

REPUBLICAN NEWS

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THE VOICE OF
REPUBLICAN ULSTER

VICTORY IS IN FIGHTING-ON

A front page article in last Saturday's "NEWSLETTER" reports that dissident British Army officers were pressuring G.O.C. Creasey into getting little Roy Mason to shut-up about his boasts of defeating the IRA.

The contradiction which appeared in the story, though possibly this was included by the reporter to ease loyalist fears that their sectarian, privileged statelet was taking a bashing, was that the Brit officers held the belief that they were winning anyway but just didn't want to antagonise Republicans into a temporary violent reaction!

The truth of the matter is that Brit officers on-the-ground were being continually embarrassed by little Mason's boasts of a defeated IRA against the background of a strong and widespread bombing campaign causing millions of pounds worth of damage and which was increasing political instability.

One rare and candid story in the "DAILY MIRROR" emphasised that since Mason's end-of-year statement "three businesses a day" had been wiped out. What the media will have to grasp, without backpedalling in their explanations, is that recent

IRA activity isn't a specific reply to Mason but is representative of the revolutionary IRA flexing its muscle.

LYNCH.

On Radio Telefis Eireann (RTE) last Sunday Jack Lynch, Taoiseach of the 26-county Free State, repeated the Fianna Fail request for a British declaration of intent to withdraw from the Six-Counties.

This was novel since such a request hadn't been emphasised since it was first made under pressure from the "republican wing" in Fianna Fail some two years ago, and made whilst out of government.

However, the British presence in the north political imperialism-treated this request with predictable anger and derision, and the loyalists did their usual bit of screaming, with the Official Unionists refusing to discuss "interim devolution", or any agreement with the SDLP in any form of government. Strong IRA activity had made this collaboration, under British Imperialism, impossible anyway.

EFFECTS

But the effect of Lynch's remark, in a sheer "nationalist"

sense, was a tendency to outflank the Republican People, who have fought so hard and made many sacrifices.

Nationalistically we have sprung out of, and base ourselves in the oppressed Irish people; in the north oppressed by Loyalism and the British presence, but in the south oppressed by political economic exploitation, not so much open to the appeals of patriotism. Our support, where it is strong in

the 26-counties is often based on appeals to patriotism ONLY, where it should be based also on our answers to combat economic exploitation. That is why calls from Fianna Fail for Irish Unity will always tend to outflank us, unless we also carry the sympathy of the Labouring People.

Painted on the walls of Republican areas throughout Ireland is the slogan: "Out of the ashes of '69, arose the Provisionals".

Their task, never, never let it be forgotten, or compromised on, is to give all the People of Ireland a PEACE WITH JUSTICE in the only way possible - the Democratic, Socialist Republic.

Only the present courageous armed struggle, of IRA Volunteers planting bombs against the British presence, of People in the occupied six-counties resisting repression, of the Republican People in the 26-counties providing support and the propaganda back-up, can force the British out of Ireland, by humiliating and defeating cocky little dictators like Roy Mason.

This activity which forces all of us to be conscious of our power when we act as one, can create the necessary confidence in the oppressed Irish People to throw off ALL their shackles and govern themselves as the working-class.

The Brits, the Loyalists, the SDLP and Sticks, the Clergy and Fianna Fail attempt to wear down the courageous people with the slogan: "Seven Years is Enough. Where is Your Victory?"

**VICTORY IS FIGHTING ON!
WE WILL NEVER LIE DOWN!**

LATE NEWS



On Monday (9.1.78) a new and more repressive policy was introduced by Mason's prison regime in yet another effort to break the blanket protests in Long Kesh.

This latest push by the regime follows Archbishop O'Fiach's visit to the concentration camp and there is speculation among Republican prisoners that the regime is putting in the boot for fear the Catholic Primate uses his considerable influence to assist the blanket men.

In putting in the boot screws are now keeping Republican prisoners in solitary 24 hours a day. This is in breach of their own laws. The blanket men are in fact being refused toilet and medical facilities.

On Tuesday 10th the O.C. of H3 was taken from H3 and to date no information is forthcoming on his whereabouts.

As we go to press there are unconfirmed reports that this comrade is engaged in a hunger and thirst strike.

WAR NEWS

Wednesday 4th January 1978.

A Prison Officer is injured when a booby-trapped bomb exploded inside his car at Saint-field Road, Belfast.

An Active-Service-Unit travelled into the busy thoroughfare of Great Victoria Street and planted two bombs in an electrical shop.

There were five bomb attacks in Donegall Street this evening. The targets were two furniture shops, a post office, a florists and an Estate Agents. Big fires broke out after the blasts.

Thursday 5th January.

Great Victoria Street, Belfast, was again attacked for the second day running. An IRA Active-service-unit led by a young woman entered the Londontown drapery shop and held staff at gunpoint while two bombs were

placed in different parts of the shop.

In Hobsons photographic and radio shop at the junction of Hope Street another ASU planted a bomb.

The bombs exploded starting fierce fires which caused hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage, seriously deflating the confidence of the business community who had lately been praising the repression of nationalist ghetto areas by Mason.

Businessman Hobson's brother, Derek Hobson, comperes the television show New Faces, and was an organiser of the "Peace Rally" in Trafalgar Sq., London (banned to Sinn Fein and the Troops Out Movement).

Friday 6th January.

The Capstan Bar in Main Street, Newcastle County Down, was bombed and destroyed



by three IRA Volunteers in a late evening attack. Before they left they told management, "You'll not be able to have any more Brits in here!"

Saturday 7th January.

A shop in Gresham St., bombed in the afternoon, started a big fire which engulfed the entire building. The shop was about fifty feet from the back of the Grand Central Hotel British Army look-out post.

Sunday 7th January.

In Strabane, Co.Derry,

two bombs exploded at different parts of a flour mill.

Monday 9th January.

A total of five bombs were planted by a three man ASU in the Irish Bonding company's depot in the Pennyburn Industrial Estate on the outskirts of Derry. The subsequent explosions caused considerable damage to stocks.

British soldiers outside Giles Army Post, Belfast, came under gun attack in the afternoon, but no casualties were reported.

Tuesday 10th January.

A double bomb attack on a store in Academy St. Belfast, started an outbreak of fire which British Army firefighters couldn't handle. The building, owned by Frederick Thomas was completely destroyed and will have to be demolished.

A filling station on the Moy Road, outside Dungannon in East Tyrone was bombed at 9.30 this evening causing a fire which destroyed the building.

Agents, raids and promotions

The national flag is at half mast
The shops close
The blinds begin to be drawn
Silence falls on the city
But the insults of soldiers are heard.

The coffin is lifted patiently
Under the tri-colour
Covered with wreaths
The hearse moves with love and respect
But the insults of soldiers are heard.

The truth was left at the Republican plot
In the company of the kings of Ireland
The measured sound of marchers was heard
Shots were fired above the graves
But the truth is heard.

Insults will not be given in English,
For the sake of the generations to come
I hear the generation that went before us
I hear the last call on the bugle
Irishmen I was asked to speak today
About our noble comrade the Englishman.

Madra Rua.
A O Cathain



HOBSON'S SHOP BOMBED IN GT. VICTORIA St. BELFAST

The Ard-Chomhairle of Sinn Fein, at its first meeting of the New Year, held on Saturday last, considered the work programme for Sinn Fein for the coming year.

The political struggle for a British withdrawal and the creation of a New Federal Ireland based on the four provinces will be intensified. Many other options and solutions have been tried and failed. BRITS OUT remains the prerequisite for a lasting peace in Ireland and Sinn Fein will direct its efforts towards accomplishing this.

The question of full EEC membership, particularly in relation to fishing limits at the moment, is also of great importance. There is no prospect whatever of properly developing our resources and solving the unemployment problem within the EEC, and Sinn Fein will seek to explain this to the Irish people. We are taking a keen interest in the forthcoming elections to the EEC Assembly and are considering how best we can use this occasion to organise strong opposition to full membership. We shall also be strengthening our links with freedom movements in other countries during 1978.

Mr Jack Lynch's latest pronouncements are of little consequence when one considers his record in 1969-72, when he failed on several occasions, much more propitiously than the present time, to lead the Irish people in completing the 800 years' struggle for freedom. Vague calls to Britain to think in terms of Irish unity are of little use without exerting some kind of pressure and without plans for the future such as our EIRE NUA policy.

Mr. Lynch's pseudo-Republican statements probably resulted from his being stung by Mr. Kevin Boland's latest book which accuses him of betraying Flanna Fail's ideals and policy.

THE YEAR AHEAD

“The political struggle for a British withdrawal and the creation of a New Federal Ireland based on the four provinces will be intensified.

BRITS OUT remains the prerequisite for a lasting peace in Ireland and Sinn Fein will direct its efforts towards accomplishing this.”



THE VICTORY

A second year has started,
Another year of pain
and
loneliness.
Men and women, their
struggle is one.
Degraded day and
night,
locked up like animals,
They live, wrapped in a
blanket,
In England's blocks of
shame.
Because they fought,
for freedom and peace
And still resist their
oppressors
And still they fight,
Because, to fight, is to
win.

BRENDAN DAVIDSON
CAGE 10

COMHGAIIRDEAS

Congratulations and best wishes to Brendan and Frances Magill in their new venture as (Re) publicans of the "Old Barracks Bar" Ballyshannon.

May the drink never cease to flow in 1978.
The McCormack Family
Dundrum Dublin.

THE CLOSURE OF STRATHEARN AUDIO

Following the disclosure on Friday the 6th January, 1978 that 50% of the work force in Strathearn Audio were to be made redundant, it is obvious that the British Government's much publicised Industrial Projects in West Belfast are now on the verge of collapse. Coupled with the decline in Ulster Crystal, the run down in Strathearn Audio illustrated the lack of imaginative planning for the nationalist ghetto's of West Belfast.

The British Government's failure to harness Industrial Potential in an area of chronic unemployment is in direct contrast to the proven abilities of the Falls Taxi Association which over the last four years created and sustained, without external aid and in the face of organised government opposition, employment for almost five hundred men.

At present the British Government, with the support of certain local

"Business" interests, are attempting to stifle the development of the Falls Taxi Association and if possible to eliminate it completely by legal strangulation by withholding recognition of the Westside Insurance scheme despite the fact that the strenuous legal requirements have been met.

Despite this opposition the Falls Taxi Association is determined to consolidate itself as a major employer in West Belfast, and is con-

fident that such examples as Strathearn Audio and Ulster Crystal will strengthen its case and expose the hypocrisy of the British Government, and the Falls Taxi Association will endeavour to assist those workers inside both concerns and those recently tossed on to the unemployment scrap heap.

PETER DONNELLY
FOR THE F.T.A.

FREE DERRY NEWS

PEOPLE TAKE TO THE STREETS AGAIN

While Roy Mason's utterances about "normality returning" and the public "rejecting the men of violence" fall about our ears we in Derry Sinn Fein are heartened by a different kind of return to normality. We think it normal, in this upside-down political and military statelet, for decent human beings to go out onto the streets and protest against men and women, boys and girls being tortured and imprisoned, and held in sub-human conditions for periods of years.

We think it a very normal human reaction to join with one's fellow human beings and condemn this long-standing, slow-festering political atrocity. Just as it is normal for a mother to rise up and protect her child against harm, it is normal for the families and friends of these prison-

ers of war to seek to protect these young people from further harm at the hands of mercenary prison warders and the torture-happy RUC. We think it a normal reaction for someone, seeing great evil inflicted on those he loves and respects, particularly if that evil and harm is inflicted while these loved ones are held helpless by well-armed bullies vastly outnumbering them, to react with disgust and horror, and to seek to do all in one's power to put an end to that evil.

Thus we are not surprised, but glad that normal and healthy human reactions have returned to all those who are now joining in protests on behalf of the political prisoners. For too long, it has been a relatively few working on the prisoners' behalf, while many have tried to close their eyes to the injustices and evil perpe-

trated by the Brits. Perhaps it was a feeling of hopelessness that came over people, as they saw such suffering and degradation inflicted on their loved ones. Perhaps it was that Mason's propaganda experts with their big budgets and access to television and radio were succeeding in intimidating a war-weary people for ten years is a long time, and eight hundred is even a long time in which to get weary of struggle.

But we rejoice that at last the people as a whole have struggled off their knees again and joined all those dedicated and courageous people who have continuously been on the streets, and working in every possible way, not only for the return of political status to Irish POW's but for their amnesty and release, and for a society where such social atrocities can never again take place. We welcome all these people back, and en-

courage them to persevere. Nearly 1,000 people marched into Guildhall Square on Sunday 1st January to make felt their disgust at Mason's policies and to show solidarity with the POW's, and nearly 1,000 voices rang out in a pledge to make 1978 the Year of the Political Prisoner and get the truth about this situation out to the world.

PRO
DERRY SINN FEIN.



BRITISH ARMY ON THE STREETS OF DERRY - Their governments policy of repression against the Irish People, especially in the Jails and Concentration Camps is increasingly being countered by the people coming out onto the streets in protest.



A MEMBER OF THE P.F.S. EXAMINES DOWNSTAIRS SHELL OF No. 42 DIVISMORE Pk.



EXTENSIVE DAMAGE CAUSED TO GROUND FLOOR

THE P.F.S. IN ACTION

Last Friday members of the people's fire service in Ballymurphy Belfast tackled a serious house fire at the home of a pensioner at 42 Divismore Park. The home of Mrs Mc Kee was well alight by the time the PFS arrived but the fire

was successfully contained to the down stairs.

The PFS arrived some 30 minutes before the British Army's "Green Goddess". Brit personnel stood by as members of the PFS were engaged in a clean-up operation. At

one stage PFS members took axes from the "Green Goddess" to open floorboards in an attempt to dampen smoldering embers.

Speaking afterwards an organiser of the PFS said he was very pleased with the turnout.

He said that this was the second serious fire the PFS had dealt with in the Ballymurphy area since the firemen's strike began eight weeks ago. The PFS, he added, continued to support the demands of the striking firemen.

FESTIVAL OF IRISH CULTURE

CLONARD MARTYRS SINN FEIN / GERALD McAULEY SINN FEIN PRESENT A FESTIVAL OF IRISH CULTURE

IN THE LAKE GLEN HOTEL ON THURSDAY 19th JANUARY, 1978 at 8.30 p.m.

WITH CLADDAGH (ULSTER TOP FOLK GROUP) LENA O'SHEA (MUNSTER'S QUEEN OF SONG) ST JOHN'S IRISH DANCERS (Ulster Champions) IRISH WAR PIPES DISPLAY. Taillie £1.25p (includes free ballot).

This function is being held in commemoration of the 59th anniversary of the First Dail Eireann and a lecture will be delivered in the course of the night by a prominent Republican. Tickets available at 85B Falls Road Belfast.

A CASE AGAINST CASTLEREAGH

Castlereagh—an RUC barracks or a house of terror? The sign outside the building, protected by high wire fences, says "Castlereagh R.U.C. Station". The uniforms of those who man it are those of the RUC. Its daily routine is outwardly the same as any other RUC barracks. When one casts aside these facades and looks deep down into its ugly heart, a different picture begins to emerge.

In spite of Kenneth Newman's denials, Castlereagh is an Institute of the state set up for a specific purpose. Its methods were always known to him. He basked in its glory in his monthly report to Mr. Mason on convictions for "terrorist" offences. Castlereagh could easily have been any RUC barracks in the Six Counties. This fact we should always be aware of. Bear in mind that in law, even emergency law, statements produced in court are only valid if taken and witnessed in a 'police' station.

Having abolished internment, and having learnt so much from Ballykelly and Palace Barracks, Holywood, the need for a Castlereagh was obvious having rid themselves of more infamous interrogation centres and donned the cloak of lawful activity in order to have statements from their new chamber of horrors accepted in court. Working under the protection of the law, under the silence of police doctors and a massive public relations effort by the Northern Ireland Office, their hideous work was showing success. Guilt or innocence is secondary as long as someone "pays the piper." As manu-

facturers of confessions they set about their work with the exuberance of children at play, just like the South African state police on Steve Biko or the Waffen S.S. in Hitler's Germany.

But that fatal human weakness, greed, let them down. They began to spread their net much wider than Belfast, which Castlereagh serves as an RUC Barracks. Soon their victims were coming from all over the Six Counties. They have recreated a further interrogation centre in their lust for social revenge. Why, otherwise, and to what purpose, would they transfer people from distant

areas such as Derry, where there is garrisoned a large RUC force and a brand new £1½ million RUC barracks here in our midst?

Perhaps it is too late to help those who are already sentenced to heavy prison terms on nothing more than their own statements extracted in pain within the walls of Castlereagh. But surely we can do something for those still awaiting "trial." Castlereagh has served the current regime well. But now its foundations are cracking, and it is up to us as a community to bring it down like Jericho.

Statement, issued by Brady-Carr Sinn Fein Cumann, Derry.



As manufacturers of confessions they (R.U.C.) set about their work with the exuberance of children at play, just like the South African state police on Steve Biko or the Waffen SS in Hitler's Germany.

PRISON CONDITIONS IN ENGLAND FOR BUNCRANA MAN RAY Mc LAUGHLIN

We are the family of Raymond McLaughlin, who is a political prisoner serving 12 years in an English prison. Recently, Amnesty International, in its annual report, expressed concern about political prisoners in England. We agree fully with that Amnesty Report's statements and would like, in addition, to inform the public about the history of our son and brother, Raymond, since his imprisonment in England.

Nov. 1974 In Winslow Green Prison, his injuries at the hands of Special Branch officers and prison warders included (1) the severing of a birth-mark consisting of loose skin from his back. (2) bootmarks and bleeding on his back and shoulders.

March 1975-Summer 1976 His constant beatings in Gartree Prison resulted in the malfunction of his kidneys and bowels, and a constant pain in his back.

Autumn 1976-He was transferred to Hull Prison, where along with the constant nightly beatings by National Front prison warders, he was forced to drink his own urine.

September. 1976 to May 1977. After the Hull Prison riots protesting against the abominable conditions in this Prison, Raymond was to spend

the next nine months in SOLITARY CONFINEMENT in Wandsworth Prison.

Since May 1977 Raymond has been in Albany Prison in the Isle of Wight where we, his family, have reason to believe that he is now held in solitary confinement, and where the quality of food is giving grave cause for concern.

As well as this, Albany Prison is the furthest possible from Raymond's family. His wife, Mary, must undergo a 2-day journey from her home in Birmingham to see him. His father and brothers must undergo a 3-day journey from Donegal, even by plane, to see him.

In conclusion, we would again like to express agreement with what Amnesty International's report has stated, and we express the hope that other families and friends of Donegal prisoners in England will come together to combat this injustice and all injustices suffered by all Irish political prisoners, our sons, daughters, brothers and sisters in English prisons. We express our solidarity with the families of all Irish political prisoners, both here in Ireland, in England, Scotland and elsewhere the governments see fit to hold these Irish POW's.

THE McLAUGHLIN FAMILY
ST. JUDE'S
LUDDEN
BUNCRANA, CO. DONEGAL.



THE SECRET OF FREEDOM

Orations read by gravesides can never tell his truth,
How never above his heights over the level of war,
He debated with words of hate, dictated to his land of joy,
Or how he was sinned against in his youth;
What vile actions made him make bombs,
Shoot dead alien soldiers, fight the enemies around him,
Hunt and be hunted day and night,
Though weary, search for modern weaponry to end the horror;
Lecture sections of fresh volunteers.

Even his enemies cried, he was just like you and me
Most times they lied saying he was just ordinary.

Yet with all his courage, he longed for home
Where; state his enemies he didn't belong,
To use his skills with building tools,
Or sit in silence, or sing a song,
Or answer his children's questions on living,
So fatal, so vital for a long forgiving.

MADRA RUA.

LONG MARCH FOR PRISONERS FUND

Sinn Fein members from Bundoran and Ballyshannon took part in a sponsored walk on Saturday 17th December in aid of the dependants of republican prisoners.

The route of the walk was from Bundoran into Kesh, then via the Moy road into Ballyshannon and back to Bundoran. About 30 marchers took part and they included local elected representatives, Joe O'Neill, Bundoran UDC, and Anthony O'Malley Daly, Ballyshannon Town Commissioners.

Upon arrival in Ballyshannon a public meeting was addressed by veteran Derry republican Sean

Keenan, who exhorted the people not to forget the republican prisoners in jails in Ireland, England and Scotland and in particular those "on the blanket" in 'H' block, Long Kesh, who will be spending the Christmas wrapped up in a blanket in their cells.

A spokesman for the marchers said that they were very grateful to all who assisted through sponsorship and those who had given donations. The entire proceeds are destined for An Cumann Cabhrach - Prisoners Dependents Fund - to alleviate the hardships suffered by the families of republican prisoners.

ADVICE CENTRE

BURGLED

Turf Lodge Advice Centre was broken into on 3rd December and strangely enough nothing was taken. The bolt bar on the door was removed and yet not even a single poster was taken.

From 8.00 pm last night the British Army entered Turf Lodge en masse with the count being six saracens and three jeeps with patrols tagging along. The Bin-lids spread across the estate letting all know where the "Uninvited" were.

Could it be that the Advice Centre also had "uninvited" people too; and if so it shows that the Advice Centres, far from disappearing, are in fact giving the people of an area a constructive method on which their problems can be solved, from all problems, be it Social Security, Housing repairs, or the arrest of peoples' sons, daughters, husbands and wives.

Peter Dowling points to the root of sectarianism being the marginal privileges of the Protestant Ascendancy. A root nourished by the Brit partition system.

When we face the problem of how to forge unity between the Nationalist and Loyalist communities what we are really talking about is how to under-cut Protestant sectarianism. For it is this sectarianism which is the prime stumbling block to inter-communal unity.

The sectarianism which dictates that "Protestants are clean, tidy and self-reliant" while supposedly "Catholics are dirty, undisciplined and stupid".

The sectarianism which has inspired the foul butchery of countless "motiveless murders" over the past years.

The sectarianism which means that one million loyalists violently oppose any significant movement towards either civil rights or bread-and-butter equality; let alone moves towards national unity and independence.

POISONOUS FLOWERS.

But in order to destroy these poisonous flowers of sectarianism we have to

THE AXE TO THE ROOT

dig out its very root. The real basis for cross-sectarian unity will only exist when the real cause has been destroyed.

It is no use just nibbling at the visible signs by "more and better" education and prayers as proposed by the Peace People.

It is no use just gaining fragile unity on bread-and-butter issues while hiding "republican" colours as proposed by the Sticks.

The axe to the root is the only remedy. And the root cause of sectarianism is the material benefits of the Protestant Ascendancy.

RELATIVE PRIVILEGES.

Since its creation the structure of the "Northern Ireland" state has reinforced the position of the Protestant Ascendancy.

The pattern of life throughout the six counties is such that the "Protestant people" receive relative privileges compared with the "Catholic people".

That is, they get more in quantity and better in quality of the basic essentials of everyday life. They form a labour aristocracy which gets favoured provision of jobs and houses.

This is the essential practical meaning of the

By
Peter
Dowling.

Protestant Ascendancy as it affects most people.

NECESSARY CONDITION.

Now once the problem of forging unity is posed in an axe-to-the-root way we are beginning to make progress.

The question becomes how to break the Ascendancy. For the abolition of the marginal privileges of

the Ascendancy will be a necessary pre-condition for the withering away of sectarianism.

Essentially Loyalist ideas of "supremacy" are a propaganda attempt to justify privilege.

A perfect parallel is the way white Europe attempted to justify carving up black Africa by promoting racist ideas of white supremacy. The

The Union means the Brits acting as guardians of the Ascendancy.

In August 69 when the Brits were sent in, Captain Lawrence Orr, leader of the Unionist MPs at Westminster and Grand Master of the Grand Orange Council of the World exulted: "We're getting the troops and we're getting them without strings".



CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM H BLOCK

By A YOUNG LAD IN THE H-BLOCK

The following letter was written by a young lad in H-Block on a few scraps of paper and was smuggled out to his Belfast mother. She has given us permission to

reproduce the letter, parts of which we have edited names out of. He makes reference to a rare visit at Christmas, and we publish the letter because we

think it carries well the human spirit and shows the tortured hearts which the British regime has bricked up in 'H'-Block.

Tuesday Night
20th December 1977.

Hello Mum,

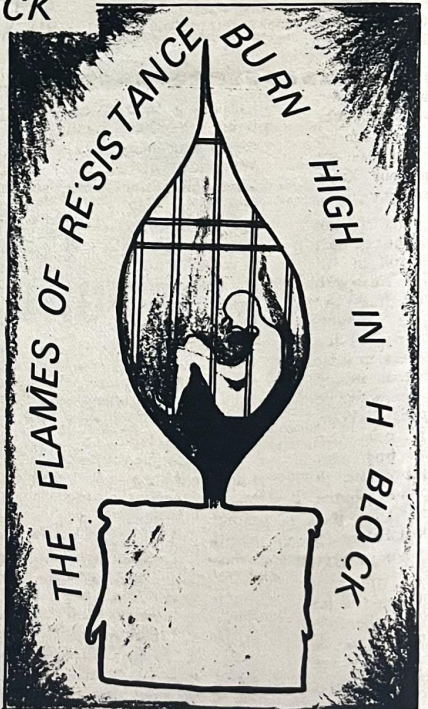
This is just a wee note that I'm writing to you and I hope it will at least brighten you up. Well before I start, I got your letter at the start of the month, and I was glad to hear from you, I replied to it so I hope you get it before Christmas; I think you should. I wrote in your letter that's in the post, telling you that I haven't heard from Bernie since October.

that's cause I got two letters one from Marie and one from you in November, and I got one from you this month. I'll not get another because of the visit, but I have written about it in the other letter so I'm not going to write it all again but it's not your fault so don't you worry over it.

Well Mum not much has happened in here. Remember I was telling you about the food getting messed about well it's mostly stopped now as far as the

U.V.F. orderlies are concerned in the wing but before that we got two dead mice in the soup, and once they wetted into our tea believe it or not. We threw the lot out, but the one who was behind it all was moved to another block, the rest are too afraid to do it, so it's not too bad now.

As far as I know the Governors are going to offer us out on Christmas day for a couple of hours T.V. watching but I can't see us getting out, as they will want us to wear the trousers I'm near sure, and that's





whites in Southern Africa are "clean, tidy and self-reliant" while the black people are supposedly "dirty, undisciplined and stupid".

It will be material equality which will create the climate for equal-thinking. Widespread cross-sectarian unity can only come when the Loyalist people have the same immediate interests as the Nationalist people.

HISTORIC PROP.

So what is the prop of this Ascendancy which breeds sectarianism? The prop is the Brit partition system. Through maintaining the border and the Orange statelet

the Brits have guaranteed the Loyalists their privileges, and thus nourished the root of sectarianism.

The union means the Brits acting as guardians of the Ascendancy. So "Brits out" will knock away the historic prop of sectarianism. And to smash partition will be to smash the mechanism through which privilege prospers.

This means cross-sectarian unity can only come through "Brits out" and smashing partition. A United Ireland is therefore the only way to unite the people not just North and South, but also within the six counties.

Next week I will take a look at this process in "The Only Road To Unity".

not on with us no way. If they let us wear our blankets or towels we will take it, at least we are eating our Xmas dinner anyway.

Well Mum I got moved into the cell next door. I'm still in 'B' Wing; I'm in with Ned Flynn from A/Town, he's alright, the second one on the blanket he was, at least we come from around the same area, so we've something to talk about. Brado is now two cells down from me, E. Foy got moved to H3 about two months ago. I don't know if I told you that before or not, so I don't see him. At least he will have Billy, Matt, and Gal for company, the others are still in c wing so is Rodgie. I only see Tom 'cause I said there is nothing much

happening in here although they have found a new way to mess us. We are'n't getting our Xmas cards until Christmas Eve; they are a laugh are'n't they. Anyway Mum I'm okay and in good health, so don't you be worrying too much. I was at the dentist twice last month, got my teeth seen too, only need two fillings anyway. I haven't got my glasses yet, but it shouldn't be long until I do.

What about yourself Mum how are you feeling and coping at the minute, in good health I hope. How's everyone at home doing, all okay, and doing well. How are the kids coming on at school, I think Margo will do well, what about Gerard is he still the same wee tearaway with his witty remarks.



The Professional Peace People

BY CONAL CEARNACH.

I'm beginning to sound like a record', this is just one of the many profound statements uttered by the once ne'er do well, now well-to-do Betty Williams P.P.P. (Professional Peace Person).

The people of Belfast and of the whole of Ireland must agree with her as very few (approx one thousand) turned up in the city centre to listen to her now cracked and badly scraped old 78. As the saying goes "You can fool some of the people some of the time" etc. The would-be starlets Mairaid and Betty thought they would be returning to a Mary Peter's type welcome but alas for them this was not the case "Open the gates and let the people in" said the master of deceit Claran McKeown.

NO MANDATE TO SPEAK FOR THE PEOPLE.

The people of Ireland may crave for peace but they are most certainly not as gullible as the famous trio Betty, Mairaid, and Claran imagine. The people, after nine years of Brit Jackboot treatment, are aware enough to realize that the said trio have nothing to offer and that they are nothing but opportunists. Over the past few months dozens of letters have appeared in the local press stating quite clearly that the "Peace People" (SIC) have no mandate to speak for the people of Ireland.

A TWO WAY SPLIT WITH EIGHTY GRAND.

Through their actions the "Peace People" have shown that they are insincere, incompetent, pleasure-seeking egotists and the fact that Mairaid and Betty are drawing five thousand pounds a year each only adds fuel to their funeral pyre. This peace pair really kicked their small band of supporters in the teeth when they declared tearfully on television that all members of the peace movement played a part in winning The Nobel Peace Prize and therefore it belongs to them all, but that nonetheless the girls, Mairaid and Betty, had decided to do a two way split with the eighty grand. Mairaid intending to buy a fur coat and a husband and Betty is to pay off a two thousand pound overdraft. Debts no doubt, incurred at the hairdressers, opticians and last but not least the photographers.

THE GOOSE THAT LAYS THE GOLDEN EGGS.

Mairaid and Betty tried to con the master conman into accepting twenty seven thousand pounds of the spoils not realising that Claran has been a professional "Peace" person for too long and has the wit not to kill the goose that is laying the Golden Eggs.

CLARAN POLLS 154 VOTES IN DUBLIN SOUTH WEST.

Claran has been on the go for a long time. Nevin Arthur, in the Hibernia Oct 22 1976, described him as "The Professional Peace Person" and goes on to relate how Claran emerged as an apologist for the stickies in an official IRA/IRSP Row in '75. Nevin further reveals how Claran polled 154 votes in the general election. For the Dublin South West Constituency. He goes on to state that McKeown's was an Independent Platform although emphatically radical and republican.

PERSONAL COFFERS OF MAIRAIID AND BETTY.

As can be clearly seen Claran blows with the wind and has done for a long time. The peace movement is about to sink into the mire weighed down by its phoney leaders and eighty thousand pounds which have went into the personal coffers of Mairaid and Betty. British and right wing historians will record a lot of nonsense about the peace people as they did about their generals and troops in the last war, but the people, the oppressed people of Ireland will remember and pass on by word of mouth, if need be, the real truth about "The Professional Peace People".

I think there's Brains there somewhere (Hal). Has Bobby started chasing girls yet, I remember you telling me about him and wee Teddy O'Hagan, the lady killer. Well tell the three of them that I was asking for them and miss them very much. Marie, what's she doing with herself has she started work yet. Is she still in the club working? What nights does she work? I'll probably ask you all this on the visit but I'll write it incase I forget. Well Mum I hope you got the pass alright. I'm really looking forward to Friday to seeing you all, it seems like ages since I seen you...well it has been has'n't it, I miss you all so very much, and never have so much in all my life before.

I sit in here and wonder when it's going

to end, I'm sure everybody does, I don't like you worrying over me, but I know you are all behind me and are doing all you possibly can for me and the lads, and I can't thank you enough. I'm really happy and proud of you Mum and I'm prepared to do my full 'seven' on the Blanket because I've all of you behind me, and that's where my strength comes from. I'll never wear that garb and you know that Mum.

How are the protests going? We hear nothing in here, about them and it's been months since I read a newspaper and that's why I ask you for scéal about the Turf, who's in, and bits of news about the estate. Don't forget to put that in the letters too. I sound like Amy Turtle here (HA!) but this is as we are

cut of from the outside.

Brado got a letter last week, he was saying that everybody is getting married, he told me a lot who were.

I miss you and am always thinking of you. I wish you all a happy Christmas enjoy yourselves and tell Dad I'll drop him a letter too only I've written everything to you but he's not forgotten I'm always thinking of him give him my regards, and love. Give all the family Maura, Seamus and all my love and that I'm doing alright.

Well Mum I'm sorry for this writing but I'm rushing it, as there is a few waiting on the pen, so until Friday you all take great care, remember I love you all, God Bless, watch yourselves.

ALL MY LOVE,
SEAN.

Letters to the editor



GRAVES DESECRATED

A Chas.
One hundred and ten years ago William Philip Allen, Michael Larkin and Captain Michael O'Brien, the Manchester Martyrs, were executed publicly by the British Crown on the 23rd November 1867 and to this day they have not been left to rest in peace.

Cann and Mr. P. Kilmartin cleared up as much of the damage as they could that had been done to the grave. Wreaths were laid on the grave, prayers were said and B. Mc Cann gave a short speech. The material damage done to the grave is not what counts as it can be rebuilt, but what is sickening, is that



The Manchester Martyrs on trial in England 1867

Once more, as they did last year, members of the National Front desecrated the graves of 'The Manchester Martyrs'. They broke the headstone, poured bitumen over the grave and cut through the chains around the grave and later attacked members of the public who had come to pay homage to the Manchester Martyrs.

Manchester Sinn Fein had received information that the National Front members would be waiting to attack anyone who went to the cemetery to pay their respects to the Manchester Martyrs and they warned the public not to go to the cemetery on that date to avoid confrontation with the N.F.

The few who did not heed the warning were attacked by over one hundred members of the N.F.

On Sunday 4th December 1977 members of Sinn Fein led by Mr R. Mc

the press has been silent about it all, and we have to listen to the National Front Leader from Islington, Paul Kavanagh's cynical rhetoric "That the N.F. express their views in a gentlemanly way". The truth of it is that these fascists are being allowed to do as they said they would do "kick their way into the headlines" what is more it has become clear, that they are doing it with the blessings of the British Government, so long as it is the dirty work of the British Government they are carrying out. Evidence of this has been seen in Manchester when the British police stood by and watched the bullies of the N.F. attack and beat up those who wished only to honour Ireland's dead.

GERRY CASSIDY
PRO MANCHESTER &
HALIFAX FRANK STAGG
CUMANN.

Dear Sir,

Our attention has been drawn to a report in your edition of the 26th November headed "New Party Makes Old Mistake". It looks as if your anonymous reporter has made the "old mistake" of merely lifting a report (together with a wrongly captioned photograph) from a daily newspaper. Virtually every sentence in the report is either inaccurate or untrue. Rather than correct these innumerable errors we shall merely quote some of the relevant sections from the Party Constitution, which clearly spells out our stand on the issue of imperialism and the National Question. Article 3 of the Constitution states:

"Its objective shall be the creation in all Ireland of a Democratic, Secular, Socialist Republic, based on the social, economic and political teachings of James Connolly's 'Workers Republic'."

Article 5 states:
"It shall therefore seek the total overthrow of all imperialist, neo-imperialist, capitalist and neo-colonialist interests in Ireland. It therefore commits itself to securing a withdrawal of the British presence in all

NEW PARTY MAKES OLD MISTAKE



its forms from the 32 counties in Ireland, including the withdrawal of British troops from the 6 north eastern counties of Ireland."

Article 7 states:
"It shall have as a primary, objective the unity of all Irish working people through the fight for an All-Ireland Party of Labour. It shall endeavour at all times to achieve maximum co-operation on matters of common interest with like minded Socialist organisations at home and abroad, consistent with maintaining the objectives and integrity of the Party."

Article 8 states:

"It shall seek to achieve the unification of the working class throughout the whole island as an essential part of the struggle for a United Socialist Ireland."

Finally may we state that the Socialist Labour Party is not a "26 county Party"; delegates attended the Conference from various centres in the North, and we are now organising the Party in all parts of the country.

YOURS FRATERALLY
DERMOT BOUCHER
VICE-CHAIRPERSON.

LETTER FROM P.R.O. COMHAIRLE CEANNTAIR, LOUTH

SINN FEIN ATTACK WASTE OF £5,000

We in Sinn Fein wish to condemn those members of Louth County Council for allocating Rate-payers money to uphold the South African Government. Councillor Tommy Elmore (Fine

Gael) is the man responsible. It was he who proposed at the estimates Meeting of Louth County Council for the sum of £5,000 to be paid to the Irish Tug-of-war Body. The World championship will be held in Dundalk in 1978, the money is to cover the organisation of the event. But the South African Team are to take part in this

event. The Sinn Fein member Councillor Browne voting against the allocating of the money, said it would be better spent on the old and underprivileged for a cheap fuel scheme in the County which is badly needed. He was not listened to.

The South African Team should not be allowed to take part in this event. Indeed Irishmen should not be the one's to uphold the South African Government.

PRISONERS DEPENDANTS FUND

(An Cumann Cabhrach), Derry

We wish to announce the winners of the PDF 500 Club lottery, which took place on Saturday night, December 17, in the Creggan Community Centre:

J. O'Kane, 151 Bishop Street., £100 No. 123
J. O'Kane, 151 Bishop Street., £10 No. 124
T. McDermott, 8 Colmille Crescent., £10 No 10
Ann Keenan, 227 Lone Moor Road., £10 No 303
L. Gallagher, 25 Melmore Gardens., £10 No 397
J. Montgomery, 2 Westway £10 No 147
C. Desmond, Letterkenny Road., £10 No. 328
Mrs. A. Breslin, 38 Melmore Gardens £10, No 230
Mrs. Ferry No. 1 Academy Road., £10 No 316
Mary Starrs, 24 South End Park., £10 No. 407
The Bolt, c/o 25 Elmwood Terrace., £10 No 492
Sadie Sherrin, 62 Lisfannon Park., £5 No. 60.
T. McGlinchey, 64 Chapel

Road., £5 No 152
R. McDaid, 22 Aberfoyle Park. £5 No. 332
J. McFadden c/o Essex Factory £5. No. 438
M. Coyle, 18 Lislane Dr., £5 No. 391
P. Irvine, 5 Cable Street., £5 No. 208
Sadie Ferry, -1 Academy Terrace., £5 No. 321
Ann Johnston, 36 Kil-drum Gardens., £5 No. 284
Maureen Brown, 8 Arranmore Crescent £5 No. 414
Pauline Brown, 14B Blighs Gardens., £5 No. 224.

At present there is an ongoing lottery, this time a 700 club for which there will be a limited quantity of tickets (700) available, price, £1 each, from any member of the PDF or Sinn Fein. The draw will be held on the 21st of January, 1978, for a first prize of £200, 10 prizes of £10 each, and 10 prizes of £5 each.

NOTES FROM THE CAMPUS



University and polytechnic scientists should become more closely involved in helping to determine strategies - for defence research, according to Professor Ron Mason, the newly appointed chief scientist to the Brit Ministry of Defence.

The question of military involvement in British colleges and universities has been one often explored in 'Republican News' in the past and we have seen the unscrupulous use by the Brits of university scientists in their development of military equipment such as the 'rubber bullet' and riot gases

Mason (no relation, I think, to our wee Brit) hopes to see a 'More relaxed view' in universities about accepting military funds since a few years ago the whole idea would have been and in fact was unimaginable. He holds the highest position that any British scientist can in government, and no doubt will be high on the Brit payroll.

You may think most of this is pretty irrelevant but the plain fact is that whatever the Brit scientists dream up you can bet that sooner or later the Irish people will have to bear the brunt of it - be

it gases, guns or drugs. Ireland's occupied zone has proven an ideal training ground for Brit strategists and scientists in the past and will in the future.

And they'd need to come up with something pretty fast. For they are fast losing the war in occupied Ireland and they know it!

We take this opportunity to send revolutionary greetings to our student comrades all over the world, especially to our own imprisoned comrades at home. Through determination and strength we shall see the day when you are free.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND

WAKEFIELD

Michael McLoughlin was released from Wakefield prison on December 23rd. After serving a 3 year and 5 months sentence. On December 22nd Merlyn Rees, doing his Father Xmas role, signed an exclusion order which prevents Michael McLoughlin from entering Britain under penalty of 5-year imprisonment and/or a fine. For how long more will the British Government continue with their own version of apartheid? Is the 6-counties to become Britain's answer to South Africa's Bantustans? Michael was taken from Wakefield by six policemen to Leeds prison and then to Bradford airport,

where the pilot refused to fly the plane unless "a free man" was given a police escort. His arrival was noted by the RUC who illegally held him in custody while they looked up their records, no doubt they were disappointed that they had no grounds for holding on to him.

We send Michael all good wishes for 1978, and know that from his experiences of English prisons he will work to high-light the ill-treatment of prisoners. A special word of thanks to Gerry Cassidy (S.F. Halifax) who kept a vigil outside Wakefield prison on the early morning of December 23rd.

Wakefield prison is notorious for its ill-treatment of prisoners. The warders there take a delight in making the prisoners' lives as miserable as possible. Since Paul Norney arrived there following his escape attempt in Wormwood Scrubs, his life is being made absolute hell. Because of the escape attempt he had to wear additional yellow stripes on his uniform, and is persecuted by the warders all day and all night. We have taken Paul's ill-treatment to the attention of Mr. Frank Maguire M.P. and hope that it will be possible for him to visit Wakefield in the near future.



DEVLIN PAVES WAY FOR ATTACKS ON CENTRES

Last Monday, 9th January, an article appeared on Page 3 of 'The Irish News', attacking the Irish Republican Army's crack-down on criminals and linking the action they took with a seminar organised by the workers resources centre. At a city council meeting in the previous week Paddy Devlin and Gerry Fitt of the collaborationist SDLP opposed the funding of a £100 grant to the W.R.C. the facts are that the workers resources centre is not connected to the Republican Movement, and that the IRA crack down on criminals had begun before any seminar was organised. The W.R.C. criticised the punishment of shootings along with Devlin and the Republican clubs. Devlin said that the research done for the 'punishment shootings' was carried out through the 'Paramilitary's' alternative system; a clear reference to the Sinn Fein Advice Centres. The article showed up the worry of Devlin, and his comrades in the Republican Clubs, considering the



giant steps Sinn Fein have taken in the ghetto areas.

The Belfast Executive of Sinn Fein countered Devlin with the following reply:-

"The unsigned article in this morning's 'Irish News' appears to be an attempt by Mr Paddy Devlin to justify the stand he took last week re the 'Resource' centre at Broadway. Not content with his lying propaganda on that occasion he is now trying to discredit the work being

done by the many Sinn Fein centres in Belfast. This development is even more sinister following in the wake of the many arrests of Sinn Fein Advice Centre workers in this past three weeks. Mr. Devlin knows that he cannot stop the development of Sinn Fein in Belfast and in putting out this rubbish is giving a helping hand to the British Army and RUC who are preparing a full scale assault on Sinn Fein in an attempt to drive them off the streets."

HARASSMENT

Below we carry a statement by Sinn Fein Dublin Street last Saturday. Fra Browne who was accosted in a day.

"I went to Dublin to attend the Montly Ard Comhairle meeting in Kevin Street on Saturday, 7-1-78. As I left the meeting I went to a shop to buy some sweets for my children. As I came out of the shop I was accosted by a man who produced his identity card. He said he wanted to question and search me. I protested to him as to his identity and at that stage another man appeared behind me.

They then introduced themselves as Garda Smith and Murphy. (sic) Smith then took the folder I was carrying and proceeded to read its contents, while Murphy questioned me about Sinn Fein and the Republican Movement. I protested against their behaviour and to their right to the harassment. They informed me that I was being questioned under the vagrancy act 1842?

They asked me had I not better things to do with my time rather than running up to Dublin. I informed

them that I would be bringing this matter up with the Free State Minister for justice about this intimidation. They kept asking questions as to where I worked, was I married, had I any family, was I ever in jail, also that we (Sinn Fein) should go into Dail Eireann.

They then proceeded to search me, and they took my diary and noted its contents. I kept telling them I had a train to catch. Eventually they told me to go, saying goodbye from "Murphy agus a chairde." Is this the change that Fianna Fail promised, when one cannot go about ordinary day to day business. It would appear that the Government in the 26 Counties and Mason in the six (after the recent raids on Sinn Fein offices in the North) are again trying to stifle legitimate political discussion on the future of our land.

YOURS SINCERELY
COUNCILLOR FRA
BROWNE U.D.C. &
M.C.C."

WHY WE CALL FOR TROOPS OUT NOW

"The demand for Troops Out Now has been called simplistic and misguided. Many people who would like to see peace in Northern Ireland and full civil rights for the catholic minority do not see why a well-intentioned British government could not bring that about. Other objections include 'what about the bloodbath?' and 'why can't the protestant and catholic workers just get together and forget all this sectarianism?'"

Most British people think of Northern Ireland as a real state, with a minority problem. We'd like to explain why we think this is not true and why the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland cannot be solved in isolation from the rest of Ireland.

ORIGINS OF THE PROBLEM.

When a part of Ireland gained independence from Britain in 1921 six counties in the North were kept within the United Kingdom. This new artificial state was carved out in such a way that although four and a half of its counties had catholic majorities there was an overall protestant majority of about two to one.

ULSTER.

This area included most of the industry and a lot of the wealth of Ireland—almost all in the hands of the Irish protestant and British businessmen and landowners. This division of the wealth along religious lines was the result of Britain's deliberate policy, several centuries before of settling protestant farmers from England and Scotland on the land taken from the native catholic Irish. These settlers, and their descendants, were then rewarded with small but important economic and civil privileges in return for maintaining the province of Ulster for the Crown.

This identification of protestantism and privilege bound the protestant workers firmly to their leaders and employers with disastrous consequences for any hope of working class solidarity. Protestant employers broke strikes by appeals to religion, and the Catholic Church hierarchy also found religion useful in sabotaging joint workers actions. (They were not above implying that the Irish catholic socialist, James Connolly, was a protestant when it suited them).

ULSTER KITH AND KIN.

From the 1880's to 1920, protestant business interests organised in the Unionist Party, mobilised their followers, based in North East Ulster, to resist the demand of the great majority of the Irish first for Home Rule, and by 1916, for independence from Britain. They were actively supported by Tory interests in Britain. This armed threat to Irish independence was presented to the people of Britain as the touching desire of their kith and kin to remain loyal to the Empire (a line now used by the National Front in support of the Loyalists). In fact it was the fear that Belfast-based industry would suffer under protective tariffs designed to allow the growth of domestic Irish industry which was the major cause of this mobilisation. Landowning interests in Britain also feared confiscation of property, while the protestant workers were told they would be swallowed up in a Papist state. (It needs saying that what economic privileges the working class protestants did have only looked good in comparison to the position of catholics, and their reaction to the threat of independence was similar to the reactions of poor whites in the American South to black demands for civil rights).

BEGINNINGS OF 'ULSTER'

Britain partitioned Ireland in the midst of the Irish war of independence. The Unionists had to settle for the largest area they thought might be economically and geographically viable, but which still contained a protestant majority. The leaders of the new Irish Free State in the south essentially agreed to partition, while paying lip service to the ideal of a United Ireland. But the Irish people as a whole never had a chance to give their opinion of partition—because there was no question but that it would have been rejected.

POLICE STATE.

The Loyalists never felt safe in their new state. They set up a structure, with the help of the British Government, which denied the catholic nationalist third of the population equal civil rights and access to jobs and housing. A repressive police force and civil service, almost entirely protestant kept them in their place, backed up by reserve 'Specials' recruited from the Orange Lodges — the most bigoted protestant organisations. For much of the history of the state, catholics could be interned without trial under various Emergency Powers Acts. They were often victims of sectarian pogroms, and when they fought back, it was billed as 'sectarian riots'. Unemployment was often double in catholic areas, while the skilled jobs in the engineering and shipbuilding industries were protestant preserves.

Ammended from TROOPS OUT Paper

THE FACADE CRACKS.

Nobody in Britain, least of all the government, gave a damn about the undemocratic nature of the Northern Ireland state until the 1960's. Then, civil reform became necessary because Britain, which wanted closer economic ties with the Irish Republic, which was now one of its biggest markets, couldn't risk the embarrassment of Irish reaction to oppression of fellow Irishmen in the North.

The government began putting pressure on Stormont (the N.I. parliament) for mild reforms, and Stormont leaders began to respond cautiously. The catholics, encouraged by civil rights agitation in America and elsewhere, began peacefully demonstrating for their rights. But these two forms of pressure on the Loyalists cracked the state wide open. The sight of ghetto catholics on the march, the fear of being 'sold out' by their leaders, provoked such brutal Loyalist reaction that the world was shocked...and even more shocked to see the attacks on the catholics led by the state police force!

'OUR BOYS' GO IN.

The Orange monster, deliberately created and manipulated by Britain, could not be killed off so easily when no longer required. A wave of violence verging on civil war swept the North. There were demands from the British public for the government to 'do something'.

The incident which 'justified' sending in British troops was a two-day siege of the catholic Bogside area of Derry by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (the police force) in August 1969. Only when the catholic defenders had beaten off the RUC, who were forced to retreat to their barracks, were troops sent in-at the request of the Northern Ireland administration-to 'restore law and order'. Callaghan's book A House Divided reveals that what the N.I. administration feared was that the catholics would come out of their ghettos and take over the city.

THE WELCOME WEARS OUT.

Because the troops replaced the hated RUC and B Specials in the catholic ghettos, they were welcomed at first. But as the catholic militancy for civil rights continued, and began to change into a demand for an end to the state, the real role of the army—the maintaining of Loyalist law and order—became apparent. The troops constantly harassed catholic civil rights marchers, and later began trying to suppress the re-armed Irish Republican Army, which had come to life again in the ghettos, after a long period of inactivity, as a defence force against Loyalist paramilitary attacks.

By mid-1970, the army was openly at war with the IRA, and soon after that internment without trial was introduced once again. In reaction the catholic population of the ghettos set up no-go areas, in Derry and Belfast where neither the RUC nor the Army could enter.

EIGHT YEARS OF MISRULE.

Since then, there have been twists and turns in British policy, and in the situation. The government, in its attempts to bring order within the confines of the present state, has alternately tried wooing the Loyalists, splitting the old Unionist alliance, promising concessions to the catholic middle class SDLP, and even negotiations with the IRA. Meanwhile, apart from short truces, the guerrilla war waged by the Provisional IRA and other republican and socialist forces, has continued, while the government has found no way of reforming the structure of the state which is acceptable to the hard line Loyalists.

REPRESSION — THE ONLY POLICY.

Britain now rules Northern Ireland directly, and seems to have no policy, other than a commitment to maintain the state. But there is one policy which has remained consistent throughout the whole period. That is to respond to Loyalist pressure by using the army and other security forces to terrorise the catholic communities which are the heart of nationalist resistance. The excuse used is the necessity, in Kitson's charming phrase, to 'squeeze the population until it vomits up the terrorists'.

In the eyes of the Loyalists, and of the British Government, all the people in the working class catholic areas are potential 'terrorists' — because most of them want the British out. So it is necessary for the troops to break the spirit of the whole nationalist population.

How else do you explain the regular beatings, the raids on hundreds of houses they know are not occupied by IRA members, the rape and deliberate humiliation of women, the threats and bullying, the surveillance and general harassment? (An American psychologist who had studied the situation has recently described this policy as 'psychological genocide' — Rona Field, Society Under Siege.) The intended effect is to stop mass involvement in the struggle against British rule, and to destroy the capacity of the working class catholic areas to organise.

We do not call for troops out just because of the atrocities they commit (although that is reason enough). The way the troops are used is part of the argument for their withdrawal. They are an army of occupation with orders to put down a risen people. We want them out because they are shoring up a state which has no right to continue—a state founded on prejudice, and which can only be held together by terror.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

A MESSAGE FROM



THE BRIGADIER

Evenin' All!

and special New Year greetings to the gallant RUC men who burgled the Fall's Road Advice Centre. Not as professional as Watergate lads, but not a bad try. Sorry I wasn't there to greet you, but you know how busy I am these days. Heard you were asking after me, and I'd just like to return the compliment. May you get all you deserve in 1978.

In fact, while the lads were breaking and entering I was presenting the prizes at the UDR Christmas panto. Roy Mason wanted it to be Snow White this year but I couldn't find six dwarves to act with him, so we settled for Pigs in Boots, starring the Castlereagh defectives. Good old Harry Taylor stole the show as a lovable punchdrunk lavatory attendant while the lads based in the Grand Central stole just about everything else. Fitt and Devlin, the 'Green Goddesses' as they are known also starred, as did the ugly sisters Betty and More aid NU Car-again. Ciaran

couldn't appear but he sent a lovely postcard and a wee cheque (no, not Robert Maxwell) from Rio de Janeiro where he is apparently having a long holiday. Disappointed as we were that he couldn't be with us.

We were thrilled that Prince Philip agreed to appear as an unemployed Greek beggar.

The highspot of the evening was when a group of firemen set fire to Merlyn Rees while Jack Lynch, as usual, stood idly by in the wings. My! how we laughed.

All in all, a great night, and the princely sum of £3.52p was raised for our worthy charity, the Mentally Retarded UDR Benevolent Fund. By the way, anyone wishing to contribute to this worthy cause should write to me, Brigadier Mervyn McCord, C/o The Slurry with the guns on top, UDR HQ. Magherafelt.

P.S.

And now, on a more serious note, I must

appeal for more volunteers for the regiment. To be candid, the response to our massive advertising campaign on UTV, Radio Dungtown and in Philbin's Gazette (as the Irish News is known) has been disappointing. I just don't know what's got into the youth of today. They don't seem to relish a good old fashioned military funeral the way we old timers do. Think of the fun strutting up and down the road at night drunkenly assaulting civilians as they foolishly try to go about their business! Think of the thrills in bombing show bands or being part of a sectarian murder gang! Think of the pleasures of robbery, arson, rape and perjury!

So jolly well get off your bottoms and enlist today in the UDR.

You know it makes sense!

Pip! Pip!

Your old chum,
The Brigadier.

TURF LODGE TOO QUIET FOR MASON'S WAR MACHINE



Belfast 1972

PEOPLE IN TURF LODGE HAVE EQUATED THE EARLY MORNING RAIDS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE AREA ON SUNDAY LAST TO THE 1972, 'OPERATION MOTORMAN' See photo above

Over the past 6/8 weeks Turf Lodge has witnessed a period of peace which is somewhat unusual to the people.

This peace was brought about by the people of Turf Lodge continually protesting against harassment by the Marine Commandos. Pressure by local groups also managed to acquire an almost 100% street lighting in the area, but unfortunately this situation is too quiet for Mason's War Machine.

Last week the people of Monagh Road witnessed a foot patrol of some 30/40 Brits, in the early hours of Sunday morning 8.1.78.

Turf Lodge was awakened by the sound of personnel carriers moving through the estate. Some 40/50 houses and flats were raided and 2 people were taken to Castlereagh.

People in the area have equated the early morning raids as peculiar to 'operation motor man' 1972.

The people of Turf Lodge send this message to Mason and his war machine. We will not stand by and let your agents of war destroy our peace, we will and still are prepared to take to the streets to keep Turf Lodge peaceful.

PRO
Martin Forsythe
Sinn Fein Cumann.

WHAT ABOUT THE BLOODBATH?

The government hardly pretends any longer that the army is in Northern Ireland to prevent a bloodbath. But the best answer we can give to people who genuinely fear for the catholic minority after a troop withdrawal is the answer that comes from the ghettos: they would rather face the Loyalists alone, than the Loyalists backed up by the British Army. Father Des Wilson, a catholic priest from Ballymurphy, puts it simply: 'If we could get rid of the army, I'd take my chances with my catholic and protestant fellow citizens' (Hibernia, Nov. 4)

We do not imagine that troop withdrawal on its own is an instant solution. But so long as Britain keeps the troops there, the Loyalists will not give up their hopes of domination. In this situation there can never be reconciliation between the two communities. A British withdrawal is the first condition for bringing about a change of attitude on the part of the protestants toward their catholic neighbours, and thus the first condition for bringing about a solution acceptable to all the people of Ireland as a whole.

A LIBERATION STRUGGLE.

There is no chance of working class unity in Ireland, let alone socialism, until the Northern Ireland situation is solved. We think that the struggle to get rid of British presence and interference in Irish affairs is a liberation struggle. If you support such struggles in Africa and other parts of the world, you should support the struggle in Ireland.

Unfortunately, the response of the English socialist groups and of the English workers on Ireland has been terrible. It is our responsibility not to keep our eyes closed any longer to the continued occupation of a part of Ireland by our government's troops. Mass support in Britain for bringing the troops out would put very heavy pressure on the British government. It would focus world opinion on the struggle going on in the North. Far from being unrealisable, the demand for Troops Out is a demand which we can help to make a reality.

IN MEMORIAM

MICHAEL SLOAN 6th

In loving memory of our dear brother Michael Sloan who died today the 11th January 1972. Always remembered by his Brothers Gerry and Eugene (Portlaoise).

MICHAEL SLOAN 6th

In loving memory of my dear friend Michael Sloan who died today the 11th January 1972. Always remembered by his friend Eugene Murphy.

Crock of Gold

Sinn Féin's national Finance Committee wishes to thank all who responded so well to the Crock of Gold scheme.

How did your area respond? Raise it at your next meeting. Have a look through your cash books: There may be some money there for this committee.

If so, please send by return to Head Office. Please mark covering letter N.C.F.

Remember: The revolutionary struggle to build the democratic socialist Republic will be brought nearer reality if each plays his or her part NOW.

—George Lynch, Cathaoirleach
agus Oifigeach Chaidrimh Phoiblí (PRO).

WHY WE CALL FOR
TROOPS OUT NOW

Continued

Provisional Sinn Fein BLOODY SUNDAY DEMONSTRATION IN LONDON

Assemble -Speakers Corner
At 2.00p.m. January 29th
MARCH TO WHITEHALL
All banners welcome

For further details write to Box 8, 182, Upper Street, London N1

CONTINUED ATTACKS ON SINN FEIN PERSONNEL

A leading member of the St. Matthew's Tenants Association and Sinn Fein was attacked by an R.U.C. Patrol in Thompson Street on Friday of last week. He had been walking along the street with his wife and daughter and had stopped to investigate that the door of the local Advice Centre was not locked. He was locking the door when the RUC stopped him and ordered him to spread-eagle against the wall. He refused to be spread-eagled whereupon he was attacked by three RUC men. Several eye-witnesses saw him being beaten and eventually being thrown into the RUC Land-Rover. He was taken to Mountpottinger Road RUC Station where he was further abused beaten and charged with assaulting 3 RUC Men.

This attack follows the recent pattern of arrests and harassment against Sinn Fein personnel and Local Advice Centres in West Belfast.

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE VETERANS HONOURED

Four veterans of the War of Independence (1919-21) were honoured at a Testimonial Dinner held by an Cumann Cabhrach in the Clare Manor Hotel, Coolock, Co. Dublin on Friday, January 6, and attended by 850 patrons.

The four honoured are: Comdt General Tom Maguire (Connacht) Comdt Tom Kelleher (Munster) Mrs Patsy O'Hagan (Ulster) and Mrs Ella Woods (Leinster). Each was presented with a mahogany harp made by Republican prisoners.

Speakers at the function included Ruairi O Bradaigh, President of Sinn Fein; Daithi O Conaill, Vice-President, S.F.; Jimmy Drumm, Ard Comhairle S.F. and Tom Ennis, chairman of Functions Committee, an Cumann Cabhrach, who presided.

Ruairi O Bradaigh said that the magnificent attendance clearly indicated their pride in the four War of Independence veterans who each had given a lifetime of service to the Republican Movement, and continued to do so. This support and pride was further indicated by the strong advertising support for the special souvenir booklet published in connection with the Dinner-Celli.

COMDT-GEN. TOM MAGUIRE was born in Cross, Co. Mayo, into a family that fought on the Irish side at Aughrim and in the 1798 Rising. Active with Sinn Fein and the Volunteers from 1917, he was appointed O.C. of the South Mayo Brigade, I.R.A. in 1920. In the spring and summer of 1921 the Brigade Active Service Unit defeated British units in several of the most historic War of Independence engagements. Tom Maguire was elected Republican T.D. for South Mayo-South Roscommon in the second Dail Eireann. He was appointed O.C. of the 2nd Western Division I.R.A. and in 1922 was a member of the I.R.A. Executive. He opposed the Treaty, and in 1923 escaped from Free State detention in broad daylight in Athlone.

He was a surviving member of the Dail Eireann Executive that delegated authority to the I.R.A.

Army Council in 1938 and as the last surviving member of that Dail Eireann Executive, he delegated authority to the Provisional Army Council in 1970.

COMDT. TOM KELLEHER was born into a staunchly Republican family at Crowhill, Upton, Co. Lork. On October 9, 1920 he had the honour of firing the first shot in the first engagement of a unit of the famous West Cork Flying Column at Newcestown. At Upton in February 1921 he rescued the injured Brigade O.C. Charlie Hurley, and later his exploits at Crossbarry and Rosscarbery became legendary.

During the Truce, Comdt. Tom Kelleher took over Kinsale Barracks from Major Percival. This same Percival, now Lt. General, in 1942 survived 90,000 British troops to a much smaller Japanese force at Singapore.

MRS PATSY O'HAGAN was born Patsy Boyd in 1899 in Newry, Co. Down. Following her elder brother and sister into the Republican Movement, she joined Cumann na mBan (1917) and Sinn Fein (1918). She married Owen O'Hagan in 1919. From their home in Dundalk opposite Anne Street Barracks, three guns mounted on a window helped in the capture of the barracks in 1922. In 1941, while her daughter was serving a sentence in Mountjoy, Patsy was taken from her home at 31, Seaton Place and interned in Mountjoy for 2½ years. At home, her husband looked after the six other children. In 1969, aged 70 years, she met Belfast refugees and on one occasion fed 29 people at her table.

MRS ELLA WOODS was born Ella O'Sullivan from Bebbane, Waterville, Co. Kerry. In 1916 she went to London to train as a nurse. She married John Charles Woods in 1925 and both were active in the Republican Movement. Ella was arrested in 1939 and after conviction served a 10 year penal servitude sentence in Aylesbury. Now living in Dublin, she has been active in both Sinn Fein and an Cumann Cabhrach.

DOWNPATRICK

CENTRAL RELATIVES
ACTION COMMITTEE
SUPPORT THE POLITICAL
PRISONERS DEFEND
POLITICAL STATUS
MARCH AND RALLY IN
DOWNPATRICK JANUARY
15th
MARCH ASSEMBLES IN
FLYING HORSE HOUSING
ESTATE
2 P.M.

WE APPEAL TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE CASTLE-
WELLAN, KILKOO, AND
HILLTOWN SINN FEIN
CUMAINN TO SUPPORT THIS
MARCH REMEMBER THE
POW'S.

ANTI- REPRESSION CONFERENCE

January 22nd at Coal-
island. All those opposed
to repression are welcome
to attend this one day
conference organised by
Coalisland RAC.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

FROM
LOUTH SINN FEIN

We would like to send New Year Greeting to all Republicans in English and Irish Gaols. With a special mention to the men on the Blanket in H Block Long Kesh. We would like to extend our greetings to the following prisoners from our area.

LONG KESH—Paddy Agnew, Gerry McArdle, Gerry Murphy, Gerry Bradley, Peter Dullaghan, Christy Robinson.

Magilligan — Gerry Moran.

Crumlin Rd. Gaol.
Arthur Morgan.

Portlaoise — Dominick Quinn, Sammy O'Hare, John O'Hagan, Gerry Malone,

Wormwood Scrubs
England — Stephen Nordone.

LOUTH COMHAIRLE
CEANNTAIR SINN
FEIN.

