

# REPUBLICAN NEWS

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## C O B D A T G H N A H - E I R E A N N (Irish Republican Army)

Statement from the Army Council

EASTER SUNDAY, 1943.  
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All over Ireland, and wherever abroad our exiled brethern foregather, the thoughts of Irish people, at Easter time, turn, with pride to the graves of our patriot dead, to those graves which are an eternal testimony of Ireland's separate nationhood, and a silent reproach to all who have wearied of freedom's call, or who may never have heard its stirring note.

We honour to-day the memory of all those who, in every generation, gave their lives that Ireland might be free, and publicly render homage to the gallant men and women who "dared to back with deeds their dreams of liberty".

Of these, the freshest in our memory are the five dauntless soldiers of the Republic who have made the supreme sacrifice since last Easter, Volunteer Terry Perry, Staff-Lieut. Gerard O'Callaghan, Lieut. Tom Williams, Comdt. Patrick Dermody and Staff-Captain Maurice O'Neill. With them we salute also the hundreds of faithful Republican soldiers and citizens, men and women, who languish in jails and internment camps in Britain and Ireland, and we assure them that despite coercion and terrorism, despite imprisonment and internment, despite the woundings and killings of our comrades, the struggle for freedom will go on, until victory crowns our efforts.

The cause for which our soldiers are in jail and for which some of them have died is the restoration of our national freedom and the re-establishment of the Republic, the self-same cause for which Pearse and Connolly fought, when with a handful of gallant comrades, they held at bay for a week the armed might of a world-wide Empire, and wrote with blood and fire the most heroic chapter in all our heroic history.

That cause has not yet triumphed. Until it does, the methods of Pearse and Connolly are our methods, their spirit is our inspiration, and their Proclamation of the Republic remains for us the fundamental declaration of the right and authority of our Nation to resort to arms in defence of its inalienable right to sovereign independence.

Two Partition assemblies continue, with British connivance, to function in Ireland, in defiance of the Government of the Republic. The energies of the Nation must be directed immediately to the overthrow of these illegal bodies. Every day that they exist makes the task of abolishing them increasingly difficult. Perhaps the saddest result of Partition is the fact that a generation has grown up which has never known an undivided Ireland and for many of them the Border seems to have assumed the permanence and fixity of a natural boundary. It is the clear duty of all who are charged with the education of the youth of the country, and of all who believe in the future of a united Ireland, to teach our young men and women and children that Ireland is a Nation, one and indivisible, and that Partition is a monstrous



wrong inflicted on Ireland without the support of a single vote from even the Ulster Unionist members of the British Parliament.

Partition is also responsible for the presence on Irish soil of a large number of American Troops. All shades of Nationalist opinion have joined in protest against this invasion of our rights. In August of last year, a statement was issued from the Army Council of the Irish Republican Army, characterising the presence of these troops as an act of aggression, and protesting against it in the most emphatic manner. We reiterate that protest, and warn the Government of the U.S.A. that the resumption of open hostilities between the Irish Republic and Great Britain will almost inevitably mean that American troops will also become involved, and that America, the champion of democracy and co-sponsor of the "Atlantic Charter" will find herself engaged with Britain in waging a war of Imperial aggression and conquest against the Irish people.

Events in Ireland are hastening towards a crisis. Indications are not wanting that the British Government is contemplating a further attempt to enforce Conscription in Northern Ireland, and the obvious preparations for further wholesale internments and the introduction of the new Coercion Law are apparently intended to clear the way for such a move.

Fully conscious of the gravity of our words, we solemnly declare that the entire resources of the Government of the Republic will be thrown into the struggle to defeat Conscription. If the flower of Ireland's manhood is to die in bloody war, that war shall be, not for the defence of a corrupt and decadent Empire, but for the certain enthronement of the living Republic of Ireland.

Ireland is being held within the Empire by sheer force and by force alone can she free herself. Now, with Britain engaged in a struggle for her very existence, we are presented with a glorious opportunity. We call upon the young men of the country to help us to avail of that opportunity by joining the Irish Republican Army, in order to arm, train and prepare themselves for the historic task that lies before us, and with courage in our hearts and God's blessing on our work we shall see the triumphant realisation of the dreams of those great and heroic men who sprang to arms on that Easter Monday morning, twenty-seven years ago.

ISSUED BY THE ARMY COUNCIL,  
Ogláigh na h-Eireann,  
(Irish Republican Army).

#### CAISG NA SAOIRSE.

Rinne fir agus mna na Casga 1916 iarracht sar-mhór chun greim Shasana ar an tír seo do bhriseadh. Ní rabh siad sathach laidir chuige acht thaisbean siad an chaol agus an slighe d'oganaigh na h-Eireann, agus ta se ceangailte orra siúd an beart beannuighthe sin do gheanamh, luath no mall. Is fearr luath na mall, agus bu cheart do gach stocach e fhein do chur i gcoir gan mhoill le h-aghaidh na h-oibre. Ta failte agus cead roimhe i n-Arm na Poblachta.

Great memories, great men, great days, Easter 1916. Easter twenty-seven years ago. Easter of the insurrection, of the awakening, of the remembering. Easter with Pearse, with Connolly, with McDermott, with laughing MacDonagh, with mystic Plunkett, with piping soldierly Kent, with all that throng of fighting men and martyrs. How we envy those who were old enough to call each one of them comrade. Do we honour them at all? Do we just march in a procession, listen to an oration, turn away, hurry off, perhaps, to some shoneen pastime, some Englishising entertainment, something for the banning of breaking of which they gave their blood? Are the young lads just going to remember them in a careless way once a year forever, or are they going to



we know they are necessary. De Valera knew what he was about when he gagged the press. Andrews and Bates and the rest of the Stormont gags are bad, but they couldn't hold a candle to the "democrats" who dis-  
pense freedom and fair play from the place over which Queen Victoria presides. Their idea of free speech is something that will be of inter-  
est to democrats and Republicans the world over in the years to come.

#### AFTER THREE YEARS.

It is nearly three years since Tomas MacCurtain went to Port-  
laoighise, or Maryboro, as it used to be called. Since then eight  
other lads of spirit have joined him in that hell upon Eire. Even  
some Republicans wouldn't believe that those patriot prisoners were  
being treated like wild animals; that because they refused to brand  
themselves as criminals by wearing the Empire's broad arrow, they have  
had to endure the hardships of winter in an old damp stone building  
with nothing to cover their bodies, night and day, only two blankets.  
In spite of all the Fianna Fail secrecy, this horrible story of cruelty  
and brutality has been known to hundreds for the past two years. But  
there were many who would not believe that pious God-fearing, Christian  
De Valera could stoop so low. Now they know. The daily papers of  
April 9th carried news of a question asked in Queen Victoria's Parlia-  
ment by a Mr. Davin who is, we think, a labour member, about conditions  
in Portlaoighise Prison. Charlie McCarthy (as Mr. Jerry Boland is  
called in Belfast) had to admit that for nearly three years the Repub-  
lican prisoners had no clothing of any kind except two blankets each  
(some of you know what prison blankets are like) because they refused  
to admit they were criminals. Mr. Davin should now ask if it is true  
that as an added punishment the men are not allowed to attend Mass, to  
write or receive letters, to see their nearest relatives; that they are  
treated worse than the most degraded criminals in any country on earth.  
But "their health is good" says Charlie McCarthy, echoing the whispered  
orders of the arch-torturer De Valera, who with a callous indifference  
that would disgrace Mexico itself, endeavours to destroy the bodies and  
minds of the men he hates for their spirit and courage. "Their health  
is good" despite the fact that several months ago a political prisoner  
named Joby Sullivan of Cork was transferred from Portlaoighise to  
Mountjoy Prison to "health reasons". Many of his comrades there can  
testify to the marks of ill-treatment shown on his body upon arrival  
in Mountjoy. This unfortunate prisoner has since been transferred to  
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum. Have the sacrifices of Tomas Ashe  
and many others for political treatment for political prisoners been  
in vain?

#### RECALLING TULLAMORE.

Some months ago a few of us in Belfast listened in one night  
to Radio De Valera, as it gave a dramatic flash back into coercion  
history, recalling William O'Brien's plucky fight against the degradat-  
ion of convict garb in Land League days. It was well done. We had  
the Governor of Tullamore Jail, the Doctor, Visiting Justices, Prisons  
Board Inspector, Warders - the whole gang paid by Dublin Castle to  
insult and degrade one decent Irishman of spirit - and the corrupt,  
perjured politicians who control Radio De Valera and Portlaoighise  
Prison were at the same time carrying on a similar dirty damnable  
campaign against not one but nine decent young Irishmen of spirit,  
carrying it on, not in the full blaze of press and platform publicity,  
as in William O'Brien's case, but in secret, and in the meanest fashion  
known to torturers of their fellow men. One of those listening in  
said that petty and mean as Bates and Andrews are at times, they would  
not be so two-faced, so brazen, or so stupid, as to recall over the  
radio an act of cruelty carried out by those who went before them,  
and while recalling it, perpetuate a far meaner and more cowardly act  
of cruelty themselves. We all agreed, and we asked ourselves did the  
people of the twenty-six counties know of the inhuman conduct that was  
being carried on in their name by De Valera and his low crew.

#### KICK OUT FIANNA FAIL.



of vague talk at times about freedom and independence and national aspirations, and so on, but the great men of 1916 battled and died for the Irish Republic, and until the Irish Republic rules every square inch of Ireland they will not be honoured in the way they would wish - in the way they deserve to be honoured. And that cannot be done until every youth is an Irish Republican soldier, trained and educated in his duty to the Republic, and ready, at a minute's notice to follow in the footsteps of Pearse. If that fruitful thought is planted in every young mind on Easter Sunday, the day will be well spent.

### CRIME, CRIMINALS: AND THE I.R.A.

In the memorable years when the I.R.A. acting under the Republican Government, operated from Antrim to Kerry, crimes were few, and criminals watched their step; in fact, the only serious crimes were committed by the imperial armed forces. To-day the skimpy politicians who rule the island from Stormont and Queen Victoria Lawr have their imperial armed forces everywhere, and they have more than a thousand leaders - key men - of the I.R.A. in prison. The mean little politicians call their prisoners criminals and pretend that it is because of their crimes, or potential crimes, they are in jail. What is the result? Has crime ceased? It has increased one hundred per cent - just the same increase that has taken place in the number of imperial officials, peelers, and touts. While decent men and women are being shadowed and raided, criminals carry on their good old trade by day and by night, and only one in every score is caught. How many of the peelers, detectives and touts who put Irish Republicans behind bars, are in league with the elusive criminals and share in their profits? Alleged criminals in jail, real criminals at large, crime and crime detectors on the increase, and De Valera spouting over the radio about the sort of Ireland we ought to have - as if he wasn't in power at all. "Blether" cried an old Belfastman as he turned off Radio De Valera on St. Patrick's night. An blether is exactly right.

### MICHAEL MALONE.

To young men in one part of Ireland Michael Malone is the real soldier hero of Easter Week 1916. He was in charge of seven or eight men at Mount Street Bridge, and for two days kept at bay thousands of British troops crowding in from Dun Laoghaire - and he fought to the very death. This was an outpost of De Valera's command, but the great military leader sat tight with a couple of hundred men in Boland's Mills and never sent a man or a rifle or a bullet to help Michael Malone. He and his few soldiers were left to their fate, and after killing hundreds of British they died at their posts. No surrender for them. The man who deserted them, and made no fight at all was spared by the British because he was an American citizen, and was elected both political and military leader by foolish Republicans in 1917, and the real hero of Boland's Mills area, Michael Malone, was forgotten. That foolish action has been dearly paid for since, and the British, who are being helped by this country now have reason to be thankful for their own wisdom and Irish foolishness after 1916. When will real Republican Ireland make reparation to Michael Malone?

### FREE SPEECH.

Paper is scarce - even in the subsidised Six Counties and even inexperienced wielders of the pen, like ourselves, must learn to economise in words. There's a lot to be said, and a lot to be taught, and we often wish that some of the old, seasoned hands would come to our aid. There's work for everybody who believed in the Irish Republic, and we are not the sort of young people who look down our noses at the grey-beards and declare them out of date. We know there have been such in the I.R.A. but we don't agree with them. The veterans who have stood staunch through the stampedes of the twenty odd years gone by are worth having as friends, and a good word from them is like wine to some of us. Writing and speeches are not in our line; we find them difficult, and