

An Phoblacht REPUBLICAN NEWS



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SATURDAY MAY 5th 1979

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WESTMINSTER.... NO CHANGE!

WHICHEVER PARTY has won the Westminster general election there will be no immediate significant change in British policy towards their occupation of the six North-Eastern counties of Ireland.

Although minor shifts in British policy over the last ten years have been dictated by the party in office seeking to woo Unionist votes at Westminster there has been a striking uniformity about British policy whichever party has been in office.

The British establishment (by whom we mean the real rulers: the elite of big businessmen, top civil servants and military leaders) remain determined to hang on to the six counties to protect their strategic interests. Their main concern being political stability through 'normalisation' and the protection of imperialist (whether British, German or American) economic interests throughout the thirty-two counties.

British occupation continues because they fear the ensuing turbulence and the threat to their interests of a united Irish working class, which would be posed by the removal of partition. It is through the sectarian mechanism of partition that they seek to maintain the impotence of a divided working class.

The British establishment is prepared to pay a high price for its continued domination of the six counties. And it is literally a high (and growing) price both economically and politically.

On the one hand there is the financial

cost of military occupation plus the transfer of the proceeds of taxation from Britain to the six counties through the subvention of hundreds of millions of pounds annually.

On the other hand there is the political cost of maintaining an artificial statelet through the only means possible - military repression. The British are paying a high price both in terms of soldiers' lives and loss of credibility of the 'democratic' image both at home and abroad. American concern over the H-Blocks is an obvious example of this latter factor.

Given that they consider that continued control of Ireland is such

a vital interest of the British state which is at stake, neither Tories nor Labour Party, are prepared to make a decisive move and declare their intention of leaving Ireland in peace. (It is this intransigence which has led to the IRA's predictions of a long war ahead).

Successive Labour governments have shown their total lack of socialist principles firstly by sending the troops in ten years ago and more recently by presiding over the infamous H-Blocks, torture in Castlereagh and SAS killings.

The Tories have shown their continued taste for colonial rule by unblushingly introducing internment in 1971 and presiding over the slaughter of Bloody Sunday in 1972. And yet it is the Tories who have made (or rather, have been forced to make) the major 'concessions' over the last ten years: for example in 1972 granting political status to Republican POWs and introducing 'power-sharing' through Sunningdale.

The heart of the matter is that the Tories (who continue to be born and bred in the traditions of the English aristocracy) feel that they have a divine right to rule. Therefore, whilst they certainly are prepared to engage in bloody acts of repression, they have no hesitation in granting concessions (such as political status for POWs) when they feel that this is the correct way to defuse popular militancy.

The Labour Party however, continually feel the necessity to prove their 'respectability' and are always on their guard against accusations of 'reds under the bed'. (In precisely the same way as our very own SDLP, when seeking a share of 'power' in the North, do everything possible to deny a 'nationalist' tag.)

Whenever a Labour government at Westminster has been forced to grant significant concessions to their own working class at home, to colonial peoples abroad, they have always looked nervously over their shoulders, anxious not to be labelled as 'subversive' by powerful Tory influences within the British establishment.

So whilst a future Tory government will feel that they have a divine right to switch on or off tactics of torture and murder at will, a Labour government will feel much more duty bound to nervously and frantically build H-Blocks and pour in asSASins, in order to protect their own miserable backs.

H-BLOCK

Massive assault by screws

RAMPAGING SCREWS have bludgeoned their way through an entire H-Block of Republican POWs leaving behind them many injured prisoners. The attacks in H4 Block began on Monday April 23rd and continued unabated according to latest reports received.

Among the most seriously injured prisoners (the majority of whom suffered from multiple bruising to the buttocks, back and face) are: John Harvey (Twinbrook), Tommy Gorman (Lenadon), Geordie O'Neill (Turf Lodge), Gerry Burke (Andersonstown), Chris McArdle (Turf Lodge), Jim Valente (Unity Flats), Paddy Molloy (Andersonstown), Mark Hannigan (Strabane), Liam Berkery (Twinbrook), Leo Green (Lurgan), Joe Boyle (Antrim), Gerry Ward (Short Strand), Kieran O'Hagan (Derry), J. McCooney (Crossmaglen), Kieran Toal (Armagh City), Dermot Boyle (Dungannon) and L. Fleming (Derry).

The screws launched their attack in 'C' wing on the pretext that they were carrying out cell searches. Although the prisoners have nothing except a mattress and blankets in their cells and are completely naked the screws carry out these cell raids regularly. Their purpose is to intimidate the prisoners.

An attempt was made to force each of the men to squat naked over a mirror to have their back passage searched. When the men refused to comply with this degrading search screws beat the men to the ground.

In 'D' wing on the same day the screws set in motion a wing shift. During the shift twenty-six men were beaten. This pattern of widespread beatings extended to the other wings over the following days with fifty-six prisoners being assaulted last Saturday. Subsequently prisoners were refused access to the prison doctor. Not that the doctor would have helped them much, given his behaviour in the past.

The screw who led the attack was named Madden. He was assisted by Bob Mills, Lorimer, Tom Keenan and Trevor McIntyre.

DUBLIN MAY DAY MARCH



A section of the 50,000 strong march of trade unionists who took to the streets of Dublin on Tuesday 1st May. They were primarily demonstrating against Leinster House taxation policy. For full report see page 2.

SALUTE TO BLANKETMEN

Following the release last week of John Deery of Derry (the first 'no wash - no sleep out' protestor to be released from the H-Blocks), Kieran Nugent the first man to go on the blanket will be released in a week's time.

An Phoblacht/Republican News, salute both these men who have refused to bow down to Mason's criminalisation policy.

There will be a victory march in Belfast on Sunday May 13th starting from the Busy Bee, Andersonstown at 2.30 p.m.



John Deery

Confrontation not 'understanding'

IN DUBLIN at least 50,000 workers marched from Parnell Square to Leinster House, where they handed in a letter of protest against Free State tax policy, they then marched back to the G.P.O. to listen to speeches from prominent trade unionists.

This May Day march was not just a demonstration against Leinster House policy on P.A.Y.E., but also against the so-called "National Understanding" and in solidarity with workers throughout the world.

The march was led by the Irish Transport and General Workers Union Band, and closely followed by the banners of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions and the District Council of the I.T.G.W.U. The vast majority of the marchers were from the non-clerical unions, the white collar unions having followed the line of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and boycotted the strike and march.

This march was a triumph for the Dublin Council of Trade Unions and the workers on the streets because from the time they had planned this demonstration, they had to face opposition from Leinster House, the I.C.T.U. and the I.T.G.W.U.

The I.C.T.U. and the I.T.G.W.U. by boycotting the strike and march were acting in the typical 'reformist' role, confusing and dividing the working class, by channelling their energies into negative actions, such as the I.C.T.U. and the I.T.G.W.U. "days of action", which involved

the signing of petitions.

The fear that trade unionists can and will take direct action to improve their standard of living, outside the control and authority of the Trade Union bureaucracy is the motivation behind the boycott of the I.C.T.U. and the I.T.G.W.U. of the May Day demonstration. But feeling was so strong amongst their members that the I.T.G.W.U. had to climb down on the issue at the last moment and provided the band and the lead banner, but they still instructed their members not to strike.

It has been seen in the past, when workers have challenged the leadership of the unions, as in the trial of members of the Workers Union of Ireland, the trial of the Liffey Dockyard Workers, the non-recognition of the strikes e.g. Telex (by the I.T.G.W.U.) and the treatment of the outdoor branch of the Post Office Workers Union, that the trade union bureaucrats have done everything in their power to control all the actions of their members.

The I.T.G.W.U. have been in the forefront of this struggle for con-

trol, and as reported in the February 17th issue of AP/RN, the I.T.G.W.U. would not recognise a strike at Telex in Dublin because it was called and controlled by a shop steward committee. But the workers fought back and in the words of John Cooper, secretary of the then strike committee at Telex: "We are working to change union policy. We must emphasise that the right to strike must be given to the workers and not to Liberty Hall."

The I.C.T.U. had threatened before the May Day demonstration to discipline any of its member unions who took part. Well it remains to be seen if they carry out that threat, in view of the fact that so many unions defied the I.C.T.U.

At the G.P.O. May Clifford, President of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions praised the workers for their determination in coming on to the streets of Dublin, and Vice President Fergus Phelan said: "Paddy Lane, leader of the Irish Farmers Association, has described us as a 'mob', does he express the attitude of all farmers? They don't

mind putting their hand out every year for the £35 million which the mob provides. The word 'mob' is a strong word, it is usually associated with Chicago and gangsters, and Al Capone, and he was locked up for dodging taxes."

From the speakers on the platform there was great condemnation for the package deal recently set up by Leinster House and the I.C.T.U. and labelled "The National Understanding". The main trade union, the I.T.G.W.U. have rejected it in principle, but are open to suggestions - for example re-negotiation!

When looked at closely this deal is a package for 'confrontation' rather than 'understanding'.

Sewn into this parcel is an agreement that even 'official strikes' cannot go ahead unless they have the prior approval of the I.C.T.U., thus further eroding the rights of workers. It will make the rich richer and the poor poorer. It is a direct attack against low paid workers, limiting wage increases to 12% and 15% over a fifteen month period. It also attacks small farmers, the unemployed and the other weaker sections of the community, such as

Section of the May Day crowd outside the GPO in Dublin

housewives and one-parent families.

The 'understanding' gives with one hand and swiftly takes with the other, as it has no intention of controlling prices. Also it rounds off the whole deal by threatening to use harsh measures against workers who might go on strike. In the deal's own words, it will come down hard on workers if "if there is an increase in an unacceptably high incidence of industrial disruption."

The workers who came out on strike and marched through the streets of Dublin, Limerick and Galway on May Day sounded a warning to Leinster House and the I.C.T.U. They will not tolerate being bullied and pushed around, they shouted "no votes for Europe", they shouted "down with Colley and the Fianna Fail government." They were demanding their rights. For, those who produce the wealth of this country are entitled to the control and distribution of that wealth.

I.R.A. ANSWER FITZGERALD

Allegations made by Fine Gael leader Garrett Fitzgerald, concerning events following the death on hunger strike in 1976 of Frank Stagg, have been repudiated in a statement from the IRA.

Fitzgerald, in the course of a letter to the Irish and British press, disagreeing with the British government over how best to crush the nationalist resistance, alleged that he had thwarted that government's attempts to hand over the body of Frank Stagg to the I.R.A., and had ensured that the widow's wishes were carried out. He further stated that she was under threat of death from the IRA at that time.

The statement released by the IRA repudiates in the strongest possible terms the allegations that the widow was in anyway threatened by them. It goes on to state that "Dr. Fitzgerald is merely attempt-

ing to deceive the Irish people over the Coalition government's mis-handling of, and inhuman attitude to Frank Stagg's own last wishes concerning his burial."

Fitzgerald's strange obsession with his government's horrific actions at that time have come to the surface before.

In November 1977, the IRA reburied the remains of Frank Stagg in accordance with his wishes, in the Republican plot at Leigue cemetery. Fitzgerald challenged Lynch in the Dail to transfer the body once more to the grave where it had been interred under six feet of concrete by the Coalition, and said this

was in accordance with Mrs. Stagg's wishes.

A spokesman for Mrs. Stagg, told the London 'Irish Post' on November 26th 1977 that she had "at all times been agreeable that Frank be interred with military honours, and that his own wishes in this regard be adhered to. She had made this clear in a statement given to the Dublin press on February 20th 1976... She certainly will not be calling on anybody to have the remains returned to the original grave."

The facts of what happened at the time of Frank Stagg's death were widely known. Shortly before his death he had drawn up and signed a document witnessed by a prison warden entrusting his body, after death, to Derek Highstead, then national organiser of Sinn Féin in Britain, for the purpose of a Republican funeral.



Frank Stagg

At the inquest on his death, the coroner released his remains, in accordance with that wish, to Derek Highstead, and the body was accepted, on Highstead's behalf, at the airport by George Stagg, a brother of Frank.

In the air on the way to Dublin the pilot was instructed to divert to Shannon where George Stagg was arrested and the body seized by the Free State authorities. None of the Stagg family were allowed to see the body afterwards, and the shameful burial took place, the manner of which caused widespread outrage.

Election Candidate Gaoled

With the local elections only one month away Special Branch harassment of Republicans in the twenty-six counties has gone into top gear. Particular attention has been paid to Sinn Féin workers in Dublin and throughout the country, where many have been arrested and held under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act.

In Cork the Special Branch have been particularly vicious. At 9 o'clock last Saturday morning the Branch broke into the home of Peadar Beecher (who is the Sinn Féin candidate for Cork Corporation) and kicked down his bedroom door.

They ordered him out of bed. He asked if 'they' could step outside the room, whilst his wife got dressed, but they refused, stating that they were used to "situations like this". Peadar Beecher was then arrested and taken to Limerick Gaol to serve a one month sentence imposed for selling Easter Lilies two years ago.

This is a blatant attempt by the Free Staters to disrupt and hinder the Sinn Féin Local Government Election Campaign. But the Staters and their hired thugs are on a hiding to nothing if they think they can stop Republicans from telling the people the truth about this 'rotten state'.

RELATED EASTER GREETINGS

LILLIS, Brendan. (H-Block).
Easter Greetings Brendan. They can break your body but never your spirit. From your Mother, Sister Rosaleen and family, and from Maura and family, Geraldine and family.

AP/RN apologises for not inserting the above Easter greeting at the correct time.

GREENHILLS CHURCH PROTEST

Members of the Martin Forsythe Sinn Féin Cumann in Dublin held a successful H-Block protest outside Greenhills Church on Sunday April 22nd.

More than a thousand H-Block leaflets were distributed and placards and posters displayed.

Several of those who took part in the protest were harassed by members of the Special Branch.

MIDLANDS FILM SHOWING

The film 'Prisoner of War' currently touring the country was recently shown in the midland towns of Tullamore and Mullingar.

Ned Bailey from Laoise and Dave Marzella from the Troops Out Movement in England led a brief discussion after the filmshowing in Tullamore.

In Mullingar vice-president of Sinn Féin, Joe Cahill spoke after the film was shown.

Brandon Golden, Sinn Féin's Leinster organiser introduced and showed the film in both areas.

Any Cumann wishing to show the film should contact Sinn Féin Headquarters, 44, Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

What next at Andersonstown barracks?

Whilst some readers may not have taken too seriously our 'War News' item of last week, entitled 'Target too small', see Roy and the British army apparently did.

We reported that the previous Friday Mason had been slipped into Andersonstown barracks and "an IRA intelligence unit surveying the barracks through field glasses reported having seen a diminutive figure strutting about the barracks."

Last Friday afternoon within hours of last week's edition of AP/RN being sold on the streets of Belfast, British army engineers set to work raising the metal screens which surround Andersonstown barracks.

Working behind giant hessian screens mounted on trucks the Brits raised the corrugated aluminium sheeting by about ten feet, thus totally blocking any view into the barracks.

Presumably if we were to report that an IRA helicopter had surveyed the barracks, next week the whole barracks would be encased in metal sheeting.

Wolfe Tone commemoration
BODENSTOWN
SUNDAY - JUNE 17th 1979

WAR NEWS

All the operations referred to below were claimed in supplied statements by the Irish Republican Army

UDR UNDER ATTACK -Belfast Motor-tax office gutted

It was a very bad week for the UDR with two of their members shot dead in County Tyrone and one more injured during a booby-trap bomb attack. One UDR man was killed on Wednesday 24th April at Seskinore (as reported on our front page last week). The other was killed at Edendork on Sunday. An RUC Reserve was also shot dead (on Tuesday) in County Tyrone.

A commercial bomb attack on Belfast's Motor Tax office virtually destroyed the building, causing hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage.

WEDNESDAY 25th APRIL

Tyrone:

A member of the UDR, who was a former member of the B Specials, was shot dead by the IRA.

He was ambushed whilst driving along the road at the cross-roads near Seskinore, six miles from Omagh. In a supplied statement the Tyrone Brigade of the IRA pointed out that members of the UDR whether on or off duty are legitimate targets, as members of the British war machine.

Belfast:

A screw was shot in both legs as he returned home from Crumlin Road gaol. The IRA unit lay in wait for the screw in the predominantly loyalist Highfield estate on the outskirts of West Belfast.

THURSDAY 26th APRIL

Belfast:

A blazing inferno reduced the Motor Tax office in Ormeau Avenue to a shell following a double bomb blast. A three man IRA unit penetrated the heavy security inside the building and planted two bombs on the second floor shortly before 11 o'clock in the morning.



The Motor Taxation office in Belfast was blasted by a bomb last Thursday morning.

One Volunteer held up security staff on the ground floor while the others planted the bombs.

Flames leapt 40 feet into the air as more than a dozen fire jets were applied to control the fire. It took firemen using six fire appliances several hours to dampen the smoldering ruins.

Last year the Gas Department building next door to the Tax office was destroyed in a similar attack. It was later demolished. Reports after last week's blast suggest that the Motor Tax office will suffer a similar fate.

Later that afternoon another bomb attack, this time in North Belfast, took place on the offices of the Britannia Assurance Company.

An RUC man was injured during the bomb blast when he was blown off his feet and hurled against a nearby wall.

FRIDAY 27th APRIL

Belfast:

A UDR man had a narrow escape when he triggered off a booby-trap bomb planted in the boot of his car.

To lure him to the boot the IRA unit who planted the bomb let down one of his tyres. The UDR man on discovering the flat tyre

opened the boot but quickly slammed it shut when he spotted the booby-trap in a thermos flask. The bomb exploded sending slivers of metal over the area.

SATURDAY 28th APRIL

Armagh:

A Brit on foot patrol was injured when a remote control landmine exploded at Shane Road near Forkhill. The bomb was in a ditch which the foot patrol was passing at the time.

The Brit, a member of the 1st Grenadier Guards, suffered head, face and arm injuries.

SUNDAY 29th APRIL

Tyrone:

A UDR man was shot dead during an IRA ambush at Edendork on the main Coalisland/Dungannon road. He was the second UDR man to be killed by the IRA within five days. Nearly one hundred UDR men have now been killed since the regiment was formed in 1970.

MONDAY 30th APRIL

Armagh:

A mobile IRA active service unit fired several shots at an RUC land-rover patrol at Ballinmill, near Crossmaglen.

Despite the assistance to the

RUC/Brits of Free State Garda collaborators the IRA unit returned safely to base.

Derry:

An IRA bid to kill Brits in Derry failed by seconds. An active service unit planted two bombs at a rubbish skip in Magazine Street. The first bomb, exploded only seconds after the foot patrol had passed the skip. One soldier was slightly injured.

Minutes later the second bomb was detonated and again the Brits had a narrow escape.

TUESDAY 1st MAY

Tyrone:

An RUC Reservist was shot dead at Copney, Moy. He was just leaving the 'National Trust' property at Argory House just off the main Portadown to Moy road when he was ambushed by two members of an active service unit, who later returned safely to base.

Derry:

Two bombs went off in Robert Key's timber yard at Bay Road completely destroying it. Five fire engines fought the blaze for four hours.

Two other bombs were planted in Nicholl Ballantine builder's suppliers. Slight damage was caused by the ensuing explosion.

24 ARRESTED -many more escape net in major swoop-

Following speculation that the British generals are pressing for selective internment to try to combat the continuing IRA successes the Brits/RUC launched a widespread series of raids and arrests throughout the six counties in the early hours of last Saturday morning.

They swooped on Republican homes in Derry, Belfast, Dungannon, Coalisland, Carrickmore and Crossmaglen. A total of twenty four people were detained at Castle-reagh RUC barracks for seven days under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Although the swoop only netted two dozen people, scores more homes were raided. Fortunately, however, the potential detainees were again one step ahead of the Brit forces and conveniently were not at home when they called. With the IRA's unprecedented rate of killing members of the Brit occupation forces over the past three weeks the volume of protest from within the Unionist camp has been steadily growing.

Daily Unionists are clamouring for a return of the death penalty and for stronger powers to be given to the Brits and RUC to try to combat the IRA's latest operations.

The Brits' inability to counteract the IRA intensification of the war is leading them into all sorts of problems. They are venting their frustration on those engaged in propping up Brit rule from within the anti-unionist camp. Several members of the treacherous SDLP and those campaigning for Independent M.P. Frank Maguire in Fermanagh, have complained of Brit harassment during their electioneering.

One SDLP man complained of being kneed in the groin after being chased half way around Coalisland by a UDR patrol. The realities of

Brit rule are often even more unpleasant for ordinary members of the nationalist community.

Commenting on Saturday's arrests Gerry Adams, Vice-President of Sinn Féin, said:

"These raids and the arrests which followed are symptomatic of the British presence in our country. Brutality, torture, murder and massive repression are all British imperialism would appear to understand. Britain seemingly has no other answer for Republican opposition to British occupation than to increase its repressive measures."

BRIDEGROOM AND BESTMAN ARRESTED

Among those arrested during the swoops were a bridegroom and his bestman. Jim Ferris and Gerard Pringent from the Short Strand area of Belfast were lifted at 5 a.m. and detained in Castlereagh RUC barracks.

Jim Ferris was to be married in St. Matthew's Church, Short Strand, at 11 a.m. that same morning. The hated RUC at Castlereagh thought it all a good laugh that Ferris should be arrested the day he was to be married. Lying in his cell Ferris heard RUC men saying "that bastard in there won't be getting married today."

But while both men were being held, strenuous efforts were being made on the outside to secure their release.

A local community worker well known for his persistence on such occasions contacted local clergymen, solicitors and other parties and sought their assistance.

Such was the volume of pressure exerted on the RUC that they were forced to release both men by 10 a.m. that morning.

FERMANAGH

The Irish Republican Army in Fermanagh have repeated their earlier warning that persons who engage in the restoration of blasted Crown installations in the area may be placed on their target list. "This warning will not be repeated again" the statement said, "and we will not tolerate civilian support for the maintenance of the British war machine in Fermanagh".

Earlier, the IRA had warned that action would be taken against persons who assisted in restoring Kinawley RUC station which was devastated by an IRA bomb some weeks ago.

CROSSMAGLEN

The IRA in Crossmaglen have warned parents to keep their children away from Brits on patrol in the area and also to remain as far away as possible from

I.R.A. WARNINGS

Brit personnel carriers at all times. In a statement they said:

"We want to avoid civilian casualties at all times and if careless parents do not heed this warning, they must accept responsibility for children killed or injured in future attacks."

The statement also warned people against the danger of "loose talk" and urged people not to engage at any time in conversation with the Brits.

"Our Intelligence has revealed there is a careful information-gathering operation now being conducted by a number of Brits, especially by one soldier in particular, in the hope of getting a shred of information which might point IRA Volunteers. Local people must not allow themselves to be drawn into ordinary social conversation with the troops."

The statement concluded "British morale is now very low in South Armagh - they realise we have the will, the men and the weapons to continue the war until the last British armed thug is driven out."

Terror tactics against Nationalist people

LAST week within the time span of little more than twenty-four hours there were two blatant examples of terror tactics being used against the nationalist people of Belfast.

On both occasions the perpetrators could have been either British SASs or loyalist paramilitants.

On Wednesday night thirty-two year old Billy Carson was shot dead in his house in the Oldpark Road area of North Belfast. The two assassins had waited in the Carson home with the Carsons' 13 year

old daughter for over an hour before shooting their victim dead in the hallway.

Brit, rather than loyalist, involvement is suggested by the fact that the two assassins made no attempt to disguise themselves. Loyalist paramilitants would be open to detection through photographic identification whilst Brit plain-clothes soldiers could be quickly spirited out of the country.

The Belfast Brigade of the IRA issued a statement disclaiming any involvement in the shooting of Billy Carson or the attempted shooting of his wife. The IRA pointed out that it is clear that once again pro-

British elements are attempting to terrorise the nationalist people.

ANDERSONSTOWN

The following night, Thursday, a bomb extensively damaged two shops at the Busbye shopping centre in Andersonstown. The shopping centre is exclusively used by the nationalist community. No body was injured.

The perpetrators of the attack again, could have been either British soldiers or loyalist paramilitants.

The purpose of the attack apart from spreading terror would appear to be to sow confusion among the local nationalist community, some of whom might have mistakenly blamed the IRA. However, in reality, the nationalist community are not so gullible, and the following morning the IRA's Belfast Brigade issued a statement denying any involvement.

JUDGE GIVES R.U.C. TORTURERS THE GO-AHEAD

LAST WEEK in Belfast Lord Justice Gibson gave RUC torturers the go-ahead (although it is not as if they need much encouragement).

Appearing before a Diplock court (in an unprecedented private prosecution) were two RUC men accused of beating an interrogation victim at Omagh barracks two years ago.

Not surprisingly the two men, Ken French and Alastair Newell (both from RUC HQ at Knock, Belfast) were acquitted and walked free from the court accompanied by relatives, friends and colleagues, who had packed the courtroom to give them moral support.

BEATEN

Robert Barclay of Killeter, Castlederg, County Tyrone, was interrogated at Omagh barracks between January 2nd and 5th, 1977.

At the barracks he was beaten by French and Newell. He was repeatedly and brutally punched on the head and in the stomach by the two RUC men. Eventually he signed a false statement admitting having been in possession of arms.

On January 5th Barclay was transferred to Crumlin Road gaol, Belfast. He was examined by the prison doctor who found a number of injuries to his body. In particular the doctor found that Barclay's right eye was blackened, he had a large area of bruising in the stomach area, a portion of his right ear was blackened and his jaws were painful.

Despite this medical evidence, given at Barclay's trial in December 1977, the Diplock judge rubber-stamped him away for a seven-year sentence. It was such a blatant frame-up that his solicitor (Patrick Fahy of Omagh) temporarily withdrew from all Diplock cases as a protest.

Four months later, at a Belfast appeal court on 12th April 1978, the evidence presented of RUC brutality ineffectively covered-up by their lies, was so irrefutable that Barclay had his conviction quashed by three

appeal court judges and he was released from prison.

As is normal in these cases (and as pointed out in the Bennett Report) the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) refused to prosecute the RUC men for assault. This is hardly surprising, for as an integral part of the British administration the DPP's department is of course anxious not to interrupt the smooth running of the H-Block conveyor belt through Castlereagh and the Diplock courts, by inhibiting RUC torturers.

ASSAULT

Robert Barclay therefore decided to bring a private prosecution for assault against French and Newell.

The case was heard in a Belfast Diplock court on Tuesday April 24th and Wednesday April 25th, ten days ago.

In acquitting the RUC men, Judge Gibson stated: "Mr Barclay was injured when he arrived at the RUC station, but was found to have various injuries when he was examined at Belfast Prison three days later. I am satisfied that he did sustain the injuries in Omagh RUC station".

However the judge went on to state that Barclay's injuries could have been self-inflicted and "there is no reason why a man cannot injure himself in his cell".

Despite Barclay's evidence of brutality at the hands of the RUC men, despite the medical evidence giving the sites of the injuries (how do you extensively bruise your own stomach?) and despite Barclay's own acquittal in the appeal court, Judge Gibson stated: "I don't know how he was injured and have no alternative but to acquit".

Despite this blatant attempt to portray himself as an innocent tool of the laws governing convictions, Gibson was obviously acutely aware of his role as an accomplice to the

British torture machine.

For Gibson next went on to say: "I feel that this was a case which certainly deserved to be investigated and was in no way malicious".

He thus neatly absolved his conscience and prevented the blundering RUC from bringing a counter-prosecution against Barclay for defamation of character, etc., which might further have exposed the whole Castlereagh/Diplock judicial farce.

MURPHY

Another person well aware of the whole judicial farce of Castlereagh and the Diplock courts is Belfast solicitor Donall Murphy. He recently resigned from the 'Northern Ireland Police Authority' and blamed Mason and RUC chief Newman for what he called "the unresolved crisis concerning ill-treatment of suspects and prisoners in police custody".

Until his resignation Murphy represented the Northern Law Society on the RUC Authority.

In a hard-hitting letter to Mason, Murphy claimed irrefutable evidence exists of RUC ill-treatment of prisoners (namely medical reports, the Amnesty report, and the Bennett report). He stated "I have no longer any confidence that any action will be taken by the Chief Constable or by Mason in resolving this matter and the assurances now given, even in the light of the Bennett report, lack credibility to me in the light of past performances".

He pointed out that the way in which waves of brutality are switched on and off in Castlereagh indicates that it is directed from the highest levels.

"This wave pattern showed definite lulls in complaints which could be substantiated by the police doctors during the periods when the Amnesty research team was in Northern Ireland and when the Bennett Commission was in session. The pattern suggests some form of control or temporary suspension of a policy regarding interrogation procedures."

He went on: "Since the Bennett Report there has been a further

expression of concern that ill-treatment has taken place again".

Murphy complained that in May 1978, Mason and Newman were made aware of the concern of the Authority about interrogation—but nothing changed.

Murphy is the second of the 19-man RUC Authority to resign. The first was Dungannon independent councillor Jack Hassard.

COUNCIL

Another member, in fact vice-chairman of the Authority, Derry City Alliance Party councillor Ivor Canavan, is now under pressure from the council to resign.

A call for his resignation was made at a City Council meeting on Tuesday April 24th when members passed a resolution expressing a "complete lack of confidence" in the Authority. However Canavan has refused to resign and defends the record of the RUC.

Two weeks ago, another local councillor, Newry and Mourne, passed a resolution expressing "alarm and revulsion" at the findings of Amnesty International and the Bennett report on the treatment of RUC interroga-

tion victims. They have subsequently circulated this motion to other local councils.

Last Tuesday, Strabane Council, on the casting vote of their chairman, expressed support for the Newry resolution.

Not surprisingly, the Council's vice-chairman, Official Unionist Mary Britten, stated that she supported "the forces of law and order who, under great difficulties and strain, have done a marvellous job". Unionist politicians are of course well pleased with the RUC brutalising suspected Republicans.

The extent of the consequent embarrassment caused to the RUC torturers and their British masters by the Irwin revelations and by the Bennett report, may mean that interrogation procedures have to be toned down despite Judge Gibson's 'go-ahead' last week, and despite the praise of Unionist politicians.

Thus the pressure will be increased, in the face of continued IRA successes, for the re-introduction of at least 'selective' internment to bolster the drop in forced 'confessions' and subsequent imprisonments.



H-Block a household name

H-Block has become a household name, a protest meeting at Ballinderry was told last Saturday night.

About 800 people had marched from Moortown in Tyrone and Ballyronan in Derry to Ballinderry Bridge, where the two counties meet.

The speaker was Mary McDermott of Belfast Sinn Féin. She told the crowds that the "criminalisation" policy of the H-Blocks and non-jury Diplock Courts was part of Britain's desperate attempts to crush resistance to their rule in Ireland. She said that the actions of the 400

"unconquered and unconquerable men" on the blanket were not those of criminals but were the self-sacrificing actions of Irish patriots who sought no gain for themselves.

In paying tribute to the "unparalleled heroism" of the blanket men, Mary McDermott then went on to stress the total irrelevance of the Westminster and EEC elections.

But getting rid of the Brits and opening the gates of the prisons was not the final

solution to the struggle. She stressed "We must seek the realisation of a 32 county socialist Republic that was proclaimed in Easter week".

She also paid tribute to the prisoners in Armagh, Portlaoise, Limerick and Irish prisoners in English gaols.

She said that support must be pledged to the prisoners' comrades who are fighting outside the prisons "for they are the true architects of peace, justice and democracy".

The meeting was organised jointly by the South Derry and East Tyrone Cornhair Canntair.

R.U.C. BUNGLE CASE

A determined attempt by Dungannon RUC Special Branch to railroad Vera Bannon, the secretary of the Ulster Executive of Sinn Féin, into jail failed in a Belfast court last Saturday.

Despite the best efforts of 25 RUC and Brit witnesses the evidence was so flimsy that the judge, former Stormont Home Affairs Minister, Herbert Porter, could not justify locking Vera Bannon up and, to the rage of Dungannon branchmen in the courtroom, found her not guilty.

The case was important as it represented the failure of the RUC to silence a Sinn Féin activist by alleging sinister reasons for the perfectly normal activity of taking photographs at a Republican demonstration.

The prosecution followed the mass demonstration between Coalisland and Dungannon on August 27th last year, at which Vera Bannon took photographs in Market Square, Dungannon. She was

arrested the following day and charged with 'recording information (photos of RUC men) which were likely to be of use to terrorists'.

The reason for the charge was that a number of plain clothes RUC men appeared in the dim and distant background of two of the photos. It would have been practically impossible to take photos in Dungannon that day without including plain clothes RUC men as the place was crawling with them.

In court the RUC tried every trick to make Vera Bannon's photos look sinister. They produced prints which were cut down versions of the negatives trying to make it look as if the plainclothes RUC men were the central feature of the photos.

They paraded a total of 25 witnesses and the case lasted five days but in the final analysis they could not prove that the photos could be of use to "terrorists".

Literally hundreds of people took photos in Dungannon that Sunday and the local papers were full of photos, many of which included plain clothes RUC men. However, if you are a Republican even the most normal and innocent activity will be misrepresented to try and railroad you into jail.

FIRST "NO-WASH - NO-SLOP-OUT" PROTESTOR RELEASED

After spending two years and four months on the blanket protest in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh, Derry Republican, John Deery, victoriously walked to freedom having defied the British government's criminalisation policy. John Deery is the first 'no-wash no-slop-out' protestor to be released.

He was released on Thursday 26th April and a few hours after being released he gave a brief press conference in Belfast.

To a packed room of press and T.V. men (crowding round him like vultures) John Deery recounted his gruelling experiences in gaol. He looked ill and physically shook as he described the incredible living conditions suffered by himself and 400 other prisoners. Asked if the prisoners' protest had achieved anything John replied: "Yes. It has defeated Roy Mason's policy of criminalising Republican political prisoners."

Although several reporters attempted to justify the blanket-men's conditions by claiming that surely they were "self-inflicted" John Deery replied that the conditions were brought about by the prison regime. One reporter asked did the blanket-men refuse exercise, books or association, John answered: "No, all these things are denied because the blanket-men refuse to wear the uniform."

John was also asked if he would go on the blanket again if he was sentenced to another term of imprisonment. He immediately replied "Yes." Asked how the prisoners spent their time John said that Gaelic classes, political lectures and bingo, singing and staging pantomimes kept them busy.

Asked whether he thought the British government could break the blanket-men's protest he stated: "The blanket-men will never give in until they achieve political status."

Gerry Adams, Vice-President of Sinn Féin, who sat beside John Deery at the press conference asked the reporters to put the H-Block protest into its proper context. He pointed out that a regime which needed to hold men in such deplorable conditions could not be worth much. He went on to condemn the British government for its hypocritical practice of "long distance Christian morality" which amounted to them criticising Russia and Chile for their treatment of political prisoners whilst they themselves tortured hundreds of Irish political prisoners.

John Deery spoke of being removed from H5 Block by the screws two days before he was due to be released. He was given inducements such as newspapers and an improved diet and encouraged to take a bath voluntarily.

He rebutted all attempts by the screws to ingratiate themselves with him and told them his protest would continue until he was released. The screws then bundled him into a sheet and carried him to the bathing area. Before he was bathed photographs were taken of his naked body and afterwards some more were taken.

The press conference concluded with John Deery sending solidarity greetings from the men on the blanket to the women prisoners on protest in Armagh gaol and also to the Republican remand prisoners on the 'non-co-operation' protest in Crumlin Road gaol.

On behalf of the blanket-men he congratulated Sinn Féin and the RAC for mobilising the people in support of their demands.

Later that day John Deery spoke to an AP/RN reporter and described in more detail daily life for the 'men on the blanket'.



John Deery speaking at the Belfast press conference following his release from H-Block.

Twenty-seven year old John Deery, is no stranger to the privations of imprisonment for his Republican activities. He spent several years interned during the early years of the struggle.

After the press conference on the day of his release from the H-Blocks, in the more relaxed atmosphere of a sympathiser's house he spoke freely about his imprisonment. When asked how he would sum up what the conditions were like, he said: "The last three years were torturous. It was one long nightmare of constant harassment. Not knowing what was coming next, plus the hostility of the screws, created intolerable conditions."

He joined the protest after being sentenced on January 24th 1977 to six years imprisonment. This was halved to three when his solicitor discovered that the judge had sentenced him under legislation which had only come into operation after he was arrested. In fact if John Deery had not gone 'on the blanket', and lost his fifty per cent potential remission, he would have been released eighteen months ago.

He recalled that when he joined the protest in January '77, there were about eighty men protesting, eighteen over 21 years, the rest under 21. They were all held in H1-Block.

Then the screws constantly patrolled the corridor outside the cells, looking through the spy-hole in the cell door to ensure the prisoner wasn't lying on his bed. The prisoner was not permitted either to sit or lie on the bed between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8.15 p.m. Anyone found on the bed was promptly trailed off and many men fell foul of screws' batons.

Religiously every fortnight one of the many assistant governors toured the cells dishing out punishment for refusing to accept criminal status. The standard punishment was fourteen days loss of remission, fourteen days loss of privileges and three days solitary confinement. The prisoner lost his mattress for these three days between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8.15 p.m.

John pointed out: "As the number on the protest continued to in-

crease, the screws stepped up the beatings to an extent where it is not uncommon for scores of men to be beaten during a single attack. In fact a few weeks ago in H4, forty men were beaten during a wing shift."

John explained that on occasions men have suffered multiple bruising on their bodies after beatings by the screws.

John believes that brutality is a crucial element in the "war of nerves" which the screws wage against the blanket-men. Despite publicity about their brutality he doubts if the screws will be forced to discard what they consider to be their main weapon.

The Kangaroo courts now take place monthly when the prisoner loses a month's remission and a month's privileges. The three days loss of mattresses and blankets (the only things left in their cells) has been dropped.

The actual living conditions consist of two men held 24 hours a day in a cell about eight foot long by seven foot wide by eight-and-a-half foot high. They have no beds, these were removed by the screws a week after the 'no-wash - no-slop-out' protest began in March 1978.

Since then the men have had to lie on sponge mattresses resting on the ground, and cover their bodies in tattered and filthy blankets. Some men are in their third year of the protest without having had a change in either mattress or blankets.

The cell walls are covered in human waste and since the screws bolted wire grills onto the inside of the cell windows a few weeks ago urine pots are now emptied out of the cell doors into the corridors.

John explained the reason why the 'no-wash - no-slop-out' protest began. "For months the screws had been increasing the pressure by beatings, taking men off to the punishment block and depriving many others of access to the toilet to slop-out. The gaol governor was approached by the O/C of the blanket-men demanding an end to the harassment. He refused to listen, in fact the screws stepped up the pressure."

It was shortly after this that the prisoners embarked on a non-coop-

'Protest goes on until victory'

eration policy with the screws. The screws reacted by refusing to slop out the men's pates unless they called them "Sir".

The cells began to overflow with urine and excreta and there followed a battle of wits between the prisoners and the screws, which resulted in the present conditions the men live in being forced on them.

John spoke of the severe winter he and his comrades have just lived through: "I spent three winters on the blanket and the last one just past was the worst. At times the cold was so intense that sleep was impossible, night or day. Condensation inside the cell left the mattress saturated which in many cases brought the cold on. It was impossible to put a foot on the floor because it was freezing. When walking in the cell to try to keep warm it was done on top of the mattress. Many men who already suffered from rheumatic pains in the legs due to walking on the cold cell floor had a terrible time with the cold weather. In fact today even with a break in the weather many men still feel the effects of the winter."

When asked about medical attention John said it was non-existent. "Any prisoner who needs medical attention, should it be for a tooth-ache, earache or stomach-ache must bathe and put on the prison garb. Some days a doctor pays a fleeting visit to the wing. You know he's been and gone because you catch a glimpse of a white coat before the cell door is slammed seconds after it has been opened. Some men have

serious health complaints but they never are treated."

The quality of the food is "foul" and "tasteless" and every meal is checked by the prisoners for pieces of wire wool, glass, or maggots which according to John are frequently found in meals. Sauce, salt and sugar are luxuries which are only given out on special occasions such as when the media men visited the H-Blocks. The quantity of the food was always small, and the men lived mainly on the tea at 4.30 p.m. because they usually were given eight rounds of bread.

John agreed that a visit with the family is the 'highspot' of the blanket-men's month. It is looked forward to with both joy and worry. Joy because it breaks the monotony seeing friendly faces for half an hour and worry in case the screws stop the visit.

John describes the search procedure the screws force the men to undergo as "disgusting". The screws force the men to squat naked over the top of a mirror placed on the ground while they search his back passage either by using a torch or a metal probe. The search procedure has reduced the visits to a slow trickle with virtually no prisoner complying with the degrading search. The screws are obviously trying to stop the visits in the hope that it will weaken the men's resistance and stop news of their brutalities from reaching the outside world.

John went on to speak about the resistance put up by the men: "In all wings of the H-Blocks four Gaelic classes take

place daily, two at lunchtime and two during the middle of the afternoon. All instructions are given out of the crack in the cell door by the most advanced speaker in the wing.

"Political lectures take place frequently. These talks usually cover the role the blanket protest is playing in the struggle against the Brits, and topics such as criminalisation, normalisation and Ulsterisation are the most popular.

"Talks on Republicanism and socialism also take place. There are also entertainment sessions when bingo, mastermind and pantomimes are staged. These activities help to keep the prisoners' morale high."

John explained that nobody talks to the screws unnecessarily and that one prisoner in each wing is appointed to handle the communication between the prisoners and screws.

To disrupt the governor's monthly kangaroo courts the prisoners continually bang on the cell doors with urine pots creating an unmerciful din.

This banging also takes place to welcome a new prisoner on to the blanket protest and also to welcome any man back from a stint 'on the boards' in the punishment block.

Parades to honour fallen Republican soldiers are held. These usually take place when the men are together at Mass much to the annoyance of the screws who always try to catch the prisoner who shouts out the orders. Invariably the screws fail to get the prisoner conducting the parade but they ensure that someone does a stint 'on the boards' for what they consider is an 'illegal assembly'.

Every year on Easter Sunday parades honouring Ireland's dead have been held with a two minute silence. These parades symbolise the Republican presence in the gaol and are carried on irrespective of the consequences for the prisoners.

The prisoners have continuously resisted every new tactic the screws have introduced in order to weaken the protest. On many occasions this resistance has led to bloody consequences for the prisoners. Most notable of all periods of resistance John recalls was in the three week period of forcible bathing, hair cutting, and shaving before Christmas.

Then, upwards of two hundred men in H-Blocks 3 and 4 were beaten for refusing to comply voluntarily with the screws. These men refused to walk out of the cell. The screws carried them or trailed them out.

The prisoners' resistance was so strong coupled with the public protest on the outside that the screws stopped the process, leaving all H5 (where John Deery was) unshorn.

John said that today the morale of the prisoners is as high as ever, and that men are joining the protest every day.

Eloquent testimony to John Deery's claim that the protest will continue until victory, is provided by the fact that the day before he finished his twenty-eight month stint 'on the blanket', another Derryman, John Nails, (who had just been sentenced to ten years imprisonment) joined the protest. Thus, even as one man is released victorious, another takes up the challenge to Mason's criminalisation policy.

JOE COLLINS: A TRIBUTE

"A very difficult case and a confirmed rebel — both here and in Ireland"

"A very difficult case, and a confirmed rebel — both here and in Ireland" So reads the confidential report in the English Penal Record of veteran Republican Joe Collins from Coom, Dunmanway, County Cork, who was buried on Easter Sunday last.

AN PHOBLACHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS takes this opportunity to salute a gallant, courageous, uncompromising Republican and offers sympathy to his family and close friends.

Joe was sentenced to 20 years penal servitude for his part in the English bombing campaign which opened up on the 15th January 1939. Prior to that he was in Cork Jail twice and did a 15-month stretch in Arbour Hill in 1936.

Over the last seven years Joe had been putting together from time to time his autobiography dealing extensively with his involvement in the Republican Movement and his time in English jails. From the unpublished manuscript we print extracts in appreciation of one of those great soldiers who carried the flame of resistance down through the generations, down through the lean years.

ARBUR HILL

In 1936 Joe was arrested and sentenced to 12 months for possessing an illegal document and three months for refusing to answer questions. His interrogation sheet is a real gem, opening with "What is your name and address?" and Joe's only answer throughout the session being, "I refuse to answer any questions". And he didn't!

De Valera was in power then and he perfected all the brutality which the Free State inherited from Britain. Silence was in force in the jail. As a result of the no-talking/no smoking rules, and other brutalities, men went insane or were broken. In September 1936 Sean Glynn from Limerick was found hung in his cell. Joe wrote:

"There are things done to prisoners that don't affect the body, but affect the mind like daggers would affect the body. People who have never been in prison cannot understand this. Things that affect men in prison look to people outside as of no consequence."

"Whoever masterminded what was done in Arbour Hill in 1936, knew all the things that affect men in prison and put them all into effect. I have no great belief in hell, I think there are plenty of hells on earth. But whenever I think of what was done in Arbour Hill, I regret that there is no hell and that the people who thought it out won't be in it."

Upon release Joe reported back to the IRA and after the failure of Tom Barry to proceed with the raid on Armagh Barracks he "lost all hope of action" and was so disgusted that he went to work in Glasgow.

But he later joined the Expeditionary Force of the English bombing campaign and went to London as Operations Officer. His autobiography details some operations and the precautions which Volunteers took to protect English civilians.

Unfortunately he was captured in Manchester five months later and taken to Cannon Street Police Station where his interrogations forty years ago read just like Castlereegh today.

twisted their fists. They kicked my ankles, turned my feet out and kicked my insteps. They also kicked the soles of my feet. They kept up the questions, the main one was still 'where are the bombs tonight?' I said nothing although I knew there were no bombs that night....

"They kept up the floor torture of forcing my fingers back, twisting my arms, kicking my ankles and insteps, kicking the soles of my feet and especially turning the clenched fist forced hard against my back over my kidneys. In fact I had a pain in my back for months after...."

"They had broken a small bone at the side of my left instep. It stuck out a lot for a long time afterwards and still sticks out to some extent."

PARKHURST PRISON

In Parkhurst Prison the doctor was examining Joe later and said: "I don't know about the IRA but you wouldn't be taken into the British Army with that instep". Joe said, "Your police did that". The doctor said, "Nonsense. Our police don't do things like that".

Joe was charged under the *nomme de guerre* Connor Mac Nessa, the name of an old Irish High King; he had also used two other aliases which they discovered, but was never convicted under his own name. It was common for Republican Army Volunteers caught in England to give false Jewish and English names, just for the crack, until the police realised it.

In July 1939 Joe and Jack Duggan were each sentenced to twenty years penal servitude, Joe receiving two years hard labour on top of it, on charges of causing explosions and conspiracy to cause explosions.

Standing in the dock, Joe declared: "I am not a criminal, I am a prisoner-of-war and I demand the treatment due to a prisoner-of-war."

"No matter what sentence you pass on me today, if I ever come out of prison alive, I will come out as I went in, a soldier of the Irish Republic. If then Ireland is not free and there are only half a dozen men fighting for freedom, I will join them...."

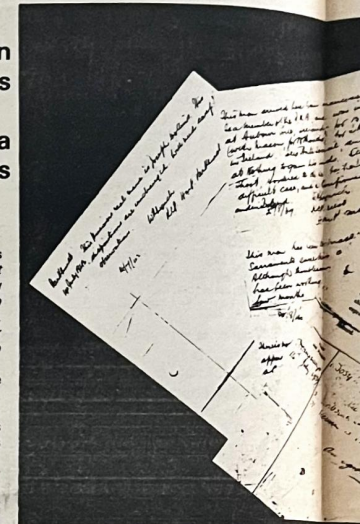
During 1941 in Parkhurst Prison, Isle of Wight, two Belfast IRA men, Joe Malone and Terence Perry, died. Terence died of TB which he contracted in jail, but Joe Malone died of injuries received whilst being force-fed on hunger strike.

Joe Collins recalled: "Joe Malone called me from his window and told me that he became unconscious while being fed. He woke up lying on the floor alone, with the door locked. They laid him unconscious on the floor and went off about their feeding.... He told me his stomach was very painful and he was very distressed...."

"... He was injured on the 21st January 1940 and he died in a cell in Parkhurst Prison on January 21st 1941 after an operation on his stomach...."

Joe Collins was disgusted at the behaviour of the Catholic clergy during the hunger-strikes and forced feedings. Some priests though were sound and waived the excommunication depending on which jails and dioceses they were in. Others were grisly right up to the point of death:

"If any food went into the windpipe it meant death. They knew this of course and had a priest in the prison every time we were being fed. This priest wouldn't hear confession. I asked him after the strike was over, what brought him in, and he said, if



THE PRISON RECORDS OF JOE COLLINS - AS PART OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES WHICH PRISONERS AND GIVING SECRET ASSESSMENTS STRANGWAYS AND PARKHURST PRISONS

one of us was dying he might want to denounce the IRA".

As a result of the hunger-strike the prisoners won the right to segregation (in a disused wing), and were allowed to fall in together and march in formation out to and in from work, and work in the cells was abolished for them. That lasted for 18 months until they were moved to Dartmoor.

At Parkhurst in August Lynch wrote: "He is anti-social and nothing to gain this effort would shoot, I ordered the IRA. A very difficult confirmed rebel — both Ireland."

Sixteen months later "There is no chance

Joe Collins R.I.P

AN APPRECIATION

Until the day he died Joe remained faithful Republican and Socialist principles and to the devotion he voluntarily made as a young man 'To defend Irish Republic against all Enemies Foreign and Domestic'. "We may have had true men but will never better"

Ar dhéis Dé go raibh a anam i bhpeachtair From his old comrades of English Prison

CORK MAN

Some years later Joe succeeded in getting hold of part of his prison record which was kept in the Official Chaplain's office. At considerable risk to himself a professional safe-cracker stole a copy of the file and gave it to Joe. It had been compiled by priests whose official duties included spying on the men and making secret assessments of them. In this regard (and without any general disrespect) the priests were undoubtedly enemies, and they have unknowingly paid Joe the best compliments possible:

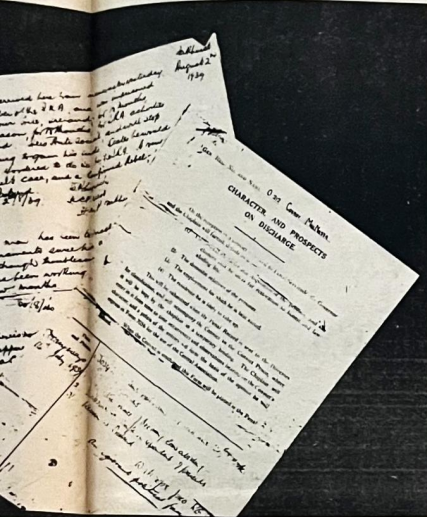
"Very little chance of becoming law-abiding", wrote Father Thorpe in July 1939.

prisoner's political apparently unmoved years penal servitude man, who delights authority, and would to enforce his own others. It's most dangerous this man will ever lead a life. Claims he has been on rebellion". After he and his life Cavan man, Jack M caught attempting to were put into penal and was on hunger and it was being forcibly fed. "When Jack M hunger strike and I went diet one of our men a visiting order to



The late Joe Collins unveiling a memorial to his old friend and comrade Vol. Jack McCabe GHQ Staff, IRA, who was killed in December 1971.

and a confirmed Ireland"



JOE COLLINS - THEY WERE FILLED IN BY PRIESTS
DUTIES WHICH INCLUDED SPYING ON THE
SECRET ASSESSMENTS TO THE GOVERNORS OF
PRISONS FROM 1939 TO 1942.

At Parkhurst in August 1939 Father
Lynch wrote:

"He is antisocial and will stop at
nothing to gain his ends. States he
would shoot, if ordered to do so by
IRA. A very difficult case, and a
confirmed rebel—both here and in
England."

Sixteen months later Lynch added:
There is no change in this

R.I.P. ATION

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Foreign and Domestic."
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of English Prison days.

soner's political ideas. Is
arently unmoved by getting 20
years penal servitude. He is a Cork
man, who delights in upsetting
authority, and would stop at nothing
to enforce his own authority upon
others. It's most doubtful whether
man will ever lead a law-abiding
life. Claims he has been brought up
on rebellion."

After he and his life-long comrade
an man, Jack McCabe, were
tought attempting to escape they
were put into punishment cells. Jack
was on hunger and thirst strike and
was being forcibly fed. Joe recalled:
When Jack McCabe was on hunger
strike and I was on punishment
diet one of our lads sent out
Waiting Order to Desmond

Association, whose members had
visited us frequently for some
years past.

"When Desmond came on the
visit our man told him all he knew
of our condition before he was
dragged out by the warden for
"discussing prison matters". The
next issue of the *Democrat*
contained the story of the visit and
what he had been told under the
heading "Torture in British Prison".
That is why the Medical Director
came to Parkhurst from London
and that story in the *Irish Democrat*
probably saved my life and I don't
forget it either."

RELEASED

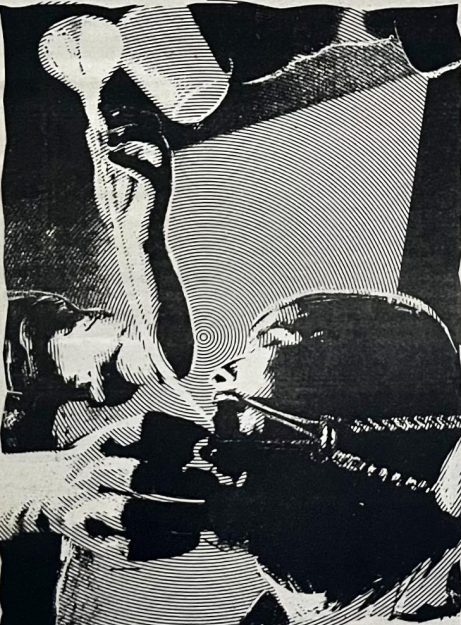
Late in 1947 and early 1948 the
British started to release long term
IRA men. They were more or less
forced to do this because at that time
they were longer in prison than any
other prisoners in England, including
murderers of all types.

The Connolly Association and the
Irish Democrat sponsored a Prison
Release Committee which demanded
unconditional release. Joe wrote:

"One member of the committee,
a Leitrim man, Pakey Earley, must
have spent most of his wages over
a period of two years, on books
and razor blades for prisoners. ...
He also travelled from London to
Parkhurst very often, at his own
expense".

Greaves, editor of the *Irish
Democrat* in London. Desmond
was a member of the Connolly

Joe and Jack McCabe, the last
two IRA prisoners, were uncondi-
tionally released on the 15th



"Joe Malone called me from his window and told me that he
became unconscious while being fed. He woke up lying on
the floor alone, with the door locked."
- Joe Collins (RIP) recalling the suffering of his comrade Joe
Malone as a result of force-feeding in Parkhurst prison in 1940.
Exactly one year later Joe Malone died from the after-effects.

IN THE FENIAN TRADITION

The glowing tribute below was written by a lifelong friend of
Joe Collins, Paddy Earley or 'Pakey' as Joe Collins referred to
him.

Paddy Earley was a member of the *Prison Release Committee*
which was set up in 1948 in Britain to work for the
unconditional release of Republican prisoners held in English
gaols. He gave the oration at Joe Collins' funeral three weeks
ago.

The death of Joe Collins which took place in Baggot Street Hospital on
Good Friday April 13th removed a staunch Republican who remained
faithful to the end.

Joe came from Fenian stock and always kept up that tradition. His
uncle, Stephen O'Neill, was a volunteer in Tom Barry's Flying Column.

Joe's baptism in the struggle for Independence came after the
Kilmichael Ambush in 1921 when his home was raided by British forces.
His parents and their young family, including Joe, were lined against the
wall outside their farmhouse and threatened with being shot if they did not
disclose the whereabouts of their Uncle Stephen. This left an indelible
mark on Joe's memory.

He joined the IRA at an early age and was first arrested and imprisoned
in 1934.

Joe was a carpenter by trade and he worked in the building industry. He
was an active trade unionist and took part in all struggles in connection
with wage increases and better working conditions.

In 1960 when restoration work began on Kilmainham Jail, he was one of
the first volunteers and spent much of his free time working there. For his
untiring work he was made a life member of "The Kilmainham Restoration
Society".

Apart from his military duties in which he excelled, Joe Collins was
deeply conscious of the real function of the Republican Movement, — to
end the political and economic exploitation of Ireland by England and to re-
create a society with a social order in which justice would prevail. He based
his ideals on the teachings of Tone and Connolly.

The removal of his remains from Baggot Street hospital took place on
Saturday 14th April. The coffin was draped with the Tricolour. After Mass
on Easter Sunday Joe was laid to rest in his native town of Dunmanway.

December 1948, though technically
they should have been on 'convict's
licence' until 12th July 1959.

Desmond Greaves and Paddy
Clancy welcomed them at Waterloo
Station and that night they attended a
victory dinner at the Garibaldi
Restaurant, where one of the guests
was Mrs Muriel MacSwiney, widow
of Terence MacSwiney.

Back in Dublin Clan na
Poblachta—Treaty Party Number
Three, as Republicans disparagingly
called it—had entered coalition gov-
ernment with Fine Gael. Sean
McBride (former IRA Chief of Staff)
was Minister for External Affairs.
Three Branchmen were following
Joe around Dublin. Joe walked up to
one of them and said, "You dirty little
bastard, we will be staying across the
street in the An Stad and we will be
armed, so if you come inside that
door, you know what you will get,
gun or no gun". The Branchman
tried to bluff but Joe had put the
wind up him and a fresh tail took
over, a squad car.

Joe met by accident a former
comrade in the Bombing Campaign

who had signed conditions to be
released, and was now an organiser
for Clan na Poblachta. He pointed to
the squad car and said to his former
comrade, "Thank Sean (McBride) for
the escort." He flushed with
embarrassment.

BORN FREE

Down the years, Joe remained an
active worker and supporter of the
Republican Movement. In every
Republican split this century there
has been Provos (though this word
didn't become currency until 1970) to
emerge and carry on the struggle;
Provos who wouldn't bend the knee,
who wouldn't surrender sovereignty,
and who organised guns and bombs
for resistance. Such a Republican
was Joe Collins.

Up until his death he lived in
Dublin. In 1972 he unveiled a
memorial to his old friend and
comrade Volunteer Jack McCabe,
GHQ Staff IRA, who was killed in an
accidental explosion in December
1971.

Joe, who died three weeks ago,

was buried in County Cork. His
tricolour draped coffin was followed
by hundreds of Republicans and
members of the local community.
Pakey Earley, who Joe mentioned in
his autobiography, gave the oration
and paid tribute to his dedication to
the Republican Movement. Joe was
that stubborn type of IRA Volunteer
best described by Ernie O'Malley:
"At times one came across a man
who had been born free. There was
no explaining it. One just accepted
and thanked God in wonder".

MASS
for the repose of the souls
of
Ella Woods and Joe Collins
at
Capuchin Church, Church Street
DUBLIN
Sunday 13th May at 12 noon
In Third Order Chapel;
(entrance through church)
Arranged by An Cumann Cabhrach

Postmhála



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

FRAUDULENT PEARSE MONUMENT

A chara,

I am concerned about the proposal to erect a monument to Padraig Mc Pearra in O'Connell Street, Dublin. This stems from my belief that an element of dishonesty underlies the intention. This is demonstrated by the nature of the proposed monument which depicts Pearse as a teacher.

Does this betray a reluctance to hurt the sensitivities of those who promote the idea that we have won our independence and that we have achieved Pearse's aim of establishing the Irish Republic as proclaimed in Easter Week?

If we are committed to the ideals of Pearse and wish to build a monument to him at this time that monument must give expression to Pearse as a Soldier, Pearse of the Proclamation which is essentially a call to arms. Any memorial which ignores this aspect of the man is a fraud and a deception.

I firmly believe that no sod of Irish soil can be honoured by a monument to Pearse until English interference in Irish affairs is ended, until the tri-colour flies freely over all Ireland and until the liber-

ties of all its people are defended and guarded by a Republican Army motivated as the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army were in 1916. And as are all those who pit their strength and courage against the might, the hate and the wiles of robber England.

Their victory is the real monument to Pearse towards which all Irish people should strive with renewed dedication. Monuments of stone or bronze are of very secondary importance.

Maithiu O Cinnseidh,
Dublin.

UTOM AND THE BRITISH ELECTION

Comrades,

The United Troops Out Movement is a national organisation with fifty-two branches spread throughout Britain. We are rapidly expanding with membership growing all the time. Contrary to what has been suggested in the press, we had no 'mobile squad' of hecklers attempting to disrupt Mr. Callaghan's rallies; our local supporters were simply attending and responding.

In the present context, when the main political parties refused to make an issue in the election, of a war that has been going on for ten years, it was impossible for advocates of a progressive solution to raise the issue in any other way. As a Prime Minister who has been responsible both for continued stalemate and for gross derelictions of human rights, Mr. Callaghan deserved special attention.

We shall continue to demand: Troops Out Now, Self-determination for the Irish people as a whole, and Political Status for political prisoners. These demands provide the only possibility for lasting peace in Ireland.

American politician Tip O'Neill's criticism of Westminster's attitude to the North of Ireland and his call for a fresh political initiative prompted a hysterical reaction from both the Labour Party and the Tories. Clearly Mr. O'Neill's bringing Ireland into the election was extremely embarrassing to both parties as both have made

strenuous efforts to sweep it under the carpet.

He is correct in saying that Ireland is a political football between Tory and Labour; the goal being the support of the Ulster Unionists in the probable event of a future hung parliament.

Peter Shore, Labour cabinet minister, stressed on a local London radio that Ireland should not be an election issue, though he conceded that the situation was 'disastrous' and added despairingly that he did not know what the answer was. Yet as a minister of state Mr. Shore shares cabinet responsibility for government policy.

Mr. Callaghan's only reaction to his critics during election rallies was the ritual denunciation of violence (though not of the violence of the occupation forces) aimed at eliciting an emotional response from his audience to cover up his inability to answer critics.

Mrs. Thatcher announced that the country is united on the issue of Ireland. Nothing could be further from the truth.

There is a massive gulf between Westminster and public opinion. Time and again opinion polls have demonstrated that an overwhelming majority of people in both Britain and Ireland want Britain to withdraw from Ireland.

United Troops Out Movement,
London.

INCHICORE PROBLEMS

A chara,

As Local Government Officer of the Robert Emmet Sinn Féin Cumann, Inchicore, and a candidate in the forthcoming Local Government Elections for the Dublin Ballyfermot constituency, I have again shown that I am 'A Man of Action'.

Some months ago I took up the case of the tenant of 75, Shangan Avenue, Ballymun. He required more suitable accommodation in the Clondalkin area. First and foremost I advised him on the matter and immediately set to work to secure for him proper housing. Knowing full well my responsibility to the tenant and his confidence in me, I relentlessly fought his case at all levels. Finally last month he was housed in the Clondalkin area.

I would like to thank both the Medical Officer and Dublin Corporation officials for their sympathetic consideration in the case. May I also convey long life and happiness to the tenant and his family in the new dwelling.

Following complaints from residents in Clifden Drive, Ballyfermot regarding the open space opposite their street I have been in touch with the Community and Environment Department of the Dublin Corporation and the Housing Construction Department. Both bodies have informed me that they will investigate my complaints.

I will immediately inform the residents effected when any developments occur.

I have received within the last

Widgery to visit Southall ?

A chara,

"The police used unprecedented force against our people," stated a community leader in Southall, London, demanding an enquiry after the 'riot' of April 23rd in which Blair Peach, a young New Zealand teacher was battered to death by police truncheons during an RUC-style attack. The police were 'protecting' a fascist National Front meeting from angry local inhabitants and the Anti-Nazi League.

Of Southall's 80,000 inhabitants over half are of Asian origin. The younger generation know no other home than England.

"We're trying to fight for our rights," explained one of the many unemployed Asian youths. Their parents, driven to England by a combination of high unemployment and low wages at home plus colonial propaganda extolling life in the 'mother country', found the grim reality to be menial work and bad housing.

Meanwhile, the English working class subject to the self-same 'divide and rule' policy see themselves as superior to colonial peoples, while they in turn are exploited. They are wide open to racism especially when it is the most deprived of different races who are set against each other for jobs and houses.

The National Front shout aloud what those such as Thatcher insinuate under a cloak of respectability. The Front's holding of an election meeting in Southall was as provocative to local people as if in a six-county context, the Orange Order was allowed to shout sectarian abuse in the middle of Andersonstown - with Brit and RUC protection!

Meanwhile the London police statement on the Southall death admitted, "As things stand at the moment, the situation from our point of view looks rather bleak." It may even warrant a judicial enquiry. Widgery style?

Is miss,
Eldridge,
Dublin.

few days a series of complaints about the dumping of waste material and the irregular collection of rubbish in the Ranch estate, Inchicore.

I have been in touch with the Cleaning Department and have asked that they ensure that the people's refuse is collected weekly and that the streets in the area are properly cleaned on a regular basis.

Mick O'Mahony,
13, Abercorn Terrace,
Inchicore, Dublin 8.

Newtownabbey Sinn Féin Cumann Re-formed

Sir,

The committee and members of the Joseph Cunningham Sinn Féin Cumann, Newtownabbey, wish it to be known that the above Cumann is now operational and fully functional.

We pledge our total and undivided support for the implementation of the aims, objectives and policies of Sinn Féin. We will work for the overthrow of British rule in Ireland and the establishment of a Democratic Socialist Republic based on the Proclamation of 1916.

We wish to express our unequal-

lified solidarity and support for the war of national liberation being waged by the soldiers of the Irish Republican Army; and to Republican prisoners of war every where that they may be recognised as political prisoners.

We shall work, in keeping with Republican philosophy, to bring our message to the attention of Newtownabbey residents and we hope that by our active involvement in political agitation at a local level we shall expose the dead-end politics of other groups masquerading as Republicans and as Socialists and hopefully to

clarify the sinister motives behind those who seek to perpetuate the British presence in Ireland.

To conclude, we wish to reiterate our support for the leadership of the Republican Movement for being consistent in their condemnation of British involvement in Ireland and who have recognised that the prevailing social inadequacies are directly attributed to the British economic, political and military presence.

P.R.O.
Joseph Cunningham -
Sinn Féin Cumann
Newtownabbey

ARMAGH PRISON INTIMIDATION CALLAGHAN

Dear Editor,

I would like to use the courtesy of your columns to express my disgust at the treatment being meted out to prisoners and visitors alike by the prison officers in

Armagh jail. While visiting my daughter Rosemary last week the manner used by these people was one of complete ignorance and the verbal abuse used towards not only myself but other visitors was clearly an attempt at intimidation.

Rosemary was physically threatened and the emotional discomfort and heartbreak this brought to us on a visit we only get once a month was very distressing to say the least. It is clearly an attempt to break the spirit of the girls on the protest and their families by the age old method of intimidation and harassment.

These people seem to be a law unto themselves in both Armagh and Long Kesh. How much more must the prisoners and their families suffer before their just demands are met?

Mrs. Jeannie O'Neill,
Short Strand, Belfast.

LURGAN DEATH THREATS

A chara,

The week before last our centre was 'visited' daily by the British army in their attempts to intimidate Sinn Féin members. On Monday (23rd April) two of our leading members, Peter Corey and Liam Haddock were told in no uncertain terms that they would be shot in a very short time, that their names were on two bulletins.

They (the British army) have tried everything in the past to harass Sinn Féin members and hinder us in our political activity and they have failed badly.

But it now looks as if they see the only way to stop us is to shoot us. And if recent events are anything to go by then that is how the British intend putting political opponents out of the way. In their words "we'll do what Hitler did to the Jews, if we can't gas you then we'll shoot you."

If this is the great peace-keeping force that Thatcher and Callaghan keep talking about - sent over here to 'protect' us, then God help us from our protectors. We would hasten to add that we will never give up until every last British soldier along with their rotten administration has left our shores once and for all. Then and only then can the Irish people live in peace, a true peace, based on Freedom and Justice.

P.R.O.
Lurgan Sinn Féin.

HOUNDED

Dear Editor,

All over Britain 'Troops Out' supporters and 'Hands Off Ireland' supporters have been hounded Callaghan at his election rallies.

In the South West we went to Ciderford about two weeks ago where he was to speak to about 400 people. Outside the hall we held a meeting as people were going in. We held up a banner saying Hands Off Ireland, spoke to the crowd through a megaphone and went round selling. We emphasised what this Labour government's atrocious record on Ireland had been and argued that it was not in their interests to support the reactionary Labour Party.

When Callaghan went in to the hall we all started chanting "H-Blocks - Hell-Blocks - Hands Off Ireland." We were reported in the press the next day as having hounded Callaghan as he went in and calling for the British to withdraw from the "Province".

On April 19th we went to an election rally held on Callaghan's home ground - Cardiff. Here we got into the meeting and just as Callaghan was about to speak we stood up with our Hands Off Ireland banner and shouted "Why don't you get out of Ireland? What about the H-Blocks and the torture at Castlereagh?" Predictably the stewards quickly threw us out of the meeting.

As you reported in AP/RN, when we went to a meeting in Westminster one of our supporters was arrested for saying "Labour Torturers" - apparently this is threatening behaviour. In Stockport too a supporter was beaten up as he was thrown out of the meeting by one of the stewards.

It is clear that the ruling class in this country is scared stiff of support for the Irish from the British working class, as can be seen from the recent hysterical editorial written by Conor Cruise O'Brien in the 'Observer'.

This can only show that the Irish are winning and that an anti-imperialist movement is growing in this country, otherwise the British ruling class wouldn't be so worried!

Christine Jones
Bristol RCG

GLASGOW BAND THANKS

Dear Sir,

The members of the James Connolly Flute Band of Glasgow would like to thank the following people for their support and the help they extended to us during our visit to Belfast over the Easter week-end: the New Lodge Celtic club, the Martin Forsythe club, and the Terry McDermott club.

We would also like to especially thank the bar staff and patrons of the Ardoyne Young Martyrs club and all the people of Ardoyne for once again providing accommodation for the band.

J. Wright, Secretary,
James Connolly Flute Band,
Govan, Glasgow.

'FALLS REPORT' FALLS DOWN WITH A BANG!

The essence of a booby-trap is that it should look harmless but should arouse enough interest in its potential victims to draw them towards it without arousing their suspicions. This is the case not only with bombs but also with less deadly weapons such as magazines of the literary variety.

A recently launched weekly Belfast journal called 'Falls Report' falls into this category; its potential victims are the nationalist population of West Belfast. At first sight looking through the latest copies of the 'Falls Report' (numbers 4 and 5) it is a harmless enough magazine mainly containing items of community interest such as that the swimming pool in the Falls Park is to be closed and that the rocky road to Twinbrook is to be re-built.

It gives details of recent acts of mindless vandalism in the Falls area and correctly bemoans the lack of youth facilities in the area. But what is noticeable is how the magazine manages to avoid the question of Brit occupation (and thus avoid the national question) despite the fact that its concern is meant to be daily life on the Falls Road.

In fact the bulk of the magazine reads very much like something one might expect to find produced in a so-called 'under-developed' area of some city in Britain, free from the harassment of occupation by foreign troops.

SPECIAL SQUAD

Suspensions of such Brit-thinking prompts a closer look at the page 2 editorial of issue number 4 which is entitled 'Brits seek IRA special squad'. This editorial supposedly

quotes British intelligence sources and attributes recent IRA successes of killing five Brits in Belfast, to just three volunteers.

This is a familiar theme, most commonly found in the gutter press of Fleet Street. IRA successes are not attributed to the popular support of the people and are not attributed to the efficiency and maturity of the IRA as a whole. Instead a couple of 'hit men' get the credit.

'Falls Report' even manages to echo the familiar Fleet Street theme of an 'international conspiracy'.

This IRA 'special squad' have apparently "received training in Mediterranean camps from Arab military organisations".

In future weeks we will doubtless read: SHOCK! HORROR! EXCLUSIVE REVELATION: BRITISH INTELLIGENCE BELIEVE VIETNAMESE SNIPERS ARE OPERATING ON THE FALLS ROAD.

ENTRAP

'Falls Report' issue number 5 is certainly in the best traditions of an

expertly made booby-trap and is designed to entrap its nationalist readership.

The front page cover displays a large photograph of prominent Republicans at the press conference held last week to publicise the release of John Deery (the first 'no-wash no-stop-out' protester to be released from the H-Blocks) and page 2 has a sound enough editorial on the 'Horrors of H-Block'.

But on the centre-spread a familiar face of loyalist bigotry leaps out of the pages. Independent six-county man John McKeague is interviewed and a 'public relations' job is done on him.

RED HAND COMMANDOS

A man whose background is that of being the leader of the fascist Red Hand Commandos is allowed to get away unchallenged with ludicrous comments such as "The Protestant of Northern Ireland is completely and totally against fascism. Against any form of fascism which would raise its head. Every paramilitary organisation is against it." He then goes on, again unchallenged, to turn the world upside down and claim that the Republican Movement is potentially fascist.

Both issue number 4 and issue number 5 suggest that 'Falls Report' is not such a naive magazine as it



The 'Falls Report' issue No.4 recommended: 'Anyone who feels they have been intimidated in their house should contact the public protection agency... This agency will give advice and will contact the security forces.'

might appear at first sight. Maybe it is not just a product of soggy liberalism and political confusion.

Perhaps it has the definite political direction of attempting to promote inter-communal unity across the sectarian divide by ignoring the questions of the continued Loyalist ascendancy and of national independence and re-unification. That is spurious inter-communal unity on the basis of continued Loyalist domination.

Could its basic aim be to cultivate the ground for the Brit 'solution' of six-county 'independence'?

UNOBTAINABLE

Finally, the pro-Brit thinking which lies behind the magazine is clearly exposed by a small item on the inside back page of issue number 4 headed 'Public Protection Agency' (what-ever that is). Anyway we soon find out, for the item reads: 'Anyone who feels they have been intimidated in their house should contact the public protection agency phone 8555. This agency will give advice and will contact the security forces'.

So now we have it. Touting to the

"security forces" rather than resisting the "occupation forces" is the way forward as 'Falls Report' sees it.

An AP/RN reporter feeling he had been intimidated in his house by the presence of 15,000 Brit troops and 20,000 loyalist militia (UDR and RUC) in his country, rang the number given but found it to be unobtainable.

We sincerely hope that this will also soon be the fate of the 'Falls Report', for local shop-keepers will surely not wish to stock a magazine which encourages touting.

Interestingly the 'Falls Report' is published by a body calling itself 'Co-operative Publishing Resource', of 52 Broadway, which is the house of the so-called 'Workers Resource Centre'. A number of genuine fringe anti-imperialist groups and publications do use this address as a postal address, however the question must now be posed: on which side of the barricades does the 'Workers Resource Centre' itself now stand?

This centre and the 'Falls Report' are directed and controlled by a man who has been in more political organisations than most people have had hot dinners. Perhaps this time he has taken one step too many.

British Labour Party leader Jim Callaghan was under constant pressure from 'troops out of Ireland' hecklers throughout the three-week Westminster election campaign. Callaghan spoke at election meetings the length and breadth of Britain, and night after night he was loudly heckled by supporters of the United Troops Out Movement, Socialist Unity and 'Hands Off Ireland'.

The heckling was dominated by calls for 'troops out now', 'Hands off Ireland', 'stop the torture' and 'political status for political prisoners'.

As well as heckling inside Callaghan's meetings the protestors have held pickets and street meetings

outside the halls where Callaghan has been speaking. The numbers of people protesting has varied from about a dozen at one or two of the meetings to well over one hundred inside and outside the Callaghan rally at Wandsworth Town Hall in south-west London on Monday April 23rd.

At this Wandsworth rally Callaghan was forced to divert from his prepared script and deliver a ten minute statement on Ireland. A factor forcing him to do this was the small but obvious demonstrations of support for the hecklers among his own supporters. At one stage even a steward was calling for

him to answer questions on 'the Bennett Report on RUC torture'.

Callaghan's statement failed to satisfy the hecklers. "There will be no torture in the gaols", he said. "If there is, it will be rooted out. It is not the British method of conducting these matters." He conveniently forgot that torture has always been a British method of conducting colonial wars.

SUPPORT

Callaghan has suggested that a small group of almost professional agitators have been following him around Britain trying to give the impression that they have support in different areas but in reality working alone.

In fact although UTOM, Socialist Unity and 'Hands Off Ireland' may

only have active support numbered in hundreds, it is militant support spread throughout Britain.

For example two days before the Wandsworth meeting picketers and hecklers harassed him in Halifax and Huddersfield. Protests have also taken place at Edinburgh, Cardiff, Manchester, Stockport, Hemel Hempstead and Uppminster.

Other Labour Party leaders including Merlyn Rees, Shirley Williams, Tony Benn and Denis Healey have also been heckled on the Labour Party's record on Ireland at election meetings which they have addressed.

Such a campaign to make the Irish war an election issue in Britain is unprecedented in the last decade and is a welcome development indeed.



A heckler at Wandsworth election meeting points the finger of guilt at Callaghan for presiding over torture and murder by British troops in Ireland.

CALLAGHAN UNDER PRESSURE

BEECHMOUNT SOCIAL

The Gerard McAuley Sinn Fein Cumann, Belfast.

TARA

in Pass n' Grove, Beechmount
Saturday 5th May
Free ballot and Irish dancing

DUNDALK H-BLOCK MARCH

Saturday 19th May
Assemble 2.30 p.m. Fair Green
Parade to public rally with prominent speakers.

Organised by Sinn Fein

DUBLIN BUSES

Buses will leave 44, Parnell Square, Dublin at 11.30 a.m.
Tickets available at the Craft Shop centre, 44 Parnell Square.

THE BASQUE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

IN EUROPE, the Europe of the big power blocs, there are many small nations fighting for self-determination. Ireland is at the forefront of this struggle where the Republican Movement is fighting a war against Britain and its Free State allies to liberate the occupied six counties and to establish the thirty-two county Socialist Republic. Other small nations fighting a similar battle are the Basques, the Catalans, the Bretons and the Corsicans. But the one country which is identified closely with Ireland in its similarity is the Basque country, dominated by Spain and fighting for its independence.

At a recently held conference on 'European Political Prisoners' in Dublin, a Basque delegate outlined the history of the struggle and gave details of the repression against and the resistance of the peoples of the Basque nation.

"We have been fighting in this area over the past century in response to Spanish dominance.

"Three wars were fought - known as the Carlist wars - and they were led mainly by the local aristocracy, allied to one dynasty. Although the ordinary people were mobilised, a reactionary ideology was created in the country. These wars were very cruel wars, in fact talking of the situation of political prisoners, we did not have this problem, for in the first Carlist war no prisoners were taken by the Central Government - these forces killed all fighting soldiers."

In 1876 the Basque people lost all their national liberties, a Provisional Parliament was set up and since then the Basque 'problem' has changed considerably.

From the ranks of the middle class arose a nationalist movement which progressively became socialist. This movement was against

the centralist policies of the Madrid Administration and wanted to put forward social democratic policies for the Basque region. During Franco's wars, there was a Basque autonomous government, which was a coalition of Nationalist Popular Front, socialists and communists but with the rise of Spanish Fascism there arose a confrontation between Nationalism and Socialism,



Richard Behal, Director of the Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs Bureau which organised the conference as part of the joint anti-EEC campaign.

The article printed here is based upon an interview by an AP/RN reporter with the Basque delegation who attended the European political prisoners conference in Dublin over the week-end of 21st-23rd April.

not only within Spain, but within the Basque country itself, so that some Basque Carlist Nationalists aligned themselves with Spanish Fascists.

In Navarre bloody battles were fought in the streets, leading to intense repression against the Basque peoples. The Basque revolutionaries bore the full brunt of Franco's policies, and it took them a long while to recover from this.

♦♦♦♦

In 1960 E.T.A. was born.

This movement declared itself Nationalist and Socialist, the main difference this time was that the workers took over the ideology and the process of the revolution. They saw their goal as not just building a Basque State, but pulling down imperialism and centralism. They were against Spain and against France. For the first time politics was seen from a 'class structure' point of view.

"We got the whole left together, all the workers, and we proceeded in the struggle for independence, and we saw that this struggle must be a joint effort."

From June 15th 1977, (the inauguration of the new Social Democratic Spain) - the Basques who put forward many demands, have not seen one of these met. This has been met by resistance on the streets and armed resistance throughout the Basque region.

"Now the prisons are full again, as full as in Franco's time, trials have begun again, examples of sentences are: one person was given three years in prison for painting a slogan, people putting up posters have been imprisoned or given heavy fines, 100,000 pesetas in some cases. In 1970 16 prisoners were given nine death sentences and a total of 710 years in prison, two Basque revolutionaries were execut-

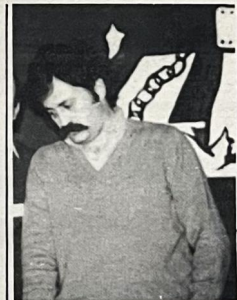
ed in 1975 and at the famous Burgos trial, the new secretary general of E.I.A., Mario Onaindia, was sentenced to death (commuted), and served nine years in prison."

At one time the Spanish Administration did not have enough prisons, so they had to use the Bull Ring in Bilbao (a forerunner to Chile, and use of football stadiums).

The Basque Revolutionaries feel that they are facing a tough war and that the situation is getting worse. The treatment of political prisoners is now worse than in Franco's time. Special prisons are being built in line with the rest of Europe, Britain, Germany etc. There is an attempt to criminalise the struggle of the Basque peoples.

"Special prisons are being built outside the Basque country and our prisoners are being moved to these. Screws are now just doing the menial tasks, whilst the other duties are performed by para-military police."

There is now open collaboration between Paris and Madrid, and recently the French government



One of the Basque delegates who addressed the conference.

have been taking a hard line with the Basques. Political refugees are being extradited to Spain, many others are being held as open prisoners, not allowed to move out of the area they live in, and kept under surveillance.

As the repression grows, so does the resistance.

"Hundreds of thousands are mobilising on the streets for amnesty for political prisoners. Mass marches are being organised. On April 18th this year 100,000 people marched through Bilbao, it was the first time all political parties were united (including the government party). There were large demonstrations in San Sebastian where two people were killed by the police."

A Basque lawyer Juan Mari Banderes, who has defended political prisoners in the Basque country for 15-20 years described the long fight to defend the rights of the people of this nation. He said:

"After the death of Franco, we hoped for more freedom, but we have a very big struggle to get prisoners out of prison, we have been fighting hard for an amnesty. The people can never forget that Franco died in bed and there was no revolution. It has just been a superficial change in the Spanish State. State terrorism is on the increase and so is revolutionary resistance, leading to many, many political prisoners. The conditions these prisoners are kept in is similar to Ireland and England, they also have a similar 'criminalisation' policy, where they try to de-politicise the war."

The Basque peoples are determined that they will have full 'self-determination' and that their nation will stand together with all the other small nations in Freedom and Justice.

Oideachas Bun Scoile sna 26 Chontae

le Micheal MacConmara

Is iomaí rud atá cearr leis an gCóras Oideachais sna 26 Chontae Fíchead. Tá toradh an easpa pianála le feiceáil ag gach leibhéal. Tá mórchuid fadhbanna ag an tríú leibhéal agus sna scoileanna iar-bhunoid eachais. Ach is sna bunscoileanna is measa atá cúrsaí.

Tá an cóimheas idir múinteoirí agus páistí an ard ar fad. Tá breis is caoga dalta i gcuid des na ranganna. Ní féidir leis na múinteoirí aire cheart a thabhairt dos na páistí. I ngach rang, bíonn páistí éirimíúla agus páistí malla iontu. Ní bhíonn dóthain ama ag an múinteoir freastal ar na páistí ar fad. Dá bhris seo ní bhíonn seans ceart ag na daltaí.

Tá gear-gha ag go leor des na daltaí le hoideachas speisialta. Ní ranganna speisialta ann dóibh. Fág-tar na páistí sna gnath ranganna. Ní bhíonn a fhios ag na páistí seo ar an meid a bhíonn ar siúl sa rang. Da bhris seo éiríonn siad trioblóideach sa scoil.

Nuair nach mbíonn dul chun chinín á dhéanamh acu sa scoil, tosaíonn siad ag fanacht sa bhaile ón scoil. Teann cuid mhaith acu amach sa saol gan léamh gan scríobh. Ní nach ionadh go dtéann cuid acu le creachadóireacht, le siad agus le mion-chóireanna.

Ní "rialtas" na Se Chontae Fíchead

ead sásta na bun-fadhbanna a leigheas. Tá siad lán tsásta breis Gardaí agus Búirdéirí a fhostú. Tá Loughan House oscailte acu. Ach ní siad sásta breis múinteoirí a fhostú. Ar ndóig tá dearmad déanta acu le fada ar an meid a bhí i bhForógra na Poblachta, sé sin a gearta a thabhairt do pháistí uile an náisiúin.

Tá droch-chaoi ar chuid mhaith des na scoileanna. Ní fiú leithreas i gcuid acu. Tá cuid eile acu fuar gan feas. Ní na háiseanna múineadh atá ag teastáil iontu.

Ní aon dealramh leis an gcóras bainisteoireachta. De ghnáth bíonn an sagart paróiste mar bhaisteoir ar an scoil. Bhíonn cuid mhaith des na sagairt gan na scoileanna bainisteoireachta agus éiríonn mórchuid fadhbanna. Ar leibhéal eile ní chóir go mbeadh na scoileanna faoi smacht Eaglais ar bith.

Tá mórchuid athraithe ag teastáil chun gur féidir linn a rá go bhfuil a cheart le fáil ag gach páiste.

Two more 'On the blanket' in England

TWO MORE POWs have gone 'on the blanket' in England according to latest reports received from the Prisoners' Aid Committee, London.

Last week Ronnie McCartney (Belfast) and Johnnie Walker (Derry) went 'on the blanket' when they were moved to Hull jail. Johnnie Walker received a severe beating there in 1976 following the Hull prison riot and was one of the POWs who gave evidence against Hull screws at the recent York trial. (At this trial although eight screws were found guilty of assaulting prisoners they were let off with suspended sentences).

McCartney and Walker join the six men who AP/RN (Issue dated February 10th) have previously reported as being 'on the blanket'.

There are four in Albany prison, Isle of Wight,

namely Liam Baker (Belfast), Tony Cunningham (Belfast), Pat Guilfoyle (Tipperary) and Busty Cunningham (Tyronne). Since October 8th they have worn nothing but a blanket except for one hour each day when they exercise. Latest reports indicate that these men are not washing or slopping out and as the screws refuse to slop out they have to empty their pots through their cell windows.

The two other men 'on the blanket' are Mick Murray (Dublin) in Wormwood Scrubs and James Bennett (Belfast) in Manchester's Strangeways.

All the men 'on the blanket' in England are protesting against the victimisation of POWs inside the jails and are demanding a transfer to a jail in Ireland and their right to political status pending a general amnesty.



Ronnie McCartney

1916 Easter 1979 Commemorations

San Francisco

The annual Easter commemoration in San Francisco, took place on a beautiful Spring day at Holy Cross cemetery. The parade marched to the graveside of Thomas Desmond, who played a prominent part in the rescue of six Fenians from a British prison at Freemantle in Western Australia, over a century ago.

The chairman, Jerry Boyle, sent greetings to the 400 blanket men in the H-Blocks and the women in Armagh jail as well as other prisoners North and South and in England.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement by Kerry IRA veteran Jack Murphy, and a brilliant oration was delivered by Tim Walsh, tracing the history of the Fenianism of Tom Desmond's time right down to our own day. The 1916 Proclamation was read by Dennis Mulligan.

John F. Henning also spoke, reminding people that the songs of Ireland played no small part in keeping the cause alive in the hearts of the Irish people.

Also participating in the ceremony were Na Fianna Eireann and their colour party, the Pearse and Connolly Band with vocals by the Boys of the Old Brigade.

Mayo

One of the biggest parades ever seen in Mayo was held in Kiltimagh on Easter Sunday. The parade led by a colour party and Balla Pipe Band started from Swinford Road at 3.30 p.m. and marched through the

town in glorious sunshine to the grave of Brigadier Sean Corcoran.

A decade of the rosary was said and wreaths were laid on behalf of each branch of the Republican Movement. The statement from the Leadership was read as well as the Mayo Roll of Honour.

A bugler sounded the Last Post and Tom Marry delivered the oration.



A Fianna colour party stands in honour of Fenian Thomas Desmond during the Easter Commemoration in San Francisco's Holy Cross cemetery.

Limerick

The annual Limerick City commemoration of the 1916 Rising was held on Easter Sunday.

The commemoration, which was organised by the local Republican Movement, began with a parade from the city centre to the Republican plot in Mount St. Laurence cemetery.

At the Republican plot a wreath was laid on behalf of the Republican Movement.

The Easter Statement from the Leadership of the Republican Movement was then read by a member of Cumann na mBan followed by a statement from Na Fianna Eireann's G.H.Q.

The proceedings at the Republican plot and Sean Glynn's grave were chaired by Padraig O Maolcathigh of Limerick Sinn Féin.

In his oration Pat Ward (Donegal) attacked Free State collaboration with the

British torturers in the North and pointed out as an example of this the heavy Special Branch presence at the commemoration.

He went on to say that there were many people who had to eat their words in the wake of the recent torture findings and exposure. He pointed out that the Republican Movement had over the years consistently exposed torture in Castlereagh and other police centres North and South, but that it was only after the 'Irwin revelations' and the Bennett and O'Brien Reports that most of the media began to treat the torture allegations seriously.

Pat Ward's oration concluded, the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by a bugler from the local St. John's Band.

After the ceremony at the Republican plot the crowd moved over to the grave of Volunteer Sean Glynn, who died under mysterious circumstances in Ardour Hill prison in 1936.

A wreath was laid and a decade of the Rosary recited.

Despite a massive show of force by the Brits and the RUC which included a dawn raid on two dozen houses of Republicans in and around the Carrickmore area on Easter Sunday morning, thousands of people attended the Easter commemoration.

The Brits and RUC skulking in the fields, some with their faces blackened, threw a ring of steel around Carrickmore. All buses and cars were stopped and searched and in some cases detained for almost half-an-hour. But undeterred by the harassing tactics of the Brits, people abandoned their cars, left the buses and walked a few miles to the beginning of the parade.

An attempt by the RUC to remove a barrier erected by the parade's stewards at the town's entrance was quickly thwarted when a group of young Republicans hurled bricks and stones at them.

The turnout to the parade was one of the biggest ever and showed clearly that

Carrickmore

Tyrone is as much a Republican county as ever.

The parade itself was led by a colour party in full uniform, followed by boys and girls of Na Fianna Eireann, then members of the old IRA. Behind them were representatives of the families of dead Volunteers carrying wreaths, interspersed among the massive crowd were eight bands. The parade went through the village to the graveyard where the Chairman of the Tyrone National Graves Association chaired the proceedings. The Proclamation and the Roll of Honour were read out and prayers were recited for all those who had fallen for Ireland's liberty.

The Chairman of Derry Sinn Féin, Johnny Johnston, gave the oration. Easter commemorations were also held in Edendork and Enniskillen with large crowds attending both ceremonies.

Athea

The Easter commemoration in Athea Co. Limerick took place at the local cemetery where the proceedings were chaired by Dennis Nolan.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of various

branches of the Republican Movement by Jack Nolan, a veteran Republican from the area, who took part in one of the most spectacular escapes of the twenties when he and twenty others dug their way out of Limerick Prison.

The oration was given by Pat Ward of Donegal and a colour party of Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna was in attendance.



The colour party entering Athea cemetery.

Five Derry workers held at Liverpool

IN WHAT must be a prime example of circular thinking five Derry workers travelling under British government grants to job interviews at Fords in Slough were arrested in Liverpool on Tuesday April 24th. They were arrested by the notorious Liverpool police under the Prevention of Terrorism Act as they disembarked from the Belfast to Liverpool ferry.

Three of the men were held until 4 p.m. on Thursday and two others held longer. During their detention the police informed Fords that the men were being held and told the men themselves that it would be pointless then going to their interviews when released (which of course it was).

One of the detained men, Neil McCafferty, of Rose Court in the Waterside spoke to an AP/RN reporter on his return to Derry.

Once Neil McCafferty was checked out and his record found to be 'clean' he was accused of taking the other four men over to England for the IRA!

He said that while in custody he was not allowed legal advice and his wife was not informed of his arrest despite assurances by the police that she would be. He was held for a total of fifty-seven hours including one period of twenty-four hours without getting out of the cell. He was photographed and fingerprinted without his consent and asked innumerable personal details about his family.

When he told them his father was dead the police asked him if he was blown up in a bomb or shot. In fact he died of natural causes.

Neil McCafferty explains: "This was the best job offer I'd had in fifteen years. I have four children and it means a lot to me to get work. This was the type of job I am being trained for by the training centre at Maydown and now I might well finish the training course and then not get a job."

Following the men's detention Derry Sinn Féin issued a statement in which they condemned this latest example of harassment of Derry workers at English ports. The statement pointed out "it seems ironic that while the British government is training people for jobs, it then prevents them from taking jobs where available under the repressive Prevention of Terrorism Act."

duirt siad

"Something, to my untrained eye, is seriously amiss in Dublin. The new rich and the old poor appear to be on the increase."

Colm McClelland, journalist writing in the 'Sunday World' 29th April.

"If we are going to win the war, the money should be made available."

Ian Paisley, bemoaning a recent cut-back in RUC overtime.

"A vote for the DUP is a vote to smash the terrorists and hang IRA murderers."

Ian Paisley, again.

"Stay at home and take care of the family."

Margaret Thatcher's advice to women.

"He (Des O'Hagan) could be described as his party's bionic man, not only fighting South Down and shutting back and forth between his Newry home and Dublin, where he co-edits 'Republican News', but at the same time organising the Club's European election campaign."

Belfast Telegraph (April 25th) getting its 'News' wrong.

"The SDLP manifesto is largely devoted to a recital of the past to show that history went wrong and that this was the fault of the British government... Their manifesto reads strangely for anybody who remembers that full page advertisement they put in the 'Newsletter' a couple of years back, displaying themselves as almost a chummy bunch of Unionists."

John Morrison column, 'Sunday News' 29th April.

"Watch Roy Mason. If the Right are looking for a candidate, he could make it. He's really tough. He didn't try last time and his only problem may be that there aren't enough miners in the party."

Harold Wilson surmising on the next Brit Labour Party leader and future Prime Minister (Daily Mail April 26th).

"With the IRA claiming a free supply of the new mix and the technical problems solved, Roy Mason's successor in Stormont castle will be presented with a new security headache he could well do without."

Ed Moloney, journalist writing in 'Hibernia' 26th April.

"I shall be making sure my case is with me for the rest of the campaign."

I.R.Adshead, Labour Party Westminster candidate whose initials on a briefcase gave rise to a bomb scare.

"The only thing the Sasanach understands is the gun."

Scottish Socialist Republican prisoners' statement to Dublin prisoners conference.

"The widespread dawn raids by police and troops on homes throughout Northern Ireland, in which dozens of Republicans were arrested, were described last night as a restricted form of internment by the Press Association."

Sunday News report 29th April.

"He was well-known around Omagh, although obviously he kept his membership of the UDR a closely guarded secret. I knew him quite well and I didn't know he was in the regiment."

An Omagh man commenting to reporter about the UDR man shot dead by the IRA last week. Obviously the dead man was not a proud member of the regiment, as proclaimed in the UDR adverts.

"In political terms, the conveyor-belt system of intelligence - arrest - interrogation - confession - charge-conviction functioned efficiently for a long time - so much so that at one stage the Secretary of State and the heads of the RUC became convinced that they had hit upon the formula for the defeat of the Provisional IRA. Recent events have shown however, that the Provisionals are still with us."

David McKittrick, Northern Editor of 'Irish Times' (April 25th).

"The Civil Rights Association has been taken over by a clique from the Communist Party of Ireland, sympathetic to the Provos."

Brian Brennan, leading Stickie, reported in 'Andersonstown News' after a NICRA general meeting had voted in favour of political status for political prisoners. The Sticks and their supporters then walked out of the meeting.

"Anyone who has had the pleasure of being arrested and handcuffed in the six counties may have noticed the brand name on their cuffs - Hiatt and Co. of Birmingham...recently they have gone from strength to strength with strong demand for their wares in Rhodesia where their leg manacles are especially popular with Ian Smith's security forces..."

...Of course any other comparison between Smith's regime, which uses torture, censorship and prison camps to suppress political opposition, and Mason's administration in Northern Ireland can be dismissed as spurious Republican propaganda."

Tom Luby 'Sidelines' in 'Hibernia' 26th April.

Birthday Greetings

FITZSIMONS, Sean (H4-Block)
 Birthday greetings to our son Sean, 22 years-old on May 1st.
 A gift, we cannot give you nor no family's fond embrace, but one thing those quiltings cannot step is our love for you and Ireland.
 God bless and free you and your comrades soon, all our love, Mum, Dad, Marie, Bobby, Marjo, Gerard, Billy, U.T.P.

FITZSIMONS, Sean (H4-Block)
 Congratulations Sean on your 22nd birthday.
 No brother could be prouder than I am of you today, and this is just to tell you I'm behind you all the way.
 Victory to your comrades.
 From your brother Bobby, U.T.P.

FITZSIMONS, Sean (H4-Block)
 Greetings Sean on your 22nd birthday. (Five birthdays in bondage) We have had great men but we will never have better than the courageous blanket-men. All my love, your close friend and sister Marie.

FITZSIMONS, Sean (H4-Block)
 Happy birthday and plenty more of them but spent in better places.
 To fight tyranny and injustice is to do God's holy will. To make Ireland a nation once again.
 So to you and Hugh and all your comrades we send our support and dedication. Harry, Hugh and all the family.

FITZSIMONS, Sean (H4-Block)
 Happy birthday Sean and all best wishes from all of us.
 They took you to a prison cell, cold and damp inside, they handed you a blanket which you have worn with pride. You may lose all your privileges, but not your principles.
 God bless you and Hugh and all your comrades in your fight for political status. Aunt Marie, Alec and kids.

FITZSIMONS, Sean (H4-Block)
 Happy birthday Sean on this your 22nd birthday. To put on a prison uniform and to abide by all their rules, your head held high you do not comply with the wishes of those fools.

All our love. God bless and give you and Hugh and all your comrades strength as victory draws near.
 From Gran and Grandad, Ardgliss.

FITZSIMONS, Sean (H4-Block)
 Happy birthday and good health. May your courage and good spirits be an inspiration to us all.
 God bless you and Hugh and all your fighting comrades. Bobby Jean and Kids.
FLYNN, Albert (Portlaoise prison)
 Birthday greetings Albert. Love Jacqueline.

FLYNN, Albert (Portlaoise prison)
 Happy birthday Albert on 6th May. From your Mother, Brothers and sisters.

WALSH, Martin (H5-Block)
 Happy birthday Martin. Love and best wishes from Mary and Gerry Watson.

WALSH, Martin (H5-Block)
 Thinking about you always.
 Love from Teresa, Moira, Delidre, Sheila, Roslin, Geraldine, Joe (H6-Block) Sinead and Brona.

WALSH, Martin (H5-Block)
 Best wishes Martin and congratulations to you and your comrades.
 May you all soon be free. Auntie Marie Higginson and Jim. Venceremos.
WALSH, Martin (H5-Block)
 Happy birthday Martin.
 It's not every day we can sit and talk, or any night we can choose to walk, to where only truth matters.
 If we desire:
 For both have been burned by the terrible fire!
 All our love, Rosaleen and Aine. xxxx

Solidarity Greetings

McDAID, Gerald - DALY, Paul (H-Block)
 Congratulations to my son Gerald on completing 2 years on the blanket. You and Paul are always in our thoughts. From Mum, Dad and family.
McDAID, Gerald - DALY, Paul (H-Block)
 Congratulations on completing 2 years on the blanket.
 Wear your blanket with pride. It's the noblest uniform an Irishman can wear. Victory to the Blanket-men. From Martin.

Birthday Memories

BRYSON, Jim.
 Birthday memories of our dear brother, Vol. Jim Bryson. Mary Queen of Ireland pray for him. Always remembered by his brother Albert, Kathleen and family.
BRYSON, Jim
 Birthday memories of our dear brother, Vol. Jim Bryson. Mary Queen of Ireland pray for him. Always remembered by his brother Bobby, Madeline and family.

NORNEY, Leo.
 In loving memory of my dear Leo who would have been 21 years old last week. A Mhuile na Gael den idir gúil ar a anam os uasail. From his Mother and family.

GET WELL SOON

Terry Kirby: Ward 18 Musgrave Park Hospital.
 Get well soon. Greetings to our dear son and brother. May God bless you. Claire, Frances, and Marcella and brother Joe. Linda and Siobhan, your Granda and all your aunts and uncles. Your loving fiancée Marie. Venceremos.

LOUTH COMHAIRLE CEANTAIR SINN FEIN LOCAL ELECTION FUND

Ten weeks draw results.
 (£1,000 in prizes)

£500 H O'Connor, Blackrock.
 £200 N Conroy, 46A Ashling Park.
 £100 M Gormley, Castletown.
 £80 H McMahon, 65 Oakland Park.
 £50 B Duffy, Phase 3, Dundalk.
 £25 M Harrison, 165 Coxes Demesne.
 £15 C Malone, 191 Greenacres.
 £10 B Gorman, C/O K. Doyle.
 £10 M McShane, C/O Sean Farrell.
 £10 F McGuigan, H Block, Long Kesh.
 £5 M Norton, 8 Brook Street.
 £5 J Kearney, St. Mary's Villas.
 £5 J McEvedy, 1 St. Malachy's Villas.

The draw was held on Thursday 19 April.

An Cumann Cabhrach Dublin April Draw Results.

£100 Ticket No. 323
 £50 Ticket No. 267
 £25 Ticket No. 052
 £10 Ticket Nos. 289, 268.
 £5 Ticket Nos. 167, 210, 215, 091, 251, 055.

Election Fund Draw Dublin Area No. 8.

£100 Ticket No. 49.
 £30 Ticket No. 111.
 £20 Ticket No. 244.
 £5 Ticket Nos. 5, 91, 154, 75, 180, 90, 189, 150, 52, 152.

Thanks

GREEN CROSS AUSTRALIA
 The H-Block Committee of Sinn Féin extend thanks to Mary Lynch, President of the Green Cross Committee in Australia, for the generous donations collected for the H-Block Appeal Fund.

MACSUIBHNE SINN FEIN CUMINN

An Cumann Cabhrach Central Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £80.00 from Cumann MacSuihbne, Sinn Féin, Slonna.

IN MEMORIAM

CAMPBELL, Teddy. (5th Anniversary).
 In proud and loving memory of Vol. Teddy Campbell who died 3rd May 1974. Always remembered by the Lower Falls Commemoration Committee and the Lower Falls Martyrs Band.

McKEARNEY, Sean (5th Anniversary).
 In proud and loving memory of Vol. Sean McKearney, 'B' Coy, 1st Battalion East Tyrone. Killed in action May 13th 1974. Always remembered by Mammy, Daddy, Padraig, Kevin, Angela and Tommy (H3-Block).

McKEARNEY, Sean (5th Anniversary)
 In proud and loving memory of Vol. Sean McKearney 'B' Coy, 1st Battalion East Tyrone - killed in action May 13th 1974. Always remembered by Jim, Margaret and baby.

MARTIN, Eugene. (5th Anniversary)
 In proud and loving memory of Vol. Eugene Martin 'B' Coy, 1st Battalion, East Tyrone. Killed in action May 13th 1974. Never forgotten by parents and family.

McKEARNEY/MARTIN. (5th Anniversary)
 We proudly remember Volunteers Sean McKearney and Eugene Martin 'B' Coy, 1st Battalion, East Tyrone. Killed in action May 13th 1974. From First Battalion East Tyrone Brigade.

O'CALLAGHAN, Brendan. (2nd Anniversary)
 Proud and precious memories of our dear friend Vol. Brendy O'Callaghan, 1st Battalion Belfast Brigade Ogligh Na hEireann, who was shot dead by British's disgraced army 23rd April, 1977.

When only a few are faithful, they must be the more steadfast for being just a few.

Yes you died but you died a hero with your hand upon your gun you upheld the proclamation, you shall live on at Ireland's son.
 They shot you in the back Brendan your eyes they could not meet, those British huns, with hired guns mowed you down on a Belfast street.

There always has been and always will be Irish men prepared to fight rather than sell out what they believe to be their national right.
 You were one of those men Brendan.
 Your sacrifice shall never be forgotten.

To those who believe no explanation is necessary, to those who don't none possible.

Brendan for a cause you held so dear, the freedom of your enslaved country, you did not let the inside of their hell hole prisons or their imperial oppression deter you.
 Your revolutionary determination and spirit that you showed us serve as a reminder to those who dare to oppress us with their imperial might.
 We shall never bow before them nor shall we lie down and endure their oppression for we are a risen people.

It is a powerful force that makes anyone give their life for their country.
 You Brendan will always be remembered for your part in the struggle.
 So sleep in peace brave comrade some things in life you cannot buy, a gift that is so rare and true, the gift of a wonderful friend like the one we had in you.
 We mourn for you in silence, very



On the 23rd April the second anniversary of Volunteer Brendan O'Callaghan's killing, a small but profound ceremony was held in the grounds of the 'Hunting Lodge' bar in Belfast, close to where he was shot dead by British soldiers.
 The above photograph shows two of Brendan's friends standing over an altar erected to his memory on the occasion.

few would see us weep, we share our tears with aching hearts while others sleep.

Very sadly missed and eternally remembered.
 By his friends Caroline, Betty, Loretta and Breise-Ann (Armagh P.O.W.)

Sympathy

CUMANN CABHRACH DUNDALK

At a meeting of Dundalk Cumann Cabhrach, a minutes silence was observed in remembrance of Ella May Woods, a founder member of An Cumann Cabhrach and deepest sympathies were extended to her husband.

CARLOW SINN FEIN

The members of the Kevin Barry Cumann, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow, express their deepest sympathy to Mrs. Kavanagh and family on the death of her husband Billy R.I.P., a veteran of the 'Tan War' and a life-long Republican.

STH. KERRY SINN FEIN

At a recent meeting of the South Kerry Comhairle Ceantair of Sinn Féin, a vote of sympathy was passed to the wife and family of the late Timothy O'Connor of Lachurra, Milltown.

Our regular cartoonist Cormac is taking a well-earned rest this week. Rumours that he is suffering from alcoholic poisoning are totally unfounded.

This week we print a cartoon drawn by a blanket-man and smuggled out of the H-Blocks on a flimsy scrap of paper. The ability of 'Emu' (H5-Block) to view the men responsible for his stark condition in such humorous light pays testimony to the unquenchable spirit of the blanket-men.

JUDGEMENT DAY BY EMU H5.



VICTORY MARCH FOR FIRST BLANKET MAN

Ciaran Nugent due to be released

BELFAST

SUNDAY 13th MAY

March leaves Busy Bee, Andersonstown at 2.30 p.m. for Sinn Féin Headquarters, 85b Falls Road.

All Sinn Féin Cumainn invited

Organised by Belfast Comhairle Ceantair, Sinn Féin.