

An Phoblacht

THE REPUBLIC Voice of Irish Republicanism

DERRY'S BLOODY SUNDAY

30th. JAN. 1972.

COMMEMORATION SUPPLEMENT

British Troops Murder 13

MANY OF THE VICTIMS WERE SHOT IN THE BACK



BARNEY MCGUIGAN



GERARD DONAGHY



PATSY DOHERTY



JOHN YOUNG



MICHAEL KELLY



MICHAEL McDAID



WILLIAM NASH



JACK DUDDY



HUGH GILMORE



JIM WRAY



KEVIN McELHINNEY



WILLIAM McKINNEY



GERRY McKINNEY

We stand and salute the 13 who were murdered by British Guns in Derry City — We salute also all who died by British Guns before January 30, 1972 and since that date let us insure that all these sacrifices have not been in vain.

Demand the withdrawal of British Troops from Ireland.



A section of the march on its way from Creggan Estate, Derry.



Confrontation at William Street.

Derry

"After the shooting, which lasted for about 25 minutes in and around the Rossville Flats area of Bogside, the streets had all the appearance of the aftermath of Sharpeville. Where only moments before, thousands of men and women had been milling around, drifting slowly towards a protest meeting to be held at Free Derry Corner, there was only a handful of bleeding bodies, some lying still, others still moving with pain, on the white concrete of the square".

Jan. 30th
1972



IT WAS MASSACRE

EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT

The Times (London) of Tuesday 1 February tried to probe more fully into what exactly had happened in a full page of eye witness accounts.

FR. DENIS BRADLEY

In one of these, Fr. Denis Bradley gave this description:

"It was massacre. I saw no one shooting at troops. If anybody had been, I would have seen it. I saw only the Army shooting. I was administering the last rites to a boy aged about 15 who had been shot by the soldiers in Rossville Street. While I was there I saw three other people who had been shot down in the middle of the street. Two of them have since died, one a young boy. I saw his father try to get him but he was shot down too. The father is still in hospital among the injured.

It was impossible to get out. They were lying behind the barricade. I could only get about 10 yards towards them so I administered the last rites from there.

Then the paratroops arrived. I think there may have been up to 20 of them, and they pushed about 10 of us up against the wall of a courtyard. We couldn't move one way or another. One paratrooper beside me aimed at least eight shots indiscriminately at a group of people who were fleeing. I grabbed him, and shouted: "For God's sake stop!" He just shrugged me off.

Three more young boys were lying in the courtyard off Rossville Street and I tried to get over to them. But the troops pulled me back and hit me with a rifle butt on the arm. They treated me pretty roughly, but they seemed to be a lot rougher on everybody else. I administered the last rites to about four people. There were about seven priests there in all. If I had not been there I would not have believed it".

Mr. Lynch THEN

The Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Mr. Lynch in a statement issued at 9.00 p.m. said that he was "appalled and stunned" by what had happened. He telephoned the British Prime Minister, Mr. Heath.

RECALL OF IRISH AMBASSADOR

In view of Mr. Heath's response to the Taoiseach's call and to show the Irish Government's extreme concern at the disastrous turn taken the Government decided, following a special Cabinet meeting on Monday morning, to recall the Irish Ambassador in London — a step never before taken by an Irish Government.

Visits Then

FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISITS

On Tuesday 1 February, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Hillery, on the instructions of the Government, left for New York to begin a series of visits to other Governments and to the United Nations.

Visits Now

Des O'Malley — Jack Lynch say:— Don't subscribe to the Irish Northern Aid — the group who did so much for the people of Derry and Ireland.



Marchers seek relief in the Rossville Street area, later the scene of shooting by British troops.



Under heavy fire, a rescue worker tries to reach one of the victims.

Derry

GENERAL FORD: The aggressive action was taken because, quite apart from the march — incidentally, I was watching the march and I saw the steward stop it and indeed try to keep control throughout. Unfortunately, a hooligan element took over and they came down to our positions down here and started to attack the troops, as you say, they attacked them with bricks, stones, various other nasty implements, and including, of course, a couple of canisters of CS gas. This went on for some time and it was obviously necessary to restore law and order.

Jan. 30th
1972

“BLOODY SUNDAY”



The marchers dispersing after salvos of C.S. gas were fired by British troops, here at William Street, Derry. About 20,000 people attended the march.



Fr. Edward Daly attends to one of the victims.

Mr. Lynch NOW

THE BILL'S exceptional powers will allow a Garda officer not below the rank of chief superintendent to indict an accused person. The Bill says that where an officer "believes that the accused was at a material time, a member of an illegal organisation, the statement shall be evidence that he was then such a member".

A statement, meeting, procession or demonstration shall be deemed to constitute an interference with the course of justice if it is intended, or is of such a character as to be likely, directly or indirectly to influence any court, person or authority concerned with the institution, conduct or defence of any civil or criminal proceedings (including a party or witness) as to whether or how the proceedings should be instituted, conducted, continued or defended, or as to what should be their outcome.

A person who makes any statement, or who organises, holds or takes part in any meeting, procession or demonstration, that is unlawful under this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable:—

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £200 or, at the discretion of the court, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to both such fine and such imprisonment;
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding £1,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.



After three consecutive nights of protests the British Embassy, in Merrion Square, is burnt down by crowds protesting at the "Bloody Sunday" shootings in Derry.

"Roll back the portals of silence!
Let your country speak her will.
The Ireland that ever breeds fighting men
will fight for her freedom still.
The spirit of Emmet and Tone and Pearse
is alive and there's work to do.
Roll back the portals of silence! Let your dead men speak for you."

LONG KESH

Nearly three hundred men are still held in the cages of Long Kesh. Here, Father Denis Faul discusses

"ARBITRARY imprisonment is criminal; it poisons civilisation; it debases the perpetrators more than the victims and militates against the honour of the Creator" (Vatican II, Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, 27).

In these solemn words the Catholic Church condemned internment and capricious and unjust judicial and legal systems which imprison people unfairly.

The Catholic community in the Six Counties have a 50-year experience of internment and unjust imprisonment. And the past year of internment — the nineteenth in the history of the North — has provided a good example of the truth of the Church's comment. Is civilisation in the North poisoned? The horror statistics of the last year show that barbarism has made substantial inroads, in the acts of the I.R.A., the British Army, the Special Branch and the U.D.A.

Are the perpetrators of internment debased — Mr. Faulkner, Mr. Whitelaw and the Stormont Ministry of Home Affairs?

You can draw your own conclusion, I have no doubt about mine.

Internment is imprisoning a person without a fair trial or the expectation of a fair trial within a reasonable period of time. A person holds his liberty, his freedom, as a basic human right. The state, in the context of democracy and the present view on the existence of laws of humanity anterior to the state (used by Britain at Nuremberg), cannot interfere with a man's basic right to freedom without showing to the public in open court against the power of skilful lawyers before a manifestly fair and impartial judge (not a political hack of the governing party) that they have evidence that will stand scrupulous examination that this man must be deprived of his liberty.

This evidence must be presented to the citizens of the country by being examined in open court to reassure them that their right to liberty will not also be taken away in arbitrary fashion.

When the rights of one are taken away the rights of all are in peril. And even if a man is found guilty he should have the right of appeal to one of several courts.

Now, none of this obtains in the history of internment in the North, or to be more correct, in the history of the internment of Catholics in the North — because internment is an instrument that has been used by Stormont and the British Government solely against Catholics.

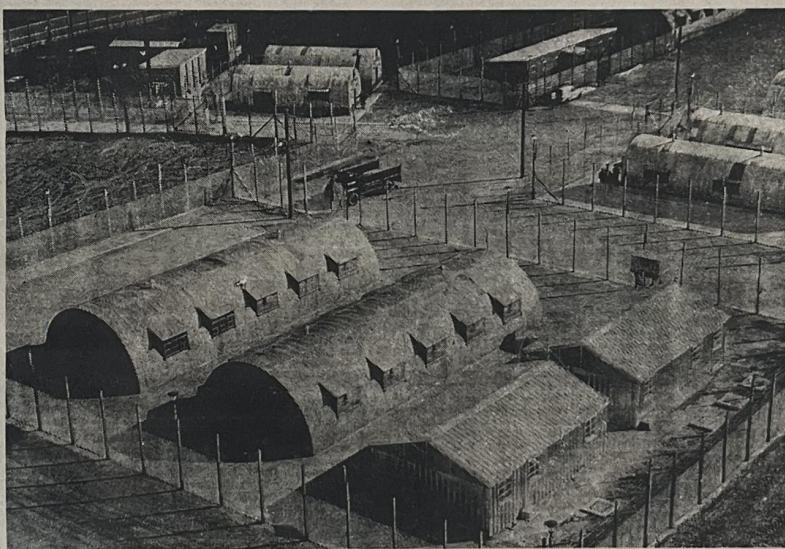
This is an important point for M. Pompidou and the Common Market countries to note and I have great pleasure in informing them. Will the great Catholic nations of Europe stand by and approve of this continued removal of basic human rights from a Catholic minority by the British Government and a one-sided use of military repression?

In every decade, the '20s, '30s, '40s, '50s, '60s, and '70s, Catholics have been offered internment. The reasons are not really relevant for internment is wrong in itself like abortion so beloved by Mr. Whitelaw's Government.

But many men were put into three, four and five year's internment because they taught the Irish language or were seen G.A.A. workers or cannot referees or for professing Republican politics or for standing up for civil rights. But on August 9 last, new and more bitter absurdities were created when the operation of internment was entrusted by Mr. Maudling (where is our teacher gone?) to the British Army. In the Dungannon district a man was lifted because his brother was not at home and that man is still in Long Kesh, and there are many cases of this.

August 9, 1971, and the week

The immorality of internment



that followed illustrated clearly where the precise immorality of internment lies. It lies in this that it is repugnant to man's nature as a Son of God and indeed to his position as a citizen of a state that he should be in the unfettered control of another man or group of men for them to do with him whatsoever they will.

The Special Powers Act gives that power to the Ministry of Home Affairs, a Ministry which has led many Catholics to consider themselves justified in holding the opinion that it appears to be a conspiracy against the liberty and legal rights of the Catholic population.

I have had an opportunity to study the operation of the Special Powers Act and it is a diabolical instrument of repression. Somebody does not like you, suspects you of working against what? The Crown, the Protestant Ascendancy, the Unionist Party, the security of the state. Or, they just do not like you because you bought the wee field that the brother-in-law wanted and this angered the Lodge.

Suspicion, dislike, prejudice or sectarian hatred — any of these is a good enough reason to denounce a man to the Special Branch as a candidate for internment. The Special Branch have the second last word — only Faulkner in 1971, now Whitelaw, could over-rule them.

On the evidence of the last year, well documented evidence with medical reports and clinical photographs, a number — at least 20 members — of the Special Branch are in need of psychiatric treatment and should be hospitalised immediately, and yet they were still going about last week arresting and searching for their former victims like unsatiated vampire, playing a big part in Mr. Whitelaw's Operation Flap Tyre.

Remember the torture, exercises of Ballykinkar by the Military Police of the British Army? The Hooded Treatment, the most sophisticated torture seen in Europe since World War II? The Hollywood show starring you know who? He is still there. Remember the electric shocks and amphetamine drugs?

All this was illegally done by those who professed to uphold the law.

This immoral system was operated for eight months by Mr. Faulkner by leave of the British Government, and for four months by Mr. Whitelaw, the British Government himself. We hear arguments that it saves lives, but morality forbids one to use an immoral means (internment) to achieve a good end (saving life); and in fact the operation of internment has caused a vast escalation of violence and loss of life.

The present use of internment

by Mr. Whitelaw is immoral in a peculiarly disgusting way. Men are being held in Long Kesh, men who have been there since August and September last because of outrages committed by I.R.A. men on July 21, 1971.

It is a fundamental dictum of law, fair play and decency that you do not punish one individual for the crimes of another. Mr. Whitelaw then appears to hold the Catholic community guilty for the crimes of the I.R.A., and he is punishing the wives, children, friends and relatives of 300 men in what is a small and tightly knit community.

A better way of totally alienating that community one could not imagine. Or maybe Mr. Whitelaw has the morality of the Topemaroos — meeting one group of urban guerrillas with the methods of another. He has kidnapped three hundred men and is holding them to ransom. The morality of the kidnaper is one that fills decent people with horror — to bargain and huckster with the lives and liberties of men and the anguished feelings of their dear ones.

When Julius Caesar came to Britain, before Mr. Whitelaw's time, the first thing he did was to take hostages; and if the blue painted Brits misbehaved, he doubled the number of hostages. Mr. Whitelaw may have learned his lesson from the year 55 B.C. He is holding three hundred

Catholics as hostages for the good behaviour of the Catholic community.

"Internment will end when violence ends" This is the most vicious cut — the cut of the blackmailer. Internment is wrong, immoral, sectarian, a failure in security terms, a disturber of the community: it should end forthwith.

We do not want violence by bullet or bomb; we condemn these and we appeal to the I.R.A. to stop, if not because these things are immoral then because physical violence makes no political sense at the present time. Non-violent protest and telling the world and Monsieur Pompidou about the repression of Catholics and internment will have the British begging for a settlement and offering just rights before January 1, 1973, when they have to go into Europe.

Violence, which outrages our Christian conscience, can, however, be physical. We condemn both equally as one must condemn one sided military repression and the negligence which has led to multiple assassinations.

One can only say that it is disappointing to record that Mr. Whitelaw, who showed some promise of humanity at the beginning, should have failed to abolish internment and continues to preside over this obscenity and to use it for political purposes.

Internee beaten up, says wife

THE wife of a young Derry internee recently said that her husband had been badly beaten up by prison officers at Long Kesh.

Mrs. Nora Canning, wife of Mr. Cyril Canning, said that on December 19, after he had appeared at a special court in Long Kesh at which he had been accused at shooting at soldiers, her husband was severely beaten and kicked by three prison officers. He was also handcuffed with handcuffs that were too small and he was pulled by the handcuffs along the ground.

"The prison officers threw him into a van and walked up and down on top of him", she added.

Mrs. Canning said her husband was kept in the "cooler", a particularly small cell, for 24 hours. He was given another beating there and a prison doctor, who was called, had to insert four stitches in his mouth.

Mrs. Canning said she had received news of the ill-treatment of her husband from Mr. Ivan Cooper, M.P., who had told her that "Gusty" Spence, the U.V.F. leader, had stopped him in the Maze Prison and said, "Cyril Canning has been badly beaten. Something must be done about it".

Mrs. Canning said: "Cyril's beating is the talk of the camp. Apparently nobody has ever been as badly beaten before".

Mr. Cooper has confirmed that he had been told by "Gusty" Spence of Mr. Canning's beating.

MAN KEPT IN LONG KESH FOR SMILING

A "new type of repression" of men held at Long Kesh internment camp, is alleged in a statement from the John Stars Sinn Féin Campaign Committee.

The statement said: "Internees at Long Kesh are no longer being held without trial, instead they experience quasi-judicial British style by appearing in front of a tribunal of enquiry, held in camera without seeing their accusers."

"Some men who appeared in front of this tribunal and were found innocent of any crime have been asked to do an undertaking that they will not be involved in any type of 'terrorist' activity of which they were presumed guilty in the first place. Why, one may ask, does one of the presiding commissioners of these tribunals ask for an undertaking if the man is proven innocent?"

To highlight the hypocrisy of these tribunals we would like to quote the case of Mr. Frank O'Reilly from St. James Crescent, Belfast. Mr. O'Reilly appeared in front of the tribunal, accused of being a quartermaster in the I.R.A. The evidence against him was two statements signed against him by two I.R.A. 'suspects'. Because of insufficient evidence against him he was subsequently released. On hearing this Mr. O'Reilly could not suppress a smile at the thought of being released after spending over a year in Long Kesh. He then left the tribunal and returned to his cage to collect his belongings for going home.

"He was then unexpectedly summoned once again in front of the tribunal to be told he was re-detained because he had a 'bad' smile on his face after the tribunal and also that he kept 'bad company' during his stay in Long Kesh."

"It is unbelievable that even a British commissioner would re-detain a man because he has a smile on his face after hearing of his release. Once again we are able to show just how farcical these new tribunals are".