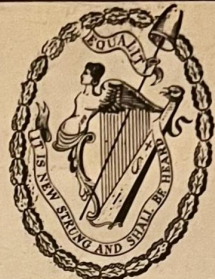


# republican NEWS



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THE VOICE OF REPUBLICAN ULSTER

## MASON REELING

### LOYALIST MILITIA DAZED, DEMORALISED AND DEFEATED

The British Government's hopes of a successful handing over of security to local loyalist forces ("Ulsterisation") has been temporarily dashed by warned reciprocal action - a concentrated series of IRA attacks on these forces in direct proportion to their prominence. The most recent fatal casualty has been RUC man William Brown killed last Sunday by the Irish Republican Army in Fermanagh who said;

"the RUC has been exposed as in instrument of torture in the British war-machine...We will be stepping up attacks in the weeks ahead."

The "Ulsterisation" policy was enunciated most vocally by Merlyn Rees when as Secretary of State he announced the "primacy of the police" theme. Positive proof of not only the reluctance of the RUC to assume a "primacy" role, but opposition to it, came last Monday from Alan Wright, head of the Police Federation, who said that the RUC "just aren't equipped" and "cannot adequately carry out the role" increasingly forced upon them by the British

Government. Wright was even so candid that he stated: "We are doing as utmost to avoid such a role."

REPUBLICAN NEWS stated ten months ago (22.5.76) that: "Whilst this Loyalist militia has been prepared to bully, beat and torture the Republican community, given the security of massive British Army back-up, they fear the effectiveness of the IRA strike capability."

And how true this statement has been borne out. We have the case of Eddie Rooney lying two weeks unconscious in a hospital intensive-care-unit after an RUC interrogation.

At the weekly security review on Monday mornings over this last year the 'Northern Ireland Office' propagandists have gone out of their way to over-emphasise claims that IRA active-service-units have been captured "by vigilant RUC patrols", and by "paintaking RUC Detective work". The appointment of Englishman Kenneth Newman to Chief Constable was meant to inaugurate a smooth passage for this strategy.



An RUC Land Rover sits on the fringe of a Nationalist area as the occupants, guarded by a large force of Paras, peers into an area in which he will never be welcomed.

This "inauguration" was duly met by IRA attacks. At Belcoo in Fermanagh in May 1976 three RUC men were killed in an IRA reply. And from this January of this year there has been over ninety IRA military attacks on this loyalist militia which has left seven dead, dozens wounded and ALL OF THEM demoralized.

The other IRA activity which has destabilised this "Ulsterisation" programme, and which contingency was unforeseen by the Brits, was the IRA's devastating

assault (complementing the economic bombing campaign) on the business-class whose links with the Imperialist occupation forces qualify them as much a part of the occupation as the armed, uniformed British soldier.

In September 1976, and again just four weeks ago (in a BBC brief with journalists) Roy Mason stated "The IRA are reeling".

In the face of the incendiary and bomb attacks in Derry and Strabane; last week's eight bombings in Belfast (4 in the high-sec-

urity business zone); the bombing of four Paras in North Howard Street Belfast; the wounding of the Para in Ballymurphy; the sniping attacks in Belfast Brigade's areas; in Derry City, in South Derry, Lurgan, Keady, Armagh, Tyrone, South Down, and the killings of the UDR and RUC men in Caledon and Lisnaskea; and the onslaught on the business-class, the Irish people can be forgiven for being slightly cynical of Mason's wild claims. It is obvious that if anyone is reeling, it is British Vice Roy Mason and his local agents.

## BRITS STILL USING R.V.H. FOR SURVEILLANCE

### Belfast Brigade

In a supplied statement to Republican News, the Belfast Brigade, Ogligh Na H-Eireann has warned that a section of the Royal Victoria Hospital is now considered by them to be a legitimate target because of its occupation by the British Army. The statement said,

"Despite the repeated warnings from the Belfast Brigade about the occupation of civilian premises by the British Army and the consequential acknowledgement of these premises as legitimate military targets, the British occupation forces have again commandeered a section of the Royal

Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

This section is above the out-patients entrance on the Falls Road facing citywards, and has been occupied over the past week by 4 members of the 2nd Parachute Regiment, and two members of the Kings own Scottish Borders, for counter-insurgency surveillance purposes. The Belfast Brigade now issues a warning to the Hospital Administration that this section of the Royal Victoria Hospital is now regarded as a legitimate military target and unless the British soldiers are removed immediately, effective military action

will be taken against them. Any resulting civilian casualties will be the responsibility of the hospital Administration and the British Army."

On past occasions the Republican Army has taken military action against British Army positions within the hospital complex, notably in late 1976, when they destroyed a billet in the Broadway Road area following repeated warnings to the Hospital Administration that it posed a risk to civilian patients. Many political "suspects" had been taken to this base and tortured.

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Our Derry correspondent recalls the St. Patrick's Day March of 1952.....page 7



# THE CHECKERED HEN

It was Ginty who caught the new pigeon. It had landed exhausted on the edge of the canteen roof but none of us noticed it as we bouled round the yard. Well, we were'n't pigeon fanciers then.

It was when we came round the yard again that Dicky stopped us. "Lads youse wouldn't cut up passed them showers would youse? Ya see Ginty's trying to catch that checkered hen that has landed on the roof."

Our morning bouling being thus terminated the two of us decided to head into the study-hut and watch the drama from there. Jack the giant had gladly yielded up his harp-stringing cat - gut out of which Ginty had made a noose. There it was lying in the middle of the yard and it's tail snaking down to the side of the showers where Ginty waited. Around the noose head brown bread had been crumbled and mixed with budgie seed. Like all pigeons that land in our cage, the checkered hen was caught.

The arrival of this checkered bird caused great excitement in the study-hut half of which as you know is a pigeon shed. Ginty Dicky had let her down on the floor but she hadn't moved. She just lay there with her

head to the one side. You'd have thought looking at her lying there that she'd no interest in anything at all. You'd have been wrong for she was interested, very interested indeed in the 4 pigeons that came running out from behind the blanket that forms a wall of the shed.

When they saw Dicky dropping the new arrival on the floor out they came with their heads stuck out in front of them and their long scrawny legs flailing the air behind them.

The last to emerge from behind the shed wall was the General himself. I forget now who it was that nicknamed him that but it suits him. Out from behind the blanket he came with his head held so high that you'd have thought he was trying to pull it clean off.

Eventually as if by chance he arrived alongside his 4 wives who had the new checkered hen surrounded. When she saw the big blue she suddenly seemed to come alive. She raised herself up a wee bit, just so's you'd notice and finally she got to her feet.

Shaking herself, pecking at her breast feathers she stood to her full height. There was no doubt about it she was the best looking pigeon we'd caught yet.

The old General didn't know what to do and there he stood scraping the floor with one claw at a time while she ignored him. He dropped his wings like a cloak around himself, ruffled his neck feathers, billed and cooed and still she paid no heed to him at all.

If she was totally indifferent the other 4 hens were not. They had taken themselves off into the far corner and with their heads held sideways appeared almost to be whispering.

By this time the old General was knackered and needed. Never before had he been ignored this way he was being ignored now. He pecked at the ground carelessly and then without any warning at all he charged in amongst his 4 wives scattering them all about the study hut. While they were all flapping about in search of a perch the General quickly made his way over to the new checker and dear readers their two heads were that close together you'd have thought they were whispering.

This time she responded in genuine pigeon fashion and extended her neck with her beak near touching the ground. The General's charms were working, for when he placed a piece of brown bread in front of her beak she accepted it.

All afternoon the 2 of them stayed together while the 4 wives sat huddled on a broken chair leg in the far corner. Anytime they made their way over towards the food he'd lower his head ruffle his neck feathers and hissing, charge forward. One time he trapped one



of them behind the bin and when eventually she managed to escape over his head she left a legacy of torn feathers behind her.

After that they didn't bother about the food at all and even when Dicky came in shortly before lock-up to change the water and grain they paid it no attention.

We didn't actually see what happened during the night but it wasn't hard to guess when we went back into the study-hut the following morning. Ginty said when he had checked them at lock up the new hen was roosting up along side the General.

She wasn't as beautiful as she had been. Her breast feathers were ruffled and torn and some had actually been ripped out. As the day wore on we checked her often and by mid afternoon she seemed to be more of herself again. She sat where the sunlight streamed in through the wire of the landing box and preened herself. Her feathers she re-arranged and any that were loose she plucked out and tossed them to the ground. She fed well but remained close to the

General at all times. I think if she had behaved herself that day everything would have turned out alright. She didn't though and by late afternoon she was sallying forth on her own to harass and attack the other 4. Like the day before they sat alone in the far corner plotting.

Roosting time came early that night, or so it seemed to the new arrival who flew terrified up to the top-most perch beside the General. The boys had intended to take her into the hut that night but they forgot to. It was a case of one thinking that the other was going to do it. The next morning she was a sorry sight and could hardly flutter down off the perch. The other 4 had taken heavy revenge during the night.

The checkered hen had lost a lot of her feathers. There were dozens of small bald spots all over her and one eye was closed as a result of a blow from one of the 4's claws during the night. The General hadn't much time for her at all for she was no longer a pigeon of great beauty. Whenever

his back was turned the others took the opportunity to peck sharply at her again. They soon noticed that she no longer commanded the interest that she had at first.

Dicky and Ginty were annoyed when they found her like that. They knew there was nothing they could do to get her accepted into the shed.

by Solon

The removed her from the study-hut and for nearly a fortnight she was kept in a box in their cell. Her plumage grew again but she lacked the arrogance which had but her apart from the other pigeons when they'd first caught her. Yesterday, they released her from the top of the water-tower. A fight of racers was going across the camp at the time from what we could see they accepted her as just another ordinary pigeon.

As for the General, well he was accepted back by his 4 wives after a few days, as though nothing had ever happened.....

Slán agus Beir Bua...  
Solon.....  
Long Kesh Prison Camp.

## FURTHER DEMOS PLANNED IN TWINBROOK AREA

The Fennell/McDonnell Sinn Féin Cumann wishes to congratulate the 600 Twinbrook people who braved the atrocious weather on Sunday to take part in the "Brits Out - Peace In" march round the estate. We would also like to apologise for the absence of an amplifying system at the rally afterwards.

This made it difficult to hear the speakers and many people drifted away.

Both Twinbrook R.A.C., the Ex-POW's Assoc., and also the two bands are to be congratulated for their fine support. A large sum of money was also collected from residents who did not take part due to the bad weather - this will go towards financing the Brit withdrawal campaign. We would also like to thank Mr. Niall Fagan, Sinn Féin Ard Comhairle for speaking about British withdrawal and Mr. Malachy

McNally on political status.

The Cumann is planning further demonstrations and marches in the Twinbrook area in the near future in accordance with the Republican Movement's National campaign for a British withdrawal. We hope for you, the people's continuing support in this and also for better weather. Go raibh mile maith againh!

## ANDERSONSTOWN PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting with the theme 'Brits Out - What Next?', has been organised by Sinn Féin in Belfast and is scheduled to take place on Sunday March 20th at 2.30p.m. in the Andersonstown Social Club.

All interested individuals and organisations are

cordially invited to come along and listen to a Sinn Féin spokesman outline the Republican policies for the building of the New Ireland when the Brits finally withdraw. This meeting being a continuation in the Sinn Féin National Demand of 'Brits Out'.

**Staff Captain  
Colm Keenan**

Derry Brigade Oglagh Na hEireann  
Killed on active service, 14th March, 1972  
Always remembered by their Comrades in  
The Republican Movement

**Volunteer  
Eugene McGillan**

Derry Brigade  
Staff  
Derry C.C.  
Sinn Féin

IN PROUD AND LOVING MEMORY OF



'Sunday Times' revelations confirm reports

The British army march onto the streets of Nationalist Belfast in an effort to solidify the imperialist position. Since then the Brit brass have pulled out all the dirty tricks, learned in Palestine, Aden, Malaya and other areas where London's illegal authority was challenged.

# 'dirty tricks' exposed

British army subversion in Ireland involving terror-bombing, false information to undermine government policy and the 'planting' of ammunition on innocent people, has been uncovered by the 'Sunday Times' newspaper.

The report - by the paper's former 'Northern Ireland' correspondent David Blundy - is based on information from a civil servant in the 'Ulster Office' and a high-ranking British officer.

Both the Northern Ireland office and the Ministry of Defence have been unable to deny Blundy's story.

Blundy gives a detailed disclosure of dirty tricks confirming that the British army in Ireland is a power unto itself, carrying out illegal activities without any apparent accountability to government or parliament.

Blundy deals with British

Army subversion and black propaganda between 1972 and 1976 - a campaign masterminded by the British army's civil war expert General Frank Kitson who was drafted into Ireland in 1971.

## ILLEGAL

The violent illegal bombings by the British Army are the most dramatic aspect of the revelations.

The British propaganda units have produced fake leaflets and planted lying stories about Paisley's involvement with a fascist-style group who were alleged to have been used by a notorious homosexual.

Together with its psychological warfare the British army carried out dirty tricks.

In November 1974 40 paratroopers (the regiment responsible for the Bloody Sunday murders in Derry when they shot 13) were dropped in the

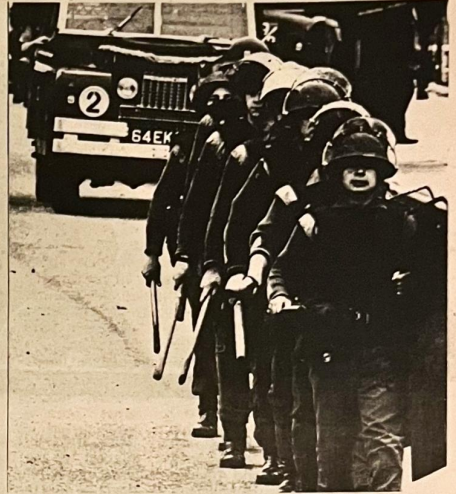
Republican border area of Armagh.

Units of four were sent out into the country-side and told to let off bombs.

Blundy's informants confirm the stories that plain-clothed British army killer units were let loose in Belfast. For their terror attacks on innocent people they used Thompson machine-guns to encourage hostility against the Republican movement who have used this weapon.

Another tactic in the criminal British campaign was the planting of ammunition. This, says Blundy, became so widespread that although officially encouraged, senior officers were forced to clamp down on the illegal practice.

It shows that in its efforts to suppress the legitimate national struggle of the Irish people, the forces of British Imperialism must



cast aside every shred of bourgeois legality and accountability.

The British army's systematic campaign of illegal bombings, murder,

lies, black-propaganda and fascist style subversion of an elected capitalist government, prove that the real criminals are the British army officers at Lisburn HQ, Ireland.

## PAROLE SYSTEM RUN BY PARA-MILITARY FORCE

The anomalies of the parole system, especially with regard to the granting of compassionate parole, for the most part are ignored by the public, as the issue only directly affects prisoners and their families. These anomalies, translated however into terms such as 'human suffering', and 'sadness', should merit the attention of anyone who has experienced the tragedy, loss, and sadness of a death in the immediate family circle.

Last Thursday a young Republican who is serving a ten year sentence in this camp, was informed that his sister, a young nun aged thirty two years, had died suddenly in the convent in which she had been serving in France. This man immediately applied for compassionate parole, but within a matter of hours this application was turned down.

This refusal, cruel in the extreme, not only affected this man in that he was not permitted to be by his mother's side to comfort and console her in her grief, but it meant that this man's mother is at present sitting at home all alone, as her other three sons and daughter have travelled to France for the funeral proceedings. It has since transpired that the parole application was turned down due to objections by the RUC. It could be pointed out that there weren't any such objections when Gusti Spence, (convicted of the murder of a Catholic barman, and serving a recommended 20 year sentence) was granted parole for his daughter's wedding.

It has become apparent both from this case, and many other cases, that it is the RUC who

determine whether or not a parole application is successful. It has become equally apparent that the officials of the NIO are not only prepared to abjure their responsibilities in this matter, but are quite happy to delegate their authority to a bunch of unfeeling bigots in the RUC. Social work has never been a strong point with the RUC. I think perhaps that their track record of discrimination, and blatant bigotry would show them to be devoid of any consideration whatsoever for the Catholic community. A parole system with faults, and run by bureaucrats who are shielded by the anonymity of a desk is bad enough, but a parole system which is run by the para-militaries of the RUC is no longer a parole system, but a holiday scheme for Loyalist prisoners.

## AT THE GRAVESIDE OF DERRY MARTYRS

A young member of Shantallonn Sinn Fein delivered the following oration at a commemoration for Colm Keenan and Eugene McGilligan Derry Brigade.

A Chairde,

People of Derry once again we find ourselves standing at this monument to honour our patriot dead. Today we honour two brave men, Staff Capt. Colm Keenan and Vol. Eugene McGilligan.

Two brave men who took up the gun in defence of Ireland as did their forefathers before them. When active within the ranks of Oglagh Na H-Eireann they saw who held and still hold the key positions and jobs in our city. And who did they see? Local Capitalists representing British Imperialists. They saw the brutality of the RUC and British Army. They saw that the Irish people had the right to rule their own country and not be ruled by a foreign and Imperialist government, a government that does an injustice to the Irish people. Injustices such as the lies

of the British Army and the brutality of the RUC. The brutality which still continues today as many innocent people know. Innocent people are dragged from their homes and taken to the RUC's infamous torture centres where they are forced to sign false statements. This para-military police force which walks our streets with their Imperialist companions, the British Army, harassing the people of our town. Will you the people of Derry sit back and let this happen? No! Not while the IRA and men like Colm Keenan and Eugene McGilligan would proudly die for Ireland. Let us not forget those other brave Irish soldiers who are locked up in the hell-holes built by the exact same government which has brought us here today by killing 2 of our brave comrades who have proudly died in the fight for Ireland's freedom.

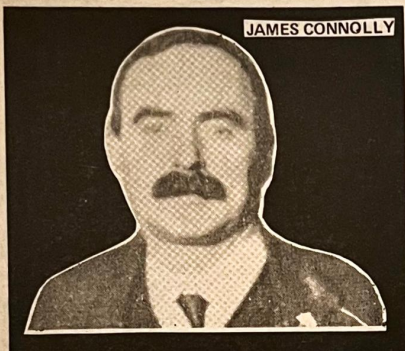
Let us now bring to reality the dreams of our two brave heroes who fought and died for Ireland  
You and your Freedom.



"MEN WILL GET INTO POSITIONS WHO GET INTO POSITIONS AND UNDISTURBED AND WILL NOT

# CONNOLLY

## THE NON-REPUBLICAN



JAMES CONNOLLY

Last week's attacks on the Republican Movement by John Hume and Austin Currie are convulsive symptoms of the political frustrations felt by that party within a situation which their political colleague Paddy Devlin described as 'an ocean of inertia for public representatives' ("Sunday World" 13.3.76). Unable to attack their natural allies, the British government or the various 'Loyalist' representatives, it was only natural that they should turn their attention to those who they considered responsible for 'destabilising' the political situation, preventing the emergence of their long desired "coalition" government. It was also logical that the statement should be made in defence of a third ally - the local capitalist.

It is highly debatable if these local capitalists would agree with Hume's description of them as "a section of the Irish people". Rather do they see themselves as an extension of the "motherland", operating within a colonial situation designed to benefit themselves and, of course, the "motherland". Contrary to Hume's claim, at no time in recent Irish History has any significant section of the business class in the occupied six counties expressed any desire, however qualified, to be recognised as "a section of the Irish people". The business-class in occupied Ireland has consistently reflected the settler mentality synonymous with colonial rule, illustrating their contempt for the working-class by their bland indifference to a political situation which they knew little of, and cared less about, so long as they were 'free' to exploit that situation in any way they considered desirable.

Why then this echo of support for the business-class from the SDLP? Because, like the business class, the SDLP, has a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. Speaking in the "Treaty Debate" on January 4th, 1922, Liam Mellows said, "Men will get into positions, men will hold power, and men who get into positions and hold power will desire to remain undisturbed and will not want to be removed." This quote adequately sums up the position of the SDLP.

Austin Currie, in his follow-up statement to John Hume, implied sinister machinations within the Provos. "The home and language of recent Provo statements prove how far the Provisional leadership have departed from traditional Republicanism." Currie then, obviously on the basis of "tone and language", would not consider James Connolly a traditional Republican. Writing in Paris in 1897 Connolly said "All bourgeois movements end in compromise.... the bourgeois revolutionists of today become the conservatives of tomorrow." An adequate description of Austin Currie and the SDLP. It is hard to recall those heady days following internment in 1971 when Currie told an enthusiastic crowd in the Falls Park, "why should we talk, we are winning". Currie obviously feels that the SDLP has "won", and to that extent he would be correct. The SDLP fought on the platform of winning "positions" for themselves and fulfilled that desire to some extent in 1974 during the ill-fated 'Executive', when as 'Minister' responsible for Housing, in collaboration with the then 'Minister' for Health and Social Services, Paddy Devlin,

Currie set about retrieving from the Nationalist section of the working-class all debts due as a result of the "Rent and Rates" strike, begun as a protest against the introduction of internment, and actively supported, in its initial stages, by the SDLP.

This was a task that Currie and Devlin pursued with commendable dedication, impounding farmer's cattle, imposing an additional collection charge of 25p on arrears, not to mention extracting debts from social security payments. Ample fulfilment one could argue of Connolly's prophecy. But then Currie could logically argue that the "tone and language" of Connolly's statement in 1897 showed how far he had "departed from traditional Republicanism".

Hume's statement illustrated how the SDLP has been going round in political circles. The "real problem" as far as Hume is concerned is "the sectarian division between its (Ireland's) people, which can only be headed by long and patient work." The six county 'state' was established and maintained since 1921 by the sectarian division of the working-class, a

situation now guaranteed by the physical presence of the British Army, and a situation subscribed to by Hume during his 'service' in the 'Executive' of 1974 as 'Minister' of Commerce. (A possible explanation for his 'concern' for the business-class). That 'Executive' was brought down by a sectarian strike which took place primarily because Catholics were serving in government for the first time since 1921. In other words in a period of 53 years "long and patient work" by various "Nationalists" made no impression, even though these "Nationalists" were prepared to accept the "constitutional position" (i.e. continued occupation) of the six counties.

Hume also sought to blame the Provos "for the suffering they have brought on their own people". Recent Irish history makes no mention of Provos during the pogroms against Nationalist areas in the six counties during the 20's, 30's, 40's or indeed 1969. Perhaps Hume would hold the Provos responsible for the discrimination in jobs, housing, and employment practised against the Nationalist people since 1921, of

which his native city of Derry was a prime example. The "reforms" which Hume congratulates himself on were won on the streets of Derry by the working-class people of Derry, "reforms" extracted from an increasing fearful government, by a militant, armed, politicised working-class. These 'reforms' were taken, not given.

## STERLING HOTEL REDUCED TO BURNING



Pictured is the Sterling Hotel, which was reduced to rubble by a bomb blast.



WHEN WILL HOLD POWER, AND MEN  
OLD POWER WILL DESIRE TO REMAIN  
WANT TO BE REMOVED

Liam Mellows

# ...CAN?



Liam Mellows

by Vindicator

Hume has now illustrated his total conversion to Unionism and its interpretation of Irish history. The best analysis of the SDLP's position is a recollection of Liam Mellows "Notes from Mountjoy" August 29, 1922 in which he said, "In our efforts to win back public support for the Republic we are forced to recognise,

whether we like it or not, that the commercial interests - so-called - money and the gommeen man - are on the side of the Treaty. We are back to Tone which is just as well, relying on that great body 'the men of no property'. The 'stake in the country people' were never with the Republic. They are not with it now, and they will always be against it - until it wins! We should recognise that definitely now and base our appeals upon the understanding and needs of those who have always borne Ireland's fight."

In answer to Hume and Currie it might be best to refer them to James Connolly who said, "there is no such thing as humane or civilised war. War may be forced upon a subject race, or subject class to put an end to subjection of race, class or sex. When so waged it must be waged thoroughly and relentlessly, but with no delusion as to its elevating nature or civilising methods". (The Worker January 30, 1915). In the same issue Connolly also said, "all war is an atrocity, and the attempt to single out any particular phase of it as more atrocious than another is simply an attempt to confuse the public mind."

## NG SHELL

ere are the burning remains  
ing Hotel on Belfast's Antrim  
wing Mondays economic  
y the Irish Republican Army.



**DERRY  
BRIGADE  
ACCELERATE  
WAR EFFORT**

An incendiary attack was made on Derry's City Centre this week. Three devices exploded causing major damage.

A bomb exploded in a B.A. permanent checkpoint in Waterloo Place. The Brits admitted soldiers were injured but denied that anyone was seriously hurt.

A Twenty-four year old man was knee-capped in both legs during the week. Derry Brigade, admitting responsibility stated that the man had been told some time ago to leave Derry and not to return as he had been involved in petty gangsterism. They also warned individuals not to take advantage of the situation caused by the war of liberation to line their own pockets.

# DERRY BRIGADE SLAM HUME FOR SURRENDER SPEECH

While the focus of the people's attention is on the shameful collaboration of the 26-County government in the treatment of armed British murderers and the continuing torture of those taken to Castlereagh, John Hume once again leaps to the aid of British propaganda in yet another attempt to divert the minds of the people and turn them against the Republican Movement.

Hume knows only too well the answers to the questions he poses. He knows that we will stop when the British declare their intention to leave this island. If he wants the violence to cease he should direct his appeals towards those responsible i.e. the British Government, instead of prolonging the war in a useless effort of wooing the British into establishing a suitable devolved Stormont where he and his team can 'share' adequate power. The British Government are employing troops to keep the Irish people under the heel of Westminster. They are supported by various so-called Irish interests who act on behalf of the British in a paramilitary, political, judicial and socio-economic role. These people are as guilty as the thugs who break down the doors of the Irish working-class and must therefore share the consequences. Like Hume these people are committed to a British imposed solution which will have considerable

gains for the right sort-power for the politicians, and jobs for the 'boys'. Hume is a spokesman for those who have a vested interest in the Six Counties remaining part of Britain, at least until they can establish themselves as the new aristocracy, hence his recent statement on behalf of the pro-British Capitalist class.

Contrary to his claim that we are at war with a section of the 'Irish people' we would state once again that we are at war with British imperialism in all its forms which includes those British in Ireland who would aid the suppression of the Irish people. By this we mean the pro-British capitalists who openly or secretly collaborate with the British and bolster the Six-County statelet at the expense of the broad mass of people who suffer as a result.

We have no interest in a British solution nor have we in professional political careerists. Our volunteers are fighting, against great odds, in their own country for freedom ably supported by the working-class people in the ghetto areas, in spite of the daily attacks made upon them by British supported politicians like Hume. It is the people in these areas who suffer most because of British imperialism. We are determined to bring to task those responsible for the suffering whether they

wear a khaki uniform, or a lounge suit.

We will continue the fight until final victory. We would remind Hume and his fellow-travellers that peace would come much sooner if they added their voices to the demands for British withdrawal instead of gutter attacks on those Hume considers a threat to his political career. His voice would be more representative of the Derry people if he spoke out against the activities in Castlereagh and the prisons. This however would not please his British masters or capitalist backers so instead he attacks the Republican Movement who have these issues in the forefront of our campaign.

In doing this for political gain he is, in effect, attempting to demoralize those men and women in prison for their ideals and those on the outside who are fighting to ensure that those ideals are realized. His message is - Surrender. Our answer to Hume and co. is that the fight will continue in whatever form deemed necessary to rid this country of the British. Britain has no right in Ireland. The Irish people have the right of freedom and self-determination. The Irish Republican Army is opposing armed occupation with armed resistance. This is not merely the message of the leadership but of the Rank-and-file.

IT'S A UNITED IRELAND OR .....



ALTERNATIVELY .....



# PRISON JOURNAL

Wormwood  
London.

Scrubs,

CIRCUMSTANCES OF BEATINGS INDICATE

## HIGH-LEVEL CONSPIRACY

The deteriorating condition of Shane O Doherty (Derry) is giving rise to concern. He has been seeking **Political Status** since last September wearing only a towel to keep warm. Several British M.P.'s have been approached over his case, as well as other cases concerning Irish political prisoners. The prison is regularly picketed in support of his just demand.

Also here Harry Duggan, another of the Brixton Brigade, was assaulted and hospitalised shortly after arriving from Brixton. The mysterious circumstances of his and the other assaults would seem to indicate a high-level conspiracy among the British authorities to ill-treat and brutalise all defenceless Irish political prisoners.

We have asked the British Home Office for an explanation into why they have set up **control-units** - cells designed to control prisoners by using sensory deprivation methods, at Wormwood Scrubs. In one cell-block many of the cell-windows are covered by metal-screens, preventing the prisoner from seeing natural light, sound and contact, and thereby helping destroy the will to live and de-humanising the unfortunate occupant. One excuse given for this by the British Home Office is that it is used to prevent prisoners from passing contraband from one cell to another. Just shows you the very limited imagination of the faceless civil-servants in the Home Office.

Gartree, Market Harborough, Leics.

£350,000 is being spent on a new segregation unit at Gartree which will have lavatories in the cells; the inmates of which will have the privilege of **being the only prisoners in this country** who do not have to slop out every morning. All this is part of a cover-up by the British of the fact that this unit is likely to be used for psychiatric purposes. We shall keep a very close watch on the activities of Her Majesty's staff at this prison, and every other prison too. P.S. Memo to Merlyn Rees.

In your written reply concerning the ill-treatment of prisoners, you forgot to mention that the prisoner who emptied the contents of the pot over the deputy governor, had watched the contents mature for **four weeks** in his cell.

Actions against the Authorities  
The 5 POW's captured by Merseyside and

Manchester police in July 1975, Brendan Dowd (Kerry), Sean Kinsella (Monaghan), Steven Nordone (Louth), Noel Gibson (Laos) and Paul Norrey (Belfast), are taking civil proceedings the police there 'for assault and grievous bodily harm'. The results of the policy inquiry into the incidents, predictably enough, have never been made public.

Other court actions against the police are in the pipe-line.

### CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Despite publicity about the victimisation of IPPs in England, the Home Office campaign against these men continues.

Hugh Doherty has been in solitary confinement in Wandsworth since conviction and during that time he has been refused visits; had his radio taken away; refused reading matter; refused the full hour's exercise each day and worst of all been held in a cell with no heating. Complaints by his solicitor have led to some improvement in his conditions. Patrick Hackett in Brixton is still being refused permission to be examined by an independent doctor.

Philip Sheridan in Wakefield is being locked

up each evening at 4.30 and so has no association with other prisoners.

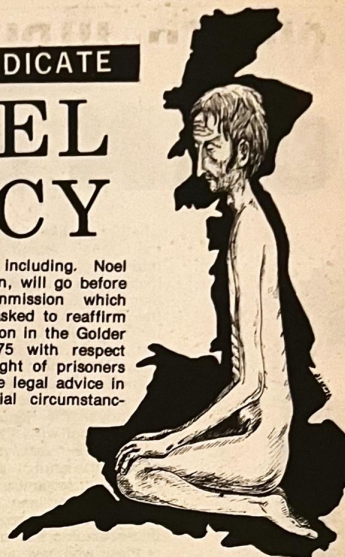
Gerry Conlon in Wakefield has been refused permission to see his father who is in Wormwood Scrubs.

Michael Reilly was held eight months in Wandsworth after conviction during which time he was refused visits from his wife on the grounds that she was not an "approved" visitor.

The Home Office has now Categorised all IPPs as 'Special Category' and this terminology is used quite openly in prisons. The Category only applies to IPPs and includes restrictions on visits, educations, delays in letters and papers. It is the English equivalent of political status.

Because of refusal to allow prisoners to see their solicitors with a view to exposing the way that they have been treated, the PAC has decided to take their cases to the European Commission for Human Rights under Article 8 - right to respect for private life and family life and restriction of the interference by public authorities. The cases taken so far are those of Sean Campbell, Ronnie McCartney, Paul Holmes, Robert Cunningham and Martin Coughlan. So far 10 petitions have been lodged with the Commission and next week petitions on behalf of several

others, including, Noel Jenkinson, will go before the Commission which will be asked to reaffirm its decision in the Golder Case 1975 with respect to the right of prisoners to receive legal advice in confidential circumstances.



## THE CASE OF PATRICK THOMPSON

In a few days time a young man from South Armagh will appear in court for the second time in his life. The occasion for this appearance will be in an effort to seek justice and the vindication of his innocence. Thereby to regain his freedom.

The name of this young man is Patrick Thompson and he was tried and convicted (unjustly) for the killing of four British soldiers in the vicinity of Crossmaglen. For this crime he was sentenced to a recommended 30 years in prison. As in so many other cases, his guilt was not proven in court, but he was convicted on the misleading and sometimes falsified evidence of police and army witnesses. Witnesses who were shown to be stumbling around blindly in a maze of concoctions, and outright lies, on many occasions. This fact was shown so clearly by the defending barrister, that on it's own the so called evidence could never have resulted in a conviction. But unfortunately Pat Thompson had made a statement to the police and it was the acceptance of this statement by the trial judge which decided the issue.

The acceptability of Pat's statement is the main point of contention, because it raises the issue of police brutality during interrogation. This is an issue very much in the public eye at the moment due to the findings of

the International Court at Strasbourg, and the allegations made recently against the Garda in the Free State.

At the trial of Pat Thompson, he claimed through his barrister that he had been tortured and physically abused until he had reached the point of submission. This is not the point where one is ready to admit guilt; but the limit of endurance to physical punishment where the victim will admit the most impossible and outrageous lies, so that the torture will cease.

The police rejected these allegations of torture and physical methods but they did admit that the police doctor had to be summoned to examine their victim because he was suffering intense pain. The doctor was summoned **after** the statement had been signed, and I can merely suggest that it was extremely obliging of Pat that he endured his discomfort until all the relevant bunsell had been transacted.

Pat Thompson is a very likeable young man with a quiet easy-going nature and if he can rightly be called a terrorist, then the dictionary definition of the word "terrorist" must surely require changing. He seeks nothing more than his due, which is simple justice and a speedy return to his family and friends.

RIGHT OF SOCIETY TO  
KNOW THE TRUTH

## SHOW-TRIAL UNDER WAY

The 'trial' of Eddie Caughey and John Higgins, both Belfastmen, also started on 21 February at the Old Bailey court, London. It is expected to last another week or so.

The Brixton Brigade members, Harry Duggan (Clare), Hugh Doherty (Donegal), Eddie Butler (Limerick) and Joe O Connell (Clare), were all moved out of here immediately after sentencing and dispersed through out Britain.

Wandsworth, London. All the Republican POW's here are held practically **incommunicado** from the outside world from the day they arrive. They are **not allowed** a radio, newspapers or books by the

prison authorities and are even segregated from each other. Some have been in this deplorable situation since September of last year. Their only contact with the outside world is the **one** weekly letter to and from a relative and one **closed** visit a month, both 'privileges' which are closely supervised by the prison-warders.

### ATTACKS

Joe O Connell, of the Brixton Brigade, was badly beaten-up and ended-up in hospital, within 24 hours of arriving here. According to the British Home Office 'he was being taken on exercise by warders when he was attacked by another prisoner, necessitating hospital treatment.



# SILVER JUBILEE OF A BATON CHARGE

By SCOPOLI (DERRY)

It has always been part of our Celtic tradition to record outstanding events in the composition of songs and verse. The year 1952 in Derry City provided ample inspiration to an unknown bard who penned the following song, which was then popularly sung to the air of "The Wild Colonial Boy"...

" 'Twas on the seven-teenth of March",  
In the year of fifty two,  
Inside the walls, there  
were some squalls,  
That's where the deeds  
were done,  
Some Irishmen they bore  
the flag,  
of Orange, White and  
Green,  
Brooke's RUC, dare not  
agree,  
To let our flag be seen, "

The event was a token carrying of the Irish tri-colour by members of the city's Nationalist Party, inside Derry-Walls, which resulted in savage attacks by the RUC against the marchers, a few dozen strong. The background to the incident and the subsequent riot was the passing of the Flags and Emblems Act which forbade the republican community from displaying the national flag within the old walled city. The Act was of course part and parcel of the Stormont legal apparatus which was designed to keep the anti-imperialist population in their traditional role of second class citizens.

At noon on St. Patrick's Day, a few dozen people assembled in a shop in the Diamond, and raised the banned flag. They then proceeded to march peacefully down Shipquay street, towards Guildhall Square. At the junction of Castle St. Richmond St. they were ambushed by shouting policemen who ran towards them waving their batons over their heads, like some ancestral ritual designed to frighten the natives. In true October 5th style, "the warriors of Orange-Toryism" waded into the defenceless marchers in an attempt to capture the flag.

The natives however resisted, and with their bare hands defended the banner until it was triumphantly carried through Shipquay Gate where a spontaneous rendering of the Soldiers' Song took place, amid a backing of screams from people on the receiving end of batons. The few dozen became a might throng, as RUC reinforcements arrived in the vain hope that they could baton the people up William Street and into the Bogside. The dockers left the Quay, taking with them appropriate tools of their trade. The girls in the shirt factories left their machine benches and rushed into the Square. The R.U.C. attack, was very quickly becoming a retreat. Every attempt to invade the Bogside was successfully repulsed.

It is now twenty-five years since St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in the city, mainly due to pressure from clerical and business elements on political groups. However 1977, will be remembered as "PRISONERS' DAY", as the Irish Front stage their second public demonstration as part of an overall campaign aimed at developing a higher degree of consciousness relating to those incarcerated. The Front is calling for a massive show of solidarity with all political prisoners in the north, south and in Britain. This solidarity is of primary importance at this point in time when we consider the horrific revelations emanating from police stations and prisons. These foul and vile practices that are being carried out in the name of "law and order", must be resisted if any measure of human rights and dignity are to be restored.

The March will assemble at the Creggan Shops at 2.15 and proceed to Guildhall Square where a rally will be addressed by prominent speakers. Before the march moves off, balloons bearing the names of almost one thousand prisoners, and the gaols in which they are held will be released, so that people can be encouraged to "adopt a prisoner"; and write to them on a regular basis. Prior to the speeches, a mini-play based on torture, intimidation and the



repression of prisoners generally will be held.

A number of bands have accepted invitations to attend, all local organisations have received notice, (some 904), and each of the political organisations making up the Front are preparing to participate. The Prisoners' Dependents Fund, Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican

Socialist Party will have floats in the parade, depicting prison life, and other groups and area committees also intend to enter floats.

In a public statement recently the Irish Front said, "On this historic occasion, let it be said of us all that we did not forget our prisoners in this the hour of their need".

## ROSTREVR CUMANN FORMED

Another Sinn Fein Cumann has been formed in Rostrevor. It has been named after Danny Lennon; the volunteer murdered by British thugs while he was on active service in Belfast.

The officers and members of this Cumann are totally dedicated to the furthering of the aims of a 32 County Federal Socialist Republic. The members also stand firm behind the 'Brits out -

Peace in' Campaign.

The Danny Lennon Cumann calls on the people of Rostrevor and South Down to stand firmly behind them and give their support in every way. Any persons interested in furthering the aims of the Republican Movement should contact any member of the Sinn Fein Cumann Rostrevor.

Enquiries, complaints etc. will also be dealt with if handed to a member of the Cumann.

## ADVICE CENTRE

The Emmet/Liggett Cumann, from the St. James' area of Belfast have opened an Advice Centre to cater for the needs of the people. The Centre, which is situated above 'George's' shop, will be open from 8 pm until 10 pm, Mondays to Fridays. All problems will be looked into and the Cumann expect to be busy in the coming weeks.

## IN MEMORIAM

Allsopp 2nd Anniversary.

In proud and loving memory of my dear Son 2nd Lt. Fian Robert Allsopp who died on 23rd March 1975. R.I.P. Age 15 years.

star in Heaven a beautiful light to shine.

And out of this world of sorrow he chose that dear son of mine.

Just a prayer from a lonely heart for a son who's troubles I share Just a token of love and regret from a mother who always cares.

Always remembered by his mother, sister, uncles and aunts and a large family circle also Liza Jane.

St. Joseph pray for him If only I had you back again just a little while. To see your face to hold your hand and see your gentle smile. For God had needed a

## MASON APPEASING ORANGE FASCISTS

Mr Mason our Colonial Dictator is at his wits end to appease the Orange Fascists and others of that calibre who are always calling for more stringent measures to be taken against the Nationalist areas to make the Croppies lie down. He has apparently issued new instructions to Her Gracious Majesty's Army of thugs. "Arrest anything that moves in the Ghettos no matter what their age or aimment". In the space of a week in Ardoyne Her Gallant heroes arrested 5 children

aged between 7 and 9 years and one lad of 14 who is so mentally retarded he couldn't answer his own name.

Another thing they do not report is the number of persons arrested and later released. We can help him compile his statistics. Our records show in Ardoyne alone during the month of January over 100 people were arrested under Section 10 and after intensive interrogation all were released. We eagerly await the

next report by the Security Chief's to hear how they report the arrests of these innocents to their dutiful master.

The unveiling ceremony of the Memorial Plot to the people of Ardoyne Bone and Ligoniel who died because of Ireland's troubles, will take place on Easter Tuesday 12th April. Further details of the ceremony will be published later.

Orders for Tricolours will be taken in the Sinn Fein Advice Centre 199 Brompton Park Ardoyne.



