

REPUBLICAN NEWS

"THE VOICE OF
REPUBLICAN ULSTER"

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper



VOL. 2 Number 97

WEEK COMMENCING SATURDAY, 4th AUGUST, 1973.

Price: FIVE PENCE

It's a long way
to Tipperary . .



It was a long way from Tipperary for JOHN KELLY (43), a native of that Irish city, when he walked across Death Valley, California, on July 14. Mr. Kelly, a former Olympic runner for both Ireland and the USA was protesting in his own way at English Army brutality and harassment in the Six Counties. He made his effort in temperatures ranging from 130 to 150 degrees. Kelly holds the American record for 50 miles. His protest walk was sponsored by "The Friends of Ireland," a coalition of groups committed to defending Ireland through peaceful protests and organising activities to draw public attention to the denial of democracy in the Six Counties by the English Government.

SUPPORT

ANTI-INTERMENT RALLIES

THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY of internment will be marked by a series of events in Ireland and Britain. There was almost no organised commemorations in Britain last year on the first anniversary coming as it did so soon after Bloody Friday and Operation Motorman.

There will be a meeting in Glasgow on 9th August. The speakers will include one from the Coventry Prisoners Defence Committee. This is an important event both because it raises the issue of Irish Political Prisoners in yet another large urban centre and especially because Glasgow has a large Irish colony.

There will be a demonstration organised by Sinn Fein, in London, on August 12th. It appears that this will have the support of all significant Socialist organisations in Britain, as well as by Irish exile groups.

Plans are well advanced for the March and Rally to be held in Coventry on Sunday, 12th August. This event is organised by the Coventry Prisoners Defence Committee. The aims of the Coventry demonstration are: Free the Coventry Seven; Free all Irish Political Hostages; End Internment, and British troops out now.

The March leaves Hearsall Common near All Souls Church at 2.30 p.m. It will proceed to the Precinct and end with a rally. The speakers will include Michael Gallagher (Sinn Fein, Birmingham) and Gerry Lawless (I.M.G.).

We are confident that the Irish community in Coventry will give this demonstration their full support. C.B.D.C. meets every Monday at 8.30 p.m. in the Hertford Tavern. All supporters are invited to attend.



Our photographer took this picture of what was once a beautiful little flat in Unity Walk . . . but this was the way it was left after a raid by English troops. More pictures of the destruction appear on page eight.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your views, comments, criticisms are always welcome, just send them to the Editor, 182 Brompton Park, Belfast.

Sir — Who is responsible for the National Coalition Government's policy on the North?

It would be, indeed, both tragic and reprehensible if Mr. Cosgrave, as Taoiseach, were to forsake the Irish claim to sovereignty on this island against British claims, whatever the pressures to do so were. Not only would he have abandoned the claim made by the leaders of 1916, which were endorsed by the first Dail (and the second) but he would also be repudiating Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith and his own father.

To do so, simply because he was bemused or overwhelmed by the vigorous verbal virtuosity and narrow intellectual arrogance of Dr. Garret FitzGerald and Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien would be the final irony. Mr. Cosgrave is in the Sinn Féin tradition of Fine Gael and if his assumption of the office of Taoiseach has reduced him to the Redmonite policy of supporting the British Government

against the welfare of the Irish people, it would have been better for Ireland and Fine Gael had he remained forever in opposition.

God help the S.D.L.P.—they know their enemies but where are their friends?

CATHAL MAC LIAM

24 Belgrave Road,
Dublin 6.

NOW THAT Mr. Richard Burke has decided to re-write the history of Ireland and portray British oppression in our country as "a series of unfortunate but well-meant blunders," while dictatorially proclaiming himself the final arbiter of truth in these matters (R.E. interview, July 24, 1973) we, members of Irish Civil Rights Association, suggest that he might extend his powers to the re-writing of parliamentary records and portray his colleague Mr. Cooney's description of the amendment of the Offences

against the State Act as "unwarranted, unnecessary and unjust" in December, 1972, and his other colleague, Mr. Richie Ryan's forceful attempt last year to have the brutality charges against the British Government heard immediately at Strasbourg as prime examples of "unfortunate, but well-meaning blunders."

We might even suggest that if distortion of truth is possible, why not deletion, which would avoid embarrassment to present politicians and confusion to future historians.

THOMAS FAY,

P.R.O.,

Dublin Committee
Irish Civil Rights
Association

14 Parnell Square,
Dublin 1.

Due to increased operating costs we are reluctantly compelled to increase the paper to 5 pence.

32, New Garden St., Stafford St 17 4Db
England, 26th July.

Dear Sir—Would it be possible, through the medium of your newspaper, to find out the name and address of a young lady who sent two copies of your paper and a letter to Joe Farrington, who is at present serving a sentence in Stafford Prison? These were sent to him earlier this year, and although he eventually received the newspapers, he was not given the letter. I visit Joe whenever possible, and on my last visit, he asked me if I would write to you, and make the above request, as he would like to write and thank the lady in question. If you do manage to find out, could you let me know her name and address, and I will pass this on to Joe?

Hoping that you can oblige us.
I remain, yours sincerely,
JOYCE WILLIAMS (Mrs.)

Thomas Clarke Sinn Féin Cumann,
Taghnavin, Lurgan, 26th July.

Dear Sir—I wish to describe an incident that happened in the above Estate the other evening.

A young boy went into a shop in the Estate for a bottle of milk. This shop refuses point blank to serve British Army personnel and the thirsty soldier knew it was useless to try to buy milk for himself, so he stopped the young lad and took the milk off him and drank it. Admittedly, he gave the child the money for the milk and told him to buy another one but actions like this, which are doubtless meant to provoke, do cause reactions (and sometimes very violent reactions).

It was a petty incident and hardly worth mentioning but it goes to show how these things can accumulate over a period of time and produce a seething hatred that eventually spills over into rioting.

Yours etc., BIDDY REYNOLDS
Press Officer.

From the Irish Civil Rights Association,
14, Parnell Square, Dublin.

Dear Sir—The Irish Civil Rights Association demand the immediate release of TONY MURPHY, from Dublin, who was arrested and brutally beaten by British troops following our protest to Armagh Jail on Sunday last.

We make this demand because of the obvious incapability of such a bigoted Orange Magistrate to give him a fair trial and so that he may be given immediate medical treatment because of the severity of his injuries which were confirmed by an RUC doctor in the Court.

We likewise demand that Whitelaw remove this bigoted Magistrate from his post immediately. This must be done if even a pretence of democracy is to be retained in the Six Counties, as was not shown by the harassment of our supporters on Sunday and the treatment meted out to Tony Murphy by England's latest Black and Tans and his subsequent 'trial' by a so-called Magistrate of Law, who after imposing the sentence added: "How one wishes that these people would stay in their own country instead of coming over here and causing trouble."

Needless to say we were in our own country and the trouble was caused by British thugs and not by the Irish Civil Rights Marchers.



DECENT PEOPLE INTIMIDATED 24-HOURS A DAY IN THE SIX COUNTIES

STATEMENT ON ARREST AND HARASSMENT.

Name and address withheld for security reasons.

Age 15 years.

On Saturday about six weeks ago I was lifted out of Divis Flats about 3 p.m. in the afternoon. I was taken to Hasting Street and kept for two hours in the interrogation centre. A plain clothed black man interrogated me. The main questions were "Did I know any I.R.A. men" and things relating to the I.R.A. activities. I said "I just know of Martin Meehin and Dutch Doherty from the News-papers.

Since then I have been arrested three and four times a week. Every-time I was lifted (after the first time) different soldiers threatened to shoot me because they accused me of shooting their mates. These are the Glouchesters and are stationed in Mulhouse Street and Hasting Street and Albert Street Barracks.

On all occasions except the first occasion and to-night I was beaten with rifles, kicked with boots and dug with fists, my head was bounced against the wall very often. They used to say "you tell me what you know about the I.R.A. and we will not bother you any more."

My father was not allowed to remain with me while I was being questioned he was told that they could lift me whenever and as often as they liked and they threw him out of Albert Street Barracks tonight and used foul language to him at the point of a gun.

Signed: Boy

FATHER'S STATEMENT

On every occasion on which I learnt that my son was arrested I have been refused permission to remain or accompany my son when he was being questioned. I told them that under the Law 1 was entitled to be present with him as he is only a child but was told they could do what they liked under the Special Powers Act it did not matter if he were 6, 10 or 14/15, they would lift him as often as they liked.

I would like to know if the Security Forces are breaking the law and if so what redress there is against these continuous acts of harassment.

A STATEMENT BY MRS. WILLIAMSON ABOUT HER DAUGHTER ANGELA, Aged 15.

On Friday night, 18th May about 12 p.m. a soldier called at my door and told me my daughter Angela had been arrested under the Special Powers Act Section 11 and she had been taken to Fort Monagh.

My husband and I immediately went up to the Fort and a soldier at the gate asked us who we wanted to see. I told him that I wanted my daughter out, that I had not come to see anyone. He told me that she would not get out as she was going to be questioned and to come back in about four hours time. I said that I was not leaving without her, that she was only 15 years old and should not be questioned unless her parent was with her. A soldier went inside and came back and told me that she could be questioned, that it was not in the rule book. I asked for an officer to come to speak to me, this he did, and I told him to release my daughter immediately. He told me not to worry about her, that she was only going to be questioned not beaten. I repeated that she was under age and could not be questioned unless her parent was there, he told me that she could, in emergency, at 14½ years, they could question her. He told me they were waiting for a policewoman to stay while she was being questioned. I demanded again to have her released and told him I was contacting a solicitor and ringing the newspapers. He just laughed and told me to go home and to come back in four hours. In the meantime I was put in touch with the Association for Legal Justice who phoned Fort Monagh and was told to tell me to go to Fort Monagh that my daughter was being released. I went back to the Fort just as a saracen was coming out with Angela in it. I took her out of it and took her home. A police-woman had just arrived in a land-rover as my daughter was coming out. I am making this statement for my daughters have been threatened and harassed so many times I would like something to be done. My older daughter Carol (17) has been arrested four times in ten days and has been threatened with Armagh Prison.

Mrs. A. Smyth,
151 Whiterock Road,
Belfast.

I was at court on 13th June, 1973, for the trial of my son, Anthony, aged 18 years who got seven years for a charge of possession of a 45 pistol. A forensic expert gave evidence that the ballistics tests showed negative. This sentence covered also the second charge which stated that he was acting in suspicious circumstances. The third charge was — intent to endanger life, and for that got four years. The sentences were to run concurrently.

Upon hearing the verdict we got quite a shock and his sister burst into tears. As we were leaving the court a soldier — Queen's Own Lancs. brushed past his sister Greta and as he did so he whispered "You see how easy it is for us to win." Greta historically enraged drew out her bag and struck him. Three other soldiers rushed to his aid and my son-in-law who was also in court went to Greta's defence. My son-in-law got a wound in the head with batons with necessitated seven stitches. I took Greta outside to the foyer to quieten her down. My sister-in-law went in to the sentenced boy before his departure for Long Kesh, but she didn't get in to see him the reason given was the row in Court. She asked them what happened to Hugh and was told he was awaiting an ambulance to take him to the hospital. His wife said "Can I go with him?" They said "Yes." Greta said she would go too. All three were arrested and taken to the charge office in Townhall Street. He went there and we got in to see them. We saw them separately. Hugh had not made a statement at this time and the warder said he didn't have to make a statement as he was already going up on three charges. The girls said they didn't know they were being held but they were also to appear in Court the following morning and they asked us to get a solicitor. My sister-in-law asked them about bail and they said "No chance."

Name and address withheld for security reasons.

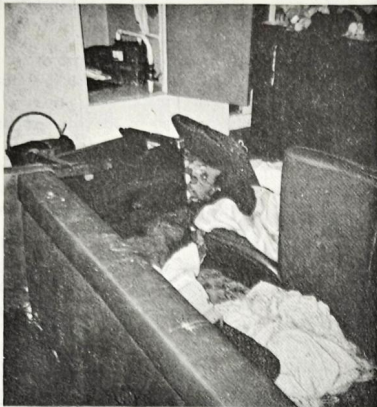
I (name & address) had drove through the army checkpoint at Estorial Park at 5.40 p.m. and drove down to Joe Sparkes chip shop to get something for my dinner. After giving my order over the counter I heard someone say "Here comes the soldiers". The time was 5.50 p.m.

I walked towards the door. I stopped inside the doorway, looking out, I saw a soldier with a sandy coloured moustache standing across the street outside the clothes shop. He pointed at me and shouted "Him". He then rushed across the road towards me. Three other soldiers came rushing towards me from different spots. They dragged me by the clothes round the corner and up Jamaica Street entry at the back of the chip shop.

They threw me against the wall of the chip shop. I thought it was going to be a usual search and placed my hands against the wall with my feet apart. The soldier with the bushy moustache kicked my feet further apart, then the soldier standing on my left-hand side said to me "You cunt" and hit me on the left-hand side of the head above the ear with the muzzle of his rifle. He then hit me again this time much harder with the muzzle. I immediately felt the blood spurting from my wound and down the side of my face. I put my hand up to the side of my head at the same time turning my head away, as I did so I saw the soldier with the sandy moustache raise his fist and he drove it into my privates, bursting my trousers with the force. I immediately dropped my hands to protect the area. I fell to my knee with the pain. A soldier who had been standing by my left kicked me with the sole of his foot, pushing me into Jamaica Street. A soldier standing in Jamaica Street beside where I fell who had his back to me, turned around and kicked me on the right eye cheek bone.

I staggered to my feet, a crowd had gathered by this time, I staggered towards them. I was put into a car. I 'passed out' and the next I remember was waking up in Mr.'s home in Etna Drive. Mr.drove me to Oldpark R.U.C. Station where I gave a statement to Sgt. Bradley.

The soldiers never at anytime during the incident asked me for identification or said anything other than the three words mentioned previously in my statement.



WATCH THE ENGLISH SCENE

The past few months have seen a spate of conspiracy charges being brought against trade union militants and Irish Republicans. The results so far have been inclusive in England. Many important trials have yet to begin. In Shrewsbury (24 building workers from North Wales); Winchester (the Belfast ten) and Birmingham (the Coventry Seven), have attracted much attention among Irish exiles.

This week five Birmingham building workers were committed for trial for "conspiracy" to occupy an SOS employment agency. Occupation is a civil offence, "conspiracy" is "criminal."

The results of the first "trial" at Mold have been encouraging. There, seven building workers on various charges of conspiracy to intimidate fellow-workers were acquitted.

They will also face "trial" in Shrewsbury with the rest of the 24. But their acquittal at Mold may put doubts on the State's ability to get a conviction in Shrewsbury.

Republicans and Trade Unionists in Britain must watch against the new tactics being used against them in English courts. Their best defence remains in their ability to organise an effective response outside the courtroom.

If the English Government do not pull out their armed forces and administration damn quick from the Six Counties, they will have trouble on their hands on the "mainland" far beyond their comprehension. We have repeatedly called on the English to stop meddling in Irish affairs. They don't listen. Perhaps a little bit of interfering in their affairs might make them sit up and take notice!

Roger Casement Remembered

THE ANNUAL ROGER CASEMENT COMMEMORATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT MURLOUGH BAY, NEAR BALLYCASTLE CO. ANTRIM, ON SUNDAY, 5th AUGUST, Commencing 3 p.m.

Prominent Northern speakers will attend

(This advert sent to us by the McCormick/McLogan Sinn Fein Cumann, Loughguille was not received until 31st July—Editor)

POLITICAL HOSTAGES RELEASE COMMITTEE

Anti-Internment Rally

WILL BE HELD IN DUNVILLE PARK
ON SUNDAY, 5th AUGUST AT 4.00 p.m.

RALLY WILL BE PRECEDED BY MARCHES FROM
VARIOUS POINTS.

NORTHERN IRELAND AID FUND

DANCE

will be held on

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10th, in ST. CLEMENTS,
THAMES SIDE IRISH CLUB, OXFORD

Music by the DOWNBEATS SHOWBAND

8.00 — 11.30 p.m. ADMISSION 50p

SINN FEIN

AERIOCHT AND TALENT COMPETITIONS IN MUSIC,
SINGING AND DANCING

At Bexcourt, Bailieboro, Co. Cavan on Sunday, 5th August, at 3 p.m.

Leading artistes will attend : : Admission 25p

Proceeds in aid of Republican Prisoners Dependents Fund.