

# An Phoblacht

## REPUBLICAN NEWS



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● For the excluders, British Home Secretary William Whitlaw and his boss Margaret Thatcher, the sufferings and deaths in Ireland are merely useful devices for furthering their own petty political interests

# Excluding the truth

SO AFRAID, then, are the British government of allowing even two republicans to present the logical case for British withdrawal to British politicians and to the British public, on British soil, that they have banned them from entering Britain.

Gerry Adams and Danny Morrison, the two Sinn Fein elected representatives invited there by London councillors, have been served with exclusion orders, as has a third, Martin McGuinness.

Once again the British reveal the true colonial nature of their occupation of the North, which they, at other times, claim to be 'just another part of the United Kingdom'.

Once again they have shown their arrogant disregard not only for the sufferings of the Irish people, but for those of their own troops when these can be used for party political gain.

(The same motivation which inspired their bloody Falklands/Malvinas adventure.)

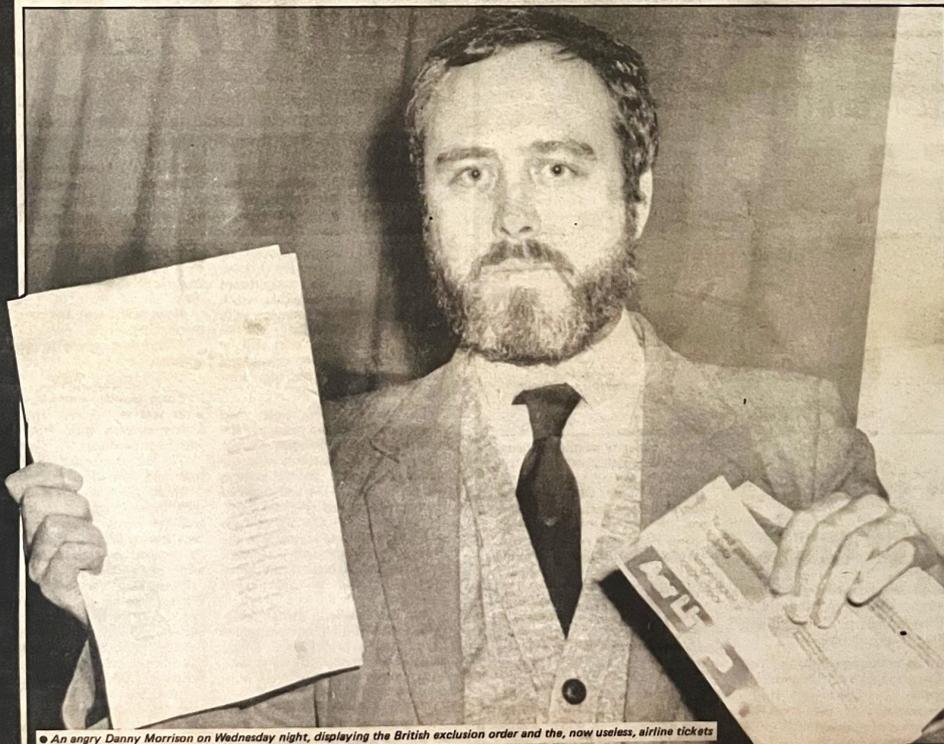
Thus, with enthusiastic assistance from the media, the British government distorts the sincere efforts of those seeking peace in Ireland into the creation of two new 'hate figures' in Ireland, the revival of a 'hate figure' in England, and the cynical manipulation of the Irish tragedy into a wedge to be driven into the divided British Labour Party, for opportunistic party political advantage.

And, once again, when their much-vaunted 'democratic process' does not produce the results that they want, they contemptuously attempt to silence the elected voices of thousands of voters.

Their petty political considerations come before peace in Ireland, because real peace in Ireland, with the unity and the national, social and economic independence of the Irish people, threatens the political, economic and strategic interests represented by those who hide their real intentions behind a facade of contrived outrage of occurrences in Ireland.

Excluding the truth from Britain — that only British withdrawal from Ireland and the ending of partition will see the end of violence here — ensures only further brutal repression of the nationalist population, and further Ballykellys.

It is a truth that will inevitably be heard in spite of all attempts to silence it.



● An angry Danny Morrison on Wednesday night, displaying the British exclusion order and the, now useless, airline tickets

# THE OLD SECTARIAN STORMONT

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

LAST WEEK had begun for the new Stormont assembly with all the appearances of a real puppet parliament: an address by the colonial viceroy in person, followed by question time, rather subdued and courteous by previous standards. And even the DUP leader, Ian Paisley, anxious to preserve the assembly, was talking of 'behaving responsibly'.

However, the old Stormont mentality quickly reared its head once again as loyalist assembly members voted for one of the assembly's standing orders, which stipulates that a member must sign the attendance roll no later than six months after being elected.

As Paisley put it, he did not want "to see members of the IRA walking away with £300,000 in back salaries to buy bullets to kill."

The new rule, which does not, in fact, affect Sinn Fein representatives, who will not take their seats under any circumstances, caused consternation in the SDLP, especially among those members who hope that the party's present abstentionist policy might be reversed in the future.

### PRESSURE

The SDLP correctly interpret the move as further pressure on them to participate in the assembly and provide the token presence required by the unionist politicians to make the assembly more credible and obtain more powers for it from the British.

This pressure on the SDLP will



● JOHN CUSHNAHAN

continue to increase in the coming months, first of all internally from the salary-seeking political careerists who seek any kind of a public forum. And the external pressure can be seen in every radio and television interview with SDLP spokespersons which unfailingly includes such an opening as "since you are out of the political debate..."

The *Irish Press* editorial on Monday, December 6th, wrote of the

possible "near fatal diminution of the SDLP." But probably the biggest factor in deciding the SDLP's future will be the attitude of the incoming Free State government towards it. The Labour Party's latest statements on the North have been quite unsympathetic to the SDLP, and Fine Gael's Garret FitzGerald is only likely to attempt to manipulate them in furtherance of his declared obsession with "the rights of the unionist people." Hard days ahead for the SDLP.

### PRIVILEGE

But the assembly also had time to turn to the Sinn Fein abstentionists with a call from DUP assembly member James Allister for action against Danny Morrison for 'breach of privilege' because of an observation by him on BBC television that the assembly's downfall was an IRA target.

Assembly speaker James Kilfedder agreed to give a ruling on whether Morrison was 'in contempt' for his remarks and the bizarre prospect was mooted of the abstentionist representative being summoned before the assembly to explain himself - and what could be done to him when he inevitably refused to turn up.

In any event, Kilfedder postponed the crisis by referring the matter to the committee on privileges - another facet of the vacuous self-important parliament.

### EDUCATION

The sectarian nature of Stormont was again in evidence when the bartering began over the chairmanships of the various consultative committees, even though it only involved the three unionist parties, OUP, DUP and Alliance.

When it came to the education chairmanship, the vocal Armagh Official Unionist Harold McCusker declared privately that Alliance's John Cushmanah was not suitable because he was a Catholic. His remarks were quickly made public and an ugly row ensued, inside and outside Stormont.

On Wednesday of this week, however, Speaker Kilfedder, in whose power it was to allocate the committee chairs, rewarded Alliance for their support of him for the speaker's position, by allocating the controversial post to them after all.

# From invi

BY KEVIN BURKE & HILDA MacTHOMAS

IT WAS political developments outside the Stormont assembly which dominated headlines on the North since the weekend, once the invitation of 26 British Labour councillors, including the leader of the Greater London Council, Ken Livingstone, for a Sinn Fein delegation to visit London became public.

Two of Sinn Fein's five elected representatives in the North, Gerry Adams and Danny Morrison, were due in London on December 14th, when their itinerary was to include a meeting with the GLC councillors, a visit to the House of Commons for a meeting with Labour MPs, and a public meeting in North London.

Accepting the invitation, Danny Morrison had welcomed the opportunity to "tell the British public how they can achieve peace in Ireland and economise on British money and British lives."

Not surprisingly, there was immediate hypocritical outrage from Tory politicians in London and loyalist politicians in Belfast, soon joined by the right-wing of the Labour Party. And the British media enthusiastically seized the opportunity of focussing on now prominent hate targets.

All were aghast at the prospect of the two republicans travelling from 'one part of the United Kingdom' to another.

### WELCOME

However, there was some wel-

come for the invitation from the Irish newspapers which broadly termed themselves 'nationally-minded'. On Monday, December 6th, the *Irish Press* described the GLC move as an "historic breakthrough", while on the same day the *Irish News* spoke of Sinn Fein as a "force to be reckoned with", which represented a "considerable body of opinion" and as such should be heard.

As temperatures rose on the issue, Gerry Adams described the unionist reaction as hypocritical and accused them of wanting to keep republicans in their ghettos. And replying to Labour leader Michael Foot's attack on the visit he observed:

"The right-wing of the British Labour Party, by its bi-partisan colonialist attitude to Ireland is as responsible for the situation in Ireland as any other element and its disgraceful record in support of partition and unionist domination is a matter of historical fact."

Morrison declared that on the visit he would be telling the GLC the truth about the new Stormont assembly, which he described as "nothing more than an Orange hall occupied by two different shades

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# BRITISH HYS

BY HELEN STEVENS

THE FURORE in Britain over the Greater London Council Labour members' invitation to the Sinn Fein assembly members followed a familiar pattern.

Aided and encouraged by the media, the Tories mobilised to stop the visit, to drive a further wedge into the split British Labour Party and to discredit Ken Livingstone, whose radicalism they detest. And the right-wing Labourites quickly buckled under the pressure.

It started quietly enough on Sunday morning when the visit was announced on the insignificant commercial radio network, which went on to carry an interview with Labour's junior Northern spokesman, Clive Soley, who said he was prepared to talk to elected representatives provided they were not involved in violence.

By mid-afternoon, Soley had disappeared from the news and the new headlines were that Orange leader Thomas Passmore was denouncing the visit. By the evening news, BBC and ITN had rounded up more protestors. Richard Brew, leader of the GLC's Tories, was quoted on BBC as saying that the visit was "horrific and appalling" while Official Unionist leader James Molyneaux said it was "quite monstrous."

The same bulletin carried interviews with Danny Morrison, pointing out that the protests were aimed at censoring republican views, and GLC Labour councillor Steve Bundred saying:

"You can't have it both ways. You can't, on the one hand, urge people to take part in legitimate

political activity and then when they do so, and are elected, refuse to talk to them as Jim Prior has done."

News-reader Jan Leeming commented:

"There are certain to be more protests."

### FULL CRY

Come Monday morning and the press was in full cry. The gutter papers covered their front pages with huge headlines.

The *Sun*, the largest selling paper in Britain, advised in a leader:

"If Mr Livingstone is so obsessed with Ireland, why doesn't he go and live there? The sight of his back leaving Britain for good would be the best possible news for the whole of London."

"Keep Out!" demanded the *Daily Express*, going on implicitly to incite disorder by calling on Home Secretary Whitelaw to ban the visit because "there is an unacceptable risk of riots and disturbances should Adams and Morrison speak here."

"IRA Men's Visit an Outrage" cried the *Daily Mail*, quoting Tony MP Harvey Proctor. "Rad Ken in

(continued on next page)



# Eleven Brits die in INLA attack

IN A MAJOR bomb attack aimed at the British occupation forces in the North, on Monday night this week, the INLA killed 11 British soldiers and injured many more. Five civilians, four women and a man, were also killed in the explosion.

The bomb, estimated at between 15 and 30lbs, went off inside the Droppin Well Bar in Ballykelly at about 11.15pm, whilst a disco was in progress. The bomb, placed next to a pillar, brought down the

heavy concrete roof of the building. The Droppin Well Bar, which is opposite the Shackleton British army barracks in the town, has been a virtual entertainment centre for the troops stationed there, and

the vast majority of those attending Monday's dance were from the barracks.

Eight of the British soldiers killed in the successful attack were from the 1st Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, two were members of the British army Catering Corps and one was from the 3rd Light Infantry.

The 1st Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment has been stationed at Ballykinnor Barracks - venue of the 'guinea-pig' torture centre after the first internment swoops of August 1971 - since February of this year, and is on a two-year tour of duty. The battalion has been in the North on four previous occasions, serving twice in Belfast and twice in Derry.

# Station to exclusion



● Sinn Féin's elected representatives Gerry Adams and Danny Morrison pictured outside the Belfast Republican Press Centre on Tuesday of this week



● MARTIN McGUINNESS

(continued from previous page) of unionism" and a third party, Alliance, "scrubbing the floor and washing the windows to make it more presentable."

And underlining the hypocritical condemnations of the Tory politicians, it was revealed that in addition to the London meeting at which Gerry Adams had met William Whitelaw in 1972, both Adams and

Morrison had had a lengthy exchange of views in 1976 with the present Tory number two at the British Foreign Office, Douglas Hurd.

The three-hour meeting had taken place in Ballymurphy in the very short interim between the bombing of the La Mon restaurant and the arresting and charging with IRA membership of Adams. (He

was afterwards acquitted.)

## FRENZY

With the INLA bombing at Ballykelly on Monday night, frenzy against the visit was further whipped up.

The Stormont assembly went into a special adjournment debate on Tuesday to demand internment, hanging, the end of the 'yellow

London for early next Tuesday morning.

In a joint statement they said: "The explosion at Ballykelly is now being used quite cynically... as yet another excuse to stop us from outlining to English people the republican alternative to violence in Ireland.

"Let there be no mistake made in this regard. When the dead of Ballykelly are buried, like so many before them, and when the politicians and establishment mouth-pieces have dried their crocodile tears, the families bereaved in this bombing, like so many others, both Irish and British, Catholic and Protestant, will be left alone and deserted to their anguish and grief.

"The problem, with its causes untreated, will remain to provide yet more anguish and grief in the months, years and decades ahead.

"If violence in Ireland is to be stopped, if the killings are to be ended, then the whole question of the British presence in Ireland and of the partition of our country must be clearly understood and properly tackled.

"Excluding us from London will not make the problem go away. This will only happen when the root causes of Ireland's British problem are removed."

## POSTED

But on Wednesday evening exclusion orders, barring Danny Morrison, Gerry Adams, and a third Sinn Féin elected representative, Martin McGuinness, were posted through the letter box of the Sinn Féin offices in Belfast (although the private addresses of all three are only too well known to the British). At the same time the exclusion decision was released to the media.

Ironically the man authorising the exclusion orders, the present British Home Secretary, William Whitelaw, had, whilst Northern direct-ruler in 1972, flown both Adams and McGuinness to London in an RAF plane, as part of a top-level republican delegation, for a meeting with him to discuss the future of the British in Ireland.

# TERIA AGAINST SINN FEIN VISIT

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IRA Storm' said the *Daily Star*. 'An Insult to the Memory of IRA Victims' said the *Daily Mirror*, referring to the words of Orange-man Passmore.

The articles in all these papers were replete with quotes from Tories of the imperialist right and from relatives of bomb victims, such as policeman Stephen Tibble and Jane Ewart-Biggs. The 'quality' papers, not aimed at the masses, were as usual less hysterical, not carrying the visit as their headline story.

By Monday afternoon, Labour leaders were succumbing to the pressure.

'Foot Kicks Red Ken' was the headline in London's evening paper, *The Standard*, in a 'letter' to Ken Livingstone - in fact in a press release Foot denounced 'terrorist violence and instructed Livingstone to meet groups "who command more votes and more support than Sinn Féin."

## RED KEN

The Ballykelly bombing was seized by the press like manna from heaven. 'Army Pub Bombed' and 'Stop Red Ken's Guests Now' were the front-page headlines in the *Daily Express*. The *Daily Mail* had 'Disco Bomb Kills Six', and, in much bigger letters, 'Foot Hits at Red Ken'.

The *Mirror* carried a photograph of Gerry Adams and Danny Morrison immediately below the headline which read 'Soldiers Kill

ed in Disco Blast'. In the afternoon, *The Standard* drove the message home with a quote from a surgeon at the scene saying 'Red Ken Should See This'.

The 'quality' newspapers were again more reasoned, with *The Times* pointing out that "the government faces a quandary over the visit" because of Whitelaw's 1972 meeting with Gerry Adams and others, and recent ministerial meetings with Sinn Féin. The *Times* leader advised against 'apoplexy' over the GLC invitation, saying that it was "exactly what these councillors would be satisfied to provoke."

## INTOLERABLE

In parliament that Tuesday afternoon, MPs were, as the BBC's political editor John Cole put it, "vying with each other" to proclaim their outrage at the bombing and the visit. Thatcher said the bombing was "the product of evil and depraved minds" and that "the nation would find it intolerable" if the GLC councillors did not withdraw the invitation.

The Labour leaders grovelled. Don Concannon said:

"I have since Sunday, with the agreement of Mr Foot, been asking those responsible for the invitation to withdraw it."

And inciting the National Front and like-minded fascist groups, he continued:

"Let them come, if they dare. Let the people of this country respond and let them know, in a

peaceful fashion, what they think of them and their barbaric methods."

## RAMMED

Wednesday's papers rammed home the message. '16 Dead - Red Ken's Men Are Still Coming' proclaimed *The Sun*. The *Daily Star* had 'Today's Message to Red Ken's Guests - At Your Perill' and quoted Don Concannon:

"I don't think they'll risk the wrath of the British people coming here."

'These Men Must Be Stopped' said the *Star's* leader. The *Sun* gave a full page to an editorial, accompanied by a gruesome cartoon, most of which concentrated on exhorting, not Ballykelly, but Ken Livingstone. The leader, comparing Livingstone to Hitler, Stalin and the National Front, said that London's voters should not vote for him again and demanded that the PTA be used to keep the 'Provo guests' out.

The *Mirror*, predicting that the visit would lead to violence, demanded that the GLC should withdraw the invitation or that Sinn Féin should refuse it. So much for democratic principles and free speech!

## CUNNING

Altogether more cunning, *The Times* advised the GLC councillors to make the Sinn Féin delegation condemn violence before agreeing to meet them. To get this, said the paper, "would be a propaganda point of some value against the



● GLC leader Ken Livingstone, vilified by the British press for seeking the nationalist viewpoint and wanting to discuss the prospects for peace in Ireland

armed struggle", and a denial "would provide the councillors with adequate cover for withdrawal."

The *Guardian* took its usual vacillating stance, condemning the "sickening attempts .... to attach Ken Livingstone's name to the appalling event at Ballykelly", but

going on to say:

"It hardly matters now whether the Home Secretary invokes the PTA to keep Mr Adams and Mr Morrison out. They were unwelcome in the first place."

This from the paper which regards itself as the 'guardian' of civil liberties.

# Future unclear at Cavan Crystal

BY JACK MADDEN

ALLEGATIONS of not only incompetence but also deceit have been made against the management of Cavan Crystal by a local trade union leader at the end of a year of re-trenchment and lay-offs in a factory which had provided years of stable employment.

Established in 1969, the new factory, in Cavan town was greeted enthusiastically in an area long starved of industrial investment. Commercial success was assured in the early '70s and quality workmanship earned Cavan Crystal a high reputation in an increasingly competitive market.

In July of this year, the bubble finally burst when the 125 workers in the plant were made redundant. At the time, management denied that there was a serious problem and said that the lay-offs would be a 'temporary inconvenience'. Workers were promised that they would be phased back to employment after six weeks and that the plant would return to full production by October.

To date, however, this promise has not been realised and more than 60 workers are still on the dole. Furthermore, it now seems unlikely that the majority of these will be brought back in the new year, if ever. For workers, highly skilled in a particular craft, such



● With 60 highly-skilled workers still on the dole, Cavan Crystal has been accused of mis-management and deceit

as glasswork, after years in apprenticeship, this is a tragedy.

## DISCOVERIES

Compounding this situation has been a number of startling discoveries made, since the closure, by the ITGWU.

Most importantly, perhaps, is the fact that a substantial debt is owed, both in PAYE and PRSI, stretching back over several years. Some claims on health and social welfare services have already been

refused to a number of workers because of this.

Another factor which has worried the union has been the use of a Belfast glass firm, which employs non-union labour, to cut glass which was then sold as Cavan Crystal.

When approached by the union about this, management claimed that a debt was owed to the Belfast firm and that the work was a form of payment. As a result of pressure from the union this

practice has now ended.

The union has reserved its strongest condemnation for what it terms mis-management within the factory.

"There have," says one official, "been glaring examples of managerial inexperience, especially in marketing. In monitoring consumer trends the methods employed have been virtually obsolete. As a result, a particular product would be produced far in excess of demand and would continue to be marketed,

even when out of date. So there were huge stocks of unsold glassware."

## INCOMPETENCE

The 'cash-flow' problem within the company is, the union suspect, another result of managerial incompetence. This centres around the company's interest in two other factories, the Bailieborough Box Company and Royal Tara China.

The union believes that money has been 'siphoned-off' from Cavan Crystal into these two companies and that, as a result, the necessary funds are not available to run it properly.

Meanwhile, the company has introduced new diamond-cutting machines to the factory. The workers accepted these reluctantly, under threat of closure. With the new machine 19 men can do the work done by 40 a short while ago.

The union feels betrayed. "Apprentices," I was told, "were kept on low rates to encourage the company to improve their position when qualified. This would have meant an improvement in conditions all round and, in particular, for new apprentices. This goodwill shown by the union was abused and now young lads have three or four years wasted. We are resentful that the possibilities here have not been maximised and sad at the treatment of these young men."

# Closing down in Clones

BY JACK MADDEN

NOT A SINGLE comment from the media or politicians has greeted the news that the vast majority of the workers in Tunney Meat Packers, in Clones, County Monaghan, have been made redundant over the past few weeks. But workers in the factory, for whom the lay-offs have become a more than yearly event, have renewed their calls for alternative employment in the area.

The present lay-offs began on November 12th when 15 workers were laid off, and

one week later all workers were put on 'protective notice'. On November 26th, another 90 were given their notice.

News of these lay-offs was released as the men were preparing to go home that day. They were told that an Arab order, on which they had been working, had ended suddenly that day; that the dramatic fall in sterling made the British market unviable; and that, in any case, the supply of cattle was getting scarce.

Whilst accepting some of these reasons the workers were, understandably, frustrated and resentful at the prospect of spending yet another winter on the dole. They had only returned to work a few months ago after a lengthy period of unemployment.

One aspect of the lay-offs led to a strike by the remaining workers in the factory. This was caused by the inclusion of ATGWU shop-steward Peter McAleer amongst those being laid off. They agreed that this was a vindictive action by management against the union in the factory. Management, faced with a militant strike, quickly conceded and McAleer was re-instated.

Commenting on the situation earlier this week, Peter McAleer said:

"The workers of Clones were promised alternative employment prior to the February election, when a delegation from the Clones Unemployed Action Committee visited all prospective candidates in the area. The assurances given then have not been realised and as a result workers are expected to spend another Christmas on the dole."



● PETER MCALEER

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

# UDR soldier killed

TYRONE BRIGADE IRA Volunteers ambushed and shot dead a serving member of the UDR near Coalisland on Thursday week, December 2nd.

The attack took place just after 4pm at Annaghmore crossroads, about a mile from the town, when the 50-year-old soldier drew up in the school bus he drove daily as a part-time job.

Volunteers boarded the bus and opened fire, fatally wounding the UDR man with several gunshots to the head. They then withdrew from the area in a car they had commandeered earlier.

Following the attack, the media predictably echoed the RUC's claim that the soldier had left the UDR "almost three years ago", and condemned the IRA - hypocritically - for shooting the UDR man in view of several secondary school children on the bus.

In fact, the IRA have asserted that their intelligence sources pinpointed the soldier's involvement in UDR activities only weeks before he was executed.

(It now appears to be firm RUC

policy to deny that so-called 'part-time' RUC and UDR personnel executed by the IRA were in fact 'serving members', in a conscious attempt to brand such IRA actions as 'sectarian' rather than the discriminate military acts that they are.)

The IRA further pointed out that its Volunteers had deliberately delayed the attack that afternoon until the bus was practically empty of school children, and had taken stringent precautions to ensure their safety.

## SUPERMARKET BOMBED

The IRA's First Battalion, North Armagh Brigade, carried out an incendiary bomb attack on a leading supermarket in Armagh city, on Friday, December 3rd, which caused considerable damage to the stock and disrupted the shopping centre for several hours.

The attack came at Emerson's supermarket in Scotch Street, where two incendiary bombs were planted. Bomb warnings were phoned by the ASU involved and the area was cleared before they detonated.

Unfortunately the explosions failed to start a fire, but large-scale damage was caused nonetheless. Deliberate hoax warnings of 'bombs' in Lenoxx's and Woolworth's stores nearby were also phoned by the IRA to maximise the disruption to enemy personnel.

## DERRY HOAXES

IRA Volunteers caused widespread disruption in Derry city last Saturday, December 4th, and preoccupied large numbers of enemy personnel for several hours, with a series of hoax bombs planted on board vehicles they had commandeered.

Six vehicles, including two buses and a coach, were involved in the IRA operation, and in one case members of an RUC patrol had a lucky escape when they discovered the 'hoax' bombs was in fact a real one. Fortunately for them, only the detonator charge ex-

# Irish News and black propoganda

THE Belfast Brigade IRA has strenuously denied a front-page 'exclusive' in the Irish News earlier this week (Monday, December 5th), that purports to give details of its 'collaboration' with the loyalist paramilitary UVF in executing Lenny Murphy - a UVF leader believed to have been feuding with other loyalist paramilitaries - on November 16th.

Claims that the UVF, and not the IRA, had carried out the execution, were first 'floated' by loyalists themselves at the time, anxious to play down the IRA's ability to observe, pursue and ambush a UVF leader in what they regarded as 'safe' loyalist territory. To counter this fictitious claim the IRA took the unusual - though not unprecedented - step of publicly revealing the weapons used in the attack, a 9mm sub-machine gun and a .38 Special.

Now, in what is clearly an altogether fictitious, and somewhat clumsy, story the Irish News has claimed the IRA actually supplied these weapons to the UVF who then carried out the execution.

The Irish News, under the control of managing director Jim Fitzpatrick and new editor Martin O'Brien, has steadily been moving towards an overtly anti-republican and pro-Brit/pro-RUC position for several months, and republicans as essentially no different to the UVF.

Outlining the republican view that the story is either a product of O'Brien's own imagination, or a piece of Brit/RUC propoganda he has knowingly printed, the IRA stated: "The attempt to link ourselves with sectarian loyalist murder 1970-1973 British army tactics than investigative journalism."

"The IRA reiterates that it has no connections whatsoever with any loyalist paramilitary groups."

ploded, causing no enemy casualties.

## SOUTH ARMAGH GUN ATTACK

More than 20 high-velocity rifle shots were fired at a joint Brit/RUC patrol just outside Cross-

maglen last Sunday afternoon, December 5th, by South Armagh IRA Volunteers.

Despite fire being returned, and a massive follow-up search operation on both sides of the border, the ASU returned safely to base.

# Medical protest leads to coma

BY JACK MADDEN

A REPUBLICAN prisoner, who went into a coma earlier this week, following a protest against inadequate medical treatment in Portlaoise Jail, is now reported to be in a stable condition and recovering in hospital.

Danny McCauley, a 28-year-old Strabane man, is a diabetic. When he entered Portlaoise Jail last July his condition worsened and he complained of a deterioration in his eyesight, sweating at night and diarrhoea. The cause of these problems was, he is certain, the type of insulin given to him in the jail.

The insulin which Danny received in Strabane is not available in the South on the grounds that it may cause long-term problems for users. The replacement insulin would, the doctors said, function properly once his system adjusted to it.

Five months later, Danny had had enough.

"He felt," said his wife Helen, "that five months was long enough to try out a type of insulin. It was not working and he decided that enough was enough."

In those five months, Danny had already had cause for concern and, in August, had spent a day

in the Richmond Hospital in Dublin where his condition was temporarily stabilised. When he returned to Portlaoise, however, he found that nothing had changed and his symptoms returned.

## HUNGER-STRIKE

Frustrated and worried, Danny embarked on a hunger-strike on Monday 29th November. One day later, because of his disability, he collapsed and was brought to the James Connolly Memorial Hospital in Blanchardstown.

He agreed to take treatment in the hospital until Sunday 5th December, when he refused both insulin and food in an attempt to win an assurance that when returned to Portlaoise he would be given a form of the drug which would not produce adverse side-effects.

On Monday night he ended his strike after a visit from his solicitor. Lack of food and insulin had by



● Helen McCauley, with her three children, visiting her husband Danny (inset) in Blanchardstown Hospital earlier this week

that time taken its toll and on Tuesday, at 2.45pm, Danny slipped into a coma. He remained comatose throughout the day but began to recover later that night. Since

then he has remained weak but his condition is improving.

Danny Morrison, Sinn Fein elected representative for Mid-Ulster, has been following develop-

ments closely and has been in contact with the governor of Portlaoise and numerous specialists to determine how the problem can best be resolved.

# Bullet ploy fails

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

IN WHAT appeared to be a well-prepared charade by RUC Special Branch men, a 22-year-old Belfast man, from the New Lodge area of the city, was arrested on Saturday morning last when a round of ammunition was 'discovered' in a fireside chair at his home.

The home of Martin McNally, his wife Alice and two young children, was raided at 7am and a thorough search conducted, including in it their settee and armchairs.

The arrogance of the British army raiders was explained afterwards by Alice McNally, who reported that, without her permission, one of the female Brits took cups out of her kitchen to other soldiers in a Saracen. The cups were not returned.

Just as the raiding party was preparing to leave, a RUC plain-clothes detective walked into the living room, crossed to one of the previously searched fireside chairs and produced two bullets.

One of them was an ornamental trinket which Martin McNally had previously purchased in a junk shop, but the other was a live round.



● MARTIN & ALICE McNALLY

McNally was dragged roughly from the house and thrown into a Saracen outside. In Castlereagh interrogation centre, he was threatened by the RUC and told that he could be easily 'set-up', if he did not sign a statement admitting possession of the bullet. They could, they said, let him out early and give people the 'wrong impression' about him.

Wisely assessing his true position, McNally came to the conclusion that the RUC were bluffing and, confident that the bullet had been planted in his home, refused to play into their hands. He signed nothing and was released the following day, albeit with a threat from the RUC, as he left, who asked: "Do you like turkey? Don't worry, we'll be back before Christmas and you'll get your Christmas dinner in here."

# Taxi driver assaulted

GERRY GRIEVE, aged 27, from the Ballymogoarty area of Derry is the latest victim in a sustained campaign of harassment by British soldiers against local black-taxi drivers.

On Thursday afternoon, December 2nd, Grieve was washing his taxi outside his mother's home in Eastway Gardens in the Creggan area, when a passing British army foot patrol stopped and began questioning him in detail about his present address, previous address and so on.

Accustomed to this ritual harassment of black-taxi drivers, Gerry Grieve continued to wash the car as the questioning went on. He was then kicked by one of the British soldiers and then seized and thrown over the garden hedge. As he lay on the ground, the Brits continued to beat him, hitting him several times on the face and arms.

Fortunately, neighbours saw what was happening and came to his assistance. He received treatment at the local hospital for severe bruising and headaches.



● GERRY GRIEVE

# Plastic British humour

THREE West Belfast women narrowly escaped being hit by a British army plastic bullet, on Wednesday of last week, December 1st, as they left their workplace in Kennedy Way, Andersonstown.

Alison Graham (19), Ann Campbell (24) and Theresa Hennessey (21) had just left work at Fisherbody Ltd in the Kennedy Way industrial estate at around 3.30pm. They paid no attention to a British army jeep which passed them as they crossed Blackstaff Road.

Suddenly the back doors of the jeep opened and one of the Brits fired a single plastic round at them. They baton round narrowly missed Alison

Graham and the terrified women began screaming as they crouched down in anticipation of more rounds being fired.

As the women ran over to the footpath, the Brits in the jeep, delighted with their dangerous and potentially murderous actions, laughed and jeered loudly as they sped off and turned down the Andersonstown Road towards the RUC barracks.



● ALISON GRAHAM

# Derry row heats up

BY PAT DEENEY

RESIDENTS in the Bishop Street area of Derry's Brandywell have been escalating their protest action to get the district heating system removed from their homes.

The system has proved totally unreliable, regularly breaking down and leaving the houses without any form of heating. It is also grossly over-expensive, with some users paying as much as £200 in surcharges over and above their quarterly bill.

A discovery lately that rats have infested houses in the area is believed to be directly related to the piping system used for the heating.

A recent meeting between residents, accompanied by

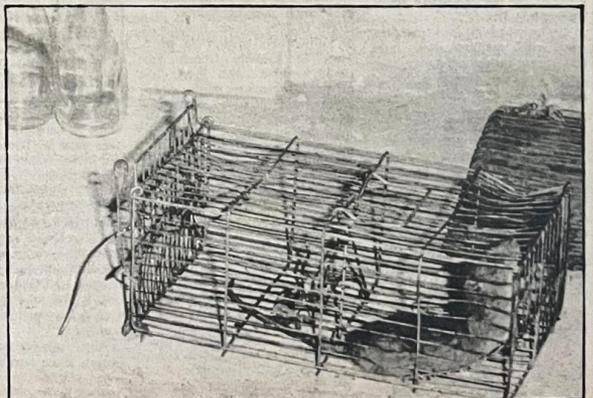
Sinn Fein elected representative Martin McGuinness and IIP councillor Liam Bradley, and Housing Executive officials proved to be totally unsatisfactory. Housing Executive regional controller Frank McGrath told the delegation that "all the flaws in the present system will not be ironed out until next summer."

Faced with the prospect of continuous breakdowns throughout the winter and

with no firm guarantee that the system will ever work effectively, the residents organised a protest on Thursday, December 2nd.

At 10.30am, over 60 residents, accompanied by Martin McGuinness, blocked Derry's Lecky Road and disrupted work on a nearby building site where new houses under construction are still being fitted to the failed district heating system.

In a statement, Sinn Fein has called on the Housing Executive to immediately abandon and dismantle the present ineffective heating system and replace it by acceptable alternatives such as solid fuel fires.



● One of the rats which have infested Brandywell houses due to the heating system





# Mála poist...Mála poist.

All letters should be addressed to The Editor, Republican News, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast or 44 Parrell Square, Dublin 1. Letters should be written as clearly as possible, preferably on one side of paper only. Names and addresses should always be included, even when not for publication.

## Building a withdrawal movement

A Chara,

Having already been subjected to the confused rantings of Bryn Harris (AP/RN, November 25th), on 'Building a Withdrawal Movement', I reckoned your readers might as well hear a reply (given that Kevin Burke's mixing spoon seems to be working overtime at the moment!).

Firstly, nobody in the Troops Out Movement (TOM) I know is 'besotted' with the 'Brit' labour movement - our memories of Don Conannon's visit to Bobby Sands' death-bed are too strong.

However, I for one am 'besotted' with British withdrawal from Ireland.

Now, how will that day come about? Well, firstly through the efforts of the Republican Movement, which is why I wouldn't normally waste space on your letters page - given that you've got your own debates to sort out.

There is, though, also a role for people in England, Scotland and Wales, and that is to gain support for withdrawal, and an end to partition.

Support from whom? Well, support from the most oppressed sections of the population is obviously heart-warming and welcome. The fact is, though, these are not the people who maintain British rule in Ireland. Nor is it what Bryn Harris carelessly refers to as the 'British' working class.

Republicans have always



Building an effective withdrawal movement is the best form of solidarity that can be given

recognised that it is Thatcher, Foot and their like who are the enemies. So how do we influence them? Well, the funny thing is that (like us!) half the time they're at each other's throats anyway.

Until we get round to our own revolution - which I don't believe will come before yours - we have got to play on their differences.

Now, it's not often that revolutionaries get invited to tea at 10 Downing Street so that means getting others to do our work for us. If they are part of the same oppressor, then at least that means they'll be listened

to. It is in this context, for example, that the recent decision by the Labour Party conference on plastic bullets is a step forward.

Of course, the leadership of the Labour Party don't support armed struggle, and have said they won't implement the decision if they come to power. The main thing is that the seeds of division have been sown, and are there to be nurtured.

If that means drinking in Labour clubs, then I'll do it - although being Irish and preferring a good 'session' any day,

I don't exactly relish the prospect. (Now if that isn't solidarity, then I don't know what is!)

To conclude, building an effective withdrawal movement that can cause divisions amongst those who maintain the occupation of Ireland is, to my mind, the best form of solidarity we can give.

Calling for support for the armed struggle will not achieve this, but will leave us talking to ourselves - a pastime I have never considered to be very revolutionary. It's too easy.

Mike Woods, TOM member.

facilities, with degrading the manhood and womanhood of the country by offering them the humiliation of the dole queue, but now they must have their pound of flesh in no uncertain terms.

The 'beggars', who are evidently scum in their eyes, must not be allowed to disturb the new god, the foreign visitor, must not give him a clue as to the true nature of things in this state which, in all likelihood, his own government in demanding its pound of flesh in loan repayments from this neo-colony of Ireland, is creating.

As for the 'vesters and malingers' we here see the words of a witty or unwitting tool of the national and international business interests in this state. Now that your possibility to beg is taken away your complete commitment to the repayment of the national debt to the international bankers must be assured, so any line of retreat from working your guts out in this noble project, such as a certificate to indicate that you were sick of this whole state of madness, must be cut off.

By all means, you worthy medical men and executives of welcoming tourist organisations have the beggars and malingers shut, and let us recognise our true god, Mammon. But then perhaps it is yours more than ours.

We have no doubt that the worthy products of our business colleges and management organisations will make worthy lieutenants in any concentration camps which these revered experts may care to set up.

John Boland of Fine Gael was surprised that the redundant Talbot car workers did not jump to attention at the possibility of becoming departmental messengers in the Civil Service.

His attitude was that at the moment everybody must accept whatever is offered them, assuming something is, no matter how far removed from their skills or capacities. This could be described as militarisation of labour in disguise.

Indeed, he was upset that they were offered the jobs at all.

We must assume then that all our aims, our whole future, indeed the entire future of the nation, must hinge on and revolve around the paying of our debts to the international bankers, and the maintenance of their profits.

We hope the Irish people realise how much their rights and happiness count for in the eyes of these experts: nothing.

Paul Flynn, Acting PRO, Irish Civil Rights Association.



The sight of travellers having to fight for their rights is embarrassing to the 'powers that be' in 'Christian' Ireland

## Democracy

A Chara,

Democracy operates on the principle of consensus. To work it requires agreement by all sections of society on fundamental issues such as the constitutional basis of the state. Obviously such agreement does not and cannot exist in the six counties.

The six-county state is a totally artificial entity, created on the basis of a sectarian head-count which was designed to create total and permanent loyalist domination. It is equally obvious then, that democracy cannot operate in a six-county context.

Loyalism is a fascist ideology. Its roots are economic, not cultural. In many countries there are people, usually led by demagogues, who wish to blame all their misfortunes and shortcomings on a convenient scapegoat, be it Jews, blacks or Catholics. It is no coincidence that loyalists have links with other fascists such as the National Front.

Given the nature of loyalism, it is unrealistic to expect its exponents to adopt anything other than a hostile attitude towards nationalists. Since the setting up of the six-county state, loyalists have never repealed their emergency laws nor disarmed their police force. Since the fall of Stormont they have refused to make even minor concessions to nationalists. Placing such people in a position of power over the nationalist community is like putting Goebbels in charge of a kibbutz.

Some recent events give an indication of the sort of state loyalists will run if given the chance. Harold McCusker (OU), congratulates the RUC for gunning down three unarmed men in Lurgan. George Seawright (DUP), attends the funeral of Lennie Murphy, the 'Shankill Butcher'. David Calvert (DUP), praises the RUC for brutally murdering a 17-year-old boy in Lurgan. These hypocrites then proceed to the assembly to discuss 'security'. It is quite obvious what sort of 'security policy' they want to see pursued.

This baying for nationalist blood is a regular feature of loyalist politics. The British government afforded considerable credibility and comfort to the loyalists in their antics when the mollusc James Prior addressed a special sitting of the assembly on 'security' matters.

The six-county state cannot be made democratic. It can either be dismantled or run as a repressive state which disregards the rights and aspirations of nationalists. Britain makes it all too plain which option she has decided on.

Observant.



Official Unionist McCusker condones the gunning down of nationalists

## Law courts dispute

A Chara,

It has come to my attention that because of the strike which is continuing by clerks in the Dublin family law courts, many women who wish to apply for either a barring order or protection order against their husbands are unable to do so through the usual procedure no matter how hard their circumstances are.

We would like to inform women who find themselves in this position, that applications for both barring and protection orders may be made by going to the Court Clerk, Court No. 5, in the Bridewell and giving details to him.

While we accept that the clerks in the family law courts have adequate reason for their strike we feel that women who find themselves in a situation which leads them to such drastic action should not be made to wait.

We should add that the CSEU have told us that they have no objection to women acting on the advice we have given.

Ursula Quinn, Dublin Committee, Sinn Féin Dept. of Women's Affairs.

## Re-zoning

A Chara,

The following letter has been sent to Dublin County Council Planning Department, and we would be grateful if you would publish it in your letters column.

The members of the Wolfe Tone Sinn Féin cumann wish to object to the re-zoning of the land at Brittas known as Gortium. We ask that the council give priority to the people of Brittas village in their request for a

better sewerage service and water supply, which is now long overdue.

Low-density housing in the ratio of 2% or 3% acres to one house will in no way enhance this high-amenity area.

The people who could afford such development would not be interested in adding to the community but would only seek to lock themselves away in privacy.

We would also ask that the council provide local authority housing for the younger generation in the area.

Peter Cunningham, Wolfe Tone Sinn Féin cumann, Tallaght, County Dublin.



## The media

A Chara,

I am writing on behalf of the London Media Research Group, a group of independent film-makers who, in collaboration with the Six O'Clock Video collective, produced the video tape 'We Ourselves Speak'.

Firstly, I would like to point out that at no time did we receive any assistance, financial or otherwise, from the London listings magazine City Limits as reported in 'The Video Boom', AP/RN,

September 2nd. City Limits in fact declined to review or publicise 'We Ourselves Speak' and, apart from that, their position on the Irish republican struggle leaves a lot to be desired.

Secondly, we welcome the introduction of a critical television review page to AP/RN as it is important that the Movement understands the workings of a hostile mass media.

We often hear reports of a 'sophisticated' IRA propaganda machine' but this is hardly the case when British reporters and TV crews are continually made welcome and given assistance in Ireland, possibly in the hope that some small piece of truthful reporting will slip through their daily distortions.

Recent examples of this are Kee's 'Ireland - a Television History', Panorama's 'Profile of Gerry Adams' and 'No Hiding Place'. In the latter, reporter Peter Taylor was given the opportunity to interview Volunteers (obviously inexperienced in dealing with the media), on the run in the twenty-six counties.

Surely as the odds are against the Republican Movement in this battle for the hearts and minds of the public, representatives should be briefed on how to deal with this style of 'reporting'.

Perhaps these programmes have been taped and could be reviewed and analysed in a future edition of AP/RN.

London Media Research Group.

## Trom agus Éadrom

A Chara,

Ba mhéith liom dópá focal a fá faoi cúl ar Chonrad Mhuineachán a bhí ar an taifís ag Trom agus Éadrom. Ar druid, ní raibh me sísta ar chor ar bhí leis an seilgeas scéal a bhí ag na dhaoine a bhí páirteach ann. Tá sé fíor go

raibh an cuid is mó díobh 6 áit-ann eile den tír agus nach raibh spiorad muintir Mhuineachán san méid a bhí le rá acu.

Cad faoi'n ghluaiseacht ár gultúir, an chonrad, Cumann Gaelach, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann agus an féile amháin atá ann na, Féile Oriel. Nach iad sin na grúpaí atá ag obair ar son ár dtanga is árgultúir i Mhuineachán agus ní raibh dúine ar bith ar an cúl ag chaint ar a shon nó ar an obair atá ar shuíl acu.

Tá sé in am do mhuintir RTE agus Liam Ó Murchú, an méid a thabhairt i gceart ar an scéal atá déanta ag na dhaoine a bhfuil ina chónaí ar an dtóiríonn tríd ar chaine ar son ghluaiseacht ár gultúir. Ach, sílim go raibh sé deaschar dóibh na fírinne a rá agus iad síos ins An Mhuinichille, Condae An Chabháin.

Ní raibh siad ábalta teacht go Mhuineachán, mar is dócha go bhfuil sé thar an teorainn an aigne RTE. Sin sé; bhí lámh orthu go mbuailfeadh iad len RUC i mBaile na Lorgáin, Coaimhín Ó Caoláin, Condae Mhuineachán.

## The new god

Dear Editor,

We would like to draw the attention of the public to the sinister turns of phrase which the experts in their midst are beginning to use. We are told that 'beggars' (it used to be itinerants), must be driven from the streets as if they were so much garbage.

In addition we are informed that 'wasters and malingers' with medical certificates are robbing the state.

It appears that the 'experts' are not content with successfully disemploying 160,000 people, with providing absolutely no prospect of any future with beginning to use. We are told that 'beggars' (it used to be itinerants), must be driven from the streets as if they were so much garbage. In addition we are informed that 'wasters and malingers' with medical certificates are robbing the state.

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# Burke's at the back

BY KEVIN BURKE

# Put up your Dukes!

ONE OF Fine Gael's certainties for an important cabinet position in a forthcoming coalition government is the Kildare deputy Alan Dukes, who has been presented as one of the party's bright young intellectuals since entering Leinster House last year.

An assessment of his extraordinary capacity can be made from a discussion he had with Athy Sinn Fein councillor Paddy Wright during the recent general election campaign.

Wright was making the point to Dukes that, as an elected representative, he objected to being banned from RTE under Section 31 and went on to point out the anomaly of the fact that most people in the South could see republican spokespersons on BBC.

Dukes: "I'm not interested in the BBC."  
Wright: "Well your leader, Garret Fitz-Gerald, seems very interested in getting on the BBC."  
Dukes: "Would you ever fuck off?"

☆☆☆

A County Kildare journalist, Tim Moore, has been awarded £1,000 damages by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal for injuries he received during the garda bating of the hunger-strike demonstration at the British Embassy in Dublin in July 1981.

Moore, who was reporting on the demonstration, was struck from behind by a garda wielding a riot stick and sustained a head injury requiring seven stitches.

No garda has been charged in connection with the assault on Moore.

☆☆☆

What a relief to see RTE's 'Today Tonight The Workers' Party Programme' back with two shock-horror-sob stories this week on the shooting of the UDR soldier/bus driver in Dunganon and on the INLA bombing of the Belgarno Inn, or whatever it was called, in Derry.

Obviously we couldn't have expected them to cover the four murders by the RUC in Lurgan or the loyalist assassinations of Michael Fay, Patrick Murphy, Joseph Donegan and Peter Carrigan, which have taken place in recent weeks.

But when they failed to do a programme of tribute to Lennie Murphy I was beginning to think that they had forgotten the North existed.

☆☆☆

And while I think of it, what was all that secrecy last week about the mysterious 'Witness A' who was naming all and sundry in the INLA trial?

Everyone knows that the anonymous informer was Jackie Grimley of Craigoan, so the name couldn't have been withheld for security reasons. Presumably the 'anonymity' was at his own request to try to avoid the shame attached to his action. But life just isn't that simple.

☆☆☆

A very serious case indeed has been occupying the attention of the Cookstown RUC and local magistrates recently involving a local man who was arrested for being drunk in the town last April.

Cookstown Court was told, last week, that when 25-year-old Anthony Donaghy was locked in a cell at the barracks he damaged a pillow valued at £5.11 in protest at the accommodation there, and was charged accordingly.

Unable to reach a decision on this complicated matter, the court adjourned the case for



ALAN DUKES

road in front of a car.  
O'Malley told the court that, at the time of the accident, he was hurrying to a building society to withdraw some money to pay for his insurance.

☆☆☆

Perhaps in an attempt by Fianna Fail to embarrass the incoming government of Garret FitzGerald, in the aftermath of his 'all-Ireland police force' boob, warrants were issued by the Dublin Special Criminal Court, on Friday last, for the arrest of two armed RUC men who were discovered in a Castleblayney dance-hall last August, and escorted back over the border by gardai.

The charges are of "possession of firearms with intent to endanger life," and the RUC have said they will leave it up to the two themselves whether they answer the charges. Both are still serving members of the force.

Well, if they don't turn up in Dublin, there is always extradition or the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act. I await developments with interest.

☆☆☆

Stung by my report a few weeks ago of the success of an Australian horse by the name of Sinn Fein, a reader in New Zealand writes to dismiss what he terms as the 'Aussie nag' in favour of a top New Zealand greyhound called Smash Partition, handled by ace Irish-born trainer Owen Marron.

According to this reader the dog regularly "turns up at good odds" at the tracks.

So as there is such interest in these matters, I may as well confess my own attempted betting coup on Monday of this week.

Inspired by the invitation of the Greater London Council leader to Messrs Adams and Morrison, I could not resist a 'mug's double' on two horses running at Newcastle that day - Local Councillor and Canny Danny. Unfortunately, although both attracted attention before the off, one fell and the other was pulled up.

It must have been an omen.

six months, until May next year, "so that the defendant's behaviour can be monitored."

☆☆☆

A British soldier was fined £45 by Downpatrick Court last week for carelessly driving a motor-cycle without insurance.

Dean O'Malley, of Abercorn Barracks, Ballykinlar, and his pillion passenger, Alexander Buist, of the same address, sped out of a side



## WHAT'S ON

- COUNTY MONAGHAN NGA  
INAUGURAL MEETING  
3pm Sunday 12th December  
The Hope Arms  
CASTLEBLAYNEY  
County Monaghan  
Speaker: Sean Fitzpatrick (NGA sec)  
Everyone welcome to attend
- DONEGAL COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR  
AGM CHANGE OF DATE  
3.30pm Sunday 12th December  
Jackson's Hotel  
BALLYBOFEY  
County Donegal  
Two delegates to attend from each cumann
- FINALS OF DUBLIN  
SINN FEIN QUIZ  
8pm Sunday 12th December  
The No. 5 Club  
5 Blessington Street  
DUBLIN
- RELEASE NICKY KELLY  
PUBLIC MEETING  
8pm Thursday 16th December  
Junior Common Room  
Trinity College  
DUBLIN  
Speakers include Fr Denis Faul & Professor Ivor Browne
- SEAN SABHAT  
COMMEMORATION  
3pm Sunday 2nd January  
Bedford Row  
LIMERICK  
Prominent speaker



## Irish Republican Martyrs MEMORIAL CALENDAR 1983

## Memorial calendar

THE 1983 Irish Republican Martyrs Memorial Calendar, in honour of our patriot dead and produced by Republican Publications, is now available.

Individual copies will cost IRE£2.00 and SUG£1 (Britain and abroad), plus postage. Bulk order rates are available on request.

Orders should be sent to Republican Publications, 2a Monagh Crescent, Turf Lodge, Belfast (phone 620768); or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 (phone 726932).

## Christmas party

THE annual Christmas party for the children of republican POWs will be held in 5 Blessington Street, Dublin, this Sunday, December 12th, at 3pm.

All children, up to the age of 11, and their mothers, are welcome. For further information phone the prisoners' department at Dublin 308783.

## POWs in England

ANYONE wishing to send Christmas greetings to republican prisoners in English jails and requires their exact names, numbers and addresses should contact either of the Sinn Fein POW Department offices at 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast (phone 23214), or 5 Blessington Street, Dublin (phone 308783).

TU & RADIO

# A question of politics

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THE RUTHLESS business methods of a company building a holiday centre near England's Lake District was the main story on BBC 1's 'Nationwide' last Wednesday.

Blue Anchor Ltd, owned by John Woodward, bought up land near a small village 25 miles from the Lake District and proceeded to remove anyone living on or near it. Two old brothers were forced out of their farmhouse home by threats of legal action and one died two weeks later.

Another elderly couple were told they were trespassers in the home they had owned and lived in all their lives. Another family's boundary wall was knocked down to make way for the caravan park Blue Anchor were building.

The village tried to fight back pointing out that Blue Anchor had broken planning regulations on at least three occasions but found that Woodward had 'connections' and

their protests were in vain.

UNSCRUPULOUS

'Giro City' later on Wednesday, on Channel 4, had the same theme in one of the stories: a hill-farming community in Wales being forced out of their homes by unscrupulous businessmen, helped by a corrupt local councillor.

Glenda Jackson, described in the TV Times as "the face that launched a thousand dredgers", starred in their story of TV journalists being censored for political expediency.

The reporting team of TV 10, as the fictional programme they worked for was called, came to Dublin to interview the 'chief-of-staff of the IRA'. The Free State Special Branch follow them and stop them after

the interview, asking them what they are doing in Dublin and who they were talking to.

Sophie (Glenda Jackson) is frightened by this incident, but relieved that they did not lose the film of the interview. She asks the other reporter with her, Martin (Kenneth Colley) why they were not taken in for questioning.

"Ah, that's a question," he replies, "and the answer is politics."

After their return to England, Sophie hears on the news that 'Flynn', the IRA leader they had interviewed, has been arrested, and while some regret is registered, the main emotion seemed to be the boost this would give the TV 10' interview.

When the finished product is shown to their bosses, the investigating team are furious at the censorship of both stories. One of them, arguing for the IRA interview to be shown says naively:

"If the government has noth-



● TV 10's Sophie (Glenda Jackson) comes up against political censorship in 'Giro City' following an IRA interview

ing to hide, they've nothing to fear."

One of the apparent reasons for the objection to the interview with the IRA man is that it shows him to be articulate and intelligent and this is not the image the British government wants projected.

However, the reporters man-

age to resign themselves to the political interference with their work, helped by liberal doses of whiskey.

In the Irish Times TV page last Wednesday, 'Giro City' was described as "an attempt to explode the myth of objective news" and praised the film, but commented:

"For Irish viewers, credibil-

ity collapses when the crusading duo comes to police-ridden Dublin."

Fergus Brohan, the Irish Times journalist making the comment would seem to have spent his time in front of sanitised, Section 31-protected RTE.

A word with any fellow-journalists who have visited Sinn Féin's Dublin offices, would put Fergus in the picture on how true to life the Special Branch 'intervention' was.

NOSTALGIA

The '60s nostalgia continues on both radio and television. Jimmy Saville's 'Old Record Club' on BBC at twelve noon on Sundays, featured 1966 last Sunday.

All the old 'flower power' stuff sounded really dated, but the Beatles and the rock numbers were as good as when I first heard them — from my playpen, of course.

All this emphasis on the 'Swinging Sixties' impact on music, morals and modes is sometimes puzzling when all these compare attitudes to all three, then and now.

The '60s were not all that liberal, as the programme reminds us. The Beatles still wore matching suits and haircuts. Unmarried mothers had an even worse time then than now. And those stiff petticoats and suspender belts were murder!

# Rapper uppers and linen slaves

Eamonn MacThomais, historian, broadcaster and author of such books of Dublin memories as 'Me Jewel and Darlin' Dublin', 'Gur Cakes and Coal Blocks', 'The Labour and The Royal' and, most recently, 'Janey Mack, Me Shirt is Black', has been reading the newly published 'Falls Memories' by Gerry Adams.

He tells here why he enjoyed it so much as to read it three times in one week.

BY EAMONN MacTHOMAIS

A 'RAPPER UPPER' in Dublin is a butcher's shop porter or messenger-boy, a person with small wages and a 'rapp up' on a Saturday night.

I knew a 'rapper upper' once who was a bit worried about the size of his rapp up. Sometimes the rapp up was more valuable than his wages. He went to confession and told the priest his story — a wife, seven kids, £2 in wages and the big rapp up.

"Do the best you can, my poor man," said the priest.

And as the rapper upper said himself:

"I do the best I can every Saturday night. I get a fine joint for the wife and kids and a few other joints to sell cheap to me neighbours in Sean McDermott Street."

A rapper upper in Belfast was the person who ensured that no-one slept in.

At five o'clock in the morning, the linen mill's hooter screeched. The rapper upper was on his rounds, with a long pole, tapping all the upstairs windows and not moving to the next house until he got the signal that someone was up.

"Five o'clock the horn does blow  
"Half past five, we all must go  
"If you be a minute late  
"Och! Jack Horn will shut the gate  
"So early in the morning."

How many times have I heard my mother say:

"The gate was locked. That bloody owl tram, I'd walk quicker, five minutes late and the gate was shut and I lost a half-day's pay."

the breast and arms, hair tied up to prevent it irritating the skin  
.....  
Imagine the stifling, suffocating atmosphere that in a few months banishes the colour from the cheeks of the rosiest half-timer and reduces all to one common deathly pallor."

Children, mostly girls, worked the same hours as adults until the year 1874. Legislation in that year made children go to school for two days and work four days. These children were known as half-timers. In the year 1907 the half-timers were paid 3/4d for the long week and 2/11 1/2d for the short week.

I myself started work in 1940 at 2/5d per day for 14 hours' work.

Larkin and Connolly tried hard to ease the Belfast and Dublin workers' lot. But the linen slaves continued to die young; killed, sent to early graves by their jobs.

I saw the same thing in the Dublin coalyards — wet sacks, wet clothes, bronchial chests, TB, Glasnevin, Mount Jerome and Dean's Grange. Those who survived, like the Belfast linen workers, got no sick pay, no pensions, short weeks — "under the hammer", the Dubs called it.

The 'kick' in Dublin at Christmas was the loan of a £5 note to be repaid at two shillings per week, stopped out of their miserable low wages. Coming up to Christmas the 'kick' was used as a threat, a lever, a boss's magic wand.

"Remember now, any trouble  
"No kick, no kick,  
"No kick for Christmas."

COLOURFUL

In 'Falls Memories', Gerry Adams has written a wonderful book. Its 144 pages are delightful and colourful.

It is a book that made me laugh, cry, get angry and bitter, filled me with sadness and picked me up again with the joy and

BOOK

wit of the massive Belfast characters and people.

Gerry Adams has written a story of only Belfast, but a story of Dublin and a story of any other city in the world where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

The Falls Road is dotted with houses and places that I can see every day in the Liberties of Dublin.

Crocker and company, the characters of Belfast, are all down here in Dublin under the names of 'Hairly Lemon' and 'Jembo-No-Toes'.

The drawings in the book by Michael McKernon are excellent. The backyards of Belfast are no different than the backyards of Dublin.

Like the man who moved to the new house with the toilet upstairs.

"How's the new house?" I asked.

"Ah, it's OK," he said, "but it's a bit hard getting used to the backyard being upstairs."

In the week since I got Gerry's book, I have read it three times.

It is the sort of book that never tires. I have even found myself, when alone, singing the Belfast street songs.

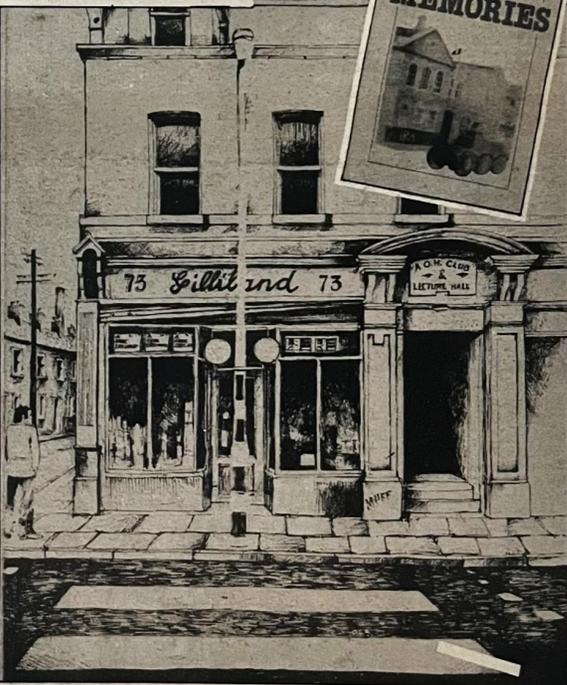
"You'll say know a wasser  
"When she comes into town  
"With her owl greasy hair  
"And her scissors hanging down  
"With a shawl around her shoulders  
"And a shuttle in her hand  
"You'll say know a wasser  
"For she'll never get a man."

GRAVY RINGS

It's a pity Gerry wasn't a kid with me in Belfast, because I'd have shown him the way to bunk into the 'pitchers'. I was a past master at it. Poor Gerry got caught in Belfast's Clonard picture house and got a kick in the arse. But I must take off my hat to Josie McMenamy who bunked in successfully and bought the gravy rings.

I am thinking now that it is another pity that Jimmy Steele is dead — this would have been his favourite book.

Starting in the Lower 'Wack' and moving backwards in time to ancient Ireland through the Iron Age and the time of Tara and McArt's Fort.



● The Ancient Order of Hibernians hall on Belfast's Falls Road, one of many excellent drawings by Michael McKernon in Gerry Adams' 'Falls Memories'

I can hear Jimmy's voice now on the summit of Cave Hill. I can hear Wolfe Tone's voice and that of Henry Joy McCracken as Gerry traces the historic story of Belfast from 1795.

I can see the old Falls man dragging deeply on his Park Drive fag, telling Gerry Adams about the '20s. I bet he had his cap on. His story is a masterpiece.

From a herd of cows in Leeson Street to chickens, horses, republicans, boxers, Barney Hughes's baps, treads, soda fairs and potato bread, my mind is spinning, my nose is sniffing and me bely thinks me throat is cut.

It is all colour, delightful colour. Every chapter is a gem and

a jewel — 'Prods and Micks', 'Wakes and Witches', 'Snake Belts and Dog Fights', 'Pawn Shops and Politics', and the rest.

CHARACTERS

Many of the street songs in the chapter entitled 'My Aunt Jane' are very similar to Dublin street songs.

Some years ago I did a study of street characters in the major cities of Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales, and there did not seem to be any great differences between the cities.

Man for man and woman for woman, each city had its own 'Johnny Wet Bread', 'Nancy Needleballs', shoe-blacks, buskers, 'Organ Grinder', 'Windy Mills', 'Tuggers', 'Rags Borties Boney', 'Yako', 'Diney Bolks',

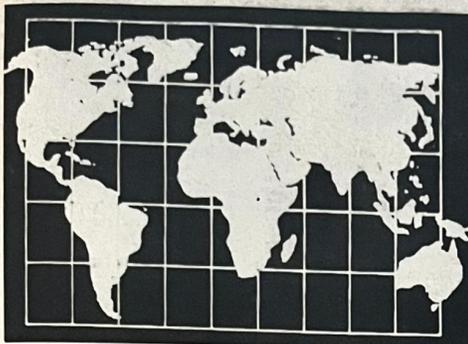
'Vieagar Bottles', 'Bottler', 'Horsey' and a million more.

London had only two characters that we hadn't got — the cat's meat man and the hot chestnut seller.

The reason for that was we played conkers with the chestnuts and we ate the cat's meat ourselves.

And I will sum up my feelings for this book by using the theme of Joe Kavanagh's sign that hung on the Old Smithfield Market: "We buy anything". Between the covers of 'Falls Memories' — I love everything.

'Falls Memories' by Gerry Adams is published by Brandon Book Publishers, Dingle, County Kerry, and is available in all bookshops. Price Ir£3.50.



níú agus anáin go nglactaí go hidirnáisiúnta leis na hainmnacha sin, Glacadh leis an rún sin, ach fós féin tá fóirthe ag áiteann go nglactaí lena leaganacha féin d'ainmnacha a luíonn taobh amuigh dá dtír...

BÉARLA
'Sí an bhunús agus ag a gcomhfháil seo go mbheadh calphéidíní i bhfadhb maidir leis na hainmnacha seo lé éigin. Mar sin d'áithneadh uile dúine an uile áit. Smaoiním mairbh é sin, ach labhraíonn eagan tír teanga éagsúil, mar sin is fada róiteach tú.

DÚCHAS
Chonalc muid cheana an dóigh a d'fáigh siad ar dtéanga lena mbeartaigh agus ar dóchár a rinneadh dar dtéanga agus dar goutúir dá bharr. Chomh luath is a n-athraíocht ainm stairiúil, bainítear de chleachtach na teangan, cailítear cuid dar safolta agus goitdar ní dúchas. Ní fíú calphéidín an chailiúint sin.

Ní chífir do thóirthe, go mórmhór na cinn óga tír seo a ghaiste seo. Uair a chaitítear an dúchas is doiligh bráth uirthi arís.
B'fhearr í b'fhad fosta d'Éireannach a bheadh uilinn na moltaí seo a dhíolú, agus breis nirt a chur leis an bhfeachtas chun ar n-áit ainmnacha féin a shabháil is a n-áit náisiúnta féin.

# Caighdeánú ainmnacha

Le Eoghan MacCormac HS

DE RÉIR aít san iris Time, bhí crúinnidí na deanaí le hainmnacha fóirthe agus a léitheáir a chaighdeánú. Is dóiche gur b' an t-áit na n-áit n-áit n-áit fóirthe áirthe na hainmnacha a úsáideann fóirthe éile dá dtóirthe féin. 'Sé an sampla is mó atá i mbéal an phobail na Fálklands/Malvinas.

Tionáidh an crúinnidí sa Ghinéiv (nó Geneve mar a bheadh ann na hÉilvéig) agus bhí ionadálacha é naoi náisiún is cogas ann. B'fad dinnsean-

chaithe nó cumadóirí téarsúleanna a bhí mar ionadálacha sa na fóirthe géigle.
Mhál an Oir-Ghearmáin go gceadóir do thóirthe a náisianna féin a ainm-

BRADY, Terry. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Terry Brady, 'A' Coy., 1st Battalion, North Armagh Brigade, Ogligh na hÉiríann, who died on active service on December 5th 1975. 'Far dearer the grave or the prison, I'll be with you as a patriot name, than the trophies of all who rise on liberty's ruins to fame.' Remembered always by the Tom Williams/Thomas Héarsín Fainí curmáid.
BRADY, Terry. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Terry Brady, 1st Battalion, North Armagh Brigade, Ogligh na hÉiríann, who died on active service on December 5th 1975. Dear friend, dear pal, forget you, Terry, I never shall. Always remembered and sadly missed by Liam.
CRAWFORD, Laura. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Laura Crawford, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hÉiríann, who was killed in a premature explosion on December 1st 1975. Remembered always in our hearts and thoughts by all the members of the Fox family, Andersonstown.
CRAWFORD, Laura FOX, Paul. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Laura FOX, Paul, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hÉiríann, who was killed on active service on December 1st 1975. Never a day passes without a thought of her sweet smile, always there to lend a hand to her comrades in the Gael, pray for her. Always remembered by the Graham family, Divis Flatts, and Julia.
CRAWFORD, Laura FOX, Paul. (7th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Laura FOX, Paul, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hÉiríann, who was killed on active service on December 1st 1975. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for her. Always remembered by their comrades Chrís.
DUFFY, Patsy. (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Patsy Duffy, who was murdered by the SAS on November 24th 1978. 'He shall be spoken of among his people and the generations to come, and his name shall be blessed.' St Colmille, pray for him. Always remembered by Thomas, Dolores and family.
DUFFY, Patsy. (4th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Patsy Duffy, Derry Brigade, Ogligh na hÉiríann, who was murdered by the SAS on November 24th 1978. 'He shall be spoken of among his people and the generations to come, and his name shall be blessed.' St Colmille, pray for him. Always remembered by Thomas, Dolores and family.
LYNCH, Ethel. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Ethel Lynch and John McCall, Derry Brigade, Ogligh na hÉiríann, who died on active service on December 7th 1974. She died fighting for our freedom and we shall not forget her sacrifice. Always remembered by the Carlin family.
NOLAN, Tony. (11th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Tony Nolan, Belfast Brigade, Ogligh na hÉiríann, who died on active service on December 18th 1971. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.
LYNCH, Ethel. (8th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol Ethel Lynch and John McCall, Derry Brigade, Ogligh na hÉiríann, who died on active service on December 7th 1974. She died fighting for our freedom and we shall not forget her sacrifice. Always remembered by the Carlin family.
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## Christmas greetings

AS WE approach Christmas and the New Year, An Phoblacht/Republican News requests relatives, friends and organisations who wish to send greetings to the prisoners through APR/N to do so as soon as possible. Annually there is a last-minute rush of greetings and we do our best to accommodate the late arrivals but due to our Christmas printing schedule we shall be forced to rigidly adhere to our deadlines this year. All Christmas greetings should be in our Belfast or Dublin offices by Thursday, December 16th.

# Irish Lesson 8

Anois (unish) - Now.
Go h-áisiúil (go haúsiúil) - Beautiful.
Dábhúil (doh-ooil) - Handsome.
CS (key) - Who.
Ach (och) - But.
Pádraig (pawdrig) - Patrick.
Áine (sunyah) - Ann.
Bríd (Brid) - Bridget.
Séamus (shame-us) - James.
Liam (lyam) - With me.
Lé (lyeh) - With you.
Lé (lyeh) - With him.
Linn (ling) - With her.
Libh (lih) - With you (ye).
Leo (lyeo) - With them.
Le (lah) - With.

PRONUNCIATION: The pronunciation given in brackets is as near as possible to the sound.
CH is sounded as in LOCH ERNE.
D and T before A, O and U are thick, spoken with the tongue pressed against the upper front teeth.
DH and GH are like a G far back in the throat - almost a gargle.
Tá Pádraig liom - Patrick is with me.
Níl Bríd leis túm? - Bridget is not with you (ye) today?
Tá Áine linn - Ann is with us.
Agus tá Séamus léi - And James is with her.

Cé tá le? - Who is with him?
Tá Bríd le Pádraig - Bridget is with Patrick.
Ach ní Áine leo - But Ann is not with them.
Tá Máire libh inniu - Mary is with you (ye) today.
DEARSES
Dia linn (oh-uh ling) - God bless us (said when sneezing).
Maith thú (moh thu) - Good for you!
Codúidh samh (kulla saw) - Sleep well.
Go n-áitiridí adh leat (gu níre awe lyath) - Good luck to you.

## SYMPATHY

CUSHNAHAN. I deeply regret the death of my grandfather Charles Cushnahan who was murdered by the SAS on August 7th 1973. 'A wonderful grandfather with a heart of gold, what I thought of him I remember him and call him blessed.' St Colmille, pray for him. Always remembered by Thomas, Dolores and family.
CUSHNAHAN. The republican POWs (England) deeply regret the death of Charles Cushnahan, grandfather of Paul Hill (Albany), and extend their sympathy to his family.
CUSHNAHAN. The Sinn Féin POW Dept., Dublin, extend their deepest sympathy to Paul Hill (Albany) on the death of his grandfather.
LENNON. We regret the death of our dear friend Eileen Lennon who passed away on November 26th. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for her. 'She died as she lived, undaunted, unbroken, we will remember Eileen, dedicated and strong, so friendly, so caring, in our hearts her memory lives on.' From Christ and Susan McKenna.
McDAID. Deep sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Raymond McDavid who died recently. From Sinn Féin, the POW Committee and the Relatives' Action Committee, Derry.
McKENNA. The Cumann Mionagh comhairle ceantair, Sinn Féin, extend their deepest sympathy to Kevin McKenna and family on the death of his mother, Mary McKenna, on December 7th. Ar lámh dhéas Dé go raibh sí.
McKENNA. Deep sympathy is extended to Kevin McKenna and family, Smithboro, on the death of his mother, Mary McKenna. Go ndéan Dé tréigear d'anam. From the Fergal O'Donnell Bishop Heber McMahon Sinn Féin cumann, Monaghan town.
O'HAGAN. Deep sympathy is extended to the O'Hagan family on the three recent tragic bereavements which have befallen the family. From Willie Taylor (Portlaoise).

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THE CORRIGAN FAMILY would like to thank most sincerely all who sympathised with them on the sad bereavement. Especially all those who sent Mass cards, sympathy cards, letters of condolence, telegrams, floral tributes, called to the home, or attended the removal of remains, Requiem Mass and the funeral.
We would also like to thank the Armagh National Graves Association; the Sinn Féin comhairle ceantair of Armagh; Tyrone, Derry, Louth and Monaghan; Jim McAllister for his inspiring oration; the kind friends and neighbours who helped; but are too numerous to thank individually; the piper; the Harp; GFC and ex-internees; Dúchas; the guard of honour; and gave a fitting farewell to their deceased comrade.
Trusting that this will be accepted by all as a token of our sincere appreciation. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for their intentions.

THE McGLADE FAMILY wish to thank everybody who sympathised with them in their recent sad loss, those who sent floral tributes and telegrams, and those who attended the removal of the remains, Mass and funeral. A special word of thanks to the Republican Movement, an tAthair Párlas Ó Duill, Sean Fitzpatrick of National Graves Association, Phil Kent, Liam Rice, Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, the doctors and nurses of the hospital, and all who attended him during his illness and to many friends and neighbours who were such a comfort and support. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.
Ba mháth le clann Chathail Mhic Léid, a fuair bás, 17ú Meán Fómhair, 1982. Dúchas a shabháil le pacas uile comhbhrón le ar a mbráir brónach le déanaí, na daoine a thug cartáirí aifrinne, agus a shealladh arís agus arís eile, a tháinig tuair a saipéal agus a bhí ag an sochraid. Oifráir Tobairt Naofa an Aifrinne ar bhur son.

## REMEMBERING THE PAST

# The sacking of Cork city

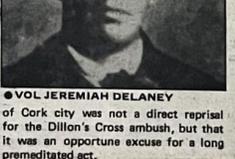
BY PETER O'ROURKE

ACTS OF TERROR by the British forces in Ireland during the Tan War took on a variety of forms, but undoubtedly the greatest single act of concentrated vandalism came in December 1920 with the burning down, by the British Auxiliaries and Black and Tans, of a large part of the centre of Cork city.

An IRA ambush in the city, at Dill-on's Cross, around 8pm, resulted in at least one Auxiliary being killed and twelve injured. Shortly afterwards indiscriminate shooting began in the main streets of Cork city by the Black and Tans.

A few minutes after 10pm, the official curfew time, the first fires broke out in Patrick Street, the principal street of the city. One after another the shops blazed up as armed groups of Auxiliaries and Black and Tans roamed the streets burning and looting shops, hotels and public houses.

Later in the night, across the river, the City Hall went up in flames and was destroyed, along with the Carnegie Library beside it. The fire brigade were



MURDERED
But by far the worst deed of the night occurred at Dublin Hill, just outside the city, when a party of military raided the Delaney home. IRA Volunteers Con and Jeremiah Delaney were ordered out of bed at gunpoint and murdered in their bedrooms.
Because of evidence of planning in the burning - selection of shops burnt and omission of loyalist premises - it has been generally held that the sacking

## GREETINGS

McCARTY, Raymond. (H2-Block). Happy birthday, Raymond. Thinking of you always. God bless. From your cousin in Kitty, Fiona, Elaine and Denise.
McMAHON, Kevin. (Portlaoise). Happy Birthday, Kevin. '21 again' from Michael. From the Sinn Féin POW Dept., Dublin.
MAQUIRE, Tommy. (Cape 10). Happy birthday, Tommy. Thinking of you always but especially today. Good luck and God bless. From your sister Mary and brother-in-law Desale McKenna.
MAQUIRE, Tommy. (Cape 10). Happy birthday, Uncle Tommy. From your nieces Catherine, Annette, Fiona, and Maura and nephews Thomas and Gerard McKenna.

## Draw results

An Cumann Cabhrach at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin, as soon as possible.
Shamrock Social Club, Dublin
£100: Karen O'Connor, 23 Ashgrove, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire; £50: Marie Byrne, Millfont, Tollymore, Bray; £25: Jackie Michael, Jenny, Leo Byrne; £5: T. Geoghegan, Dundrum; £5: Ailish Fay, Dun Laoghaire; £5: Tony Kinealy, 20 Tullymoreland; £5: Tom McMichael; £5: 23 Smyth Villa, York Road; £5: 55 Smyth Villa, Sallinsgoin.

# RUC victim charged

MARTIN McAULEY, the 20-year-old youth from Ballinarry, North Armagh, who was seriously wounded by the RUC on November 25th, and whose friend, 17-year-old Michael Tighe, was shot dead, has been charged with possession of three rifles with intent to endanger life.

The RUC claim they found the weapons — which were in a

state of dilapidation and had no ammunition — in a follow-up search of the area after the shooting.

Martin McAuley was moved from Craigavon Hospital on Friday, December 3rd, under escort, to Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast, where he was placed under guard. On Saturday, in a special court hearing which took place around his bedside and irrespective of his condition, Michael was formally charged by the RUC.

Meanwhile, in Lurgan, relatives of Michael Tighe and three other RUC victims, IRA Volunteers Gervais McKerr, Eugene Toman and Sean Burns, who were murdered on November 14th, have launched a petition in the area following a meeting last Saturday with Lurgan Sinn Fein and the Association for Legal Justice which calls on people to "fully support the relatives of these young men in their efforts to establish the true facts of these brutal killings."



● Martin McAuley: charged by the RUC

# Black trial begins

BY SEAN DELANEY

THE TRIAL of 38 people arrested on the evidence of North Belfast informer Christopher Black, which was postponed for two weeks, on November 22nd, opened last Monday, December 6th, at Belfast Crown Court. The defendants, 16 of whom have been imprisoned on remand for over a year, face a total of 184 charges, in a mammoth trial which is expected to last for up to four months.

Earlier, their customary right to face their accuser, Chris Black, at a preliminary enquiry, was overturned when Justice Basil Kelly, a former attorney-general in the North, accepted a bill of indictment from the DPP's office and returned the defendants directly for trial.

This move, unique outside the context of 'informer trials', has caused considerable alarm in legal circles where it has been viewed as a further drastic erosion of the minimal legal 'safeguards' that already exist in the Diplock non-jury court system. Their concern, however, has so far failed to result in any concrete opposition to the DPP's manoeuvre.

The early part of the trial, in the run-up to Christmas, will consist of opening statements and the reading of Black's depositions and background evidence, with Black himself not making an appearance in court until early in the new year.

Predictably, therefore, Monday's trial opening was a low-key affair with details of a variety of alleged



● CHRISTOPHER BLACK

IRA actions in North Belfast in which Black has admitted his own involvement — and accused others — being read out by prosecution lawyers to the court.

The Black affair, the largest of

the present 'informer trials', is seen as being of pivotal importance to the RUC's successful use or otherwise of paid informers (given legal immunity for their own actions) in the war against republicans.

# Carron back in court

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

FOR the second time in a fortnight, Owen Carron, MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone, appeared in court facing spurious charges brought about by the vindictive actions of the RUC.

In all, eight people, including Carron, Francie Molloy of Sinn Fein's ard comhairle and Duggan solicitor Austin Mallon, faced charges of assault, obstruction and disorderly behaviour at Belfast Magistrates' Court on September 21st of this year.

They arose following attempts by several members of the RUC to prevent relatives and friends of eight Tyrone men, charged on the evidence of RUC informer Patrick McGurk, from entering the preliminary hearing, which turned out to be the first case since 1968 where the highly controversial bill of indictment was used, so that McGurk was not present.

Among those forcibly prevented from entering by the RUC was McGurk's mother, who died a few weeks later.

The case against Carron and the others lasted for several days and on Friday, December 3rd, Carron was found guilty on two charges of disorderly behaviour for which he was fined £100 each. The assault charge against him was dropped.

Francie Molloy was fined £100 and others had various fines im-



● OWEN CARRON MP

posed ranging from £100 to £180. Some were acquitted completely, but one man, Desmond Hughes of Duggan, was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment.

Judge Travers, who was described contemptuously by the Fermanagh/South Tyrone MP as a 'Castle Catholic', hypocritically and patronisingly said of Owen Carron: "This man has a frightening power for good or evil over people and on this occasion he used it unwisely."

# Blatant bias acquits Brit

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

ANOTHER blatant miscarriage of justice, connived at by both judge and lawyers, took place in Dungannon Court this week with yet another acquittal of a British army soldier, this time on a charge of assault.

Dungannon man Patrick Francis Donnelly, aged 24, brought a case of assault against a British military policeman who struck him in the face with his rifle butt in an incident on October 26th of last year. Donnelly subsequently received six stitches to his jaw.

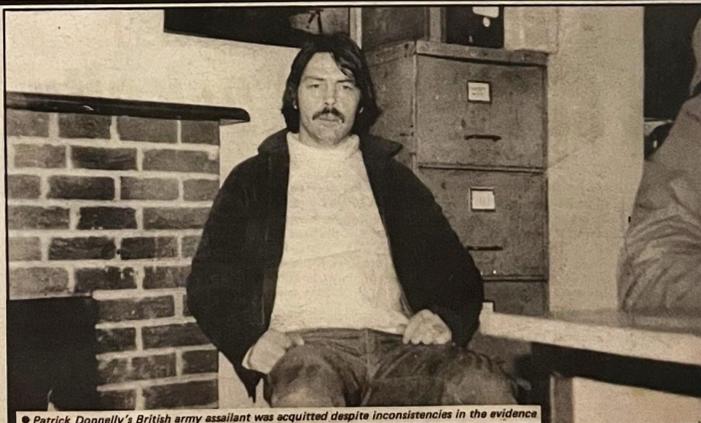
During the trial several anomalies occurred which were overlooked by the judge in reaching the 'not guilty' verdict.

Inconsistencies in the evidence

of Corporal Stephen Guy, who struck Donnelly, and a Sergeant Burton, who alleged that Donnelly had assaulted him first, were acknowledged by Judge Higgins in his summing up, but ignored in his verdict.

Maps of William Street in Dungannon, where the assault took place, were pointed out to be inaccurate but were nevertheless accepted in evidence.

Furthermore, the eye-witness



● Patrick Donnelly's British army assailant was acquitted despite inconsistencies in the evidence

account of Donagh Begley of William Street, who saw the attack on Donnelly, was disregarded in favour of the British soldiers' version that there was nobody

around at the time. Begley's first statement which he had given to the RUC after the assault had been inexplicably 'lost' by them. But the fact that Begley

had added additional information in his second statement was interpreted by Judge Higgins as an inconsistency and therefore unreliable.

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