



IRELAND'S WAR 40p

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NO 29

11/88

"... THEY SPEAK FOR US... IT IS THE ONLY VOICE BRITAIN UNDERSTANDS."

Martin McGuinness. Sinn Féin, August 1988.

"We do have the ability to win."

The past 2 months have seen 18 members of the crown forces and their agents executed by the Irish Republican Army, 8 of them killed in one devastating bomb attack at Ballygawley, the biggest loss in a single attack on the occupation forces since 1979. Over the same period 74 members of the crown forces have been injured, many of them seriously, in IRA attacks.

In IRELAND'S WAR No.28 we said: ".....Unless Britain brings its 'boys' home voluntarily, the IRA will send them home in coffins in increasing numbers". During the past 2 months this prediction has become a reality. Britain now knows, the whole world now knows that imperialism cannot win its war against Irish freedom, for as MARTIN MCGUINNESS said at this year's Internment Rally in Belfast, "We do have the ability to win".

The British establishment however still seems to have little concern for the fate of its troops. Thatcher is quite content to send more young boys to their certain deaths in Ireland, like the 8 youths at Ballygawley.

But WE want to see an end to this war for tragically over the past 2 months 5 Volunteers of Oglai na hEireann have sacrificed their lives in the cause of freedom. IRELAND NEEDS NO MORE FUNERALS.

The heroic Volunteers of the Irish Republican Army, despite the terrible costs, continue to speak out loudly and clearly for freedom, justice and peace. And they speak, as Martin McGuinness said, in a voice Britain cannot misunderstand. All of us must join in the call for a British withdrawal from Ireland and all of us must do everything in our power to ensure that the British government will not be allowed to prolong the suffering and delay the inevitable any longer.

BRITAIN — GET OUT OF IRELAND!



IRIS

Michael Gaughan

"Events since the death of Volunteer Michael Gaughan do prove one thing. British rule continues by force and collaboration, British rule shall only be broken by those who are willing to confront that force and over-power it - the Republican Movement.

"Today you will hear of the transfer of POWs to places near their loved ones and of the whole variety of force and indignities faced by Irish men and Irish women. And so it was in Michael's day - he heard such calls and so it shall continue to be until we each and all say 'No more, it must stop, it shall stop, we will make it stop'.

"Commemorate Volunteer Michael Gaughan through your acts every day, he died fighting injustice. Pick up his flag and rally to that common cause. Only then shall *Tiocfaidh ár lá* be a reality."

Yours in struggle, GEAROID Mac DOMHNAILL, POW, HMP Leicester.

So ran one message from a POW to the Fourteenth Annual Commemoration for Michael Gaughan. Held outside Parkhurst prison on the Isle of Wight where Michael Gaughan was murdered by force-feeding on the 67th day of his Hunger Strike, the Commemoration was organised by the IRISH REPUBLICAN POW CAMPAIGN (BREATAINE) on 5 June and supported by Republicans from the Midlands and north of England. With flags, banners and enthusiastically shouted slogans they held a meeting, a picket of the prison and broke the barriers of communication through the cold prisons walls to the imprisoned Irish Freedom fighters of 1988.



A highlight of the ceremony was the reading of solidarity messages from the present generation of Irish POWs who are carrying forward the struggle Michael Gaughan gave his young life for. Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg's Hunger Strikes were part of the Repatriation Campaign of the 1970s and by their deaths in fearsome isolation amongst their torturers they achieved for the only time in history the repatriation of four Irish POWs. Messages were read out from POWs in Parkhurst, Albany, Leicester, Gartree, Long Lartin and Wakefield.

The message from the Parkhurst POWs looked back to that heroic struggle and forward with grim determination to the achievement of justice and self-determination for Ireland:

"Our comrade Michael Gaughan gave his life courageously fighting for the right of Irish Political Prisoners to be repatriated. Only four POWs have been transferred to Ireland, Gerry Kelly, Hugh Feeney, Marian and Dolours Price, and then only when on the verge of death after a 213-day Hunger Strike in 1974, the same year Volunteer Michael Gaughan gave his life, for this basic human right. This all contrasts starkly with

the fact that more than 60 British soldiers have been transferred from the 6 Counties, have been transferred from the 6 Counties to England to serve their sentences.

"To the British government we say, you have disregarded the ballot box many times in Ireland's struggle to be free. But the tide has turned and the day is fast approaching when the wishes of our people will be respected.

"The POWs in Parkhurst thank you for your solidarity and for being here today to remember a heroic Freedom Fighter. We look confidently to a future where the apartheid system created in the 6 Counties by the British is dismantled and replaced by a society founded on justice for all the Irish people, Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter."

Beir Bua, PEADAR Mac SEARRAIGH, TOMAS O COIGLIGH, DANNY MCNAMEE, POWs.

NOEL GIBSON, POW in Wakefield reminded listeners that the repatriation and subsequent release of the British army murderer of an innocent Irish citizen pointed up the injustice meted out to the Irish Prisoners and their families, and reiterated the determination of the Prisoners to achieve repatriation:

"Michael's demands were callously ignored by the Home Office despite the fact that convicted members of Brit death squads are automatically transferred to a prison near their homes. The recent release of the convicted murderer Private Thain after serving only 26 months of a life sentence further underlines the hypocritical and discriminatory policy of the Brits who are intent on inflicting the maximum punishment possible on Republican Prisoners and their families.

"Fourteen years after the murder of Michael Gaughan the campaign for the transfer of Republican Prisoners to Ireland continues, but drawing strength and inspiration from our martyred comrade, that campaign shall be won. *Tiocfaidh ár lá*!"

NOEL GIBSON, POW, HMP Wakefield.

The Long Lartin POWs disclosed a new piece of British brutality directed against an Irish POW only that week and sent out a cry of defiance against all those who would deny dignity and justice to the Irish people:

"One of our comrade's mother died only days ago. His brother, serving life in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, was allowed out on a 24-hour parole to attend the funeral. Our comrade in this prison, nearing the end of a 20-year sentence was refused parole to attend.

"Several years ago Whitelaw, baring the bones of the so-called criteria that keeps Irish POWs from being repatriated to jails in Ireland, said in the House of Commons 'that refusal to transfer was a punitive measure'. It was such a punitive measure that killed Michael Gaughan, it was the same punitive measure that denied our comrades' attendance to the funeral of his late beloved mother. We will let Michael's words speak for us all when he said, 'My code of life by which I live would make me refuse anyone's attempt to give up what I believe in'. Let them do their worst, *Tiocfaidh ár lá*! We shall overcome."

REPUBLICAN POWs, HMP Long Lartin.

IRELAND'S WAR congratulates the IRISH REPUBLICAN POW CAMPAIGN (BREATAINE) on its work and dedication in organising the picket both to pay tribute to the death of one of the heroes of Ireland's war of Liberation, and to rally Republicans to even greater efforts for the cause for which Michael Gaughan gave his life.

(Thanks to the IRISH REPUBLICAN POW CAMPAIGN (BREATAINE) for supplying the above information to IRELAND'S WAR).

JOIN A BAND

The H-BLOCK MARTYRS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND (GLASGOW) is looking for new members. If you want to join this Band then write to: FOOTPRINT (HBMRFB) PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G31 4DZ. All enquiries will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.



TIME TO GO MARIA FYFE

The 'TIME TO GO' Charter which calls for a greater discussion on Ireland, and for a British withdrawal from that country, has received the support of many Labour MPs. Among them is Maria Fyfe, MP for Glasgow Maryhill.

The GLASGOW COMMITTEE FOR A BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM IRELAND invited Maria Fyfe to speak at its 8 October "BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND" march and rally. Maria Fyfe refused point blank to speak on the grounds that she would not share a platform with Sinn Féin. Just what sort of discussion on Ireland is Maria Fyfe wanting if it excludes Sinn Féin? With 'friends' like this, who needs enemies?

We already knew it was time for Britain to go. Now we know it's time for Maria Fyfe to go as well.



HOUSE OF COMMONS TEXT OF MARIA FYFE'S LETTER

"Thank you for your letter of 20th July inviting me to join the March and Rally in support of keeping Britain out of Ireland which will take place on the 8th October.

"Although I have recently signed the 'Time to Go' Charter aimed at maximising British support for the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland (sic), I am unwilling to share a platform with the Sinn Féin speakers or their associates (our emphasis).

I sincerely hope you will understand my position on this issue.

Yours sincerely, MARIA FYFE MP.



ANDERSONSTOWN MARTYRS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND AND SONS OF IRELAND
REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN EASTERHOUSE, 20.8.88.

No Extradition...

Around 5,000 people brought the centre of Dublin to a standstill on Saturday 20 August in a massive protest against the Dublin government's plans to extradite Irish patriots to the tender mercies of the British judicial system.

The march and rally, organised by the IRISH ANTI-EXTRADITION COMMITTEE, brought together people from a wide range of views united in their opposition to extradition.

Speaker after speaker condemned the British legal system as fundamentally biased against Irish people and pointed out that those people, like Robert Russell, who face extradition are Political Prisoners.

As Robert's sister said in a letter read out at the rally:

"Our brother is not a criminal.....Robert would not be in prison were it not for his political beliefs and the political situation in the North-East of our country. He was born and grew up in Belfast where his experience of British justice was foreign soldiers on our streets, internment without trial, special courts, armed police, interrogation centres and finally, in his own case, the misery of the H-Blocks."

...Easterhouse

While the national march against extradition was taking place in Ireland, here in Scotland the REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE was marching in Easterhouse, a massive working class housing scheme on the edges of Glasgow.

Hundreds upon hundreds of people turned out to march with the ANDERSONSTOWN MARTYRS, SONS OF IRELAND, WOLFE TONE, RISING PHOENIX and BILLY REID Republican Flute Bands in solidarity with the Irish Republican Movement.

Last year the march at Easterhouse was attacked by loyalists. But this year the parade went ahead uninterrupted by fascist hooligans.

The parade was concluded with the playing of the Soldiers' Song by the ANDERSONSTOWN MARTYRS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND.



WOLFE TONE REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN EASTERHOUSE, 20.8.88.

The RISING PHOENIX REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND (EDINBURGH) is looking for new members. If you want to join this Band then write to: FOOTPRINT (RPRFB), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G31 4DZ. All enquiries will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.



BILLY REID REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN EASTERHOUSE, 20.8.88.



RISING PHOENIX REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND, EASTERHOUSE, 20.8.88.

James Connolly commemorated

After the Labour-controlled council in Edinburgh banned the James Connolly march (see IW 28), the Rising Phoenix Republican Flute Band declared that James Connolly would be commemorated in the city of his birth.

James Connolly was celebrated at a meeting held in Edinburgh earlier this year. Addressing those assembled CONOR FOLEY of the LABOUR COMMITTEE ON IRELAND outlined the nationalist, socialist and internationalist character of James Connolly "one of the greatest socialists to come out of these islands".

Asian activist, member of ANTI-FASCIST ACTION and LABOUR PARTY BLACK SECTIONS, UNMESH DESAI

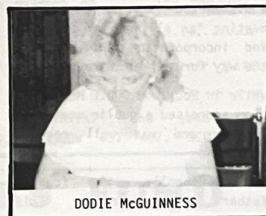
declared that Ireland and anti-racism were the most important issues for us all. He drew the historical and present-day comparisons between the struggles of Black and Irish people from the struggle for India's



UNMESH DESAI

independence to the fight of the Broadwater Farm Youth, a fight which "encapsulates the connection between the Irish and Black struggle". Asking for us all to "find the ground that holds us together" he called for "alliances of anti-imperialist and progressive movements" to be built.

The final speaker of the evening was Derry SINN FEIN COUNCILLOR, DODIE MCGUINNESS who pointed out that Connolly's aims were still the goals to be realised today. "Connolly's vision of freedom, justice and a socialist Ireland is as right today as it was then". She gave a general history of Ireland's freedom struggle saying that all the civil and human rights issues in Ireland "are symptoms of colonial rule in



DODIE MCGUINNESS

Ireland" with self-determination being the "only solution". DODIE MCGUINNESS called for unity here around the demand of British withdrawal. "Look for the issues in which we can find agreement" and "ask people here to support our right to civil liberties and our right to self-determination".

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Irish community's historical solidarity

Dear IRELAND'S WAR,

I have written a little something about the Irish community's contribution to the anti-imperialist struggle which I thought may interest you.

I was footering about my granny's house a few months back and came across a few things of my late grandfather's. Imagine my surprise when I came across and ancient looking green coloured 'IRISH VOLUNTEER' badge and tattered SINN FEIN membership card, from a branch in Glasgow. Apparently the old son-of-a-gun was one of many Scots-born Irish Volunteers. I felt impelled to research and write a few words about these forgotten men and women.

In this, the latest and final phase of the struggle for Irish national liberation, the Irish community in Scotland, under the leadership of the REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE and the GLASGOW IRISH REPUBLICAN POW COMMITTEE, are showing solidarity with their struggling comrades in the 'ould' country by pouring onto the streets in their thousands to give unconditional, non-critical support to the Republican Movement. This, despite the hardened anti-Irish racism of the Labour-controlled Strathclyde Regional Council, the constant police harassment and threats of brute loyalist protest and retaliation. It is plain to see that when the Irish community stand on their own two feet they are a revolutionary force to be reckoned with.



MEMBERS OF THE REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE AND GLASGOW IRISH REPUBLICAN POW COMMITTEE, WITH SUPPORTERS OR IRELAND'S WAR AND OTHERS PICKETING MARYHILL POLICE STATION IN GLASGOW IN OPPOSITION TO THE ANTI-IRISH PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT (PTA).

The Irish community's support for the present-day Republican Movement is but a continuation of the solidarity they have shown in earlier phases of the struggle. The period 1916-21 was one of intense political and military activity for Scotland's Irish community.

A certain amount of gun-running was carried on before 1916 and a considerable number of men and women Volunteers from the Scottish branches of Sinn Fein and Cumann na mBan (the women's military organisation) went to Dublin for the Easter Rising, and the subsequent revolutionary struggle.

From 1918 onwards there was an extensive traffic in arms and ammunition

between Scotland and Ireland. From all over the industrial belt material was collected and dispatched from Glasgow; rifles, revolvers, cartridges, detonators, grenades and gelignite. There was also a regular flow of arms from Germany to Ireland, via Scotland, in the post-war period. Henry Coyle, the Commanding Officer of the IRA in Scotland, was arrested for smuggling arms from Glasgow to Alfoa where he was hoping to set up a base for the collection of material. In all 16 people were put on trial, nine received sentences varying from one to five years. But remarkably, considering the amount of gun-running that was actually going on, captures were relatively few owing to the professional and disciplined manner in which the Volunteers conducted themselves.



VOLUNTEER JIM LYNAGH (LOUGHGALL MARTYR) REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND AND POLLOK REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN DUMBARTON IN SOLIDARITY WITH NELSON MANDELA, LEADER OF THE THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC), 24.6.88.

In 1918 Sinn Fein had 20 Clubs in Scotland, a year later, as the guerrilla war in Ireland intensified, this had grown to 80 Clubs and membership increased eighty-fold. Also, every town had its own Company, or Companies of Volunteers. Glasgow alone had 4,000 IRA Volunteers at this time. Occasionally, high-ranking IRA Officers from Dublin crossed to Scotland to review the Troops near the village of Balmore and the Fenwick Moor, where they were drilled.

So generous were the material and financial contributions from Scotland's Irish community during the guerrilla campaign that de Valera (who later betrayed Republicanism) was of the opinion that it far exceeded that of any other country.

Of all the Irish who left Scotland to participate in the anti-imperialist struggle, none made a bigger impression than the Edinburgh-born James Connolly. Connolly's political and military contribution to Irish Republicanism and socialism is immense, and his written works are still read and treasured to this day, influencing many Republicans, and indeed influencing the very structure and ideology of the Republican Movement itself.

Today, the militant youth of Irish blood who take part in and support Irish Republican marches in Scotland are carrying on a revolutionary tradition of solidarity that goes back generations, right back to a time when 'Paddy' first set foot on Scottish soil. The Irish community with their Republican pride ensure that Glasgow is a city painted green where the Irish heart still beats.

BC, CUMBERNAULD

Connolly <-Page 3

Summing-up, a representative of the RISING PHOENIX REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND announced the formation of a JAMES CONNOLLY COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE and declared to the wholehearted agreement of the meeting "an alliance of Green and Red incorporating anti-racism is the way forward in Edinburgh".

While in Scotland DODIE MCGUINNESS also addressed a public meeting in Glasgow and was well received there.

James Connolly, the founding father of modern-day Irish Republicanism and Socialism was born in Edinburgh and is now at last being commemorated there. But never forget his heart was in Ireland. NORA CONNOLLY O'BRIEN wrote of her father:

"During my last visit to my father before he was executed, he said to me, 'My socialist friends on the Continent will never understand why I am here. They will forget I am an Irishman'.

LONDON PUB EXPOSED TO SECTARIAN ATTACK

The Old Bell pub in Kilburn, London, was exposed to loyalist attack by the daily 'newspaper', THE STAR.

THE STAR ran an article claiming that the Crossmaglen Patriots Republican Flute Band, "wearing green berets and black leather gloves", played in the pub while "IRA blood money" was collected in the form of a collection for "NORRAID". Now, as regular readers of IRELAND'S WAR will know from photographs of the Crossmaglen Patriots Republican Flute Band, the Band do not wear berets. No one can play flutes while wearing any gloves, let alone 'black leather' ones. And collections for Noraid take place in the United States of America, not in London pubs.

In fact the Band was in London to take part in a march for Irish

freedom and the pub collection was to help towards their travel expenses.

Much more serious than these factual errors by THE STAR was that the 'newspaper' contacted the brewery which runs the pub, perhaps in the hope that action would be taken against the landlady. In case this did not happen, THE STAR published the name of the pub's landlady, the address of the pub and a picture of it thus giving every fascist/loyalist crackpot in London full details in the event of them wanting to take matters into their own hands.

However, if the press think they can so easily intimidate the Irish community in London they are very mistaken - they underestimate the determination and solidarity of the people of Kilburn.

Anyway, we know where we will be drinking the next time we visit London!

AN PHOBLACHT Republican News

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BILLY REID

Earlier this year the annual march to commemorate IRA Volunteer Billy Reid was held in the East End of Glasgow. The parade was led by the BILLY REID Republican Flute Band followed by the VOLUNTEER JIM LYNAGH, KEVIN BARRY, YOUNG REPUBLICANS, JOHN 'BAP' KELLY, JAMES CONNOLLY and ANDERSONSTOWN MARTYRS Republican Flute and Accordion Bands.

Once again the BILLY REID REPUBLICAN FLUTE BANDA and the REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE ensured that Volunteer Billy Reid was remembered with dignity and honour. The parade concluded with the playing of the Soldiers' Song by the BILLY REID REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND.



BILLY REID REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND, BILLY REID COMMEMORATION 14.5.88

THE REPUBLICAN BAND ALLIANCE took this opportunity to distribute a leaflet entitled 'WE HONOUR JAMES CONNOLLY. WE HONOUR BILLY REID'. We reprint the text below.

"Last weekend a march due to take place in Edinburgh to commemorate James Connolly was banned.

"The march would have been anti-sectarian and socialist; it would have united Trade Unionists and Republicans; it would have commemorated a Trade Union leader who fought to unite Ireland's divided working class, who fought against British imperialism which divided them, who fought for socialism - and was shot by the British on May 12th, 1916 for leading the Easter Rising.

"The march was stopped by millionaire press owners who printed lies about it; Tory and loyalist bigots who threatened it; and the "left wing" Lothian Labour Council which backed down under this reactionary pressure.

"All true socialists must deplore this so-called "socialist" council: they banned the Connolly march, and then banned one of the 70 loyalist marches scheduled this summer - typical British "fair play"! Now there is no freedom to demonstrate for Socialists and Republicans. This freedom must be fought for. And we WILL march to commemorate Connolly, we WILL march for a united Ireland, in Glasgow this year.

"Today the Republican Band Alliance marches in Parkhead to commemorate Billy Reid, the IRA Volunteer killed by the British army on May 15th, 1971. Both he and Connolly died fighting imperialism."

REMEMBER BILLY REID - REMEMBER JAMES CONNOLLY
TIOCFADH AR LA

T.U. NEWS

The Trade Union ACTT, which has members in the Six counties, has come out in favour of a British withdrawal from Ireland at its annual conference. The resolution reads:

"This annual conference believes that Britain can play no progressive role in Ireland, and

that the only way to bring peace to Ireland is to support the right of national self-determination for the Irish people and to campaign for the immediate withdrawal of troops. This annual conference resolves to:

1. Support the campaign for the immediate removal of British troops from Northern Ireland and the right to self-determination for Irish people;
2. Use with organisations committed to (a) the withdrawal of troops, and (b) self-determination for the Irish people;
3. Call for the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

This adds to the growing awareness among Trade Unions about Ireland and for the need for a British withdrawal.

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IRELAND'S WAR

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SUPPORT AN IRISH P.O.W.

IRELAND'S WAR is being enthusiastically received by Irish POWs in jails in England and Ireland. However to send copies of IRELAND'S WAR and other anti-imperialist literature to all these prisoners costs a huge amount of money - but you can help. Your IRELAND'S WAR SUPPORTERS fee of £3 includes a donation to cover the cost of supplying an Irish POW with a year's copies of IRELAND'S WAR.

You will receive an IRELAND'S WAR SUPPORTERS card and details of what you can do in your area. And an Irish POW will receive IRELAND'S WAR for a year thanks to your support.

I enclose £3 to become an IRELAND'S WAR SUPPORTER and to help an Irish POW to receive IRELAND'S WAR.

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The political conflict in Ireland today is the latest phase in the long struggle of the Irish people to achieve national self-determination. For centuries Ireland has been dominated and exploited by her most powerful neighbour, Britain, which has used all the familiar tactics of colonial rulers to maintain its control. These tactics have always been met with determined resistance from the Irish people, never more so than today in the final phase of the freedom struggle in Ireland.

DIVIDE AND RULE

Ever since the initial invasion in 1169, the British [the term British is used to describe all those who have tried to control Ireland from the island of Britain], have attempted to assert their authority in Ireland in the face of Irish resistance. For more than a thousand years before the British invasion began, the Irish had an individual and highly developed cultural identity, a progressive legal system and established political structures. To undermine and control the Irish nation, the British have had to rely on the classical imperialist tactics of 'divide and rule' and colonisation.

In the early stages of its colonial conquest of Ireland, the British introduced apartheid laws which prohibited social contact, including inter-marriage between the colonists and the Irish. This apartheid legislation failed in its objective, however, because the colonists were few in number and so widely dispersed that they could not maintain their separateness for very long. Almost four centuries after their arrival, the British effectively ruled only a tiny area of Ireland around the present capital city of Dublin, and even this area was subjected to the ever-present reality of Irish resistance. Elsewhere the colonists had, as history records, become more Irish than the Irish themselves, adopting native culture as their own and becoming part of the resistance to British rule.

Britain renewed and intensified its efforts to conquer Ireland in the years following the Protestant Revolution. Since the Irish people remained overwhelmingly Roman Catholic, they were regarded as a potential threat by Protestant Britain, especially in the era of religious wars which erupted in 16th and 17th Century Europe.

PLANTATION

A more effective method of colonisation, known as Plantation, was implemented on a systematic basis with large concentrations of British people being 'planted' in various parts of Ireland where they received land grants. This policy was applied with particular zeal and efficiency in the Northern part of Ireland (Ulster), where Irish resistance to British rule was always strongest. Here, as elsewhere, the native Irish population was dispossessed of its land and forced to flee into mountainous countryside and marshland.

The purpose of the Plantation policy was to pacify Ireland and to stabilise it in the interests of the British government by establishing an effective garrison. The Planters constituted that garrison and their continued loyalty to Britain was secured on the basis of the social, political and economic privileges which they were given and on the continued ability of the British government to keep them divided from the native population.

While the Plantation strategy was generally effective in stabilising British control, it was not always so, and Irish resistance continued throughout the 17th Century until military defeat, dispossession and a series of penal laws combined to stifle opposition to Britain.

UNITED IRISHMEN

By the end of the 18th Century, a new spirit of radicalism and republicanism was spreading. It appeared that Britain's divide and rule policy in Ireland had come unstuck when a section of the Protestant population (descendants of the Planters) joined with their Catholic neighbours in demanding an Irish republic. The United Irishmen, as they became known, rose in rebellion in 1798 but were brutally suppressed by the British and their native allies.

Those allies included the majority of the Protestant population (many of whom were organised in a sectarian masonic movement known as the Orange Order) and also an emerging middle class which included Roman Catholic business people and the Catholic Church hierarchy. All of these saw their interests being guaranteed by continued British rule rather than in a separate Irish republic which would guarantee justice and equality for all its citizens.

ACT OF UNION

In the aftermath of the 1798 rebellion, the British decided that their control could only be guaranteed through direct rule from London. An Act of Union was introduced which transferred the limited legislative powers of the colonial ascendancy to the British parliament where the interests of Ireland and the Irish people were subservient to the demands of an increasingly powerful and ambitious imperialist power.

FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Throughout the 19th Century, as the demand for Irish freedom was raised, and even the demand for limited freedom within the British Empire, the British establishment deliberately fomented sectarian divisions and, when it suited, they gave every encouragement to the Orange Order. The Roman Catholic middle class which developed throughout this period articulated the demand for limited freedom through constitutional methods but they did not want to break the link with Britain. The republican tradition of militant separatism continued to win support amongst the people of no property but a large part of this support base was obliterated in the Great Famine of the 1840s and through continued emigration to Britain, the USA and Australia.

There were several armed uprisings throughout the century but even though they followed in the republican tradition of the United Irishmen they failed to attract the same degree of popular support and were easily suppressed.

HOME RULE

With the gradual extension of the franchise it became clear in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries that the limited independence of 'Home Rule' would have to be conceded if the stability which Britain needed in Ireland was to continue. In Ulster, where the descendants of the Planters still constituted a privileged unionist majority, a pro-British and sectarian armed force called the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) was formed to resist the democratic demands of the Irish people as a whole. The British refused to move against this force and senior political and military figures encouraged its development.

By the early years of the present century, a clear pattern had emerged between the major political forces in Ireland, a pattern which continues to this day with the limited demands of constitutional nationalism being strenuously opposed by unionists and diluted by British administrations anxious to ensure that their self-interest was defended. Two events combined to shatter that pattern, for a time at least. First was the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, which put the issue of Home Rule on the back-burner of British political considerations, and second was the decision by Irish separatist forces including the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army to take advantage of Britain's involvement in a global conflict to strike a blow for freedom in the ranks of a combined force which became known as the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

EASTER RISING

On Easter Monday 1916, the Irish Republic was declared and a Provisional Government established in arms by the IRA. After a week of fighting which was largely confined to Dublin, the superior armed power of the British succeeded in crushing the rebellion.

The subsequent executions of the republican leaders and the imprisonment of the rank-and-file was resented by ordinary Irish people. Many who had not supported the rebellion changed their opinions and popular support for Irish separatism grew from a tiny fringe to a mass movement.

Repression breeds resistance and, as the British vainly tried to restore stability by force and the threat of force, a strengthened Republican Movement emerged from internment camps in Britain to be greeted as heroes at home. The resurgent spirit of separatism found its political expression in support for Sinn Fein and its militant vanguard in the ranks of the IRA.

Evidence that Britain would continue to ignore the democratic will of the Irish people was provided by the general election of 1918 which saw Sinn Fein emerge with a massive majority of the Irish seats, and more than enough to justify the establishment of an Irish parliament (Dail Eireann) independent of Britain. Instead of accepting the democratic will of the Irish electorate, the British tried to suppress Dail Eireann and jailed many of its elected members. Faced with British violence, the IRA fought a guerrilla campaign between 1919 and 1921 which eventually forced Britain to the negotiating table.

PARTITION

The outcome of those negotiations had, to some extent, been decided by the British a year earlier with the creation of the 'Northern Ireland' statelet. This statelet was established on the basis of a sectarian head-count which created an artificial majority comprising the privileged unionist/pro-British population which was concentrated in that area. These were given their own devolved structure of government in return for their continued service as a strategically important British garrison.

The delegation which conducted the negotiations with the British agreed to a set of proposals contained in a Treaty. Those proposals fell far short of the republic declared in 1916 and established by the popular will of the Irish people in 1918. The Treaty established two states in Ireland: one a neo-colonial 'Free State' still tied politically and economically to Britain but with the trappings of freedom, the other the colonial 'Northern Ireland' statelet.

IN IRELAND

Supported by the most reactionary elements of Irish society including the unionists, the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy and major commercial interests (none of whom had ever supported the struggle for freedom), the Treaty was forced on the Irish people under threat of "immediate and terrible war". An emerging Free State government which had British backing set about crushing republican opposition to the deal. A civil war ensued but the republican forces which tried so desperately to avoid war were quickly defeated by the increasingly well-armed and ruthless army of the Treaty supporters.

STATES OF DIVISION

Successive 26-County governments have, since the creation of their state claimed that the reunification of Ireland is their primary political objective. Apart from verbalising on the issue, however, they have done nothing to achieve reunification. On the contrary, Dublin-based governments have, from the beginning, contributed to the growth of partitionist attitudes within their own state by encouraging the development of a Roman Catholic ethos rather than the non-sectarian pluralism of Irish republicanism.

In this and in the declaration of a nominal republic in 1949 they have shown that their real aim is to maintain the status quo. This is confirmed by the efforts of those governments to undermine and defeat republican campaigns against the 'Northern Ireland' statelet, efforts which have included continuous emergency legislation since 1939, the use of internment and active collaboration with the British authorities including the extradition of republican activists.

With the guarantee of British support for their position, Northern unionists set about building their statelet on the basis of political, social, and economic privileges for their own artificial majority at the expense of the equally artificial anti-unionist minority. For nearly 50 years of unbroken unionist rule from the Stormont parliament outside Belfast, Northern Catholics were forced to endure blatant discrimination in the allocation of jobs and houses. In areas of local government administration where anti-unionists were in an electoral majority, a system of electoral rigging was introduced to turn those majorities into minorities.

A wide range of repressive laws - which later became the envy of the apartheid regime in South Africa - was enforced by vindictive and puritanical Stormont administrations while the colonial government in Britain (whether Conservative or Labour) simply ignored what was happening in the North of Ireland.

In every decade of Stormont rule, the IRA launched military campaigns of varying intensity against the Northern state but without success. The absence of a radical political leadership within the anti-unionist population meant that popular support for a sustained campaign of armed struggle could not be mobilised.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Following the emergence of a Civil Rights movement for blacks in the USA in the mid-1960s, a similar popular movement grew within anti-unionist areas of the Northern state. As this movement's campaign of peaceful street protests gained momentum in the late 1960s, the full force of state repression was used to crush it. The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), a sectarian and paramilitary police force, and its equally sectarian reserve force, the B-Specials, were deployed by the Stormont government to beat Civil Rights marchers off the streets.

British troops were sent to Ireland in 1969, ostensibly to act as impartial mediators but in reality to lend support to the battle-weary RUC and B-Specials and to restore British control. As these troops adopted an aggressively pro-unionist stance it became increasingly clear to a growing number of anti-unionists that the institutional injustices which had prompted the Civil Rights campaign were merely symptoms of a deeper-rooted injustice - the very existence of the 'Northern Ireland' statelet. Many people concluded that peaceful and democratic methods could never radically alter the nature of a state which was established and sustained by violent and anti-democratic methods. For them it became clear that the solution lay in the dismantling of the state, ending British rule and reuniting Ireland.

RESISTANCE

The IRA re-emerged, in a defensive capacity at first, following a series of pogroms which were directed against anti-unionist areas of Belfast and other urban centres. Confronted by unionist opposition to even the limited reforms demanded by the Civil Rights movement, and faced with violence from the official state forces as well as unofficial pro-British forces, the popular resistance campaign quickly evolved into a revolutionary struggle for self-determination. This revolution, which continues to this day, is fought on many levels (political, cultural and social) and is spearheaded by the armed struggle of the IRA, whose actions are directed against the clearly-perceived forces of British rule and against the political and economic forces which sustain that rule.

DETENTION

IRELAND'S WAR ADVISES:

For your own protection and that of your friends, relatives and comrades - if arrested or detained: be prepared to give your name, address, date of birth, place of birth and your age. **DO NOT GIVE ANY OTHER INFORMATION.** Ask for a lawyer and for your own doctor if you need one. Other than this **REMAIN TOTALLY SILENT.** SAY NOTHING. **SILENCE IS YOUR ONLY PROTECTION.**

British policy throughout this revolutionary struggle has been aimed at defeating Irish republicanism, thereby restoring the stability which is necessary for them to reassert effective control. Believing that this could be achieved through a strategy of counter-insurgency similar to the tactics employed in other colonies such as Cyprus, Kenya and Malaya, the British tried to crush the revolution by introducing internment and saturating the towns and countryside with soldiers.

CRIMINALISATION

This 'mailed fist' approach failed to defeat the IRA but it did have the effect of ending the mass street demonstrations of the Civil Rights campaign as rubber, plastic and lead bullets were used to disperse such demonstrations. In the absence of massive street demonstrations it became increasingly difficult to quantify the level of support which the revolution enjoyed. Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Irish Republican Movement, had no positive electoral role as its activities were mainly confined to protest activities. Without any evidence of demonstrable popular support for republicanism, a second phase of the British counter-insurgency campaign began. This was based on isolating and then criminalising the revolution.

The RUC took over the front-line role of the British army to give the impression that the conflict was merely a policing problem. Alongside this, internment and political status were phased out and a specially-designed judicial and penal system was introduced to criminalise republican activists.

The prisoners resisted criminalisation, however, and it was their heroic protest campaign between September 1976 and the hunger-strikes of 1981 which undermined the British strategy and mobilised national and international interest in the Irish struggle.

Against all the odds, the IRA survived the dark periods from the mid to the late 1970s when torture centres and special Diplock courts were used to railroad people into jail and the media was used to implement the policy of isolating republicans. Even though these tactics continue today, in addition to shoot-to-kill and paid perjurer strategies, a re-organised and increasingly politicised army committed to maintaining the armed struggle as long as necessary emerged in the 1980s.

Like the IRA, Sinn Féin learned lessons from this period, especially the need to develop an effective political strategy which would complement the armed struggle, counter further attempts to isolate republicanism, and lay the basis for the political, cultural and economic reconquest of Ireland.

THE HILLSBOROUGH STRATEGY

It has been the development of Sinn Féin as an electoral force throughout Ireland (presenting a radical alternative to both the colonial and neo-colonial administrations) and the continued ability of the IRA to challenge the British presence which led to the latest counter-insurgency strategy - the Hillsborough Agreement.

This strategy attempts to undermine the republican struggle by encouraging the middle-class within the anti-unionist population to accept and support the constitutional status quo and British repressive measures. In exchange, the British promised to introduce reforms in 'Northern Ireland', a promise that has angered unionists who perceive it as a threat to their privileged position.

To a large extent the unionist campaign of opposition to the Agreement has obscured the fact that the central purpose of the strategy (the defeat of republicanism) has been totally unsuccessful. Popular support for the republican position has not been eroded because, after almost 20 years of constant struggle and 800 years of similar British strategies, a growing number of Irish people recognise that there can be neither peace nor justice until Britain, the source of violence, injustice and divisions, allows the Irish people, both natives and colonists, the right to determine their own future as equals in a united and sovereign Ireland.

LETTERS

IRELAND'S WAR welcomes letters from its readers. This is your paper - let us know what you think. Write to: FOOTPRINT, (IW), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW, G31 4DZ. (Long letters may have to be edited for reasons of space.)

WOLFE TONE

THEOBALD WOLFE TONE - A UNITER OF CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT AND DISSENTER

Theobald Wolfe Tone was born on 20 June, 1763, the eldest son of a Protestant coachmaker. In 1791, after completing his studies and qualifying as a lawyer, he published his pamphlet "AN ARGUMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CATHOLICS IN IRELAND". In October of that year, along with James Napper Tandy, Thomas Russell and Samuel Neilson, he founded the SOCIETY OF UNITED IRISHMEN. Setting forth the aims and methods of the UNITED IRISHMEN, still adhered to by the present-day Irish Republican Movement, Tone declared it was:

"To subvert the tyranny of our execrable government, to break the connection with England, the never-failing source of all our political evils and to assert the independence of my country - these were my objects: To unite the whole people, to abolish the memory of all past dissensions and to substitute the common name of Irishman in place of the denominations of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter. These were my means".

As the founding father of Irish Republicanism Tone was inspired by the democratic principles of the French Revolution embodied in the demand "LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY", and in 1796 Tone arrived in Paris to seek French assistance for the Irish independence struggle.

The 1798 Rising saw Tone step up his campaign to persuade the French to invade Ireland and defeat the English oppressors of his country. On 16 September Tone set sail with 3,000 men but they were forced to surrender after a battle with the English fleet off the coast of Donegal.

Tone was tried by a Court Martial in Dublin and sentenced to death by hanging. Wearing his French military uniform he, like the present-day Republican POWs, rejected the tag of 'criminal' which the British tried to pin on him and requested a soldier's death by firing-squad. On the morning of his execution he was found dead in his cell in Arbour Hill prison and debate still continues as to whether Tone was murdered by English agents or whether he took his own life to deprive the English of their final act in the attempt to criminalise him and the struggle to which he dedicated his life.

Theobald Wolfe Tone was buried in Bodinstown Churchyard, Kildare and each year the Republican Movement gathers there to remember the man who united Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter in pursuit of their common destiny - a free, united Ireland.

The CROSSMAGLEN PATRIOTS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND (WISHAW) is looking for new members. If you want to join this Band then write to: FOOTPRINT (CPRFB), PO BOX 219, GLASGOW G31 4DZ. All enquiries will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.



CROSSMAGLEN PATRIOTS REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING AT THE WOLFE TONE COMMEMORATION, 25.6.88.



'WE WANT OUR COUNTRY!'

The annual Bodinstown Commemoration provides the Republican Movement with an opportunity to assess the progress of the previous year and to map-out the political path for the future. PAT DOHERTY of SINN FEIN told this year's Bodinstown Rally:

"The only solution to the present political conflict in Ireland is the ending of partition, a British disengagement from Ireland, and the restoration to the Irish people their right to sovereignty, independence and national self-determination.

"Sinn Fein's view is that the British government needs to be met with a firm, united and unambiguous demand from all Irish nationalist parties for an end to the unionist veto and for a declaration of a date for withdrawal.

"Within the new situation created by these measures, it is then a matter of business-like negotiations between representatives of all the Irish

REPUBLICAN PUBLICATIONS

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parties - and this includes those who represent today's loyalist voters - to set the constitutional, economic, social and political arrangements for a new Irish state.

"We assert that the loyalist people must be given, in common with all other Irish citizens, firm guarantees of their religious and civil liberties, and we believe that, faced with a British withdrawal and the removal of partition, a considerable body of loyalist opinion would accept the wisdom of negotiating for the type of society which would reflect their needs as well as the needs of all the other people in Ireland.

"The establishment of a society free from British interference, with the Union at an end, will see sectarianism shrivel, and with the emergence of class politics, a realignment of political forces along the lines of left and right. The Irish democracy thus created will usher in the conditions for a permanent peace, a demilitarisation of the situation, and the creation of a just society.

"Within that general strategy position the aim of our political struggle in the Six Counties is to popularise opposition to British rule and to extend that opposition into some form of broad, anti-imperialist campaign. Our main political task is to turn political opposition to British rule in Ireland into a political demand for national self-determination. That demand will be realised when the commitment of the British government to remain in Ireland is eroded.

"The aim of our political struggle is to bring the British government to the point where it wants to leave by:

- * Frustrating British efforts to physically control the Six Counties;
- * Highlighting the coercive and colonial nature of the 6 County State;
- * Creating a broad-based, anti-imperialist movement;
- * Developing the process of winning the confidence of the unionist population;
- * Winning widespread public opinion around to see the correctness of this analysis.

"Sinn Fein seeks to create conditions which will lead to a permanent cessation of hostilities, an end to the long war, and the development of a peaceful, united, independent and democratic Irish society. Such objectives will only be achieved when a British government adopts a strategy for decolonisation.

"It must begin by repealing the Government of Ireland Act and publicly declaring that the 'Northern Ireland' statelet is no longer part of the 'United Kingdom'. Furthermore, it must declare that its military forces and its system of political administration will remain only for as long as it takes to arrange their permanent withdrawal. This would need to be accomplished within the shortest practical period. A definite date within the lifetime of a British government would need to be set for the completion of this withdrawal.

"Such an irreversible declaration of intent would minimise any loyalist backlash and would go a long way towards bringing around to reality most loyalists and those of their representatives genuinely interested in peace and negotiation. It would be the business of such negotiations to set the constitutional, economic, social and political arrangements for a new Irish state through a constitutional conference."

In finishing his speech which also paid tribute to the fallen Volunteers of the previous year PAT DOHERTY declared:

"As I come to the conclusion of this speech, I would like to make one thing clear and it is this - we will win this struggle. It is only a question of time. The more people who put their shoulder to the wheel, the shorter the time it will take. It is as straightforward as that.

"And finally, to the British government, I repeat Sean MacDiarmada's words: "DAMN YOUR CONCESSIONS, ENGLAND. WE WANT OUR COUNTRY!"

CHE GUEVARA and the CUBAN REVOLUTION

"wherever death may surprise us, let it be welcome if our battle cry has reached even one receptive ear, if another hand reaches out to take up arms and other men come forward to join in our funeral dirge with the rattling of machine guns and with new cries of battle and victory".

CHE GUEVARA.

"His battle cry will reach not just one receptive ear, but millions of receptive ears. And not one hand but millions of hands will reach out to take up arms...His death - or rather his example - will have tremendous repercussions. The force of that example will be invincible".

FIDEL CASTRO.

The publication of "CHE GUEVARA AND THE CUBAN REVOLUTION" is an important contribution to understanding the life and work of the great revolutionary leader Che Guevara. Published by PATHFINDER/PACIFIC AND ASIA in collaboration with the JOSÉ MARTÍ FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE OF HAVANA, CUBA, on the 20th anniversary of Che's murder in Bolivia, this book brings together 350 pages of writings, speeches and letters of Che Guevara, a central leader of the Cuban Revolution.

Che's father, Ernesto Guevara Lynch, was of Irish extraction living in Argentina where Che was born and subsequently trained as a doctor. In 1955 Che met Fidel Castro and enrolled as the 3rd confirmed member of the Cuban guerrilla forces. In 1956 Castro and Guevara landed in Cuba and began the struggle to overthrow the vile Batista regime. After 3 years of tireless struggle, in which Che Guevara played a leading role, Batista fled Cuba on 1st January 1959, and a revolutionary government was installed.

Between 1959-1965 Che worked as part of the Cuban government's leadership. In 1965 Guevara announced in a letter to Fidel Castro his decision to leave Cuba in order to continue his revolutionary work abroad.

"Fidel...I feel that I have fulfilled that part of my duty that tied me to the Cuban revolution in its territory, and I say goodbye to you, to the comrades, to your people, who are now mine...Other nations of the world call for my modest efforts...I want it known that I do so with a mixture of joy and sorrow. I leave here the purest of my hopes as a builder and the dearest of my loved ones. And I leave a people who received me as a son. That wounds a part of my spirit. I carry to new battlefronts the faith that you taught me, the revolutionary spirit of my people, the feeling of fulfilling the most sacred of my duties: To fight against imperialism wherever it may be. This comforts and heals the deepest wounds..."

"I have always been identified with the foreign policy of our revolution

and I continue to be. Wherever I am, I will feel the responsibility of being a Cuban revolutionary, and I shall behave as such..."

"Hasta La Victoria Siempre! [Ever Onwards To Victory]

"Patria O Muerte! [Homeland Or Death]

"I embrace you with all my revolutionary fervour, Che".

In late 1965 Guevara helped the revolutionary forces in the Congo, and then, in 1966 landed in Bolivia. The first military action, an ambush on a Bolivian army column, took place in March 1967. In October Che was seriously wounded and captured by Bolivian troops. On the orders of the US CIA Che Guevara was murdered on October 9, 1967.

The book, "CHE GUEVARA AND THE CUBAN REVOLUTION", edited by DAVID DEUTSCHMANN, reprints a wide selection of Che's writings, some published in English for the first time. The Cuban revolutionary war, building socialism in Cuba, internationalism, as well as Che's letters, are all covered in the book.

Speaking at the launch of the book in Cuba, FÉLIX SAUTÍÉ, Director of the JOSÉ MARTÍ PUBLISHING HOUSE said:

"Working together, PATHFINDER/PACIFIC AND ASIA along with our JOSÉ MARTÍ PUBLISHING HOUSE managed to put together a book that would be useful in the most far-flung countries".

Going on, he said the book was produced,

"as a tool and a weapon of revolutionary action that would be useful to revolutionary cadres from different sectors of society - for men and women of action, that is, for all people who honestly want a real change in the world. We especially hope our book will become an inspiration for young people."

"CHE GUEVARA AND THE CUBAN REVOLUTION" can be obtained from PATHFINDER, 47 THE CUT, LONDON SE1 8LL, PRICE £7.25 plus p+p.

MARCH REPORTS

We had planned to report in this issue on Republican marches held in Edinburgh, Coatbridge and Dumbarton. But all 3 parades were banned by Labour-controlled Regional Councils.

Coatbridge march

BANNED
BY LABOUR CONTROLLED
STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL
COUNCIL

The Labour Party leadership is always fond of telling us that we live in a free country and that the Irish Republican Movement should use the democratic channels to campaign for a united Ireland. Yet the Labour-controlled Lothian Regional Council seems determined to ban all marches in solidarity with the Republican Movement, while Strathclyde Regional Council only allows certain parades and often surrounds them with numerous restrictions in an attempt to limit their public impact. So much for 'democratic channels'.

Edinburgh march

BANNED
BY LABOUR CONTROLLED
LOTHIAN REGIONAL
COUNCIL

It is time for us all to unite in a massive CAMPAIGN FOR FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND to force Lothian Regional Council to drop its ban on all Irish solidarity parades,

and to prevent Strathclyde Regional Council from following the undemocratic example of their Labour Party colleagues in Edinburgh. As the Republican Band Alliance told IRELAND'S WAR in their interview with us [see IW No.28],

"The right to assemble and march was not given down by some philanthropic establishment some time in the past. It was fought for and won by militant workers."

Dumbarton march

BANNED
BY LABOUR CONTROLLED
STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL
COUNCIL

"What is happening to peoples' right to march is part of the erosion of their rights to organise in general.....somebody will have to fight. The working class won the right to demonstrate, to organise, through agitation and militancy. And we have no right to surrender it meekly."

GLASGOW I.W.

If you support the work of IRELAND'S WAR and want to help produce and sell it - to help to build solidarity with the Irish Republican Movement - then join the Glasgow IRELAND'S WAR Support Group.

Write to: FOOTPRINT, (GLASGOW I.W.), P.O. BOX 219, GLASGOW, G31 40Z.

Wolfe Tone remembered in Scotland

Each year the WOLFE TONE REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND from Craignek, Scotland commemorate their namesake by marching around their local area - an area dominated by the Ravenscraig Steel Works, scene of much revolutionary activity and spirited picketing during the Miners Strike. It is a march which always draws a large crowd and this year was no exception. 10 other Republican Bands joined with the Wolfe Tone Band (Billy Reid, Kevin Barry, Crossmaglen Patriots, Coatbridge Republicans, Sons of Ireland, Young Republicans, Pollok, Volunteer Jim Lynagh, James Connolly and Rising Phoenix), to remember the man who was one of the leaders of the 1798 Rising - a rising led in the main by Protestants. It was therefore sad to see a crowd outside an Orange Hall display their obvious ignorance of history and reject such a glorious chapter in the Protestant past when they turned out to heap abuse on those commemorating Wolfe Tone.

The marchers however refused to be provoked by the taunts of the bigots and the march proceeded in a dignified manner. The commemoration ended with the playing of the Irish National Anthem by the Wolfe Tone Republican Flute Band.



JAMES CONNOLLY REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING AT THE WOLFE TONE COMMEMORATION, 25.6.88.

RACISM IN GOVAN

About two hundred yards away there was savage noise of breaking glass and hoarse shouting. In the evening light we could just see the figures darting around in front of a small shop in Copland Road. We walked towards the noise and could start to make out chants of 'Black bastards'. Youngsters, some aged not much more than twelve or thirteen, were heaving up the newspaper boards and smashing them against the glass.

Sinn Féin Appeal

The military and political enemies of Irish independence are strong. In the British occupation of the Six Counties, republicans must meet the might of one of the strongest military, political, economic and propaganda machines in the world. Britain and its allies, especially the Dublin government, dominate not only the fighting ground in the Six Counties but also the political arena and the media through which the British government defends its unjust and oppressive presence in our country.

In comparison, the resources of republicans are small. The political battle for national self-determination and lasting peace with justice has to be fought on many fronts and in many campaigns in Ireland and abroad. As well as focusing attention on the root cause of violence and suffering in the Six Counties, the progressive forces in our country must combat all aspects of repression and censorship.

In all of this work the dedication of political activists and supporters has been unfailing. But to increase their effectiveness and speed the struggle towards our goal they need more resources. Above all they need more finance. They need your help. Please contribute whatever you can to the cause of Irish freedom.

George Adams

President of Sinn Féin
Member of Parliament for West Belfast



The success of our work depends on the measure of your help. Please give generously to our appeal for funds.

All donations to:-

Joe Cahill & Lydia Comiskey
Sinn Féin Head Office
44 Parnell Square
Dublin 1
Ireland
Telephone 726932/726100
FAX 733074

(All donations will be gratefully acknowledged)

Two older youths, one with a stake in his hand, were attacking two Indians trying to defend the door. Across the road men lounging in front of a pub were laughing. This was the winter of 1986-87.

The old burghs of Govan and Kinning Park have long histories as industrial and working class communities. Incorporated into the City of Glasgow at the beginning of this century, they had grown up over the previous two generations around the shipyards of Govan and the docks of Kinning Park. From the beginning their histories have been marked by alternating periods of ethnic conflict and ethnic harmony. In the 1860s and 70s almost all the families were immigrant - from the Lowlands of Scotland, the Highlands and from Ireland. Many of those from Ireland and the Highlands only spoke English as a second language.

Originally, in the raw fight for employment, employers utilised ethnic conflicts to ensure they kept control over a divided workforce. In the 1870s and 1880s both communities saw serious racial violence. It was in the main directed against the Irish and involved attacks on both homes and chapels. The rise of a mass trade union and Labour movement in the 1890s and 1900s largely depended on overcoming these divisions, and by the time of the first world war the worst of the racial conflict was over. Tension between Catholic and Protestant always remained beneath the surface, however, and in the period of mass unemployment in the 1930s there was a final upsurge of racist conflict between the two communities.

In the 1980s we again have mass unemployment on Clydeside. We have also seen a return of racism to the streets of Govan and Kinning Park - now directed against the Asian community. This population, established in the area since the last war, was not seriously menaced in the 1950s and 60s when high standards of working class solidarity and community support prevailed. Over the past ten years racial harassment has been an increasing problem.

RACIST ACTIVITY

Its base is strongest among the teenage population. The first serious signs of racist activity were in the secondary schools in the early 1980s and next on the football terraces at Ibrox [home of Glasgow Rangers FC - IW]. Some activity by the National Front and later by the British National Party was also recorded. In 1985-87 things took a further turn for the worse with a series of violent attacks on Asian shops. A number of serious injuries occurred. Low-level harassment of individuals and families also increased. Every Asian family could give instances from their personal experience.

The main reason for having at least some optimism in 1988 is

that the local community has taken some steps to organise itself to resist racist and fascist activity. In 1984-5 the local Community Councils first came together to discuss the problem and to secure stronger police intervention. Since 1986 COMMUNITIES UNITED, which brings together the Community Councils and representatives of the Asian population, has actively sought to promote multicultural unity. There is still racism and racial harassment in Govan. But there are

now also more people who understand the importance of unity in fighting for the needs of all sections of the local community.

The above article was written by COMMUNITIES UNITED and first appeared in the newsletter of the SCOTTISH ANTI-RACIST MOVEMENT (SARM), September 1988.

For more information on Scotland's campaigning anti-racist movement write to: SARM, c/o SAAC, 537 SAUCHIEHALL STREET, GLASGOW.

An Cumann Cabhrach

NAME	NUMBER	BIRTHDAY	PRISON
Michael McKenney	L46486	7 February	Frankland
John McComb	851715	25 February	Long Lartin
Ella O'Dwyer	D25135	3 March	Durham
Gerry Cunningham	132016	24 March	Long Lartin
Shaun McShane	875898	13 April	Maidstone
Martina Anderson	D25134	16 April	Durham
Eddie Butler	338637	17 April	Frankland
Patrick Hackett	342603	28 April	Parkhurst
Joe O'Connell	338635	15 May	Gartree
Patrick Magee	875881	29 May	Leicester
Con McFadden	130662	19 June	Frankland
Paul Holmes	119034	22 June	Frankland
Peter Sherry	875882	30 June	Parkhurst
Brian Keenan	826380	17 July	Leicester
Tommy Quigley	69204	23 July	Parkhurst
Stephen Nordone	758663	2 August	Gartree
Paul Kavanagh	1888	12 August	Leicester
Ronnie McCartney	463799	3 September	Gartree
Martin Brady	119087	22 September	Albany
Vince Donnelly	274064	25 September	Long Lartin
Harry Duggan	338638	31 October	Parkhurst
Roy Walsh	119083	1 November	Gartree
Sean Kinsella	758661	5 November	Albany
Paul Norney	863532	11 November	Wormwood Scrubs
Brendan Dowd	758662	17 November	Frankland
James Bennett	464989	4 December	Long Lartin
Liam Baker	464984	6 December	Long Lartin
Hugh Doherty	338636	7 December	Long Lartin
Noel Gibson	879225	11 December	Wakefield
Gerry McDonnell	875880	19 December	Leicester
Natalino Vella	871644	24 December	Parkhurst
William Armstrong	119085	26 December	Full Sutton

ADDRESSES OF JAILS IN ENGLAND

Gartree Prison, Leicester Road, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 7RP.
Wakefield Prison, Love Lane, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF2 9AG.
Long Lartin Prison, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs., WR11 5TZ.
Frankland Prison, Finchale Avenue, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5SB.
Maidstone Prison, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1UZ.
Parkhurst Prison, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX.
Leicester Prison, Welford Road, Leicester, LE2 7AJ.
Full Sutton Prison, Stamford Bridge, East Riding.
Albany Prison, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5RS.
Durham Prison, Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HU.

IRELAND'S WAR urges you to show solidarity with the P.O.s by writing to them and by sending birthday cards.

Support the work of your local POW Committee: GLASGOW: POW COMMITTEE PH3, 340 WEST PRINCES STREET, GLASGOW G4. LONDON: WOLFE TONE SOCIETY BM BOX 6191, LONDON WC1N 3XX. DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME.

AN CUMANN CABHRACH (BRITAIN) down the years continue to raise funds on behalf of Republican Prisoners and their dependants. All funds collected or donated are used solely for that much needed worthy cause and any donation will be much appreciated and acknowledged. The measure of our support to alleviate as much as possible hardship on the Republican Prisoners and their dependants relies a good deal on the generosity of those caring people who send or give their donations to us. No matter how hard working or dedicated our people working for this worthy cause may be, it is ultimately the donations received that makes all of our organisation's necessary work possible. Please give them NOW and as OFTEN as possible your fullest support - "they never failed us - we must not fail them". AN CUMANN CABHRACH (IRELAND) work under the direction of AN CUMANN CABHRACH (IRELAND). All donations should be payable to: PHOENIX AID ASSOCIATION, c/o IHSC (BIRMINGHAM), PO BOX 540, SPARKHILL, BIRMINGHAM B11 4AU.

GOVAN MARCH

The locally-based JAMES CONNOLLY REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND led a march through Govan, Glasgow, at the end of July. They were joined by the POLLOK REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND in this march for Irish freedom.

Hundreds of local people turned out to support the parade demonstrating once again the tremendous support that exists in Govan for the Irish Republican Movement. The parade concluded with the playing of the Soldiers' Song by the JAMES CONNOLLY REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND.

During the 1980s Govan has experienced some racist activity, [see article P.10], and it was therefore encouraging to see numerous SCOTTISH ANTI-RACIST MOVEMENT posters displayed in the area. IRELAND'S WAR was informed after the parade that supporters of the JAMES CONNOLLY REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND had been involved in putting up these anti-racist and anti-fascist posters. Unity against British imperialism, whether it be in the form of imperialism's occupation of Ireland or in the form of racism here, is clearly vital if we are to achieve success. And once again we see the Republican Bands in the forefront of building this unity.



POLLOK REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND, MARCHING IN GOVAN, 29.7.88.

INDIAN WORKERS ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR A BRITISH WITHDRAWAL

The following poem was given to IRELAND'S WAR by the General Secretary of the Glasgow Branch of the Indian Workers Association.

IRISH QUESTION

Irish question, is a burning question, a question of our time.
It demands its answer every moment, at every Big Ben's chime.

The solution to Ireland's ongoing tragedy lies in Britain's action.
The British withdrawal from Ireland, should be a central political question.

The Time To Go Charter is a clarion call of the time.

A British initiative directed towards the British people now, is here.
Clare Short MP launched this initiative for the British people is quite clear.

To understand, where we stand and the key is in our hand this time.

Anglo-Irish Hillsborough Agreement won't solve the problem.

This 'divide and rule' policy won't do, this in itself is the problem.
Let North and south meet in the United Ireland to keep them apart is a crime.



JAMES CONNOLLY REPUBLICAN FLUTE BAND MARCHING IN GOVAN, 29.7.88.

I.R.A. THE CUTTING EDGE OF REVOLUTION.

JUNE

- 18 (Strabane) 4 Brits injured in impact grenade attack.
- 21 (South Down) 2 impact grenades hit an unmarked RUC vehicle.
- 21 (Cookstown) UDR base fired on, 1 civilian worker injured.
- 21 (Belfast) Broadway Tower observation post fired on.
- 21 (Six Counties) IRA statement warns civilians against working for crown forces.
- 22 (Belfast) 1 British soldier shot.
- 22 (Derry) 1 UDR man shot and seriously wounded.
- 23 (Six Counties) IRA statement issued on the operation which killed 6 Brits in Lisburn.
- 23 (South Armagh) British army helicopter shot down.
- 28 (Lisnaskea) IRA apologised for injuring a civilian in an attack meant for a UDR man.
- 30 (Belfast) Rocket and gun attack on North Queen St. barracks.
- 30 (Belfast) Brit army surveillance cameras situated on Mackies engineering works fired on. Owners of Mackies warned to stop assisting crown forces.

JULY

- 3 (Strabane) Rocket attack on Brit army/RUC mobile patrol.
- 7 (South Armagh) Informers given 7 days to leave Ireland.
- 7 (Belfast) 400th British soldier killed by booby-trap bomb.
- 7 (Belfast) IRA apologised for the accidental deaths of 2 civilians in anti-personnel bomb attack.
- 7 (East Tyrone) Mortar attack on Stewartstown army/RUC barracks.
- 7 (East Tyrone) Volunteer Seamus Woods tragically killed in mortar and gun attack on Pomeroy barracks.
- 9 (Belfast) Broadway Tower observation post fired on.
- 12 (Belfast) Gun attack on Springfield Road barracks.
- 12 (Derry) Grenade attack on RUC.
- 13 (Derry) Grenade attack on Strand Road RUC barracks.
- 13 (West Germany) 9 Brits injured in bomb attack on barracks.
- 14 (Cookstown) Impact grenade attack on unmarked RUC car.
- 15 (Belfast) 1 Brit shot and seriously wounded.
- 15 (Derry) Impact grenade attack on RUC mobile patrol.
- 17 (Derry) Grenade attack on Bishop St. army observation post.
- 21 (Beleek) IRA issued statement that an unexploded bomb was still in position.
- 20 (East Tyrone) IRA forced to abandon landmine attack.
- 23 (Strabane) Grenade attack on RUC barracks.
- 25 (Belfast) Volunteer Brendan Davison assassinated by loyalist death squad.
- 23 (Killeen) IRA issued statement apologising for the deaths of members of the Hanna family killed by a bomb intended for High Court Judge, Ian Higgins.

- 26 (Belfast) IRA paid final tribute to Vol. Brendan Davison.
- 27 (South Armagh) 2 RUC, 2 Brits injured, 1 Brit killed in landmine attack.
- 28 (Derry) IRA forced to abandon 1,000lb landmine.
- 28 (Belfast) Impact grenade attack on crown force patrol.

AUGUST

- 1 (London) 1 Brit killed, 9 injured in bomb attack on Inglis barracks.
- 2 (East Tyrone) 6 UDR men injured in landmine attack.
- 2 (Lisburn) 1 RUC detective killed in booby-trap bomb attack.
- 2 (Belfast) 1 UDR man shot and killed.
- 3 (East Tyrone) 1 UDR man killed.
- 3 (Belfast) Anti-social element punished by the IRA.
- 4 (Beleek) 2 civilians working on RUC barracks shot and killed.
- 5 (West Germany) 3 Brits injured in bomb attack on Brit barracks.
- 8 (Belfast) Brit soldier injured in attack on Henry Taggart army/RUC base on 15 July died.
- 9 (Lurgan) RUC man fired on.
- 12 (Belgium) 1 Brit soldier killed.
- 12 (Belfast) IRA issued statement claiming responsibility for a number of punishment shootings.
- 17 (Belfast) Grenade attack on Springfield Road barracks.
- 19 (Lisnaskea) 3 RUC injured in remote control bomb attack.
- 19 (Newry) Severe damage caused by bomb attack on hotel used by RUC meeting informers there.
- 19 (Derry) Bomb attack on crown force mobile patrol.
- 19 (Derry) 2 Brits injured in bomb attack on mobile patrol.
- 20 (Ballygawley) 8 Brits killed, 28 injured, 6 critically, in bomb attack.
- 22 (Belfast) Royal Navy recruiting officer killed by bomb.
- 23 (West Germany) Due to IRA attacks on the continent the British government decided to suspend using distinctive number plates on Brit personnel cars.
- 24 (South Derry) 2 RUC injured in van bomb attack.
- 24 (Belfast) Commercial property extensively damaged by 400lb car bomb.
- 24 (Belfast) Hoax bombs caused chaos in the city centre.
- 24 (Six Counties) IRA statement issued on new measures to be taken in future car bomb attacks.
- 25 (East Tyrone) IRA ordered 2 criminals to leave Ireland.

IRELAND'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS

HELICOPTER SHOT DOWN

A British army Lynx helicopter was attacked near Crossmaglen on June 23rd and brought down to a crash-landing in a field, injuring at least one British soldier. In 1977, following an attack on a helicopter near Jonesboro the IRA announced that helicopter attacks were to be prioritised, although news was suppressed by the British media.

In May 1981 a helicopter was sprayed with machine-gun fire, then in July 1982 an M60 attack on a helicopter near Jonesboro again forced a landing. At Silverbridge near Crossmaglen, two British soldiers were injured when the Wessex helicopter they were travelling in was attacked using an M60 and automatic rifles. A Wessex was fired on again in May 1985, with an M60 and two Browning .50 heavy machine guns, as it flew near Crossmaglen barracks. The most recent attack has used new technology to create an ever-present threat to the British life-line through the air.

Helicopters are used to bring in supplies and building materials to beleaguered spy-posts and barracks in border areas, to move troops and patrol and gather information in areas where the level of IRA activity is so high that foot and vehicle patrols are too dangerous. Morale among troops in these areas is already at rock-bottom and this attack has dealt a death-blow.

In an attempt to maintain face and boost morale Brit publicity claimed that the helicopter was not shot down when its tail was shot off, but made a "precautionary landing". It was claimed that the tail-piece was airlifted out for "inspection" only and that it would be returned and reassembled on site. These lies serve only to reveal the depths of fear and embarrassment caused by the success of the attack.

In a supplied statement the IRA gave full details:

"Shortly after noon on Thursday, 12 armed Volunteers took up firing positions on a hill close to a flight path regularly used by British army helicopters between Bessbrook and Crossmaglen.

"At 2pm, a Lynx helicopter flew out of Crossmaglen but was not fired on because it was believed that only the crew was on board.

"About an hour later another Lynx came over the horizon and it was believed to be carrying troops. Volunteers, using two 12.7mm anti-aircraft guns, three 7.62mm general purpose machine guns and assorted rifles, opened fire on the Lynx, which is the fastest helicopter used by the British army in South Armagh. It was hit a number of times by armour-piercing and incendiary rounds fired from the heavy machine-guns, appeared to catch fire and fell into the shores of nearby Cashel Lough. Volunteers with machine guns and an RPG7 rocket launcher ran to the brow of the hill which overlooks the area but could see no trace of the aircraft. They then withdrew from the scene." The IRA ended its statement by calling on British soldiers in the area,

"to realise that they are dying for a colonial policy which their government will be forced to abandon. We call upon them to refuse to foolishly sacrifice their lives."



HOTEL USED BY RUC DEMOLISHED BY IRA ON 19 AUGUST

THE EUROPEAN CONNECTION

The current IRA offensive against British troops stationed in Europe was further escalated by a highly successful attack on Glamorgan barracks, Duisberg, West Germany, on Wednesday 13 July. The worldwide publicity attracted by the many successes of this campaign has given unwelcome critical publicity to Britain's illegitimate occupation of the Six Counties.

IRA Volunteers cut through the 8ft wire perimeter fence just after 3am, evading the surveillance of armed sentries and military police and planted two bombs connected by Cortex detonating cord. Each bomb contained 50lb of Semtex plastic explosive, and the two exploded simultaneously blowing out a 15 foot section of the barracks' sleeping quarters wall and a section of roofing which landed in the main street, 150 feet away. 9 British soldiers were injured and 60 others were lucky to escape with their lives.

German police attempted to intercept the Volunteers as they left the area but were scared off by warning shots fired from an AK47 rifle.

On Friday 5 August another attack was carried out in Europe by the IRA, again in West Germany against the aptly named RATingen barracks. A bomb demolished a store-room there although the base was already on full alert following IRA operations in earlier months. Three members of the Royal Engineers were injured, and one civilian.

Blow after blow was struck, defeating Britain's efforts to localise, contain and hush-up the war on the Irish people when on 12 August a British soldier stationed in Belgium was shot dead in his car as he waited at traffic lights in Ostend, as he set out for England. His death brought the 1988 death toll of British soldiers in Europe and England to 5 dead, with over 21 injured.

400th BRITISH SOLDIER

Following the death on 7 July of the 400th British soldier in connection with the British occupation of Ireland, the IRA issued the following statement:

"The death of Warrant Officer John Howard in Belfast early today, marks the 400th British army fatality as a result of attempts by successive British governments, particularly since 1969, to maintain their control over the Six Counties.

"When the first British soldier, Gunner Robert Curtis, was killed by an IRA sniper in February 1971, British ministers were to claim later that year that they had the IRA "on the run". Seventeen years later, the death of Warrant Officer Howard shows the failure and political bankruptcy of British rule in Ireland.

"The Irish Republican Army calls upon the British government to give Ireland peace, to withdraw and end the ongoing tragedies. Must it take the deaths of another 400 soldiers before the British government realises it is time to go?

"We urge the British people to press for troop withdrawal from our country and thus make a major contribution to peace in Ireland now."

LONDON BARRACKS BLASTED

For the first time since the Brighton bomb nearly 4 years ago the IRA planned and carried to a successful conclusion a bomb attack on an army barracks in London, the heartland of British oppression.

One British soldier was killed in the blast on 1st August which demolished sleeping quarters in an accommodation block at Inglis barracks on the outskirts of Margaret Thatcher's Finchley constituency, and nine others were injured. All were members of the Royal Engineers regiment which has served many tours in the 6 Counties. A warning was issued by the IRA that members of the public, for their own safety, should stay clear of British personnel in London and in Europe.

THE BALLYGAWLEY BUS

A major action took place on Saturday 20 August at 12.30am when a bus carrying British soldiers from Aldergrove airport was blasted in a massive bomb attack. 8 British soldiers died and 28 were injured, 7 critically and 7 seriously. The soldiers were arriving back in the 6 Counties after 'leave' in Britain, and though young, they were not 'rookies' as reported in the British media, but were finishing a 2-year tour of duty with the 1st Battalion Light Infantry.

The bus attack took place in open country between Ballygawley and Omagh and was a joint operation combining Volunteers from the East and West Tyrone IRA Brigades. From high ground overlooking the road, the Volunteers detonated a bomb containing 200lbs of Semtex high explosive which had been hidden at the side of the road. The Volunteers had monitored the coach's movement carefully and taken into account civilian traffic in the area, including buses containing loyalist bandsmen.

The size, success and surprise value of the attack provoked a wide range of responses from British politicians and newspapers, including a call from DAVID OWEN for a major barrier to be built and patrolled the length of the border.

The following Monday a Royal Navy recruiting officer was killed in Belfast by a booby-trap bomb in his car which exploded as he drove through East Belfast. This served to increase even further the British media's hysterical outbursts which show chiefly that the British do not know what to do to cope with the situation. The will of the IRA to win is indomitable.