with this one.

These tactics have paid off in other countries such as Malaya, Aden and Kenya, so they thought it was just a matter of applying them here. But alas they have found out to their cost that this is not so. They must be wondering what manner of people we Irish are to take so much and come bouncing back again so quickly. It was always the Englishman's failing to understand Ireland and her people, to underestimate and fall into his own trap when he tried to impose sanctions or repression on us.

It's a true saying that the English never learn, and one lesson they have yet to learn and that is that you cannot force Irishmen to do anything they don't want to do.

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