

An Phoblacht REPUBLICAN NEWS



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ARMED WITH THE FACTS

AS part of his contribution towards, and encouragement of, 'normalisation' an uneasy Roy Mason now travels in an anti-booby-trap, bullet-proof car! He is certainly taking no chances in his last few weeks in the North.

And given the fate of Airey Neave, who died of shock last Friday, Mason will no doubt be taking the car back to Barnsley with him.

Two other big car bombs this week did much to dispel any feelings of 'normality'. Following two devastating attacks on commercial property in the towns of Omagh and Market-hill, traders and councillors right across the six counties, plan to meet the RUC to reconsider security-gate policy.

The gates have been systematically removed from around town centres over the past eighteen months, releasing Brits and RUC for anti-Republican operations.

On investment-promoting tours of America and elsewhere, the removal of the gates has been used to sell the British-occupied six-counties as a peaceful land where things were "returning to normal", and where the IRA were "beaten".

Since last November Dungannon business centre has been blasted three times, and following the massive car bomb in Armagh prior to Christmas, traders have had the security barriers re-erected in what was (external to the H-Blocks) one of the first serious reversals of Brit counter-insurgency 'normalisation' policy.

Attacks in Cookstown in December also brought the re-imposition of traffic restrictions on unattended vehicles.

Last Monday, members of Carrickfergus Council, in East Antrim - an industrial area which has come under little attack - criticised Mason's continual bluster, and the council has decided that it wants to close the security barriers.

Leading the campaign was a Democratic Unionist Party councillor, whose leader Ian Paisley stated on television the previous Thursday

night that "every bomb weakens the Union".

THE BOMBING CAMPAIGN EXPLAINED

Bombing commercial targets is a means of struggle adopted by the IRA. It successfully undermines the props of the state and demonstrates the instability of the state.

The fundamental prop in the North is the British administration which claims to be - and assures loyalists that it is - in full control.

The British administration's credibility suffers, and its will to rule is undermined by every bomb that breaches the 'security zones' and the 'security' that Britain supposedly guarantees.

Widespread operations and the continual switch in tactics (from day-time bombings to night-time attacks, from commercial bombings to sabotage of communications) tie down and exhaust large numbers of state forces.

Inflicting high financial damage is only a prestigious propaganda bonus and is not of prime concern.

Successful operations damage Brit credibility whilst raising the Republican people's morale and brings final British disenchantment and disengagement that much closer.

Paisley correctly states "every bomb weakens the Union", but bombs also cause crises for Loyalism.

Every sign of British weakness encourages different strands of loyal-

ism to experiment with integration, six-county independence or a return to Stormont as the best means of preventing the Irish people's right to self-determination from being realised.

MILITARY ATTACKS

Commercial bombing well suits the IRA's adopted strategy of a long war of attrition. It is currently impossible for the IRA to solely direct all its resources into straight attacks against the British military (as in previous campaigns).

Personnel losses under such restrictive operations would risk the necessary delicate re-planning, re-grouping and re-organising and would thus possibly jeopardise the whole liberation struggle.

Besides there is no need to direct all Republican resources into military attacks on British soldiers (despite the advantage of increasing chauvinistic 'troops out' sentiment in England) because this is a political war which requires a political defeat of the British enemy.

The factors contributing to this eventual defeat will be the uncompromising pursuit of the war (which we have got), the increasing endorsement of the war from within the twenty six counties by linking it to the struggle of Labour (Sinn Féin's mammoth task) and the growth of the solidarity movement in England (the nucleus of which is already there).

Armed with the facts let us press the trigger



A 300lb car bomb exploded on Sunday outside the Allied Irish Bank in High Street, Omagh. The buildings damaged included the bank itself (with scaffolding blown asunder) and the town's courthouse and post office.

MARCHING TO SAVE WOOD QUAY

A CROWD of about three to four thousand assembled outside Leinster House on Saturday 31st March, at the start of a protest march to save Wood Quay.

by Paul Rooney

The crowd consisted of supporters of archaeological societies, students, teachers, university professors, school children and a few leading trade unionists.

They were addressed at the start of the march by Thomas Kinsella, the poet. He said he was pleased to see such a large crowd there, and that it showed their concern for the future. He also stated that throughout the Wood Quay saga it was obvious that Leinster House had the power to intervene and that after the demonstration the people should go and lobby their councillors.

After appeals were made to the assembled crowd to keep the march peaceful and law abiding, they then set off, headed by the I.T.G.W.U. band to the site at Wood Quay where the protesters listened to more speeches from prominent speakers.

The first speaker was Professor Kevin B. Nolan of U.C.D., who claimed that Ireland was an international disgrace because of the Wood Quay affair. Dublin was being turned into a wasteland, and saving Wood Quay was a vital part of making the city live again. He recommended that the proposed council offices be built on the wastelands in the north of the city.

Mick Mullen, General Secretary of the I.T.G.W.U., told the crowd he was proud to be on the platform, and said that he did not agree with the theory that this was the only site that could be built on. He also accused Noel Carroll, Dublin City Corporation P.R.O., of being a dictator, and reminded him that he was only a public employee and so should listen to the people who employed him.

At the end of the demonstration, people were asked to make Wood Quay an election issue in June.

The front line of last Saturday's march included one of Ireland's most famous poets Thomas Kinsella holding the banner pole, left.



Phil Flynn interviewed

'WEST BRITS' AND PROPERTY SPECULATORS

IN an interview given to an AP/RN reporter, PHIL FLYNN in his official capacity as Deputy General Secretary of the Local Government and Public Services Union, stated:

"We give our complete support to the excavation and preservation of artifacts on the Wood Quay site, but we also want our building."

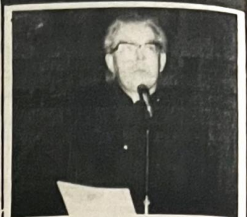
He went on "The members of our union have been putting up for years with bad conditions, such as overcrowding, and rat infested rooms. The National Museum has had ten years to work on this site, every conceivable help has been given to them. But there has to be give and take, a compatible arrangement must be reached."

Phil Flynn cited the example of York in England, where a good arrangement had been reached between all parties concerned, and the Viking site was excavated and preserved for future generations.

He went on: "There's more to this campaign to preserve the site than meets the eye. Most of the people leading it are 'West Brits', who have no interest in the whole culture and heritage of this land. There are pre-medieval sites littering this country which are just totally ignored. I feel that there is massive political manipulation behind this campaign with the strings being pulled by the property speculators and Fine Gael."

"And I can tell you that our union is committed to seeing that the Corporation builds on corporation land and does not line the pockets of the property speculators."

Phil Flynn's general feeling was that the site can be built on and the artifacts preserved within a Museum connected to the Civic Centre. That the siting of the Civic offices will bring life back to an area which has been badly neglected. And in conclusion he felt that the whole key to the problem lay in "the total failure of Leinster House, in forming a policy and creating safeguards for the preservation of our heritage."



Dublin I.C.R.A. meeting

Dublin I.C.R.A. organised a meeting on the H-Blocks in the Mansion House on Tuesday 27th March. Among the speakers were Fr. Piaras O'Duill (above), Mrs. Murphy of I.C.R.A. and chairing the meeting was Phil Flynn of L.G.P.S.U. There was a general discussion on the H-Blocks and the overall consensus was that the British presence in the North was responsible for torture. The representative from S.C.A.R. (Student Campaign Against Repression) called for more active student involvement in the H-Block issue.

European Political Prisoners Conference

Organised by Sinn Fein PUBLIC SESSION

LIBERTY HALL, DUBLIN Saturday 21st April

2.30 pm - 5.30 pm The Social Hall Speeches will cover prisoners in Ireland, Brittany, Portugal and the Basque country.

Speakers will be former political prisoners, prisoners' relatives and representatives of prisoners' support groups and legal bodies.

European delegates wanting more information about the conference itself should contact Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau by telephoning Dublin 747611 or contact P.L.S. 22 rue de la Concorde, 1050 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: 513.57.87 or 513.59.00

Westminster election

At its monthly meeting the Ard-Comhairle of Sinn Fein considered the Westminster Election announced for 3rd May. It was agreed that as far as the question of Irish freedom is concerned it makes little or no difference which party rules in London. A change of government in London will not change the colonial relationship between England and Ireland.

Sinn Fein will not be putting forward candidates and will not be supporting any others who may contest.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN GETS OFF TO A BANG

The British General Election Campaign was opened with a bang last Friday when a booby-trapped bomb planted by the Irish National Liberation Army exploded in the precincts of the Palace of Westminster, London, killing Airey Neave, M.P., at the wheel of his car.

The election had been declared after a House of Commons vote of no confidence was passed in the British Labour Government.

Airey Neave was Tory spokesman on the North of Ireland and was likely to be the next Secretary of State in the event of a Conservative victory. He was extremely right wing and advocated that Irish people domiciled or just simply working in England should have to carry immigrant papers, that the SAS should engage in greater undercover work, that Sinn Fein should be banned, and that the media should unquestionably back the occupation forces.

He also advocated capital punishment, which would add to the pre-

sented SAS list of killings.

Leading British political figures and the media, enthusiastically praised Neave and his war-time record which included an escape from Colditz and his subsequent prosecution of the surviving Nazi leadership in the Nuremberg 'War Crimes Tribunal'. Rudolf Hess who is still in Spandau prison has survived his gaoler.

British leaders and the media condemned as "cowardly" his assassination. But the hypocrites don't appreciate the charity behind a dis-



The late Airey Neave

criminate political execution of an oppressor; was it as "cowardly" as dropping from a half mile up in the

air thousands of tons of bombs on defenceless citizens?

And though undoubtedly it took courage to escape from Colditz, the experience of those that did was applied in later years to make "escape-proof" jails in the North of Ireland, particularly Long Kesh prison camp, with its moats built to flood tunnels and now infra-red aerial photography to detect ground subsidence. Even with all their technology our Republican comrades have escaped from their jails - the late Jim Bryson from the Maidstone prison ship and from Crumlin Road gaol.

ECCENTRICITY

The eccentricity of the Neaves was in evidence during Radio 4 interview on "Good Morning Ulster" last Monday. His sister, who claim-

ed to be clairvoyant, said she knew of his impending, violent death. Asked why she didn't inform him, she replied, that she didn't want to upset him and his wife!!!

Well, one doesn't need a crystal ball to predict that those interfering in Ireland's affairs will meet with armed resistance, and early retirements from this earth.

Hopefully, his assassination - the first INLA operation in England (despite no authenticated admission, the media mistakenly attributed it to the IRA) - will domestically raise the question of Ireland as an issue in the Brit General Election. And if not this time then by the looks of things the media and Maggie (old 'Bluerinse') Thatcher had better prepare more words of grief.

U.D.A. scheme rejected

LAST THURSDAY 29th March, the leadership of the Loyalist Ulster Defence Association, released a discussion document outlining their proposals for an 'Independent North'. Briefly the document proposes an American - style constitutional structure, but deceptively states that it would be "a stepping stone towards neither a Protestant-dominated state nor a United Ireland".

We say deceptively because moves towards 'independence' reflect disenchantment with Britain over the abolition of Stormont, and the policy of the British Army and R.U.C. on Loyalist para-militaries. Loyalist sectarian attacks (which initially coincided with government policy on wearing down resistance of the nationalist community) eventually clashed with Direct Rule policy of 'the primacy of the R.U.C.' and their projected 'impiality'.

Included in the document are two economic papers which argue that an 'independent north' could survive economically. At face value, that being the case, then such a viable area could just as easily prosper within a United Ireland!

The sticks, whose ideological capitulation to British Occupation is complete, will be glad to hear that the U.D.A. proposes a Bill of Rights!

A U.D.A. spokesman said that the response of Archbishop Tomas O'Fiaich, whom they had met, was "very favourable", and it is also known that they have had warm receptions from Fianna Fail Ministers Charles Haughey and Michael O'Kennedy. Such a tie-up is of no surprise to the Republican Movement, who are for breaking down the established orders created by partition, which was forced upon the Irish Nation by British Government terrorists over half a century ago. Partition, north and south, has resulted in the prosperity

of the few at the expense of the majority, and has made Ireland subordinate to the British Government and its wider circle of imperialist colleagues.

THE "PEACE FORUM"

Glen Barr, once again in the ascendancy of the U.D.A., said that they had the backing of many American politicians. This is undoubtedly related to the so-called 'Peace Forum' proposed for Washington in early May.

This forum (at which the Brits

Interestingly, a UDA spokesman said that they believed the Republican leadership is split on the question of an 'Independent North'. The most recent edition of the UDA paper *Ulster* makes the same claim, whereas in fact it is the Loyalists themselves who haven't fully convinced their own ranks of the merits of 'Independence' and those that are convinced have been convinced on the basis that "the Provos will bite; wait and see".

This, in part, is what has been behind the glib statement from UDA figures that an 'Independent North' would satisfy Republican aims because the British Army would leave.

The Republican Movement aims for the establishment of a Democratic Socialist Republic and sees the British presence, partition and Loyalism as being the first major obstacle.

Replying to the UDA proposals Daithi O'Connell, Sinn Féin General Secretary, rejected the loyalist scheme. He said that "The belief that an independent six-county state would overcome sectarian politics is both naive and dishonest and flies in the face of the unsavoury record of Stormont rule for 50 years".

Vice-President Gerry Adams added that, "The six-county set up



will not be present) is overwhelmingly projecting Ireland's problems as being 'religious' and 'intercommunal' (fitting in with UDA perspectives) and is prejudiced heavily in favour of an 'Independent Six Counties' as the solution. For these reasons (plus of course the intimidated pre-condition of an I.R.A. ceasefire) the Republican Movement will not be attending.

The problem of Ireland is one of British interference in Irish affairs, and the solution is a British withdrawal with the Irish people's right to self-determination being acknowledged and recognised.

Andy Tyrle (pictured far left) and other UDA leaders going nowhere with their scheme for six-county independence.

is not, has never been and never will be democratic, legitimate or prosperous. By its very nature and since its establishment unemployment, discrimination and sectarian privilege are endemic..."

He emphasised that "Sinn Féin is opposed to any pseudo-independence not only because it provides no lasting solution but also because any attempt to prop up partitionist rule merely served to perpetuate sectarianism, inequality and social and economic instability..."

a number of statements were volunteered on the understanding that they should be examined by a sworn, independent and public inquiry, I did request, as Mr. Collins said, that the dossier be treated as confidential. However, if the Minister had requested to see the file some at least of the statements could have been made available to him.

"The notion of the Gardaí investigating complaints against themselves would seem totally unrealistic and unacceptable to the complainants."

In fact, when in opposition, Collins himself had called for a 'full public inquiry into the torture allegations. At that time a procession of victims were appearing in the Special Criminal Court naming the members of the Garda torture squad (which became known as the Heavy Gang). The same names came up time after time and were widely known to all interested parties.

The lame excuse now given by Collins that he was not furnished with the names merely illustrates that he means to continue the cover-up. And the subsequent disbanding and scattering (for the time being?) of the Heavy Gang, with suitable promotions can only indicate that Fianna Fail are not prepared to drop the weapon of torture from their instruments of repression.

WAR NEWS

All the operations referred to below were planned in accordance with the High Republican Army.

Two town centres bombed

A SERIES of bombing operations against commercial targets and gun attacks against RUC personnel were carried out last week by IRA active service units across the six counties.

The two most devastating operations of the week were a car bomb in the garrison town of Omagh last Sunday consisting of 300lbs of explosives and a 300lb bomb in Markethill, Co. Armagh on Monday.

According to Ken McFaul, D.U.P. councillor for Carrickfergus, these two attacks have shattered the myth that the North of Ireland is back to 'normality' and he and his fellow councillors are calling for the re-erection of barriers around the town centre of Carrickfergus.

WEDNESDAY 28th MARCH

Derry City

An active service unit raked an RUC landrover with a burst of machine-gun fire. The attack took place on the Galliagh Link Road, opposite Cornhill High School at 9.20 p.m.

THURSDAY 29th MARCH

Belfast

A bomb was planted at 10 a.m. outside Fermanagh House, (Brit government Department of Finance building) in Ormeau Avenue.

Fermanagh

Three bombs exploded causing damage to the premises of J.H. Johnsons in Main Street, Newtownbutler. A raging fire ensued, almost gutting the building.

SATURDAY 31st MARCH

Derry

Fires broke out in two city centre premises after bombs exploded. The bombs were planted at Howes Engineering in McFarlands Row where the premises was completely gutted and John Eakins, contractors in Lower Strand Road.

Portadown

Three bombs were planted at the Housing Executive in Thomas Street.

SUNDAY 1st APRIL

Omagh

A 300lb car bomb planted outside the Allied Irish Bank in High Street rocked the centre of the town damaging dozens of buildings including the bank itself, the courthouse and the post office. Two RUC men were injured in the blast.

High Street had just been repair-

ed after a car bomb attack in the town last November at Bridge Street.

Armagh

A mobile active service unit opened fire on three RUC personnel at the junction of Mary Road and McCrory Street. The unit fired about eight shots and then sped to safety.

In a widespread follow-up operation scores of Brits/RUC with the aid of an helicopter searched vainly to capture the Volunteers but were unsuccessful.

MONDAY 2nd APRIL

Co. Armagh

The town centre of Markethill, Co. Armagh, was the target for the second massive bomb attack of the week.

Six RUC men had to be treated for shock as 'normality' went up in the air, their Mason-inspired illusions shattered.

A 300lb van bomb ripped through the centre of the town shortly after 1 o'clock. The explosion wrecked a store and caused such effective damage that several of the twenty buildings damaged may have to be demolished.

Windows were broken up to half a mile away and the noise from the blast was heard as far away as five miles.

At least ten parked vehicles were damaged, several of them extensively, including a lorry loaded with timber.

An adequate telephone warning was given and no civilians were injured in the blast which scattered glass and debris over a wide area. One of the 'shocked' RUC men was also slightly injured.

In their frenzy to get to the scene an RUC mobile patrol and a Brit landrover crashed into one another. The RUC vehicle was wrecked.



Main Street, Markethill, after a 300lb bomb exploded on Monday

O'BRIAIN BLUEPRINT OF BENNETT

When the Bennett Report on RUC torture was released, politicians in the 26 counties were standing near enough shoulder to shoulder in order to praise the Brits on bringing out such a report.

But by standing shoulder to shoulder they were trying to hide another report produced in the 26 counties, condemning and putting forward recommendations on Garda brutality and torture.

The so called controversy over the Barra O'Brien Committee report has developed into accusation and counter accusation between Mr. Collins, Fianna Fail Justice Minister and Justice Barra O'Brien. This public exhibition is nothing but a smokescreen behind which Leinster House hopes to hide the real facts about torture and brutality in the Free State.

The O'Brien Report is a blueprint of the Bennett Report, calling for limited safeguards for those in custody and a system whereby the Gardaí can investigate allegations against the Gardaí. But there is also the added dimension of a file giving names and details of both persons ill treated and police officers who were involved in the ill treatment.

Justice O'Brien has accused Leinster House of failing to hold an inquiry into ill treatment (torture) by individual Gardaí. He had been led to believe that such an inquiry would be held.

Fr. Piaras O'Duill, who was responsible for compiling the file which named the torturers, issued a statement on March 28th which said:

"Because of the very serious nature of some of the allegations made by identified persons against named members of the Gardaí, and in view of the fact that

DERRY NEWS—DERRY NEWS—DERRY NEWS—DERRY NEWS

BRITS IN THE BOGSIDE

THE LATEST BRIT Regiment, the Hampshire's, in Derry's Bogside are proving to be no less committed to a policy of deliberate harassment than their hated predecessors, the Welsh.

A fortnight ago, they sealed off the entire Bogside with vehicles and troops while they targeted a poor unoccupied car for their harassment. The owner could not be contacted, and so a massive military exercise took place, resulting in the unfortunate man's car being blown up by the forces of 'Law and Order'.

Such peacekeeping activities only whetted the Hampshire's appetites for more, and they have subsequently indulged in a series of completely nonsensical exercises aimed solely at harassing and intimidating the local residents. Brits slouched in their common posture against walls and corners have been equipped with long-range lenses to photograph people going about their business. The usual tactic of stopping young boys and girls and asking for personal details has also passed the time for the Brits, when they weren't occupied in aiming their rifles at OAPs out hanging their washing or getting their messages.

Last Saturday, the Brits' determination to keep themselves occupied at all costs took the form of lurking in Cable Street until the owner of a local fish shop went to drive off in his car, loaded with chicken portions and fish. When a search failed to reveal anything but fish fingers and chickens the disappointed Brit 'Intelligence Officer' decided all was not lost yet and ordered the fish-shop owner and his two passengers to be arrested while the car was sent to Fort George for interrogation.

Standing around amidst the unfriendly crowd that inevitably gathered made at least one of the Brits over-anxious. An eight year old boy, Michael Collins, standing quietly at the top of his own front door-step seemed too threatening. So when the order came to retreat, this hefty Brit sent wee Michael flying down concrete steps. Fortunately, Michael sustained no serious injuries.

The Brits didn't take it too kindly when one resident suggested they would be better employed guarding their MPs at Westminster. But they left quickly enough after that, to a chorus of bottles smashing against their pigs and land rovers.

St. Patrick's Day March



The hard-core supporters in Derry City who braved a bitterly cold St. Patrick's Day to march against the crumbling obscenity of the H-Blocks.

Sinn Fein flatten 'Bluebell select'

THE first all-Irish history quiz in Derry City since 1968 took place in Mealey's Bluebell Bar, Brandywell, on Wednesday March 21st.

It fell to Derry's famous Quizmaster, Paddy ("Fuzzy") Doherty to set the questions for the contest that inevitably resulted from the challenge thrown down to Derry Sinn Fein by the 'Bluebell Select'.

The Bluebell Bar, well-known and loved as one of Derry's finest drinking spots, was packed on the night of the quiz. Displaying the utter calm and confidence generated by experience and wisdom, Sean Keenan ably captained the Sinn Fein team, consisting of Hugh Duffy, Martha McClelland, Billy Nelis and Alec O'Donnell.

did the Bluebell play in the 1916 Rising?"

Memories were searched and all loose talk recalled; still everyone wondered: Did the Bluebell provide the first shots in 1916?

Were arms hidden in Harp keys? Bombs buried in the bogs?

The answer, of course, had nothing to do with the bar on Lecky Road; the Bluebell was the ship that captured Roger Casement's Aud of Banna Strand.

During the mid-quizz break, observers were worried that one of the 'Bluebell Select' might not be well. But fears that he suffered an attack of apoplexy while speaking to the Quizmaster were scotched by nearby eavesdroppers, who revealed he was merely complaining desperately: "this isn't an Irish history quiz; it's a Republican history quiz!"

However, as the Quizmaster later admitted, he knew which side his bread was buttered on; the questions were already set and there was no reprieve, as Sinn Fein romped home to an undisputed victory.

A re-match was immediately demanded by the losers and accepted by Sinn Fein. No doubt the topic will be on safer ground this time. Rumour that the topic will be 'pop music' has yet to be confirmed.

R.U.C. Vandalism



An example of RUC vandalism at Free Derry Corner. Two local people saw an RUC man throw a bucket of black paint over this monument to the Derry people's resistance. Local people later successfully cleaned up the monument.

Brandywell playground committee formed

ONE OF the most aggravating deprivations in the Brandywell area is the total lack of any playing areas for young children in the old part of the Brandywell.

Children have nowhere to play but the streets in front of their houses, or in derelict buildings, or on waste ground often as dangerous - with litter, broken bottles and rubble - as the crumbling derelict houses.

Last week, a number of mothers who had endured enough got together to set about solving their problem. They gathered in the Brandywell Sinn Fein Advice Centre and organised a protest. From 4 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Friday, 30th March, they stopped traffic in

the area in front of the Sinn Fein Advice Centre to publicise the danger to their children, and the need for playing facilities, and the lack of response from official channels. Twenty-five adults and about fifteen children blocked the traffic.

Among those vehicles brought to a halt was an RUC land rover, which attempted to intimidate the protesters off the street. Failing in this, they left, but not without insulting the mothers concerned. "Those fucking children should be in 'The Home'," was the most pertinent remark from the peelers.

table remark from the peelers.

Friday night, the concerned parents got together again in the Brandywell Sinn Fein Centre and formed themselves into the Brandywell Playground Amenities Committee. The Committee will meet Tuesday nights at 7.30 p.m. in the Brandywell Sinn Fein Advice Centre, P.R.O. Mrs. Bridget Bliss intends releasing frequent statements to the press and public until a remedy has been found.

The Committee Officers include: Chairperson, Mrs. Curran; Vice-Chairperson, Mrs. Green; Secretary, Mrs. Brown; Organiser, Rosie Doherty; and Asst. P.R.O., Margaret Doherty.

I.R.A. BOMB



On Thursday March 22nd nineteen towns, including Derry, were bombed by the active service units of the Irish Republican Army in a massive co-ordinated offensive.

The Derry Brigade carried out a number of successful operations including bombing the premises which house the General Motors Insurance Co.

The devastating results of the attack are shown by our photograph.

We print here a small sample of the questions from the quiz:

QUESTIONS

- Q1) Gaelic footballer Mick Hogan was one of the twelve that died by Black and Tans on 21 November 1920. For what team did he play?
- Q2) De Valera raised at least £8 million in Republican bonds in America. Some of this money was returned to the bondholders. What was done with the remainder?
- Q3) Liam Mellows, Rory O'Connor, Joe McKelvey and Dick Barrett were shot by the Free State. What was the date, and the name of the person they were shot in reprisal for?
- Q4) What was the irony in the execution of Erskine Childers (i.e., why was he shot by the Free State firing squad in 1921?)
- Q5) What was the significance of Crossbarry in 1921?
- Q6) What was the name of the ambush by Sinn Féin on 19th April 1921, where they successfully ambushed a convoy of nine British soldiers and captured a gun? (The Irish Republican Army was named after this event.)
- Q7) What was the name of the ambush by Sinn Féin on 19th April 1921, where they successfully ambushed a convoy of nine British soldiers and captured a gun? (The Irish Republican Army was named after this event.)
- Q8) What was the name of the ambush by Sinn Féin on 19th April 1921, where they successfully ambushed a convoy of nine British soldiers and captured a gun? (The Irish Republican Army was named after this event.)
- Q9) What was the name of the ambush by Sinn Féin on 19th April 1921, where they successfully ambushed a convoy of nine British soldiers and captured a gun? (The Irish Republican Army was named after this event.)
- Q10) What was the name of the ambush by Sinn Féin on 19th April 1921, where they successfully ambushed a convoy of nine British soldiers and captured a gun? (The Irish Republican Army was named after this event.)

ANSWERS

The only suspect small enough

Evenin' all,

And first of course, I must say a few words about the ex-Mr. Neave. Like the rest of you I was stunned to learn of his sudden demise last week.

At first my thoughts turned to the obvious suspect, a small figure with a Barnsley accent. He had the motive—he always was a bad loser—and the opportunity—indeed he was the only suspect who could have walked under the vehicle to plant the device. But, just when it looked as if the case was cracked, that nice Inspector Tucker of the Yard, you know, the one who's a friend of John Banks, confided to me that Roy has been under surveillance for some months now in order to protect him from Kenny Newman and the RUC who have been issuing dire threats about not being made scapegoats and carrying the can for Castlereagh. So, it seems that Roy was in the clear for this one at least.

But what of poor Airey, I hear a strangled cry!

Personally I always found him to be a little strange. I don't know whether it was his high pitched nervous giggle, his atrocious halitosis—

only Enoch Powell has worse breath—or his eccentric habit of always leaving a room by the window whimpering 'Colditz' as he plummeted down into the flower-beds.

Then, too, there was his peculiar friendship with old Bluerinse herself. The last time I called to let them have a briefing I found them chasing each other around the furniture and crying 'It's my time to be the SAS'. Still, *de mortuis nihil nisi slobber*.

And it's the last time I'll accept a lift from him!

And now for the answer to last week's bet.

I'm afraid no one correctly guessed the next member of the security forces to join the Gunner Maggs' Club and commit suicide. It wasn't in fact Ken Newman, as many of you forecast, but Sgt. John Duckworth of the Devon police who was also a captain in the army cadet force. Police claim to be baffled why such a 'happy copper' should want to blow his head off, but between you and me, I think it's rather suspicious the army gun experts and a bomb disposal team were called in to investigate 'equipment' found in his Okehampton home.

LOCAL NEWS

And now for the local news. Wasn't it nice to see the Irish News backing Deputy Chief Constable J. C. Hermon to succeed Newman. Hermon, who is at present learning how to torture more effectively (without leaving marks) on a special course at Scotland Yard has had a meteoric rise in the force, considering his lack of education, ability and self control.

by The Brigadier

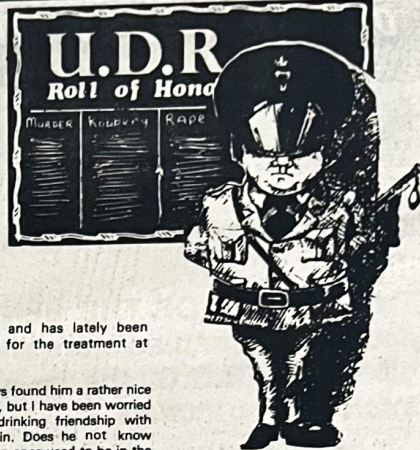
He is however a remarkably good little toady and has done just as he's been told by successive Home Secretaries. It was he who trained the RUC in the so-called sensory deprivation techniques used on the hooded men, after he himself had been taught them by the army in

April 1971, and has lately been responsible for the treatment at Castlereagh.

I've always found him a rather nice little lapdog, but I have been worried about his drinking friendship with Paddy Devlin. Does he not know that this man once used to be in the revolutionary SDLP?

Still we'll be happy to have him back, and it may, in some small way, make up for us losing D/CC Harry Baillie who is running away to England.

Time for congratulations now, to Gunner 24287103 Gerald Greene of the Royal Artillery. In January '78 he was injured by shrapnel from a bomb in Belfast and hospitalised for seven months, I've just managed to get him £750 compo. His injuries were of a very personal, not to say private, nature and caused great embarrassment to his charming fiancée. He was too embarrassed himself to show me them, but assured me that the worst part was when they had to call in a rabbi, who arrived wielding a rather blunt razor.



BAD APPLES

Anyway, bad apple time again, readers, and a pretty weak bunch they are.

There was Andy Butler, a para with a dishonourable discharge after serving in Ulster. Andy, of Glay Road, Hendon, Sunderland, has just got six years for stabbing a dance floor rival to death.

Then there's Sgt. William Neil and Constable Albert Hetherington of the Omagh RUC. They beat up a drunk on the Tamlaght Road in April '76 and he's just been awarded £200 damages. Don't worry, Billy and Albert don't have to pay, the silly old taxpayer will.

And don't forget Constable Nigel Joseph Skelton, of RUC barracks, Pomeroy, who's been fined for careless driving and running another motorist off the road.

But pride of place this week must go to one of my very own, William Gallagher (27), of Susan Street, Belfast. Billy, a fulltime member of the UDR and the UVF had just got 10 years for five armed robberies and can now graduate with honour to join his comrades in 11 UDR, Long Kesh. Fine fellow! And a credit to the regiment.

I have to go and sort out some ludicrous laundry dispute that has arisen in the Omagh UDR. Apparently, under the instigation of a certain Basil Bell, men are resigning in droves, giving as their excuse, 'chafing of regulation UDR trousers'.

Sounds like a pretty feeble excuse to me. I hope B. Bell and his fellow malingers all saw 'King and Country' on the TV last Sunday. They knew what to do with deserters then!

Bye for now,
Pip! Pip!

THE BRIGADIER

Fine Gael Ard Fheis The traitors who bargain and sell

At the Fine Gael Ard Fheis held in Dublin last weekend, the ultra right-wing hacks had a field day.

In an atmosphere reminiscent of a revivalist meeting, a ludicrous array of motions were presented and passed.

The major debates at the conference centred on the war in the North.

Fine Gael reaffirmed their belief in the 'two nations' theory. Garrett Fitzgerald, the Fine Gael leader, arrogantly put forward, that their document "IRELAND—OUR FUTURE TOGETHER" had been confirmed as the only solution for a peaceful Ireland, and that this political solution corresponded to the instincts and wishes of the people of the twenty-six counties.

Time after time Fitzgerald and other delegates spoke as if they were the sole voice of the Irish people. Repeatedly they urged stronger links with Britain and other imperialist countries. They also put forward that all the troubles that are facing the people of Ireland are caused directly by a small group of ruthless people who have no right to call themselves Irish (Fianna Fail perhaps).

At the same time as trying to hoodwink the Irish people and themselves into the belief that they represented the voice of Ireland, Fine Gael quite casually put it across that their plan for a confederated Ireland relied quite positively on the economic and political help of the U.S.A., the E.E.C. and Britain. Thus adding a new dimension to

the old saying "selling your birthright for a mess of pottage".

On the Saturday, a number of issues were debated, including the army, prisons and industrial conflict.

A number of documents were put forward, which bore all the hallmarks of a party out of power. The re-awakening of a social conscience, the vote catching syndrome was evident.

Jim Mitchell put forward 'Workplace Democracy' which he said was just the first component of a "charter of rights and responsibilities at the workplace". He trotted out the same old hoary anti-working class chestnuts about 'responsible workers', the rights of employers, the introduction of secret ballots, the confiscation of trade union funds and laws against picketing. In fact a complete blue print of Tory policy in Britain, who Fine Gael identify with quite openly.

John McCarthy from South-west Cork dragged out the 'reds under the beds' scare, saying that the democratic institutions of the 26 counties were at risk from the growing influence of the trade unions, especially the left wings of the unions.

Under the sections on Defence

Limerick H-Block banner seized

Members and supporters of Limerick City Sinn Féin distributed two thousand leaflets at the world cross country championships at Greenpark, Limerick on Sunday March 25th.

It was intended to display a banner with the words SMASH THE H BLOCKS outside the main entrance to the grounds, while the leaflets were being given out. Unfortunately, the banner was seized by gardai before it was even unfurled. However, after four visits by members of Sinn Féin to Edward Street gardai station, the banner was returned the following day.

As our photograph shows, copies of "An Phoblacht/Republican News" were sold at the championships, and leaflets opposing the proposal to build a nuclear power station in Ireland were handed out by the Limerick Anti-Nuclear Group.



the level of debate reached its usual 'high standard' with a motion being passed which called for the establishment of a special infantry battalion for ceremonial occasions and guarding public buildings. The debate became quite heated over whether they should wear a kilt or not.

But it was left to Paddy Harte to bring the conference to an all time low.

This particular person used the name of Wolfe Tone in the same breath as Fine Gael. In a completely ruthless and utter distortion of 'Republican history, this hack claimed that Fine Gael are in the tradition of Wolfe Tone. He backed up this claim by saying 'I have studied Tone' He then launched into a blistering attack

against Republicans, twisting and turning the words of Wolfe Tone. He said that Tone had never advocated violence or the use of guns and that Wolfe Tone's Ireland, where Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter lived in harmony, was Fine Gael's Ireland.

This disgusting exhibition of political opportunism would be best answered in the words of Tone: This politically bankrupt party, with its attacks against workers, its sell-out and its confederated documents would have been compared by Tone to the so-called Revolution of 1782, which in his words 'enabled Irishmen to sell at a much higher price their honour, their integrity and interests of the country and left the Government of Ireland in the base and wicked and contemptible hands of those who had spent their lives in degrading and plundering her'.



DUBLIN H - BLOCK LECTURE

On Saturday 31st March the Tailors' Hall Dublin was filled to capacity, when Gerry Brannigan, (pictured above) gave a lecture on the struggle in H-Block. The rest of the evening was given over to music and song supplied by the Liberties Folk/Ballad group and Paddy Tinsley. This very successful function was organised by South Dublin Comhairle Ceantair Sinn Féin.

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

THE REPORT OF THE BENNETT INQUIRY into R.U.C. torture deserves more than mere dismissal as a piece of Brit propaganda giving the R.U.C. the go-ahead to continue brutalising their interrogation victims.

The Bennett Report starts off by complaining of the restrictions placed upon the inquiry by Westminster, and of the British government's failure to establish a public inquiry which would investigate Amnesty's allegations of R.U.C. brutality: "It was made clear that it was no part of this Committee's duty to inquire into individual allegations of maltreatment". (para 2).

Bennett further complains: "We were not empowered to take evidence on oath, or to enforce the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents". (para 4)

There can of course, be no doubt that the intended function of any Westminster report, such as Bennett, is to whitewash British rule in the occupied six counties. But reading between the lines of the report does reveal some of the depths of barbarity and corruption that the British necessarily have to engage in, in order to maintain their rule.

Also, to know your enemy better is always a gain, and therefore a brief study of Bennett on the R.U.C. is well worth the effort.

For example, confirmation of sound advice previously given by "Republican News" to those hauled off to Castlereagh and other R.U.C. barracks is contained in the Bennett report (para 174).

Talking about interrogation from the point of view of the R.U.C. Bennett observes: "Success is particularly difficult to achieve when a suspect adopts attitudes of sullen evasion, deceit, deliberate lying and even aggression, or, most difficult of all, total lack of response." So, there we have it again in a nutshell: and we cannot repeat it often enough: "SAY NOTHING, SIGN NOTHING".

NOT SELF-INFLICTED

The report does make it clear that prisoners have been injured while in R.U.C. custody and there is "no doubt" that the injuries "were not self-inflicted".

According to the report: "This is indicated beyond all doubt by the

nature, severity, sites and numbers of separate injuries in one person. An example would be haemorrhage into the eye, a swollen nose, a cut lip and multiple bruises on various parts of the body, all in one prisoner". (para 163)

Doctors have noted "a large increase of significant bruising, contusions and abrasions of the body and of evidence of hypo-extension and hypo-flexion of joints (especially of the wrist), of tenderness associated with hair-pulling and persistent jabbing, of rupture of the eardrums and of increased mental agitation and excessive anxiety states". (para 159)

Bennett does not only find evidence of physical brutality and torture. The report also admits—or at least heavily hints at—what it calls "degrading physical or mental ill-treatment". The report lists a series of degrading practices which should be specifically banned (para 180). Clearly the inquiry team would not compile such a list unless it was pretty sure that what it was recommending to be banned was currently taking place.

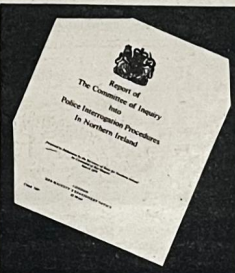
Bennett recommends that the following should be banned:

- "(i) any order or action requiring a prisoner to strip or expose himself or herself;
- "(ii) any order or action requiring a prisoner to adopt or maintain any unnatural or humiliating posture;
- "(iii) any order or action requiring a prisoner to carry out unnecessarily any physically exhausting or demeaning action or to adopt or maintain any such stance;

"(iv) the use of obscenities, insults or insulting language about the prisoner, his family, friends or associates, his political beliefs, religion or race;

"(v) the use of threats of physical force or of such things as being abandoned in a hostile area; and

"(vi) the use of threats of sexual assault or misbehaviour".



ENORMOUS SCALE

The report reveals (para 44) the enormous scale on which interrogations take place and these figures do not even include people held by the Brits or R.U.C. for four hours or less.

In 1975, 2,402 people were interrogated; in 1976, 3,576 people; in 1977, 3,571 people and in 1978, 3,056 people. This means that in the last three years (since the removal of political status), more than 10,000 people, the vast majority of them from the nationalist population, have been interrogated by the R.U.C.

This is just one more statistical indication of the widespread net of terror used by the Brits to maintain their rule.

Bennett goes on to reveal that of all the cases heard in a Diplock court in the first six months of last year in 75-80 per cent of them "THE PROSECUTION CASE DEPENDED WHOLLY OR MAINLY ON THE CONFESSION OF THE ACCUSED". (para 30)

This is further evidence to back up that provided last year by statistics compiled at Belfast's Queen's University that forced "confessions" are a vital link in the imprisonment of suspected Republicans.

Bennett gives us further official confirmation of the Brit policy of the "primacy of the police" and of "criminalisation".

The report states that: "During the earlier years of the decade, prime responsibility for security fell upon the Army. Since January 1977, the police have undertaken first responsibility for security, with the Army in support". (para 18)

In reality whilst it is not true that the hated R.U.C. have 'taken over' from the British army, this is certainly the direction of Brit policy. Despite the gloss of 'normality' (talk of 'nor-

mal' policing) Bennett goes so far as to admit: "There are those in the Republican minority who see the police as part of the apparatus for maintaining Loyalist supremacy, and will give no assistance" (para 22)

HIDDEN HORRORS

The report includes an outline of R.U.C. organisation and procedures which are of interest to us, especially in attempting to dispel myths and rumours which surround the 'hidden horrors' of Castlereagh and Gough barracks.

There are two R.U.C. barracks (officially called "police offices") specially designed for interrogation purposes. Most interrogation victims are taken to these two places (para 46). The first of these 'police offices' was built in 1976-77 at Castlereagh in Belfast and the second was opened in November 1977 within the area of Gough barracks in Armagh.

We are informed (para 48) that: "Castlereagh has 38 cells and 21 interview rooms. Gough has 24 cells and 9 interview rooms. The cells are each 2½ metres square, and are furnished with a bed and a chair. The cells have no windows but are artificially lit (the light remains on but is dimmed at night)".

Bennett goes on (para 49): "The physical conditions at Castlereagh and Gough are undoubtedly austere and forbidding by reason of their simplicity and the fact that the establishments are for the most part artificially lit and ventilated".

The report gives further details (para 95 and 96) of the repressive conditions in which prisoners are held: "The basic rule is that a prisoner will be kept in a cell except when required for interview. A good proportion—mostly between a half and two thirds—of the prisoner's time in custody, once the flurry of the reception procedures are over, therefore consists of waiting in his cell or sleeping there.

Whilst there he has no watch or clock, no reading matter, and no ac-



BANGING

Whilst not openly critical of the R.U.C. expressed by some of their 'explanations' also told us that they sometimes use of hands or banging the table, to cause a resulting noise has on occasion, been

cess to radio or television. There is no provision for exercise". And this can be for seven days!

R.U.C. ORGANISATION

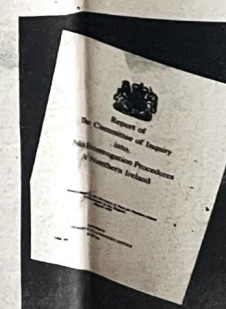
The report goes into how the R.U.C. including the so-called Criminal Investigation Department (C.I.D.), is basically organised into 16 territorial divisions but there are also four 'regional crime squads' covering 'Headquarters', Belfast, North and South.

These squads are concerned solely with 'terrorist crime', that is, counter-

insurgency work and they tend to concentrate on interrogation (para 52, 53, 54).

There are 464 C.I.D. men who regularly interrogate prisoners, and they include 89 who are members of the regional squads (para 54). The report states that responsibility for interrogation lies exclusively with the C.I.D. and the Special Branch.

However the report under-cuts the 'bad apple' theory that there is only a handful of R.U.C. plain-clothes men perhaps twenty (who either unbeknown to, or to the horror of, the rest of the R.U.C.) occasionally beat up a prisoner. Whilst discussing different possible complaint procedures against the R.U.C., the report points out (para 351) "Th-



THE LINES OF BENNETT

BY PATRICK TRAINOR



ANGING THE TABLE!

ist not open critical of the RUC, Bennett was obviously not too im-
ssed by some of their 'explanations' such as "Interviewing officers have
told us that they sometimes use emphatic gestures, such as the clapping
hands or banging the table, to drive home a point; they assert that the
clapping noise has on occasion, been misinterpreted." (para 116).

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rest of the R.U.C.) occasionally beat
up a prisoner. Whilst discussing dif-
ferent possible complaints
procedures against the R.U.C., the
report points out (para 351) "The

R.U.C. has a strong corporate spirit
with strong corporate links". That is,
they are all in it together!

Interrogators "learn informally
from their colleagues" (para 59) and
"the total number of officers
engaged in questioning a single
suspect may be very considerable"
(para 55). So there is little room for
secret beatings!

Bennett points out (para 164) that
"the evidence we have confirms one
point made in the Amnesty Inter-
national report, namely that no com-
plaint of ill-treatment is made against
uniformed officers".

Later Bennett goes on to explain
(with typical under-statement)
precisely why there are no such
complaints: "No doubt part at least

of the reason why allegations are not
made against the uniformed branch
is that they have no responsibility,
and are known to have none, for the
'success' of interrogation, and no ac-
tive involvement in interviews". (para
206)

So, the reason uniformed men do
not brutalise victims during in-
terrogation is . . . they don't get the
chance!

But Bennett is not finished with
the uniformed men yet. He goes on
(para 208): "Despite the 'clean bill of
health' given to the uniformed branch
the fact has to be faced that none
of our witnesses recalled a case in
which a uniformed officer had ac-
tually seen ill-treatment occurring
and had taken steps (as the R.U.C.
Code would require him to do) to
make an immediate report of it, or
had later acknowledged having wit-
nessed ill-treatment in a statement to
the Complaints and Discipline Branch
of the R.U.C."

"The most that has happened, ac-
cording to the evidence that we have
heard, is that a chief inspector has
opened the door of an interview
room when he heard an unusual
noise".

So the uniformed men are either
blind and deaf or have been the
passive accomplices to the torture
administered by plain clothes men.

REMARKABLE

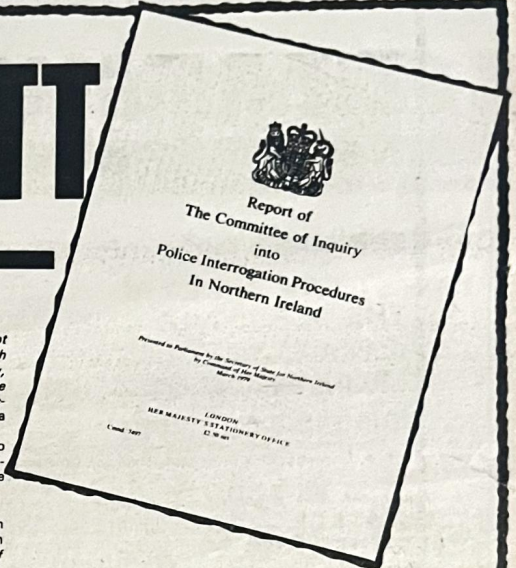
Bennett points to a number of
'remarkable' facts such as "although
criminal proceedings have been
brought against a number of police
officers in respect of alleged offences
in the course of interrogation, no
final conviction has resulted" (para
338). Bennett continues: "at least
since 1974 no disciplinary
proceedings have been brought
in respect of the interrogation of per-
sons in custody".

He reports that steps have been
taken such as "moving officers to
other duties", but "it is for obvious
reasons a measure which is not
displayed to the public". So cover-
ups (of which Bennett approves)
have taken place!

The report goes on (para 339),
again with typical caution and under-
statement: "The evidence to this
Inquiry has revealed scepticism on
the part of many observers about
whether the outcomes described
above truly represent the extent of
police misconduct in the course of in-
terrogation".

SECTARIANISM

Bennett recommends that com-
plaints should be investigated by
British police officers and not other
R.U.C. men. The report realises
"This would not remove the
suspicions of those who believe that
police officers are incapable of in-
vestigating each other's activities ob-
jectively, but it would go some way
towards a more independent in-
vestigation" through "having fresh
views brought to bear from in-
vestigation officers who, while
familiar with the general require-
ments and constraints of police work,
would not be immersed in the Nor-
thern Ireland scene" (that is, 'would
not be soaked in sectarianism').



It is at this point, buried deep in the
report that Bennett comes close to
exposing the sectarianism and
corruption rife within the R.U.C.
(However like a typical English gen-
tleman he is careful not to use 'in-

the Police Authority, on behalf of the
Association of Forensic Medical Of-
ficers bringing the position to the
notice of the Authority".

Bennett continues: "The
Association made repeated represen-
tations in the summer and autumn of
1977 both to the Authority, to senior
police officers and to other persons
in positions of authority. Particular
concern was expressed about the
condition of prisoners who had
passed through Castlereagh".

Nothing changed.
Bennett finds 'smears' followed
the allegations: "At one stage, when
denials of ill-treatment of prisoners
were made by the police, some of the
medical officers who had examined
prisoners, and found injuries, had
reason to fear for their reputation".
And then finds vain attempts to
'cover up' what happened: "There is
some difference of record and
recollection as to the sequence of
events and what happened thereaf-
ter, but certainly senior police of-
ficers and eventually the Chief Con-
stable were made aware of the Police
Authority's and doctors' concern,
and meetings took place between
representatives of the doctors and
the Chief Constable".

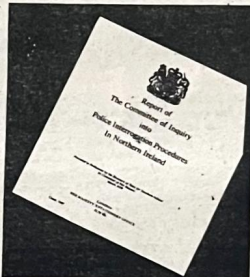
So Newman knew! Hardly sur-
prising, given the key role forced
'confessions' play in the Brit con-
veyor belt of dawn raids,
Castlereagh, Diplock Courts and the
H-Blocks.

Today the revelations of Dr. Irwin,
Secretary of the Police Surgeons'
Association, the allegations of Jack
Hassard, Dungannon Independent
councillor, the resignation of Dr
Elliot, Senior Medical Officer at
Gough Barracks, and the report of
English Judge Bennett, add up to
damning and irrefutable evidence of
R.U.C. torture.

Evidence from within the ranks of
the establishment itself.

SMEARS

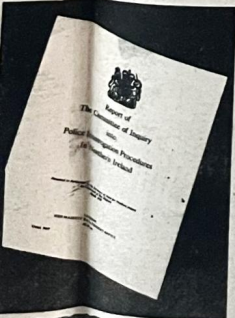
Bennett reports (para 159) that
following numerous medical reports
of systematic beating of prisoners
"after some oral communications, in
April 1977 a first letter was written to



discreet' or 'offensive' terms to
describe the 'dirt' he has dug up.)

Bennett states (para 358) "It is im-
portant that reports by investigating
officers should be objective". The
inquiry team then complains "Some
of the reports that we have seen ap-
pear to us to go beyond the im-
mediate facts of the case, and to in-
corporate an assumption that a com-
plaint by a suspect terrorist is unlikely
to be genuine".

The cover-up of torture, which
Bennett continually touches on
without getting to grips with, ex-
tends right through from the plain-
clothes men who practise it with the
acquiescence of their uniformed
colleagues, to their immediate
superiors within the barracks, to
senior officers and right up to 'chief
savage' Newman and the police
authority.



Postmhála



All letters should be addressed to the Editor -
An Phoblacht/Republican News, 170a Falls Rd.,
Belfast

Brit asSAssins and rapists on the Antrim rd.

A chara,

I would like to comment on the recent statement issued by Colonel B. Franks, head of the SAS in which he cleared his men of involvement in the rape of Mrs. Irwin. He exonerated them on the basis that they were not in Belfast at the time.

But as anyone who kept themselves abreast of what was going on then will know, there was a battle going on in Belfast between the under-cover units of the British army and the Irish Republican Army.

The IRA scored a major victory in this battle when they unmasked and executed a British agent working in Andersonstown. This man Seamus O'Brien was picked up by the IRA, questioned on the 18th January 1976 and later shot dead. Although the British and the Northern Irish newspapers refused to say he was a British agent, the southern newspapers and the *Republican News* carried the story.

In retaliation the British army sent an undercover unit into North Belfast to seek revenge against the IRA but they cocked things up. From their intelligence in late 1975 they had gathered that an important republican activist lived in Thirlmere Avenue off Belfast's Cavell Hill Road and on the night of 22nd January 1976 they used a ladder to gain access into a house and shot dead Niall O'Neill.

According to an RUC man on the scene the murder was carried out in a highly professional manner.

Unfortunately for the Brits, their unit had hit the wrong man. A few days earlier an explosives expert with the local IRA blew himself up along with a young 19 year old

female volunteer in a North Street shopping arcade. It transpired that this man, Volunteer Myrfin McDonagh, lived only a few doors away from the murdered Mr O'Neill. As Mr O'Neill was not a member of any organisation one can only assume that Marty McDonagh was the intended victim.

Nothing more was heard of this incident. It was reported as just another sectarian murder. However in late 1978 a pro-military British magazine was published (though not distributed in Ireland) called *Shatter* and in it was an interview with a retired SAS man who boasts that he shot Niall O'Neill and goes on to describe the operation in great detail.

Around the time the murder took place, there was also a sudden rise in the number of sex offences committed on the Antrim Road area above the Limestone Road.

As reported in your paper a few weeks ago, on 26th April 1978 the local Frank Stagg Sinn Fein Cumann carried out an investigation into some of the attacks which were attributed to plainclothes Brits.

The first to come to light was the rape of Mrs. Irwin on the Antrim Road by a plain clothes soldier carrying a gun. This was the beginning of April 1976.

Later that month, another woman was raped near the Milk Marketing Board headquarters on the Antrim Road, by three men who were chased and identified as soldiers.

The final attack happened on the 22nd April 1978. Mrs. Gamble, a married woman from West Belfast, left a late night dance in the Lansdowne Court hotel to walk to Castle Street to get a black taxi home. As she passed Fortwilliam Park she was sexually attacked and fatally stabbed. She managed to crawl a few hundred yards before dying in a pool of blood outside Shinner's Chemist.

This was the last of the spate of attacks on women.

A statement issued by Sinn Fein at the time said: "The police were quickly in possession of details of the identity of the perpetrators but the soldiers were allowed to return to duty without charges being made".

The RUC's response to this statement was merely to claim the Sinn Fein allegation: "could well hinder investigations" but the substance of the claims were not denied. Since then no one has been charged with these horrific crimes.

SEAN GREENE

Belfast.

Limerick S.L.P.

Dear Editor,

In your issue of February 24th you carry a brief report of a meeting in Shannon on H-Block where you claim that Padraig Malone, spokesman for Sinn Fein, "spoke of the history of Britain's war on defenceless prisoners in Ireland, and disagreed entirely with the S.L.P. speaker who maintained the war against Britain must stop if the prisoners were to be helped".

As the S.L.P. speaker in question, I would like to put the record straight. The above quotation is in fact untrue and in no way summarises the discussion at that particular meeting.

Firstly, I did not say that the war against Britain must be stopped if the prisoners are to be helped. That is a pro-imperialist position which both I and my party oppose. Incidentally my record on the H-Block issue and that of other S.L.P. members in Limerick and Shannon, both in the trade union

movement and elsewhere, stands so clear as to make the above statement nonsense.

What I did say was that it was my view and that of the S.L.P. that one of the major factors in preventing the involvement of masses of people on H-Block and the national question in general was the excessive reliance on military methods of struggle. Space does not permit detailed elaboration here of all the alternative emphasis suggested at the meeting. Nor would the S.L.P. claim a monopoly of ideas in this regard.

One other inaccuracy, Padraig Malone did not "disagree entirely with the S.L.P. speaker", as he did not express an opinion on my speech one way or another.

JIM McNAMARA
Branch Secretary
Socialist Labour Party,
Limerick.

Poppingtree problems

A chara,

Poppingtree housing estate in the Ballymun complex on the outskirts of Dublin has a population of over 3,000 people. At present these people are having to endure the most haphazard living conditions imaginable. In particular they are being denied an adequate bus service to and from the centre of Dublin which is causing them untold hardship.

According to the C.I.E. with whom I have frequent contact they claim to be providing a satisfactory bus service but in practice the opposite is the case.

Poppingtree estate is reached by a ring road circling Balcurris Road on one side and Balbutcher Lane on the other. The 368 bus is supposed to serve the whole of Poppingtree, but the bus only goes up and down the one side (Balcurris Road) leaving the people who live on the Balbutcher Lane side without any service. If the people

want to use the public transport they have to travel up through the estate. As well as workers, hundreds of school children use the buses and many a morning children and adults are late for work or school.

Full time from the Ballymun shopping centre and every day mothers with young children must trudge to these shops and back again in all kinds of weather.

On top of the lack of transport, there are no shops except a few mobile shops whose prices are much higher than the supermarkets. There is only one public telephone serving over 3,000 people and no leisure facilities except those provided by the people themselves.

Row upon row of houses and flats have been constructed and people sent to live in them with absolutely no facilities. Dublin Corporation, CIE and the Department of Posts and Telegraphs all seem to play heartlessly on the fact that homeless people are so grateful for a home of their own that they are willing to put up with all sorts of hardships. Sinn Fein have exchanged several letters with CIE and also the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and they have promised in the 'near or far' future to provide another phone booth.

It's about time the powers that be took a long hard look at their disastrous plans and realise that its PEOPLE they're dealing with, not statistics. That its people by their financial contributions who have them in their well paid positions and that even the most patient of people run out of patience. As regards CIE, Poppingtree's patience is almost exhausted.

CORA MARSHALL
Sinn Fein Candidate
Local Government Elections
Poppingtree, Dublin.

charge of the visiting area, because they do not have a visiting permit. On a few occasions visitors have been turned away because they had no permit. This meant that the prisoner concerned lost her monthly visit.

This kind of abusive treatment is increasing and we would like relatives to be aware of this latest tactic, and not to be intimidated into leaving the gaol until they get their visit.

P.R.O.
Republican Prisoners
Armagh Gaol.

Sticks to give up status?

Dear Sir,

We are writing to express our total disagreement with the recent pronouncements by the Sticks on the plight of those fighting for political status in the H-Blocks and among women's prison.

We regard their stance as nothing short of a scurrilous attempt to discredit the brave struggle in which these men and women are taking part. They do this by implying that the PoWs, through their fight, wish to take away the rights that should be accorded to all other prisoners.

This is totally untrue. They who know and understand most fully the horror and degradation of prison life would totally support any genuine moves to reform and humanise the prison system, but NOT at the expense of the withdrawal of political status.

To say that all prisoners are political prisoners is true in the abstract only, and in the current situation this argument is a slight of hand. As everyone knows (apart from the Sticks) there is a political struggle going on here—a struggle for self-determination for the Irish people. Those who engage in that struggle can hardly be seen in the same light as someone who steals or murders for self gain.

Finally, we would like to enquire how this present attitude squares with the fact that the Sticks have some of their own prisoners inside Long Kesh with political status, namely 'Official IRA' members. Of course we are aware that their recent attempts to win 'respectability' may lead them to disavow this, but the facts remain.

Will they ask these prisoners to give up their political status? P.R.O. MARKETS R.A.C. Belfast.

Dundalk's sinking houses

A chara,

May I, through the columns of your paper, highlight the plight of some householders of the Coxs, Oakland Park area of Dundalk.

One has heard of the world famous landmark *The Leaning Tower of Pisa*. Now I believe Ireland has produced a similar landmark, namely the incredible sinking houses in the Coxs and Oakland Park area. Some house owners are enraged by inadvertent council action on this issue.

Houses mainly to the front of the estate have subsided. Major cracks have appeared in the structures of these houses but yet council action has practically been non-existent.

We intend, with the assistance of our sitting councillor P.R. Browne, to highlight this pressing

problem not only to those council members who are reluctant to do anything about it, but also to those in Leinster House.

We have in the past fought on housing and local problems in this area and have been successful in getting a better heating system installed in several houses after some people were paying electric bills in excess of £100. Also we were instrumental in getting playing facilities for children of this area.

We intend to continue to highlight social deprivation which affects the local people.

HUGH MUNRO, P.R.O.
Worthington/Waters
Sinn Fein

Dundalk.

Bloomfield residents demand anthracite fires

A chara,

Almost a year after the gas fire controversy in Bloomfield resulted in a march on the Shantallow Housing Executive offices, residents are still suffering high fuel bills and high coal costs.

The Keenan-McGillan Sinn Fein Cumann documented today's cost compared to value and found that during the recent cold spell, one resident put £38 into a meter, using 170 cubic feet of gas.

When the meter was emptied, the rebate came to £8—amounting to a cost of £30 for the period 16 January to 16 February. This works out at £7.50 a week—the same cost as anthracite fires in the same estate—which, however, provide heat throughout the day. Residents with gas fires can only afford about four hours central heating at night.

One resident kept his heating going for 24 hours from February 16 to 17. The meter used £3.90. Even taking into account the rebate, this works out at £20 per week. For the same period using heat provided by an anthracite fire tenants paid only £7.50.

The gas fire residents want their fires converted to anthracite. Half the houses in Bloomfield already have anthracite, only 50% use gas. The cost of converting from gas to anthracite is estimated at

£500—including pump, fire and flue.

When the staff at the Shantallow Sinn Fein Advice Centre approached the Housing Executive on this, they were told conversion required a policy change, which neither they nor even the entire Housing Executive in Derry were empowered to take.

When the Sinn Fein member named many people prepared to put up 50% of the cost if the Housing Executive put up the other 50%, this was again turned down as requiring a policy change—something only Belfast head office could do.

When these gas fires were first installed six years ago, gas was relatively cheap—old meter cards show gas at 6p a cubic foot. The current price is 17p a cubic foot. Many feel the Housing Executive should have been able to foresee the price rise in gas at this time, since inflation was already well advanced in other areas.

The residents paying high rents and high fuel bills now for cold homes demand that something be done to rectify the problem today. In particular they feel their offer of a 50% sharing of the cost of conversion to anthracite fires is reasonable, particularly in view of the generous rates at which private

A chara,

Several thousand workers took part in a P.A.Y.E. protest march and meeting in Letterkenny on Friday, 23rd March. The march, organised by ITGWU and led by the Letterkenny Town Band, was supported by several unions.

At the meeting in the Market Square, Anne Wilkinson, chairperson of the Letterkenny Branch of the ITGWU, presided. Councillor O'Donnell of UCATT stated that the people assembled had one thing in common; they were victims of an unjust tax system. Vincent Murphy, secretary of the Letterkenny Trades Council, highlighted the unjust means test P.A.Y.E. workers' children had to undergo before gaining admission to higher level educational institutions and university, in sharp contrast to the children of farmers and the self-employed.

Within the last month the message has gone out loud and clear from Cork to Donegal that never again will the people who have cornered for themselves over

home owners can get grants from the Executive to improve their homes.

P.R.O.
Shantallow Sinn Fein
Advice Centre
Derry City.

70% of the wealth created by Irish workers get away with paying just 13% of total taxation collected.

George Hunter, district secretary of the ITGWU, requested any friend of Jack Lynch who might be left in Letterkenny to bring the message back to him that the unjust tax system will

have to go. George Hunter also condemned Fianna Fail for removing the food subsidies, therefore adding to an increasing cost of living for working class families.

SARAH O'HIGGINS
Letterkenny.

Cell radios and lost permits

A chara,

On Thursday 1st March, at approximately 4pm when women on protest for political status were being unlocked for their tea, one of the screws lost a key for the cell door on 'B' wing. There immediately followed a general search of the jail, but the key could not be found. This search lasted four hours on 'B' wing. Then 'A' and 'C' wings were also searched.

Next morning at 10 am another search began, which lasted for a further six hours. Prisoners were taken out of cells which were then searched by two male and three female screws.

During the search anything concerning H-Block was ripped up and thrown around the cell. The cells were completely wrecked, items of clothing were taken, while the rest was thrown around the cell. Let-

ters were also taken and holy pictures were removed from the walls. One comrade returned to her cell to discover her underwear had been torn up and strewn around the cell.

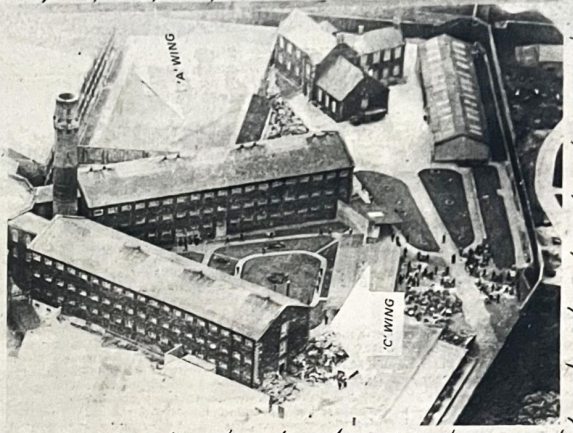
In both toilets on 'B' wing used, sanitary towels were emptied from waste bags and thrown all over the place. All the protesters were subjected to close searching by screws using metal detectors.

Other forms of harassment of the women on protest include the delaying and losing of visiting permits sent to relative or friends. The losing of permits is happening so frequently now that to regard it as an administrative error is folly.

The screws are deliberately losing permits to cause anguish to the prisoners and to their relatives who must undergo a tirade of verbal abuse from other screws in

REMAND PROTEST CONTINUES

There are 250 Republican prisoners on non-co-operation protest in Crumlin Road prison, Belfast.



SINCE OCTOBER of last year the 250 internees-on-remand in Crumlin Road prison have been protesting in solidarity with their comrades on the blanket in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. The men's 'non-cooperation with the screws' protest has primarily involved refusing to clear out their cells, to shave themselves or to have their hair cut.

The prisoners have also been digging H-Block slogans into their cell walls with bed-ends, toothpaste tubes and other suitable implements.

In an effort to break the solidarity protest the prison regime have removed most of the men's so-called privileges. They are refused food parcels, books, newspapers and evening association between 5 pm and 7 pm.

They are only allowed to purchase tobacco and toiletries from the shop.

These deprivations can of course only be fully grasped in the context that the prison food is both meagre and dubious in content.

Cell raids by screws take place usually three times a week during which the prisoners' few possessions are strewn about the cell and trampled upon.

On their four exercise days per week the men eat their meals in the canteen. But on the other three days not only do they not have any exercise but they must eat their meals in their cells. They are allowed out of their cells only to wash and to collect their food.

The screws are generally abusive and continually attempt to pick on the smaller prisoners. They are always kicking and punching at the prisoners in an attempt to provoke a response. (They also try the opposite trick of trying to sweet talk the younger prisoners off the protest).

RESTRICTIONS

The men are regularly refused adequate toilet facilities and are forced to use plastic chamber pots in their cells. Given that there are three men in many cells the unpleasantness this creates can well be imagined especially as the men are locked in their cells from 7.30 pm in the evening until 8 am in the morning.

The men are only permitted to exercise four out of seven days for two one hour periods, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. As they have been deprived of evening association between 5 pm and 7 pm this effectively means the loss of television viewing and although they are allowed radios they are not allowed batteries! This means of course that news from the outside world is drastically reduced.

During their restricted morning and afternoon exercise periods the men have been banned from playing football which they used to play using an old sock stuffed with paper. Other forms of recreation have also been banned.

Even their one hour exercise periods are further reduced by screws not opening cell doors until as long as twenty minutes after the exercise period is meant to have begun.

KANGAROO COURTS

Official harassment through the kangaroo courts administered by the so-called board of visitors is also a regular hazard the men have to face. Recent victims have been Robert Kerr (Belfast) sentenced to 21 days on the boards, J. Douglas (Portadown) 15 days and P. O'Donoghue (Belfast) 15 days.

Robert Kerr's punishment was for addressing an 'illegal assembly' in the exercise yard whereas in fact he was engaged with other comrades in a political discussion.

There has been a steady escalation of harassment of prisoners' visitors. Identification is now requested both at the entrance to the prison and again in the visiting area. Visits are often delayed or deliberately cut short and there is a systematic attempt by the screws to humiliate prisoners receiving visitors by forcing them to undergo strip searches.

Despite all this typical harassment of petty rules, petty provocations, deprivations of privileges and increased time locked up, the 250 men in Crumlin Road prison are continuing their protest in solidarity with the blanket men with dogged determination. They have the dedication and courage which will ensure victory, in the struggle to retain political status.

Newman objects to 'oppressive and unreasonable' treatment



AN ATTEMPT by a Belfast solicitor, Francis Keenan, to show that the R.U.C. are consciously disregarding judges' rules governing the treatment of juveniles in their custody, suffered a set back on Wednesday March 28th. Keenan, two days previously had served a summons on R.U.C. Chief Ken Newman to appear before the court to explain why neither the relatives nor solicitor of his sixteen-year-old client were allowed access to him while he was being held for three days at Castlereagh.

This practice, Keenan claimed, was contrary to the judges' rules governing the treatment of those arrested who are under the age of seventeen. He therefore argued that his client's statement admitting membership of Na Fianna Eireann was inadmissible.

Ironically Newman, the over-lord of the oppressive conditions which exist for those unfortunate enough to be arrested and detained by the R.U.C., claimed through a solicitor that Keenan's summons was "oppressive and unreasonable" and refused to attend the court sitting. Newman's response was quickly defended by the magistrate, James Tweed, who promptly dismissed Keenan's defence for his client and found the sixteen-year-old youth guilty on the basis of his signed statement.

UNPRECEDENTED MOVE

The decision by Francis Keenan to summons Newman was an unprecedented move. The outcome was being closely watched by other solicitors (and anxious parents) of fifteen and sixteen year olds, who were treated in Castlereagh in a similar fashion to Keenan's client.

However, the fact that Newman successfully rebutted the summons and was supported (not surprisingly) by the judiciary, will encourage the R.U.C. to continue their abusive system designed to break the will of teenagers when in their custody.

Had Newman been forced to appear in court this aspect of the R.U.C.'s 'ill-treatment' would have been publicly exposed.

No doubt Newman, still recovering from the Bennett Report and the torture revelations by doctors was conscious of this very fact.

The case itself represents the tip of the iceberg of an arrest campaign conducted by the Brits/RUC against scores of youths from the nationalist ghettos of Belfast.

Since September of last year the rate of arrest of teenage youths is about thirty per month according to figures compiled by the Belfast based Association

for Legal Justice. Of these, many are under the age of seventeen. Several fifteen year old youths have been among those arrested, interrogated and then charged.

RAMOAN GARDENS

In one street in Andersonstown, Ramoan Gardens, over the last six months thirty-eight teenagers have been arrested and charged with membership of the Fianna. In almost every case those charged signed confessions extracted from them during interrogation and in every case neither parents nor solicitors were allowed in to see them.



Had Newman appeared in court the RUC's abuse of juveniles in Castlereagh would have been publicly exposed.

Turf Lodge also came under the Brits/RUC heavy hand when several teenagers were arrested, charged and gaoled during this period. In fact only a few weeks ago two brothers, James Green (15) and Hugh (16) whose two other brothers, John and Billy are on the blanket in the 'H' Blocks, were held for three days at Castlereagh.

Most teenagers report that at Castlereagh they are subjected to intense and prolonged periods of interrogation. Their interrogators mainly use psychological pressure such as the threat to charge them with serious offences like murder or bomb explosions unless they sign a statement admitting involvement in Na Fianna Eireann.

However, over recent weeks, the R.U.C. have started using more sinister methods. At least two youths who were forced into signing statements admitting membership of the Fianna were released on the understanding that they would collect information for the R.U.C. about the I.R.A.

One other youth who was also released from Castlereagh on this basis during January and refused to get the R.U.C. the information they wanted was re-arrested six weeks later, charged and thrown into Crumlin Road gaol.

Teenagers from nationalist areas are singled out for this treatment because the Brits/RUC have failed to beat the people into submission and regard the youth as potentially Republican activists who will continue the fight against the Brits until victory.



"Is fearr Gaeilge Bhriste ná Béarla cliste i mbéal Gael"

le Saoirse H-5



Rang Ghaeilge ar suil sna casanna i Campa Ceis Fada

RUGADH orm i Mi Iúil 1974. Cuireadh i bpríosún bothar Crumlainne mé agus bhí mé ann ar feadh deich míosa. Leis an fhéinne a insint ní raibh suim agam inár gcultúr féin ag an am sin. Bhíodh mé ag éisteacht gach oíche leis an ceol 'pop', agus ní raibh mé sásta, toisc narbh fheidir liom na cluichí soccer a fheiceáil ar an teilifís.

Tuigim anois gur as intinn ghail a bhí na smaointe sin ag teacht. Ar ndóigh bhí a fhios agam go raibh mé ag troid in eadan na nGall. Nach raibh ar stair ar eolas agamsa. Rinneadh feall go leor ar na hÉireannaigh ar feadh na mblianta. Nach raibh mé ag leanúint ar aghaidh leis an cogadh a thosaigh níos mó ná seacht gcéad bliain ó shin.

Nach raibh mé i mo bhall den ghluaiseacht cheanna ina raibh Pádraig Mac Piarais agus Seamus Ó Conghaile ag troid ar feadh Seachtain na Cásca. Mar sin fein bhí mé shíl-bheatha cosúil leis na bairdeirí agus go mór mhór cosúil leis na daoine i Sasana.

Díreach cosúil leo, nach raibh mé ag scairt chuig mo chairde gach oíche Shathairn conas mar raibh d'eirigh le Manchester United. Ach mar a dúirt mé, níor mhothaigh me na rudaí sin.

MÚSAICLT

I ndiaidh mo thrial tháinig mé anseo chuig an Cheis Fhada. Ar dtús b'iontach liom méid na háite. Chuaigh mé suas díreach ar dhion an bhotháin ag breathnú ar na cásanna ar fad. Ní raibh na Bloccanna H anseo ag an am sin. Um am dinn-eir, chuala mé an chéad abairt i nGaeilge.

Bhí mé i mo shuí ag caint le cúpla duine, nuair a oscailodh an doras agus scait duine éigin "scairt deireannach fan dinnear". Níor thuig mé focal ar bith. I ndiaidh dinnear mhothaigh mé slua eile agus iad ag labhairt i nGaeilge go hiomlán.

I rith an chéad choicís chuala mé achán duine ag labhairt i nGaeilge, nó ag baint feidhm as na habairt beaga. Chonacathas dom go raibh

rionnt mhaith Gaeilge ag gach duine sa chás. Bhí díomá orm nach raibh Gaeilge agam féin. Is mar sin a mbothaigh mé nárbh Éireannach mé ach fear a rugadh in Éirinn.

Bhí níos mó suime agam i gcultúr Shasana ná inár gcultúr féin. Creid-eann a lán daoine go mbeimid saor nuair a imeoidh na Gaill. Ach ní fiú na Sasanaigh a chur amach agus sinne gan ár gcultúr féin.

TÁBHACHT an CHULTÚIR

Féach ar pa díseoirí i dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Tá siad ina gcónaí in Éirinn ach b'fhearr leo an cultúr Sasanach agus creideann siad gur Briotanaigh iad. Féach ar an Rialtas sna Seachtó Ficead agus R.T.É. 2 leis na cláracha mar 'Coronation Street' agus 'Match of the Day'! An saoirse é sin?

Mar a dúirt Pádraig Mac Piarais "Ní hamháin saor ach gaelach - ní hamháin gaelach ach saor". Féach ar an sár-iarraicht a thug na Sasanaigh ar ár shíl bheatha a scriosadh. D'aithin siad i bhfad ó shin gurab é an cultúr ar rud is tábhachtaí i dtír ar bith.

I ngach tír san Impireacht scrios siad an cultúr dúchasach agus chuir siad a gcultúr féin ina áit. Chuir siad scoileanna ar bun chun a gcultúr féin a mhúineadh do na daoine oga.

Mar sin thosaigh mé ar an teanga a fhoghlaim tar éis mí amháin a chaitheamh sa Cheis Fada. Bhí orm na briathra neamhrialta a fhoghlaim i dtosach. Chujmhnigh mé ar na ranganna a bhí agam ar scoil. Ach anseo bhí suim mhór agam sa Ghaeilge. Thuig mé gur teanga bheo í an Ghaeilge. Bhí na ceachtanna simplí go leor ar dtús de bhri go raibh na briathra neamhrialta agam cheanna féin.

Ina dhiaidh sin d'eirigh na ceachtanna níos deacra agus ar ndóigh stad mé anois agus arís ar feadh cúpla mí. Ach tamall ó shin thug mé iarracht mhór agus anois bíonn áthas orm mo chuid Gaeilge a úsáid. Tuigim nach bhfuil gach rud i gceart agam go fóill ach táim ag iarraidh feabhas a chur orm féin i gconal. Tá súil agam cuairt a thabhairt ar an nGaeiltacht nuair a bheidh saoirse agam.

Nuair a bhí mé sna cásanna léigh mé a lán leabhair mar gheall ar an stair agus mar gheall ar na sean-nósanna a bhí sa tír seo. Bhí Gaeiltacht againn sa bhothán deireannach den chás. Bhí cúigear déag againn ann agus bhí rang ar suil gach oíche. Thugamar iarracht an Ghaeilge a labhairt i gconal. Bhí beagnach daichead fear ag foghlaim in achán chás an t-am ar fad.

Ar leanúint an tsaoire seo chughainn.

duirt siad

"Every bomb weakens the Union". Ian Paisley speaking on the BBC TV programme 'Spotlight' last Thursday evening.

"I am sure Airey Neave would have wished nothing better than to share the same end as so many of his innocent fellow-citizens for whom the House of Commons is responsible".

Enoch Powell immediately after Neave was assassinated last Friday.

"The most worrying aspect from a Northern Ireland point of view is that Mr. Neave's death might prompt some people in England, Scotland and Wales to conclude that the best way to deal with the Province would be to leave it to its own devices".

Belfast Telegraph editorial last Saturday.

"Does the recent merger of the Belfast-based 'Republican News' with the Dublin-based 'An Phoblacht' perhaps signify more than a simple merger of the two organs of Provisionalism? Certainly their second edition of same appears to indicate a change of policy from their 'outretched hand' attitudes..."

'Ulster' Vol. 2, No. 2, paper of the U.D.A.

"We have to admit that they are very good".

Former Brit warlord in occupied Ireland, Harry Tuzo's assessment of the IRA.

"Millions of pounds of damage has been done to property and the economy of our province threatened. Still there is no sign of an ending to the troubles".

Alderman W. Belshaw of Lisburn in a letter to the 'Protestant Telegraph'.

"Army computer fingers six year old terror boss". Headline in 'Sunday News'.

"But with armed soldiers at their door late at night, few people would dare refuse to answer the questions in case they were dragged away to an interrogation centre and held under 'emergency legislation' for seven days".

N.I.C.R.A. on the Brits' illegal door-to-door census in Republican ghettos.

"The book tells of high ranking British Army officers planting fake information on national newspaper men to discredit Irish Republicans".

'Jim Campbell of 'Sunday News' on the recently published book 'Interface: Ireland'.

"... a force that is regarded by one section of the community as Unionism's 'thin red line', but is rejected by the rest of the North as a pack of bigots and sectarian killers".

'Hibernia's' journalist Ed Maloney describing the UDR.

"British troops paraded for the last time in Malta yesterday, two days before the end of 180 years of British military presence on the island".

'Irish News' 30th March.

"Davitt, like Devoy, was realist enough to see that it was useless to ask Irish peasants to campaign for transferring the ownership of the land from the English landlord class to the English government when they could see no difference between the two".

Seamus O'Tuathail in a review of 'Land and the National Question in Ireland 1858-82' by Paul Bew.

"The postal strike, now in its fifth week and involving 13,000 workers, is the longest strike by such a large number in the history of this state".

Current affairs column of 'Hibernia'.

"(The so-called European Parliament's) only formal right is to give opinions on proposals submitted by the Commission to the Council of Ministers".

The EEC Information Office pamphlet 'The European Parliament'.

"The long term objective of the UDA is to go out of existence".

An optimistic Glen Barr.

Counter-Eurovision Festival

A counter-Eurovision Festival was held in Brussels on the weekend March 31st - 1st April. This was part of the agreed platform of the 'United European Opposition to the E.E.C.', of which Sinn Féin are the Irish signatories.

This venture was undertaken to promote the real culture of the small nations of Europe and to expose the yearly charade of the European Song Contest, which is only an expression of the canned culture of the Eurocrats.

The Cultural and Foreign Affairs Departments of Sinn Féin arranged the Fenian Folk Group from Donegal to represent Ireland in this Festival.

The group was received by an audience of over three thousand with great enthusiasm, as were the other groups from other small nations such as the Basques, Bretons and Catalonians. JOE O'NEILL a member of the Fenian Folk Group, commenting on the Festival, said: "It was a great success, and a very important milestone in the advancement of culture, it helped us to a greater understanding of other people's cultural and political life. Our performance promoted great interest in the problems we face in Ireland and many people came to us and showed a great understanding of our revolutionary struggle".

A double record album will be available in the near future, featuring the best of the performance over the weekend of the Festival. It is planned to make this festival a permanent feature of the anti-EEC programme.



Fenian Folk Group from Buncrana, Co. Donegal.

Terence MacSwiney (1879 - 1920) Lord Mayor of Cork.

"Whatever your government may do I shall be free alive or dead within a month"

TERENCE MacSWINEY, Lord Mayor of Cork, died in Brixton prison in October 1920 after 74 days on hunger strike. From the dock he had promised "Whatever your government may do I shall be free, alive or dead, within a month".

Terence MacSwiney was born on March 28th 1879 in North Main Street, Cork.

A promising scholar he was compelled to leave school at an early age because of family financial difficulties. In 1894 he began working for Dwyer and Company of Cork but he detested office work and soon applied himself to night studies at the Royal University (now University College, Cork). He graduated without any difficulty in 1907.

A poet, playwright and author, he was a regular contributor to the Journal of the Gaelic Society and leading light in the O'Growney Branch of the Gaelic League. He had a great love for all things Irish.

1913 saw the formation of the Volunteers movement. MacSwiney used his appointment as Technical Instructor of the Cork Council to the utmost advantage, turning his journeys into organising trips for the Volunteer movement. So successful was he that the Volunteer's Executive requested him to relinquish his Council appointment and become full-time organiser for Cork.

He immediately agreed. Unfortunately the plans for the Easter Rising in Cork were upset by the counter-marching order of Eoin MacNeill.

Portrait bust in marble of Terence MacSwiney, modelled in Brixton prison.



When MacSwiney and MacCurtain who were in Ballingary returned to Cork late on Easter Monday night it was impossible to mobilize the Volunteers as the military had taken steps to ensure that no similar rising was possible in Cork.

From then on his life was a series of short terms of imprisonment.

In the early hours of March 19th 1920 his life long friend, Tomas MacCurtain, O.C. of the Cork Brigade of the I.R.A. and Lord Mayor of the city was murdered. At his inquest the jury verdict stated that "the murder was organised and

carried out by the R.I.C., officially directed by the British Government".

Terence MacSwiney, who had been elected T.D. in 1918 was chosen by the Cork Corporation to succeed his friend as Lord Mayor. At his inquest he said: "I come here a Volunteer, a soldier stepping into the breach". It was this speech and an R.I.C. code book and papers that were the subject of major charges following his arrest on 12th August. He was found guilty and sentenced to two years imprisonment. That night he was taken to England on a British Warship and brought to Brixton prison where he lay on hunger strike demanding his immediate release. The whole world watched this Irish soldier go slowly to his grave.

On October 25th 1920 at forty-one years of age Terence MacSwiney died having completed 74 days without food.

Three days later his remains left prison to be brought via Dublin to Cork. At Holyhead British soldiers seized the body and brought it by warship to Ireland.

So that the capital city would not be allowed to honour MacSwiney his remains were brought to Cork. He lay in state in the City Hall, until he was buried in the Republican plot at the side of his comrade-in-arms Tomas MacCurtain.

SEAN BAN MAC GRIANNA

AS the coffin draped with the tri-colour, bearing the remains of Sean Bán Mac Grianna, from Ranafast, Co. Donegal - a poet, shansach, Republican - was carried into Annagry graveyard, an era came to an end.

A brother of the famous Irish writers Seamus and Seosamh Mac Grianna, Sean Ban like his family was a life long Republican and although in failing health in recent years he was unyielding to the end.

In his time he spoke at many Republican gatherings and election meetings throughout Donegal. He was proud of the sincerity and dedication of Ólaigh na h-Eireann in their efforts to break the connection with England.

In the 'twenties' his four brothers Seamus and Seosamh, Donal and Huiad all excell-

ent-writers in the Irish language, were interned in Newbridge jail for their Republican ideals and in his grave oration Padraig O Baoighill for Gluaisacht na Poblaichte spoke of their high regard of the Clann Mhic Muiri who was the founder of Coláiste Bhríde Ranafast in 1926. In this college he taught and related folktales to children from all over the country especially pupils from our six northern counties that are as yet unfortunately under British rule.

They did as one family, more for Irish literature than any other similar family in Ireland. Dúirt sé fa Sean Ban in a oraid " . . . Fear de theaghlach a bhí ann a ghlac seasmh ins na fichid in

aghaidh ansnacht gill. Cuir-eadh a cheathrar dearthair-eacha i bpríosún Newbridge ins na fichid de bharr a seasmh i gcéis na Poblaichte. Acht bhí an fear bán i gcónaí brodlú astu. Níor thráig se aniam cúis na Poblaichte nó cúis na h-Eireann."

Padraig O Baoighill referred to Sean Ban's association with another great Irish patriot and scholar, An t-Athair Lorcán O Muiri who was the founder of Coláiste Bhríde Ranafast in 1926. In this college he taught and related folktales to children from all over the country especially pupils from our six northern counties that are as yet unfortunately under British rule.

He was very interested in the young people and he was well

known all over Ulster. He had a fantastic knowledge of his own and neighbouring parishes and this was evident by the great gathering at his funeral.

To his own sister, Seil Fheidhlimidh of Ranafast, where he stayed in recent years, her husband Mici and family, to his brother Seosamh Mac Grianna and to a large family circle we offer our sincere sympathy.

He is a great loss to the people of Ranafast and to Ireland. His interest in youth was again evident with the presence of the Ranafast bands at his funeral. Another Ranafast man, t-Athair Lorcán O Seacraigh officiated at the graveside and one of Sean Ban's best songs, "Cumha an Thíle", was rendered by ag old friend at Coláiste Bhríde, Liam O Conchubhair from Antrim.

Members of the Republican Movement were present at the graveside. The Mass and funeral ceremony were recorded by Radio na Gaeltachta.

Easter commemoration ceremonies Sun. 15th April

All National, Cultural, Sporting groups and trade unions are invited (no banners to be carried).

BELFAST

Leaves Beechmont Avenue 1:30 p.m. for Milltown Cemetery

NORTH ARMAGH

DERRYMACASH
ASSEMBLE 11.45 a.m.
Ballinamoney Cottages

MAGHERY
Assemble 12 noon
The Cemetery

PORTADOWN
Assemble 1 p.m.
The Cemetery

LURGAN
Assemble 2.30 p.m.
Francis Street

All those laying wreaths please notify the Secretary, 77, North Street, on or before Saturday 7th April. The commemorations are jointly organised by Sinn Féin and the National Graves Association.

MAYO

Assemble 3 p.m.
in Kilkiney Cemetery, Kiltimagh
West to grave of Sean Corcoran

WESTMEATH/OFFALY

Assemble 3 p.m.
At grave of William Dignam
in Clara cemetery

Wreath laying ceremony at the grave of James Daly in Tyrrelspass Cemetery after 8.30. Mass.

FERMANAGH

Assemble 3 p.m.
5, Milltown Road, Roslea

ARMAGH

Assemble 12 noon
Bottom of Banbrook Hill

NORTH LOUTH

Assemble 2.30 p.m.
Market Square, Dundalk
March to St. Patrick's cemetery

LIMERICK CITY

Assemble 12.45 p.m.
Bedford Row

NORTH DUBLIN

Assemble 11.30 a.m.
Pro Cathedral
Parade to Republican plot, Glasnevin.

LONDON

Assemble: Speakers Corner
Sunday, April 15th at 2.30 p.m.

MARCH to a RALLY at
Birchington Road, Kilburn.

ARDOYNE, BELFAST

Tuesday 17th April
Assemble 3 p.m. outside
Saunders Club, Ardoyne
March to memorial on Berwick Rd.
Honour Ireland's dead from Ar-
doyne, Ligoniel and the Bone.

SOUTH DUBLIN

Monday 16th April
Assemble 11.30 a.m.
Bakers Corner
Parade to Deans Grange

EASTER COMMEMORATION REPORTS

Could all commemoration committees in conjunction with the Republican Movement, locally, please send reports (including photographs) of the ceremonies to: 44 Parnell Square, Dublin or 170a Falls Road, Belfast.

LURGAN

SPECIAL EASTER FUNCTION
Easter Monday Night
Monday 16th April
The Woodville Arms

LURGAN
Irish night of the year featuring Highland Paddy and other guest artists.
Tickets £1.25
Organised by Sinn Féin.

HONOUR IRELAND'S DEAD



WEAR AN EASTER LILY

GLASGOW

MARCH

Saturday 21st April
Assemble 10 a.m.

QUEEN'S PARK GATES, VICTORIA ROAD, GLASGOW.

Speakers from RAC, Sinn Féin, UTM and trade unions.

This is the first march since 1971 to go into Glasgow city centre.

Sinn Féin is asking all cumann in Britain to attend, and UTM all of its North of England branches.

Brits Out Now!

Self Determination For The Irish People!
March jointly organised by Sinn Féin and United Troops Out Movement.

Sympathy

DALY, Vera.

Mayo Comhairle Ceantair extends its deepest sympathy to Mr. Jack Daly, on the death of his wife Vera, Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for her.

SINN FEIN PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, April 10th
8.00 p.m.

CENTRAL HOTEL

Exchequer Street,
DUBLIN

Speaker:

Joe Cahill "Irish Protestants: Culture and Republicanism"
Organised by: South Dublin Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin.

DUBLIN SINN FEIN Education Course

Saturday 7th April

Part 1: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday 8th April

Part 2: 12 noon - 4 p.m.
At No. 5 Blessington Street, DUBLIN

Especially recommended as a pre-election policy refresher course for all candidates and election workers in Dublin and Leinster. Accommodation will be provided for members travelling to Dublin for the course.

DO DWARFS DREAM OF GIANT PROPOS?



★★★★★★★★★★

Birthday Greetings

★★★★★★★★★★

BATESON, Rita; Armagh Gaol. Happy birthday Rita, we support you all the way. From the Doyle family, Lurgan. Venceremos.

BATESON, Rita; Armagh Gaol. Greetings on this your 18th birthday Rita. C.S. will give you the key. From Ann, and Ned (Long Kesh). U.T.P.

MILNE, Ian Patrick; H Block 6. Best wishes Ian on your 25th birthday. Always thinking of you. Lots of love from your sister Ann, Sean and family.

MILNE, Ian Patrick; H Block 6. Happy birthday son on this your 25th birthday. Always thinking of you in everything we do, just because we love you and are proud of you. From Mummy, Daddy and uncle Johnny, also brother Brian and Barbara.

MILNE, Ian Patrick; H Block 6. Birthday greetings Ian on your 25th birthday. Our thoughts are always with you. From brothers Bobby, Jim, wives and children and uncle Jimmy.

MILNE, Ian Patrick; H Block 6. Happy birthday Ian on your 25th birthday. We support you in your fight for Political Status. May your next one be spent in freedom. Love from brother John, Doreen and children.

O'CONNELL, Lynn; Armagh Gaol. Happy 21st birthday Lynn on April 5th from your father and family.

O'CONNELL, Lynn; Armagh Gaol. Happy birthday Lynn. Mary, Queen of the Gael, look after you and all your brave comrades. From the Doyle family, Lurgan.

O'CONNELL, Lynn; Armagh Gaol. Happy birthday Rocky! We're behind you all the way in your fight for status. From Ann Doyle (Lurgan) and Ned, Long Kesh.

SMITH, Jim; H Block 5. Happy birthday Jim on April 11th. Thinking of you always. Love Ann. xxxx

★★★★★★★★★★

Solidarity Greetings

MARLEY, Larry; P.O.W. H Block 6. Congratulations Larry on completing ONE YEAR ON THE BLANKET. You are always in our thoughts. Love from Maureen, Eileen, Ann, Noeleen, Paul and wee Emmet.



A record entitled "Dark is the Valley of the Lagan" has been issued by Linden Records. The 45 - single is about the Blanket-Men in the H-Blocks and all proceeds will go towards the H-Block appeal fund. Copies can be got from the H-Block Information Centre, 170a Falls Road, Belfast at a cost of 85 pence plus postage.

Armagh
Defend Political Status!
Picket Armagh Gaol
2 p.m. Saturday 7th April
Bus leaves Dunville Park, Belfast at 1 p.m.
Organised by Women Against Imperialism

FERMANAGH P.D.F. DANCE

Parish Hall
NEWTOWNBUTLER
Sunday 8th April
Dancing to Cabra Boys
Tallie £1

DUBLIN SINN FEIN
Robert Emmet Cumann, Inchicore.

£100 ticket no. 255
£30 ticket no. 105
£20 ticket no. 35
Ten prizes of £5: ticket nos. 62, 191, 54, 148, 124, 115, 291, 247, 231, 286.

AN CUMANN CABHRACH

DUBLIN —
MARCH DRAW RESULTS
£100 ticket no. 223
£50 ticket no. 198
£25 ticket no. 115
£10 ticket no. 138
£10 ticket no. 232
Six prizes of £5: ticket nos. 221, 133, 029, 207, 142, 191.

AN CUMANN CABHRACH

HOWTH
Summit Inn
8 p.m. Fri. 27th April
Featuring The Cherry 3
and Shamrog
Tickets £2.50 each include supper
and transport to 44 Parnell Square
after the function
Tickets available from 44 Parnell
Square or ring P. King, Dublin
Tel: 314841

★★★★★★★★★★

PEARSE CENTENARY CONCERT

The Embankment
Tallaght, DUBLIN
8.30 p.m. — 11.30 p.m.
Monday 23rd April
THE WOLFE TONES
Tallie £1.50.
Proceeds in Aid of An Cumann Cabhrach
Tickets available from 44, Parnell
Square, Dublin

★★★★★★★★★★