

# An Phoblacht

## REPUBLICAN NEWS



Sraith nua Iml. 1 Uimhir 27 DE SATHAIRN LUNASA 4 1979

SATURDAY AUGUST 4th 1979

(England, Scotland and Wales 12p) Price 10p

# THE SPIRIT OF NATIONAL LIBERATION



**"IF YOU STRIKE AT, IMPRISON OR KILL US, OUT OF OUR PRISONS OR GRAVES WE WILL STILL EVOKE A SPIRIT THAT WILL THWART YOU, AND, MAYHAPS, RAISE A FORCE THAT WILL DESTROY YOU."**

— James Connolly.

A spirit that will thwart you! For British occupation this is none other than the Irish Republican Movement, the phoenix that emerged out of the ashes of '69, a haunting spirit out of the graves of men and children like Sammy Devenney, John Gallagher, Gerard McAuley, and Patrick Rooney, out of the graves of Republican dead and out of the incredible suffering of the H-Block blanketmen.

This movement is intent upon "formulating a distinct and definite answer to the problems of the present and the political and economic creed capable of adjustment to the wants of the future."

— James Connolly.

Where the situation runs red with blood and black-and-blue with bruises (as in the six-counties under the RUC and Brits), blows, jail and death, release a nationalist spirit of resistance, a movement for liberation, and bring down the wrath of the people on the oppressors.

But where exploitation and oppression becomes more subtle (as within the neo-colonial twenty-six counties) due to manipulation, misunderstanding and isolation the spirit of resistance is, generally speaking, weak and restricted to

committed Republicans and individual members of the labour movement.

### STATEMENT

This fact should by no means dictate a yearning by those who are committed, for an increase in physical state repression in the hope of sparking off resistance. It is just a statement about the way things are. The point is how can the existing spirit be improved.

Firstly, part of the Free Staters' isolation of Republicans from the people consists of banning us from RTE. Do the journalists working for that organisation support this ban?

If not, then let us find out what

they are doing about it. If some do support the ban then let us consider picketing the place and exposing them.

Secondly, not all in the Republican garden can be said to be rosy. This newspaper — for example, could be reaching a wider audience — into sections of the working-class and labour movement who, if informed of the situation in the North and in the jails, will definitely support the Republican cause.

Some Republicans (and some people who have never been in the North) spend hours bemoaning the apathy of our natural allies — the southern working-class — towards the fate of the North, but never put this paper on sale outside the factory gates to give them an opportunity to discover what it is all about.

### HOW MANY?

And another thing, how many people will be sitting on their backsides up to and including when the 'Brits Must Go' campaign reaches its climax next week?

How many people — so very much concerned about the North — will not even bother making their way to the Dublin march on August 11th never mind make the (physical and psychological) crossing of the border for the national demo in Belfast on August 12th?

This week sees the present phase of our national liberation struggle enter its eleventh year after a decade of sheer determination and uncompromising sacrifice. Nobody should imagine that it has been easy and nobody — North or South of the border — should be allowed to get into their minds the partitionist notion that the people of the North are somehow different from the people of the South. That is, from a Republican point of view that Northerners are sounder or from a Free Staters' view that they are blacker.

There are no borders to the spirit of national liberation, except ones erected by people as an excuse for doing nothing or very little. The spirit of national liberation will certainly, as Connolly said, thwart and raise a force that will destroy the enemy.



## Inside this issue

Special four-page supplement  
1969 - August - 1979

- A Risen People
- Revolution was in the air
- Free Derry was born
- Details of August demonstrations

BRITAIN MUST GO

ROGER CASEMENT  
COMMEMORATION  
MURLOUGH BAY,  
CO. ANTRIM

2.30 p.m. Sunday 5th August  
Speaker: Tony Ruane, National Treasurer  
of Sinn Féin  
Organised by Dan Darragh Sinn Féin  
Cumann, Ballycastle.  
BELFAST BUSES  
Leave Dunville Park 12 noon  
Fare £2  
Buses organised by Belfast Sinn Féin.



# YOUNG WORKERS SHOW THEIR METAL

by Paul Rooney

STRIKERS at Pressed Metal Products in North King Street, Dublin have won a resounding victory. They have successfully challenged not only their bosses but also the courts and without any help from their union, the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (ITGWU), have succeeded in gaining significant improvements in their conditions and rates of pay.

It was four weeks ago, when the ten young trade unionists placed their demands before the owners of Pressed Metal. The main items being a decent living wage (instead of their average wage of twenty-six pounds per week); proper canteen facilities; adequate first aid facilities; no victimisation; and a ban on all work and machinery transfer to subsidiaries.

The management's swift answer was to lock them out and sack them all. The young workers replied by taking over the works and



An ITGWU full-time official (right) laying down the law to striker Pat McGovern.

locking the bosses out, and hoisting

the Starry Plough above the factory.

The officials at the ITGWU, Mick Wall and Arthur Kelly, completely ignored the plight of these young men and the Pressed Metal management brought a court action. But despite all the odds against them the strikers held out and made the management back down.

These young trade unionists have been guaranteed security of work; a 9% increase backdated to April plus another 11% from now bringing the total to 20%; good canteen facilities and first aid facilities and no victimisation.

They have now left the ITGWU and have been welcomed by another union AGEMOU. (Charlie Mooney of AGEMOU acted as an intermediary during the dispute which had finally ended in the High Court.)

The conduct of the ITGWU during this strike was deplorable, and members of this union, especially



Supporters outside Pressed Metal showing their solidarity with the occupiers.



Gardai, after an unsuccessful attempt at trying to get the occupiers to leave.

those of No. 14 Branch would be well advised to look closely at the actions of full-time branch officials who seem more interested in sitting on the boss's knee, than in looking after their members' interests.

## DUBLIN COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS FACE PRISON

ON MONDAY July 30th a press conference was called by six community leaders in Dublin who have been sentenced to twenty-eight days imprisonment in default of payment of a twenty pound fine and the signing of a bond to keep the peace for six months.

The six, who include Tony Gregory, a Dublin city councillor, and Larry Whelan, chairman, North Central Community Council, have decided to pay the fine but have re-



Larry Whelan, chairman of North Central Community Council who faces a jail sentence.

fused to sign the bond. Therefore, they are currently waiting to receive warrants for their arrest.

This situation arose out of a demonstration held by the Inner-City Action Committee on May 25th when residents from the Gardiner Street, Summerhill and Sean McDermott Street areas marched through the streets of Dublin to protest against Dublin Corporation's attitude over inner city housing.

They felt that the Corporation was deliberately committing planning genocide against one of Dublin's oldest communities. Instead of rehousing the people of the area in that area, the corporation is planning to build car parks and office blocks. The residents feel that this is tearing the heart out of the city.

And so as a result of this policy, the people, including the action committee felt that they had no alternative but to take to the streets in peaceful protest. This action landed the community activists in the District Court, where Justice Kelly described them as being 'thugs' and 'blackguards'.

City councillor Tony Gregory declared at Monday's press conference that all the people involved in this case are responsible community leaders, and that it seems now to be illegal in the Free State to take part in peaceful protests. He feels that there are very serious implications for any group of people involved in community work, as a result of this case.

## Dirty work at Liberty Hall

MEMBERS of the No. 13 Branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (ITGWU) in Dublin are picketing Liberty Hall, the headquarters of the union, because the members claim that the branch officials have failed to fight for a pay claim that they have submitted. The workers are employed at Telecommunications Ltd. at Finglas, and are in dispute with the management over a 12% increase in basic pay.

This dispute has not been recognised by the ITGWU who have declared it unofficial.

But there is a bizarre twist to this story:

Seven weeks ago members of the No. 2 Branch, ITGWU employed at Telecommunications went on strike over exactly the same claim, namely 12%. Members of No. 13 Branch were called out to support these white-collar workers, and successfully helped them to win. Now that the members of No. 13 have lodged the same claim, the ITGWU have refused to process the claim, and members of No. 2 Branch are crossing the picket line.

Pat Murphy, a shop steward in the

dispute, claims that this is blatant discrimination on the part of the ITGWU officials. He also points out that this is a parity claim which traditionally has been implemented down the years.

The workers who are picketing their union headquarters have been subjected to a certain amount of abuse from officials employed there, and have had miscellaneous missiles thrown at them out of windows in the building. However the workers say they will not be intimidated by actions such as this.

It should be noted that Pat Murphy has also been charged by the National Executive Committee of the ITGWU of "conduct unbecoming a member and inimical to the interests of the members" because six months ago he was directly responsible in gaining a substantial increase in wages for workers at Telectron. Tallaght, in an unofficial dispute, that is by free collective bargaining.

In future months workers will be faced with exactly the same problem: choosing between on the one hand free collective bargaining on the shop floor with a good chance of victory; and on the other hand centralised bargaining in the hands of the trade union bureaucrats and facing defeat after defeat.

## Garda v Postal Workers

## War of Nerves

AFTER THE antics of the gardai during the recent post office strike, when they unsuccessfully tried to boot and hammer the strikers into submission (by attacking their picket lines) the strikers swore that the gardai would not continue to use their canteen in Sheriff Street.

True to their word when the dispute ended the postal workers banned the gardai from the works canteen and suspended all types of co-operation with them. A week ago the gardai, in an act of petty retaliation, started putting parking tickets on postal workers' cars parked outside the main Dublin sorting office in Sheriff Street. The postal workers immediately stopped work and streamed out into the street and confronted the gardai.

After one hour, the gardai backed down and union officials collected all the parking tickets and sent them back to the garda station.

### CORK

Meanwhile gardai in Cork have accused postal workers of holding up their pay checks in the post, and the garda superintendent of Cork has put into action emergency plans to pay his men.

Postal workers accuse the gardai of slander and believe that this type of propaganda is only being used to blacken their name in this continuing war of nerves.

## Attacks Against Windsor Pickets

THE Windsor Motors strike in Dublin, now in its fourteenth week, has taken a turn for the worse. Three of the striking workers, Noel DeVesey, Liam Clarke and William Kelly have been told by Justice Keane (a notorious anti-working-class judge) that they will go to gaol unless they cease picketing the premises of Chrysler at Shanowen Road in Dublin.

Chrysler, were granted an injunction a week last Monday. This type of state interference has been on the increase and in fact nearly every dispute in Dublin over the past four months has involved the use of

court injunctions against workers trying to improve their living standards.

Noel DeVesey, a shop steward, said that he and his members were forced to picket Chrysler's because men from Chrysler's were working at Windsor Car Auctions in Inchicore, thus scabbing on those who were in dispute.



Noel DeVesey Shop Steward at Windsor Motors.

Justice Keane, never one to mince words, told Noel DeVesey that he was not interested in workers' grievances, legitimate or otherwise. He was there to uphold the law.

The workers at Windsor have suffered intimidation not only from the state through various injunctions and court orders, but also from the 'hired' bully boys who act as bouncers for the Windsor Motors management.

The strikers at Windsor Motors have asked for full support from trade union movement in order to obtain their just claim to earn a decent wage and save their jobs.

## SUCCESSFUL PICKET AT BIG MAC'S

LAST SATURDAY 28th July a twenty-strong picket (defying the court order limiting them to three) was held at Big Macs hamburger joint in Grafton Street. The strikers, using a megaphone, informed thousands of people, many of them overseas visitors, of the anti-union activities of Mac's management.

During the afternoon the gardai forced the picketers off the pavement onto the road, which made it virtually impossible for the strikers to talk to people and explain their grievances.

The amount of state interference in this strike must surely be a warning to other workers in the twenty-six counties of what they will face in the future.

### SUPERDINE BLACKED

Meanwhile more support has been coming in for the strikers at Macs. The Irish National Union of Vintners, Grocers and Allied Trades Assistants has pledged its members' full support and have blacked one main supplier, a company named Superdine of Ballymonney, Co. Antrim, who have also a depot on the Naas Road, Kill, Co. Kildare.

Support the August Demonstrations- BRITS MUST GO!



# WAR NEWS

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

# SPORADIC IRA ATTACKS

THE PAST fortnight on the Northern war front was marked by sporadic IRA attacks. Our reports cover two weeks for there was no AP/RN last week.

The most notable operation was on Monday nearly a fortnight ago when a typically successful six-county-wide disruption operation was executed with minimal effort and risk. No explosives were used - only numerous hoax bombs.

A few days previously a smaller scale hoax operation was carried out in county Fermanagh and during that same night two border posts were blasted.

Three members of the KOSBie regiment narrowly missed getting their just deserts in West Belfast the following evening.

More recently a number of successful bombing operations were carried out against commercial targets in Belfast city centre.

## THURSDAY 19th JULY

Late Wednesday night and in the early hours of Thursday morning city centre targets in Derry and customs border posts in the counties of Tyrone and Armagh were blasted.

### DERRY:

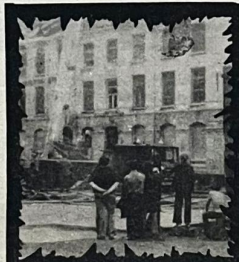
Bombs were planted at premises in Customs House Street in Derry city, at the motor taxation offices, the Commercial Paper Company and the main post office in the city. When the bombs planted in the motor taxation office exploded they caused considerable damage, blowing windows out of the building.

### CO. TYRONE:

In Co. Tyrone the border post at Moore Street, Aughnacloy was totally destroyed following a fire caused by an exploding bomb.

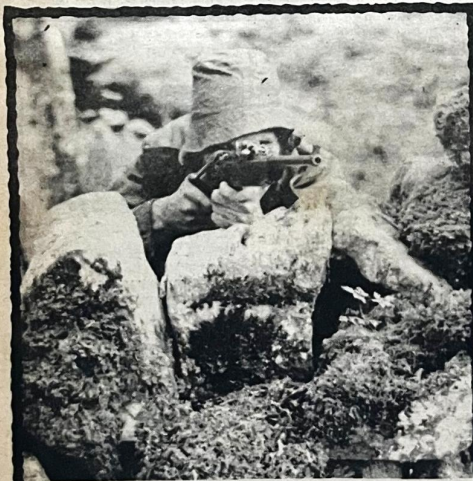
### CO. ARMAGH:

The other post attacked on the Monaghan Road in Co. Armagh, has



Passers-by admire damage done to commercial target in Belfast after a British army bomb expert detonated an IRA bomb causing a fire which gutted the building.

been an IRA target previously and the latest double-bomb attack caused serious damage to the temporary building erected after the main building was destroyed by a bomb four years ago.



IRA Volunteer on training exercise

### CO. FERMANAGH:

Another operation carried out overnight Wednesday/Thursday was the blocking of six major roads in Co. Fermanagh with hoax bombs. Because of their fear of booby traps the Brits/RUC closed the roads for several hours and feared to approach the hoaxes which were in creamery cans and cars.

The IRA target points were the Lady Brooke bridge on the main Derrylinn to Lisnaskea Road, where two milk churns with wires protruding were placed; the Cloghan Cross border crossing near Kinawley, where a milk churn was placed; the Carry Bridge near Lisbellaw, where another milk churn was placed; and the Mullan Bridge and the Ballyconnell border crossing where three hoax devices in cars were placed.

### BELFAST:

Three members of the crazed KOSBie regiment escaped death by inches when a 10lb bomb was set off by remote control in an alleyway near the junction of Ballymurphy and Whitecross Roads. The attack took place at 9.30 p.m. following a day of heavy Brit military activity in West Belfast. Of the three Brits who were injured two were rushed to hospital for medical treatment while the third received treatment at the scene of the explosion.

In a massive follow-up operation the Brits drew a blank as once again the IRA Volunteers found safety among the nationalist people of West Belfast.

## MONDAY 23rd JULY

Cross-border road and rail links were cut and traffic in Belfast was disrupted, as scores of vehicles commandeered by the IRA were strategically placed across the occupied six-counties in Belfast and at border crossings near Newry, Keady, Newtownbutler, Aughnacloy, Strabane and Derry.

The widespread successful disruption operation mounted by scores of IRA Volunteers visibly demonstrated once more the instability of British rule.

The operation began at around 5 a.m. with active service units commandeering cars and lorries.

### NEWRY:

A goods train was taken over on the main Dublin to Belfast railway line and the crew were told to get off. The train was then sent hurt-

ling down the track unmanned. It derailed and overturned at Goragwood near Newry; it immediately caught fire and the engine was destroyed. Eight vehicles were also commandeered in the same area by armed IRA Volunteers. The abandoned vehicles effectively closed the main Newry to Dundalk and Newry to Omagh roads.

### BELFAST:

In Belfast the commandeering of vehicles began in the middle of the morning rush hour. One vehicle was placed at the junction of Torrins Avenue and Oldpark Road and it took British army bomb disposal men a couple of hours to clear it.

Lorries were left at the junction of Donegall Street and Royal Avenue, and North Queen Street and Carlisle Circus. Mid-morning traffic was severely disrupted.

Meanwhile the main airport road was blocked for two hours by a lorry abandoned near the British military checkpoint outside Aldergrove Airport.

## THURSDAY 26th JULY

### BELFAST:

The Belfast Brigade of the IRA ably assisted by British army bomb disposal experts succeeded in totally destroying a commercial target in the city centre.

Two armed IRA Volunteers entered the electrical wholesalers' belonging to Dunlop and Hamilton in Franklin Street. After giving staff and shoppers time to leave they planted two bombs.

The area was sealed off by the Brits and RUC and a small blast occurred about half-an-hour later causing little damage. However, British bomb experts searching the building found a second 'suspicious' object and fired shots at it. This exploded and started a fire.

As smoke and flames poured from the building city centre traffic was badly disrupted. Seven fire appliances were used to fight the blaze. The building was gutted.

Later that evening the IRA bombed the Belgravia Hotel at the corner



Burning engine at Goragwood blocked the cross-border rail link between Portadown and Dundalk.



Commandeered bus blocking the Bunrana Road at the junction with the Branch Road, near Derry.

of Ulster Avenue and the Lisburn Road. Following a warning all the occupants were safely evacuated. A fierce blaze gutted the hotel.

## SUNDAY 28th JULY

### BELFAST:

Three of four bombs planted at the Cornhill Insurance Company in Belfast's city centre at 10 p.m. exploded causing extensive damage to the building. The bombs exploded half-an-hour after a bomb warning and there were no civilian casualties. Traffic was barred for two hours from the area surrounding the premises which are at the corner of Linen Hall and Clarence Street.

About one hundred yards away is the electrical wholesalers' Dunlop and Hamilton's gutted in the IRA attack three days previously.

Belfast city centre obviously continues to feel the heat of the war.

**Support the August Demonstrations - BRITS MUST GO!**



## DERRY NEWS

# HEAVY AIR OF OPPRESSION

SINCE THE BEGINNING of last month when the Duke of Edinburgh regiment arrived in Derry there has been a noticeable return to saturation-style tactics. Checkpoints, abandoned for long months, are suddenly full of Brits and the heavy air of oppression these manned checkpoints give is unmistakable.

Brit patrols are everywhere; one foot patrol scarcely leaving a street—especially down the town, in the Strand Road area—when another appears. Vehicle checkpoints complete with Brits in riot gear have reappeared as spot checks frequently on many roads, particularly surrounding nationalist areas. On the evening of Saturday July 14th one of these vehicle checkpoints set up on this motorway on the Quay stopped the Derry express bus from Dublin, whilst armed Brits with plastic bullet guns, revolvers and in full riot-gear boarded the bus and harassed the driver and passengers.

### PHANTOM RIFLE

People could be forgiven for wondering if there was a mini-Motorman earlier the same day in Colmille Court in the Bogside. Two Ferret armoured cars, two pigs, several jeeps, plus a carload of RUC men saturated this tiny area. The



raids concentrated on three flats occupied by elderly people, although garages and other areas were also searched.

One woman, Bridget Shiels, had the Brits in for four hours, from eleven in the morning, and was subjected to verbal abuse. Another

woman was subjected to a four-hour raid. Mrs. MacDermott, age 73, is semi-invalid and has a bad heart, and the stress of this raid, during which she was alone, considerably upset her, although no damage was done to the flat.

After these raids, the Brits claimed to have found a rifle. However no one saw this phantom rifle and local speculation is that given the size of the operation even if there was no 'find' the Brits would have had to invent one to save face and morale.

### NEWS AND PRESS CAUSE DISTRESS

After a lengthy court case lasting nearly ten years, George Murphy, proprietor of Pat's Bar which stood at the corner of Waterloo Street and Magazine Street, has won his case against the *Irish News* and the *Irish Press*, getting compensation for the distress a false accusation in both these papers caused him.

Mr. Murphy, a life-long nationalist, was alleged to have served RUC men drink in a report carried in both the *Irish News* and *Irish Press* dated 7th January 1969.

This is a very serious allegation, not only at the present time, but particularly at that time, when hand-to-hand fighting against these infamous sectarian bigots took place just outside Pat's Bar, and many Derrymen were injured.

Angry Derry crowds later damaged Pat's Bar in rioting, but by far the most hurtful aspect of this false allegation was the gross insult to Mr. Murphy's life-long principles and the slur on his integrity.

## RUC IMPLICATED—£200,000 FOR LOYALIST ARMS

IN THE MOST successful post office raid ever, in the six-counties, loyalist paramilitants have stolen over two hundred thousand pounds to boost their stock of arms for future use against the nationalist population. The raid was carried out on Wednesday July 25th at the Portadown sorting office by four armed men, three of whom were wearing RUC uniforms according to eye-witness reports.

Direct RUC involvement in the raid is suggested not only by the use of uniforms, which were essential to the success of the raid, but also by the raid's precise timing and excellent background intelligence.

An RUC patrol had escorted post office officials, with the subsequently stolen £202,000, from the bank to the sorting office. Another RUC patrol was due to arrive to accompany a post office van on its journey to distribute the money to the sub-offices.

The three raiders in RUC uniforms were carrying hand guns, and the fourth man a sub-machine gun. They grabbed the money from inside the sorting office and ripped out telephones before escaping. An official RUC spokesman later described the raid as a "slick and well-planned operation."

In an attempt to cover up any RUC complicity, an RUC spokesman also claimed: "It is possible that although the raiders may have looked like policemen, they were not wearing regulation uniforms."

After committing murder by shooting, drowning and hanging, after priest-kidnapping and committing acts of bestial torture, the odd post office raid would of course be nothing unremarkable for the licensed loyalist paramilitants of the RUC.

## RUC TRADITIONS KEPT UP IN DERRY

AT A COURT in Derry last Tuesday three members of the hated RUC were found guilty of assaulting local man, Thomas Gerard Kyle. Two of the RUC men were sentenced to two months in jail and the third was fined £200.

Not surprisingly the two RUC men were released on bail after an appeal against their sentences was submitted.

The attack on Kyle happened on October 4th last year shortly after he was stopped at Park Avenue in the Rosemount area of the city by a heavily armed RUC squad.

RUC men Houston, Close and Wright pushed Kyle against the wall and slapped him about the face. They then bundled him into the back of their landrover and drove to the outskirts of the city where all three RUC men again assaulted Kyle.

Commenting on the RUC's brutal behaviour, the magistrate, Robert Porter not known for his dislike of the RUC, said the case of assault was one of the most serious he had the misfortune to hear. He told Houston, that he might also have been guilty of unlawfully imprisoning Kyle.

Commenting on the RUC men's cover-up version of the incident Porter said it had been riddled with inconsistencies.

With their record of assault, kidnapping and non-stop lying these three RUC men are sure to go far in the RUC—a body which is proud of its traditions.

## STRABANE GAS PROTESTS CONTINUE

A DELEGATION comprising two members of the Tobias Moll-oy/Eugene Devlin Sinn Féin Cumann in Strabane, met a stone-wall of rejection when they tried to gain entrance to a meeting of Strabane town council on Tuesday July 10th.

The delegates were acting on behalf of residents in the Fountain Street area of the town who are living in fear because of two recent gas explosions, one in Innisfree Gardens and the other at the junction of Townsend Street and Fountain Street. They had with them a letter of protest demanding immediate council action on the problem of gas leakages.

This latest protest follows a demonstration one week earlier (which

was reported in the last issue of AP/RN). On that occasion a sixty-strong Sinn Féin led demonstration went to the town's council offices to demand immediate action.

The council's refusal to listen to residents' complaints on this latest occasion typifies the callous indifference they have displayed to date over a problem which if not quickly remedied could cause the residents' death or serious injury.



An Phoblacht/Republican News issue dated July 21st.

## BRITS MANHANDLE PREGNANT WOMAN

AN EIGHT-MONTHS-PREGNANT woman was manhandled in the street by British troops in West Belfast last week when she went to the assistance of a man being harassed by the troops.

Deirdre O'Neill (pictured here) of Harrogate Street, off the Falls Road, was witness to a typical act of harassment committed by British soldiers against members of the nationalist population in the occupied six-counties.

On the afternoon of Thursday 26th July, Desi Cullerton was stopped at the corner of Harrogate Street by a Brit patrol which included members of the notoriously berserk KOSBIE regiment.

The Brits started asking Desi personal questions which he wisely refused to answer. They then started pulling him about and demanded that he take off his shoes to be searched.

When Deirdre O'Neill went over to them the Brits aggressively told her to 'fuck off'. When she refused to go away they threatened to arrest her. A Brit then ran at her, grabbed her and started pushing and pulling her towards the wall.

Two armoured personnel carriers arrived and Desi Cullerton was forced into one whilst the Brit holding Deirdre started trailing her into the other despite her delicate condition. Meanwhile more and more local people arrived on the scene and in order to defuse the growing confrontation the Brits released Deirdre.

Desi Cullerton was held in Springfield Road barracks for two-and-a-half hours before being released without charge.



Deirdre O'Neill

## BRITS LEAN ON THEIR OWN AGENCY!

For analysis of latest F.E.A. report see pages 6 and 7.

ONE OF Direct-Ruler Humphrey Atkins' officials, Hugh Rossi, Minister of State for Manpower, Finance and the Civil Service, recently attempted to prevent the Fair Employment Agency (FEA) from investigating possible discriminatory practices in the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

At a private meeting with Bob Cooper, FEA Chairman, Rossi offered to include a fair employment clause in exchange for their cooperation. (It is indicative of just how serious the British government is about creating equal opportunities when it itself does not subscribe to the tenets of an agency which it set up!) It is well known that the civil service is a monument to Protestant privilege and that Catholics have been discriminated against and bypassed for promotion.

The *Irish Times* reports that this is the second time within a year that government pressure has been applied to the FEA. In 1978 when the agency was having difficulty obtaining essential information from the Autolite car factory in Belfast, Mason's side kick, Don Concannon, intervened and urged them to 'go easy', obviously concerned that foreign investors would be frightened off if they had to undertake pledges of fair practice!

Also in 1978 the FEA approached Shorts aircraft factory seeking sta-



● Hugh Rossi

tistical information necessary for an examination of employment patterns. This factory which overwhelmingly employs Protestants is heavily subsidised. Shorts has not supplied the information and may well be taken to court.

Some members of the FEA believe, however, that the Tory Government—under the guise of public spending cuts, but really because it is troublesome and embarrassing exposing the structural sectarianism of the six-counties—will disband the agency, whose aims are in contradiction to the basis of the statelet.

Support the August Demonstrations- BRITS MUST GO!



# Scandal of RUC cover-up continues

BRITISH GOVERNMENT propaganda has it that since August 1969 (but particularly since Direct Rule began seven years ago) real and meaningful reforms have been implemented in the occupied six-counties. The much-lauded 'reform' of the RUC is one of the biggest boasts often made. Yet, the bodies set up to monitor these thugs have in the case of the Police Complaints Board proved toothless and in the case of the Police Authority completely gumless.

Last week the Police Complaints Board in its second report, covering 1978 (which coincided with the publishing of the Amnesty International Report and the setting up of the Bennett Inquiry), has complained that it is functioning under "a severe handicap", a polite way of describing the sophisticated cover-up procedure that exists between the RUC and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)



'A staggering ratio of one complaint to every four RUC men'.

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

ONE-THOUSAND-six-hundred-and-twenty-nine cases of complaints were made against the RUC in 1978 — a staggering ratio of one complaint to every four RUC men. Seven-hundred-and-sixty-two of these cases were referred to the DPP, who ordered prosecutions in only twenty-three cases.

The Police Complaints Board is supposed to receive copies of the complaints and investigation reports so that it can 'independently' monitor procedure. It also has the statutory power of ordering disciplinary proceedings if it disagrees with a decision of the Deputy Chief Constable not to take disciplinary proceedings. But it is in this area that it is under 'a severe handicap' because of the efforts of the RUC and DPP to keep it in the dark.

A central area of disquiet in the

report is the lack of information about the reasons why the DPP does not prosecute an RUC man, against whom serious allegations have been made. The DPP directs no prosecution in the great majority of cases and the Deputy Chief Constable then takes this as absolving his men of disciplinary action. The Report says: "Because of a lack of information, the board has encountered considerable difficulty in satisfying itself that there has been a proper disposal for a number of these cases."

In 1978 (during Mason's Reign of Terror) the Board asked a senior Deputy Chief Constable to indicate precisely which alleged "criminal offences" the DPP was asked to consider. This was refused and the board then asked if he would request the DPP to state which offences he had considered and to give authority for copies of his letters conveying the DPP's decisions to the senior Deputy Chief Constable to be passed to the board. The RUC officer refused. The board then made a direct

approach to the DPP and asked him to distinguish between complaints referred to him which he regarded "as being of a criminal nature, and therefore properly for consideration by him, and others which he rejected because of doubts about the criminal content or on grounds other than the availability of evidence on which to mount a prosecution." But the board has since been told that such changes "would not be possible".

## TIMING

An even more serious aspect of this scandal is the procedure on the 'Timing of Investigations', which has been changed, for the purposes of obtaining a higher percentage of convictions and of avoiding substantiated allegations of torture during a political trial.

In England the procedure on the

'Timing of Investigations' is that complaints by persons facing prosecution are not investigated until the conclusion of these proceedings.

But the DPP in the north urges the RUC to complete their internal investigations (obviously working out alibis, explanations for victims' injuries, and giving the RUC interrogators a dry-run over possible court proceedings) before deciding on going ahead with the prosecution of a complainant.

It is clear from this report, from the Dr. Irwin affair, and the powerlessness of the Police Authority (exposed by Dungannon Councillor, Jack Hassard, among others) that the RUC have not changed and that the only thing reformed about them is their propaganda. The various bodies, authorities and inquiries set up to monitor "effective and enlightened law enforcement" are nothing but window-dressing, behind which lie the torture chambers of old.



## Newman quits

KENNETH NEWMAN has resigned as Chief Constable of the RUC and will be taking over as Commandant of the British Police Staff College at Bramshill, near London. There he will doubtlessly train senior English police officers in the science of counter-insurgency.

His resignation came coincidentally one day after the publishing of the Police Complaints Boards' second report.

Newman has his own personal 'Bunker' behind the barbed wire of RUC Headquarters at Knock. A quiet man, he preferred that news of RUC torture be kept to a minimum: in June 1977 sixty-three-year-old Peter McGrath ended up in Omagh mental hospital and in May 1978 trade-unionist Brian Maguire was hanged in Castlereagh interrogation centre. When the media was investigating allegations of RUC torture Newman demanded prime time to read from a prepared text and then put the RUC on 'red alert' in an attempt to intimidate the broadcasters.

His attempted discrediting of police surgeon Dr. Irwin (through leaking that his wife had been raped by a soldier and this had given him a chip on his shoulder which 'explained' his supporting allegations of RUC brutality!) was illustrative of Newman's depravity. A depravity which guarantees him wearing a 'flak jacket for the rest of his life.

## RUC DONATE TWO POUNDS TO GREEN CROSS

A regular ploy of the RUC is to use threats and intimidation against interrogation victims in vain attempts to recruit touts from the nationalist population.

Faced as the RUC are with rejection by the nationalist people, they resort to these desperate methods in an effort to build up their information on Republican activists. A recent case of this happening occurred on July 2nd when Belfast man James Millar was arrested from his Lenadon home. He was held for three days at Castlereagh RUC barracks where he was subjected to constant pressure to work as an informant by an RUC Inspector called Meek.

James Millar wisely refused to agree to this demand. However, just before he was released Meek gave him a telephone number and the code name, Mr Paisley, if he ever wanted to pass information on. Meek also thrust two pound notes into his hand 'for a drink'.

Following James Millar's release from Castlereagh, he reported the RUC's tout-recruiting attempt to the Association of Legal Justice and gave the two pounds to the Green Cross.

His publicising of this incident is the correct thing to do. If he had kept quiet about it then Meek would probably have attempted to blackmail him at some stage in the future by saying that he would tell the IRA Millar had accepted £2 as a down payment for information.

Exposing the RUC's behaviour is the surest safeguard for any of its victims.

## CASTLEREAGH BRUTALITY

# FEW MARKS LEFT

REPORTS FROM victims of RUC interrogation suggests that post-Bennett interrogation methods continue to include brutality and inhuman and degrading treatment. However, there seems to be emerging a pattern of 'refinement' in the use of brutality. RUC interrogators are applying heavy pressure to sensitive areas of the bodies of their victims. This produces pain but leaves virtually no marks. Seventeen-year-old Emmanuel Cullen from Belfast's Twinbrook Estate, has recently suffered the RUC's latest interrogation techniques after being arrested at five o'clock on the morning of Tuesday 17th July and being held in Castlereagh for two-and-a-half days.

EMMANUEL CULLEN was first arrested seventeen months ago in February 1978, when he was only fifteen-and-a-half. On that occasion, mainly because of his age, the RUC held him at Castlereagh barracks for less than twenty hours. However, as was reported in *Republican News* at that time, he was beaten and he was threatened with arrest again, when he reached the age of seventeen. The RUC, true to their threat, arrested him two weeks ago, the day following his seventeenth birthday.

During his incarceration in Castlereagh, he was interrogated on six separate occasions for a total period of almost twenty-four hours. RUC interrogators, numbering as many as five at a time (in contradiction to the supposedly accepted Bennett recommendation of two) attempted to terrorise him into signing an incriminating statement.

The most frightening time of all for Emmanuel was when, to quote his interrogators 'his lights were put out' by strangling him until he twice lost consciousness.

At another stage during the interrogation the RUC tried to create



'to quote his interrogators 'his lights were put out' by strangling him until he twice lost consciousness'

the terrifying impression that Emmanuel was in a real mad house. An RUC man dressed in jeans and a

sweat shirt burst into the room, squealing and shouting, and pretending that he was mentally retarded. (More than he actually must be).

## BRUTALITY

Emmanuel was forced to perform exhausting exercises and different forms of brutality used against him included: slaps on the privates, straight finger jabs to the throat, heavy slaps on the head, being held in painful holds and having the hairs on his stomach pulled. An RUC man also stuck his fingers into the back of Emmanuel's head, behind his ears, and raised him off the ground.

At all times the interrogators squealed foul and sectarian abuse at Emmanuel, unsuccessfully pressuring him to sign a statement admitting involvement in IRA activity.

## SUBSTANTIATION

Despite all the assaults on him, which obviously caused him considerable pain and discomfort, Emmanuel's body was marked by only two small circular abrasions on his spine.

Had he succumbed to his interrogators' pressure and signed a false confession his defence claim of ill-treatment would have received little substantiation from a medical examination. Hardly surprisingly, the Bennett recommendations supposedly accepted by Atkins are flagrantly breached by the RUC who continue to attempt to refine their torture techniques in the interests of keeping moving the judicial conveyor belt into the H-Blocks.

Support the August Demonstrations - BRITS MUST GO!



PRINTED HERE IS AN ANALYSIS BY PETER ARNLIS OF THE LATEST REPORT OF THE FAIR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY.

IN 1971 EVEN IN THOSE DISTRICT COUNCILS which were nationalist dominated the rate of unemployment of Catholics was higher than that of Protestants. In fact in every single area of the north of Ireland such a pattern of sectarian discrimination existed. This is one of the (most revealing) facts published in the latest report of the Fair Employment Agency established by the British in 1976. And there is nothing to lead one to believe that this pattern has been other than re-inforced in the last eight years.

The first report of the Fair Employment Agency in 1977 was almost exclusively concerned with the establishment of the structure of the agency, the setting-up of its procedures and mounting a research programme.

The research carried out composes the major part of the latest report issued last month. That research was designed to "outline the existing patterns in employment and occupations, and secondly, to begin to explore the significance of a range of factors which can influence these patterns." (Of course it is sectarian patterns they are talking about.)

The first problem they encountered was that the "only comprehensive source of information which cross-tabulates employment and occupational data with religious affiliation in Northern Ireland is the 1971 population census." The reason for this is that since 1971 "none of the employment data regularly collected and published by the government is of any use for updating the 1971 patterns as religious affiliation is not included amongst the data collected."

## UNEMPLOYMENT

In 1971 the overall unemployment rate was 8.5%, but at the beginning of this year it stood at 11.7%. Also, in the last eight years the campaign of loyalist sectarian assassinations has ensured the displacement of further sections of the nationalist population from work and so the report's findings are even underestimating the degree of the problem.

However, it does find that "the Roman Catholic unemployment rate is two-and-a-half times that of Protestants, with a slightly larger difference for males alone."

And "...those industries which record the lowest Roman Catholic proportions - Engineering, Vehicles, Gas, Electricity and Water are amongst those with the higher weekly earnings, while the industry with the high-

est Roman Catholic participation, Construction, has one of the lowest figures for average weekly earnings."

And the report includes the revealing fact "that almost one quarter of Roman Catholic males in employment is in Construction." Another survey quoted states: "It is particularly noteworthy that, while the median Protestant is a skilled manual worker, the median Catholic is a semi-skilled worker." (Median here, means average.)

These figures prove the argument that Protestant working-class people enjoy privileges over their fellow Catholics.

In 1971 the loyalist state condemned 51% (and since then a greater proportion) of nationalist men into semi-skilled, unskilled and unemployed categories. In addition: "The significance of the industrial distribution is that Roman Catholics tend to be found in those industries which show higher rates of unemployment in Northern Ireland viz Construction and Miscellaneous Services, whereas Protestants have a preponderance in Vehicles, Engineering, Business Services and Public Administration which show the lowest rates of unemployment."

The report dismisses the loyalist argument that there is a geographical explanation for higher Catholic unemployment in that "a large share of the Catholic population is in the peripheral, non-industrialised areas of the north where unemployment rates are higher."

The report points out: "If this were the sole explanation for

higher unemployment among Roman Catholics, unemployment in the peripheral areas would be proportional to the number of Roman Catholics in the workforce. However, this is not the case. In each district the proportion of the unemployed that is Roman Catholic exceeds the Roman Catholic proportion of the workforce. Taking the 'peripheral' areas as a whole Roman Catholics form 45.4% of the workforce and 61.3% of the unemployed."

So, even in nationalist areas, (such as Derry, Armagh, Fermanagh and Newry) Protestants enjoy higher rates of employment and thus privileges.

The two maps reproduced here show Protestant and Roman Catholic unemployment rates for each of the twenty-six district councils at the time of the 1971 population census.

They show that "the Roman Catholic unemployment rate is higher in each district than the Protestant rate. So, even in areas where unemployment rate is low, for example, Ards, the Roman Catholic rate is almost twice the Protestant, a similar difference to that in Strabane where rates are much higher. Such a pattern reinforced the significance of the structural features underlying unemployment differences..."

## THE WAY AHEAD

Plotting the way ahead the Fair Employment Agency points out that the report "shows clearly that there are major problems of equality of opportunity in employment."

In particular "there are whole industries where very few members of one section of the community are employed; there are individual firms within an industry where the same situation applies; there are also individual firms where members of one section of the community are employed in one department, yet not in another department. There are also organisations where members of one section of the community are employed at junior levels but not at senior levels."

The report rather optimistically states that the patterns of employment and discrimination "can be eradicated however, only if management adopt a strong programme of affirmative action."

Republicans consider that these problems are insurmountable by mere reformist tinkering and, as the report admits, show "structural features". Affirmative action within the framework of partition and of capitalism is impossible; the Fair Employment Agency is trying to eradicate the very basis for the existence of the state of Northern Ireland in the first

# A STRUCTURE OF SECTARIAN

## Reports and reforms

SINCE THE STORMONT PARLIAMENT was suspended in 1972 successive Direct-Rulers in the north have introduced dozens of reforms intended to remove nationalist grievances under loyalist rule.

These reforms have been in the all-important areas of jobs, housing, social services and even the control of the RUC. Bodies have been established to supervise these reforms, bodies such as the Fair Employment Agency, the Housing Executive and even the much abused (and correctly so) Police Authority. However many of the reforms have in practice just been cosmetic and the various authorities have often proved toothless.

This policy of the velvet glove of reform, combined with the steel fist of repression, has been the Brit's alternative to realistically facing up to the evil of partition and of their continued occupation. Of course the British are well aware that the resolution of the national question is fraught with uncertainty for imperialism and the threat of a revolutionary explosion throughout the length and breadth of Ireland.

There is little evidence at the moment that the Brits have made a significant switch in their overall strategy of DIRECT RULE PLUS REFORM. They



One of the main offsprings of Brit reforms are better and better dole offices, such as West Belfast main office on the Falls Road (above).

do not yet appear to be plumping for their next best option of a (doubly-misnamed) independent Ulster or some other suitable arrangement with the Free State.

Admittedly there has been a recent series of heavy losses of jobs in the nationalist area of West Belfast, following the closures of DC Motor Works, Strathairn Audio, Peter Pan bakery and now Antrim Crystal.

And these closures undoubtedly flow from a DECISION to all-

ow so-called lame tendency towards created by the election government at Westminster. This policy of also ducks to die is a story along sectarian example millions of pounds are being put the non-viable ship fast, just because the predominantly loyal force. (This is because reaction of those employed loyalists, not just through violent protests by unionists, but by militant Protestant loyalist-dominated movement and the military groups is being more dangerous interests than the unemployed nationalist it comes to the crucial always capitulate because they are aware of crucial historical role of nationalist aspirations preserving imperialism. Although they are lame ducks (non-viable in capitalist terms) at least in nationalist creation does remain British policy. They attempt to attract grants and tax concessions firms (particularly) which after the rejection of state capital viable in capitalist open market. The aim of the reform, particularly the provision of ment, is to produce a society with a stable (and) government. In implementing reforms believe that both through ganda, and even more fully through effect, under-cut the population

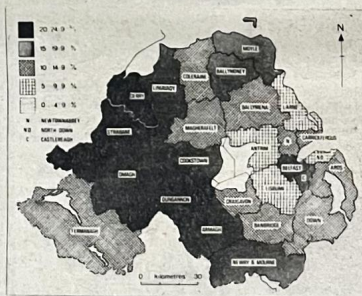


FIGURE 1 - Roman Catholic male unemployment rates, 1971, by District Council. Source: Unpublished data, 1971 population census.

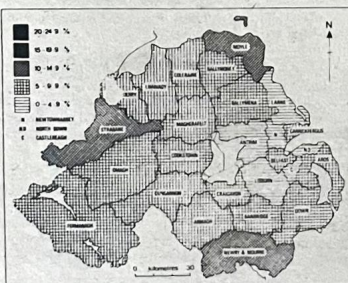


FIGURE 2 - Protestant male unemployment rates, 1971, by District Council. Source: Unpublished data, 1971 population census.



# 1969 - August - 1979

## A Risen People

IT SEEMS CLEAR in retrospect that while the material condition of the nationalist people in the occupied six-counties has changed little since August '69 what did emerge then was a risen people.

In Derry (later followed by Belfast and elsewhere) barricades were thrown up, young men and women from their nests of resistance atop Rossville flats kept the hated and eventually exhausted RUC at bay.

That birth of Free Derry was the re-

birth of Republican power. Orange state dictatorship was being driven physically out of our lives.

Then in came the supposedly reassuring Tommies of Dad's army acting, so we were firmly told, as impartial arbiters between the oppressed nationalist people and the forces and supporters of the Orange state.

The church, the media, the British government, the world, assured us that this was the case and that this was a peace-keeping force come to our aid.

Only Republicans said differently. However it was not long before the message became clearer.

Soon, British soldiers - Brits - now in flack jackets, and terrifyingly screaming armoured vehicles, came at dawn to take away our people - young and old - to the refreshed and re-armed Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The RUC's defeat in the Bogside they more than adequately made up for subsequently in beatings in Strand Road, Rosemount, Holywood, Castle-reagh and elsewhere.

Of course the whole being of the RUC is their commitment to the traditional need to defend loyalist sectarian privilege. And ten years ago they

had to contend with the unprecedented situation of the 'teagues' in massive numbers rising off their knees.

But we, the nationalist people, have risen and we have built an armed vanguard, the revolutionary Irish Republican Army, with a massive popular working-class base.

And where we tore down loyalism we found Britain standing arrogantly and firmly behind it with all the terrifying might of the armed force at her disposal. A Britain prepared to mercilessly gas, baton, torture, murder and massacre to maintain her imperial rule. A rule which we will break.

HOUSING ACTION GROUPS, direct action, Tenants' Associations - all new terms to me in 1968. People were coming together, discontent was in the open, we all lived in sub-standard houses, paying exhorbitant rents, subsisting on the dole or as low-paid slaves of Brit or U.S. businessmen.

And revolution was in the air. Street fighters were to be seen in Paris, Berlin, Cleveland, Newark, and they looked the part. Masked and hooded, long-haired and angry, filled with wrath and fury, longing to pull down the establishment. Barricades, burning, factory occupations, students and workers, the old left and the new, ready again to show the world that the Internationale still meant something and that imperialism was not having it all its own way.

Throughout Europe, the enemy face was the same. The front-line troops, black-uniformed, visors, shields, tear-gas, riot-control, water-cannon, the state's right arm stood ready to bludge-

geon and beat for stability, society and security.

We had always had them in Ireland, but only those politically astute knew them for what they were. Chasing kids playing foot-

*A personal recollection by Kieran Gallagher of how, ten years ago....*

## Revolution was in the air

ball, stopping the occasional drunk, the friendly bobby with the .45s strapped to their waists. All that, and more besides.

Then they started to evict, smashing through pickets in Derry. In 1968, in a supposedly civilised section of the British Empire, evictions actually occurred and peaceful demonstrations by local groups were violently broken up.

People were angry; people were unsure. Then Civil Rights tied in all the grievances, bad housing, unemployment, discrimination, gerrymandering, corruption, the whole litany of abuse and oppression, and we marched. How we marched! We would have trooped to Buncrana and back, if only to prove that we were together, that despite an essentially middle-class leadership, the marching people knew who and what they were, and what they wanted.

The state became mad. Fenians actually wanting to march through Derry! Why couldn't they stick to the old nationalist stomp and parade around the Bog and the Brandywell? They wanted to march in the town, to the Guildhall, the Diamond, and

horror of horrors, across the mighty Craigavon Bridge, halloved by years of tramping Orange boots.

Batons were drawn, Duke Street was the spot where Derrymen bled, where the Nationalist Party died, and where Gerry Fitt boosted his career. Strange society, where a baton clout can be the prelude to high executive office, if the event is filmed by good old BBC.

But a hammering in the street was not good enough for our masters. They sent squads of RUC into the Bog to terrorise the residents.

We marched all that year and into '69 and the riots became fiercer and a new knowledge of

the underlying causes gripped us all. Why should a supposedly democratic government refuse to grant something as innocuous as 'one man, one vote', or the right to a decent house?

Something else was wrong. A notion of an age-old wrong gnawed at our hearts. WE ARE IRISH! And then, all was revealed.

Events quickly progressed. August '69 arrived, and with it the annual Apprentice Boys' March. Bogside decided that defence might be in order as rumours spread of fifty-thousand zealous Loyalists descending on Derry to sort us all out.

As usual on the day, the RUC were not against another crack at the Bogside.

Barricades were erected and the fight was on, only this time both sides knew this was the big one. Whoever stopped now would have been defeated.

Gas was introduced. The Bog lay under a white cloud for three days, and many and strange were the remedies to counteract its effect. Vinegar and water, talcum round the eyes and nose - eventually we all resembled Christopher Lee after a fish supper.

But we stayed there. We took it all, and the RUC became dispirited, then disconsolate. British troops were sent onto our streets, ostensibly to quell civil unrest, in reality to save a defeated RUC...

Atop the Rossville flats



RUC facing defeat

**Support the August Demonstrations - BRITS MUST GO!**



1969 - August - 1979

1969 - August - 1979

1969

# FREE DERRY WAS BO

The year of 1969 began and ended in bloodshed and iron-fisted repression in the occupied six-counties. Yet, it was a year of significant victory as well, for in Derry a tremendous victory was marked on the streets by the nationalist people over the long-hated sectarian RUC.

NEW YEAR'S DAY 1969 saw a straggling band of civil rights marchers beginning a four-day march from Belfast to Derry. A march which was repeatedly subject to savage ambush at the hands of RUC, B-Specials and Paisleyite thugs. The marchers demanded houses and work for the people; Stormont's answer was to unleash Loyalist mobs led by the RUC, wielding batons, clubs, pickaxes, and water cannon.

The ambush at Burntollet is history. But after the ambush of the marchers the RUC wreaked their vengeance upon the nationalist people by invading the ghetto area of the Bogside.

The assault on the Bogside was later commented on in the mild, English legal jargon, of the Cameron report: "our investigations led us to the unhesitating conclusion that on the night of 4th/5th January a number of policemen were guilty of misconduct which involved assault and battery, malicious damage to property, to streets, in the predominately Catholic Bogside area giving reasonable cause for apprehension of personal injury among other innocent inhabitants, and the use of provocative sectarian and political slogans..."

Mobs of RUC men, many of them drunk and twisted with sectarian rage, roamed wildly through the Bogside, smashing into tiny terrace houses and

even a department store, meting out arbitrary punishment with their batons; St Columb's walls was the scene of particular brutality.

That weekend, 163 people were treated in hospital.

On Saturday, 29th March, Derry displayed its contempt for the RUC when thousands of people marched on Duke Street over the same route taken by a few hundred the previous October 5th, when the RUC staged that vicious ambush on them in Duke Street. Sheer numbers kept the RUC in check this second time.

## SAMMY DEVENNEY

In April, North Derry Civil Rights Association (CRA) proposed a march to be held from Burntollet to the city. William Craig banned the march, and the CRA bowed to this ban.

But a spontaneous sit-down by civil rights supporters took place inside Derry walls anyway that day, and nearby Paisleyite thugs, on hand just in case, attacked viciously. The attackers tried to give chase into the Bogside, but were driven back by the Bogside defenders, who used the Rossville Street high flats to great advantage.

Over one hundred RUC men were taken to hospital and it was on this day the RUC smashed their way into the home of Sammy Devenney in William Street. Sammy Devenney, at home with his wife and five children, had a weak heart and a past history of TB, but this did not prevent the RUC from descending on him with boots and batons, inflicting injuries that led to his death on July 17th.

On Sunday April 20th, the RUC retreated from the edge of the Bogside. The nationalist people of Derry, by stubborn and heroic resistance to combined assaults by RUC



Victim of loyalist thuggery at Burntollet

and Loyalist gangs, were spelling out a message "We are off our knees for the first time in fifty years, and will not be beaten down again." Meanwhile, the tales of RUC actions in Derry in January and April spread throughout the Six-Counties.

July 12th dawned in Derry, a city of seething resentment.

It became the scene of a pitched battle. While by later standards, the battle was not large—forty petrol bombs, with sixteen RUC and twenty-two civilians hurt—it marked a significant event: the arrival of a contingent of Brits from Lisburn GHQ to Ebrington barracks ('Sea Eagle' base) in Derry.

They were a 'stand-by' force, but on the 13th the Chief of the RUC, Peacocke, met with the Minister for Home Affairs, and it was agreed to mobilise the infamous B-Specials.

At 4 p.m. in Dungiven, the B-Men emerged on the streets. Fierce rioting broke out. An RUC force protecting an Orange Hall from being set alight, failed and barely escaped with their lives. Two RUC tenders were burnt. The RUC baton charged the crowd, and caught up in this orgy of vengeance was a seventy-one-year-old farmer, Francis McCloskey, who was beaten to death, dying in agony the next day.

The B-Men were unleashed at the same time, taking up ambush positions outside a dance hall attended by members of the nationalist pop-

ulation. When the crowd emerged, a riot began, and the B-Men replied with a fusillade of lethal shots from Sterling submachine guns, rifles and pistols. By some miracle, no one was killed.

At Brit Cabinet level, hurried consultations took place, as the publicity was beginning to get damaging. But the then Home Secretary, James Callaghan, revealed his devotion to the imperial cause by refusing to consider interfering with the Orange marching season. Instead, troops were planned to be put out on the streets to quell anything that the RUC could not handle.

On August 2nd in Belfast, a Junior Orange parade passing Unity Flats brought howling

Orange mobs from the Shankill to an area behind the flats. The RUC arrived, and led them in an attack on the flats. All the windows on one side of the flats were smashed. The RUC relished the attack, in which one resident, Emmanuel O'Rourke, was batoned unconscious and then dragged across ground carpeted by broken glass, while elderly Mr. Corry was batoned on the head until he had his skull broken in three places and suffered five separate areas of brain damage.

He was dragged, unconscious and bleeding, into a Land Rover, and taken not to nearby Mater Hospital, but to Tennant Street RUC barracks. He later died.

Meanwhile, the Derry Citizens Defence Committee (DDCC) had been formed. One of the founder members, veteran Republican Sean Keenan, told a meeting of the people of the Creggan and the Bogside, prior to the August 12th Apprentice Boys march, "We hope to avoid sectarian strife in this city, but if we are attacked we will defend ourselves. We warn any group even remotely considering marching through the Bogside: we will never permit it."



In Armagh city B-Specials opened fire on a crowd after a civil rights meeting on August 14th



Defiance on the roof of Rossville Flats

# Support the August Demonstration



# 1969 - August BORN

sted state  
significant  
ed on the  
RUC.

By Dermot Cassidy

the Shankill  
the flats.  
on one side  
the attack,  
Emmanuel  
battered un-  
dragged by  
elderly Mr.  
on the  
skull  
places and  
areas of.

On August 12th, fifteen thousand Apprentice Boys marched along the Derry Walls, the thunder of their Lambeg drums and blood-curdling anti-Catholic songs savagely taunting the Bogside's and proclaiming their supremacy. Pennies and even more derisive half-pennies landed in the Bogside from the walls, to insult the Bogside's unemployed men.

The Apprentice Boys' march has been described as an annual political experiment: if the Croppies take the insult lying down, all goes well for another year; but if they refuse the insult, the Orange state takes it upon themselves to make them lie down.

In the Bogside, after a year of rioting and attacks by RUC and Orange gangs, no one was prepared to lie down. Plans for civilian defence were made. Barricades were already up in some streets that morning, as rumours floated about of the mob descending on Derry that day to sort out the Bogside once and for all. On the flat roofs of blocks of flats, milk-crates of petrol bombs had already been prepared by women and children.



Resistance grows - fuelled by RUC-fired CS gas

The Bogside was cordoned off by the RUC behind whom gangs of loyalists converged, their bellies full of beer and eager to give the Bog a bashing. At about quarter past seven, the RUC attempted to enter the Bogside, and by so doing transformed a common-place riot on the edge of the Bog into a full scale war between the people of the Bogside and the RUC.

This was the attack every Bogside feared and for which they'd prepared since the RUC invasions of January, April and July. The RUC launched their attack in traditional fashion, chanting 'IRA scum' and 'Fenian bastards', savagely batoning several bystanders, including a uniformed first-aid man.

Strengthened by vast reinforcements from the rest of the Six-Counties, the RUC stormed the first barricades in William Street, and the crowd withdrew to a stouter barricade deeper inside the Bogside, in Rossville Street. From the High Flats there, Bogside's defenders rained down petrol bombs. An RUC man was set alight, to the delight of the crowd, and RUC beat the first of many hasty retreats.

## DEFENCE COMMITTEE

It was no accident that the Bogside's so decisively beat the RUC.

Derry Citizens Defence Committee had planned their defence well. Three first aid stations had been set up in the Bog, manned by doctors and the Knights of Malta ambulancemen. A communications system was established with two-way walkie-talkie radios, and two powerful radio transmitters were installed - in what was to become Radio Free Derry.

The DCDC formed its own fire brigade, and organised the evacuation of the old and ill from dangerous areas. Volunteers for barricade and patrol duties were efficiently organised.

But other preparations came directly from the ordinary people. Heaps of stones and building materials were piled at strategic points. More barricades were built and petrol bombs prepared. Milk bottles

normally returned at the weekend were hoarded, and the local dairies lost forty-three thousand milk bottles that weekend.

As the RUC charged on the first barricade, the defence plans swung into operation. Bogside's field hospitals opened as the RUC assault produced the first of many casualties. Patrolling of the area by vigilantes began, the communication system worked remarkably well, and the barricades were fully staffed. Twenty or thirty teenagers on the top of Rossville Street High Flats provided a key defence for the Bogside, as fresh supplies of petrol bombs, were carried to them by relays of children.

Free Derry was born.

## BATTLE RAGED

All through the night and through the two days following, the battle raged. The RUC, armed with batons and riot shields, charged again and again into the narrow streets; again and again they were thrown back by petrol bomb attacks from the roofs of the High Flats.

Ironically, the petrol for the Free Derry bombs was supplied by the British government, hundreds of gallons had been liberated from the local post office sorting depot.

Buildings began burning; some were to burn for three days.

At midnight, the first of one

thousand cannisters of CS gas was fired into the Bog - the first time it had ever been used in Ireland. But although not prepared for this, the people were organised. Wet handkerchief masks provided some protection, while vaseline soothed raw eyes. Wet blankets were thrown over CS gas cannisters as they fell. Within twelve hours, the defence committee produced the first leaflet outlining remedies for the gas.

By Wednesday, Westminster itself knew British troops were necessary. General Freeland's plainclothes man on the scene reported the RUC could not possibly contain the Bogside for more than another thirty-six hours. Troops in the 'Sea Eagle' base in the Waterside waited in full battle gear while the siege continued.

Meanwhile, a B-Special patrol had been mobilised between the Bogside and the loyalist Fountain estate. A second patrol of B-men were sent on Thursday the 14th, into Long Tower Street and triggered off even fiercer rioting.

However in response to an appeal from Derry, nationalist areas throughout the six-counties responded to the call to take the heat off Derry. The nationalist people of Belfast, Strabane, Dungiven, Dungannon, Lurgan, Coalisland, Newry and Armagh rose to the occasion. They came out on the streets in their thousands and attacked the RUC in their fortified

barracks and on the streets. The ghettos had risen.

## B-SPECIALS

In Armagh, B-Specials opened fire on a nationalist crowd after a civil rights meeting in the city on August 14th. They were armed with two Sterling sub-machineguns, four revolvers, and eleven rifles. The civil rights crowd was unarmed; one of them John Gallagher, was killed by a high-velocity bullet in the back. Two more were injured. Nearby houses and road signs were pock-marked by bullets.

Meanwhile, in Derry, the Bogside had fought the RUC to a standstill by the morning of Thursday the 14th. At this point, a unit of B-Specials stationed on the walls overlooking the Bogside began stoning the residents below. Thus began more rioting in the Long Tower Street and Fountain Street area. The RUC now depleted by casualties and by the contingents hurriedly sent elsewhere in the Six-Counties, and exhausted by the previous forty-eight hours rioting, were overwhelmed.

When another unit of B-Men joined in the rioting and burning of Catholic homes, even the head of the RUC saw that things were out of hand, fearing a completely uncontrollable uprising of the nationalist people once Bogside homes were burnt. Inspector Peacocke phoned the Home Affairs Minister, Robert Porter, and asked for the Brits to be sent in.

At 5p.m. lorries full of Brits from the Prince of Wales Own Regiment made their way from the 'Sea Eagle' base, over the Craigavon Bridge, across the Foyle and into the Bogside. The Brits, a Whitehall spokesman confidently promised, "would be back in their barracks by the weekend."

But Belfast had not yet erupted, and over the next ten years, the nationalist people not only in Derry and Belfast but across the Six-Counties, by their heroic resistance and by their continual support for the Republican freedom fighters, made certain the Brits did not return to their barracks that weekend, nor any weekend since.



Resisting RUC incursion into the Bogside

strations-

# BRITS MUST GO!



**1969 - August - 1979**

**1969 - August - 1979**

# August Demonstrations **BRITAIN MUST GO**



ENQUIRIES ABOUT DEMONSTRATIONS  
SOUTHERN ENQUIRIES TO LITA CAMPBELL  
c/o 44 Parnell Square, Dublin. Tel: 747611

NORTHERN ENQUIRIES TO TOM HARTLEY  
c/o 85b Falls Road, Belfast. Tel: 23214  
(Also anyone wishing to have accommodation  
provided in Belfast please contact this address.)

## **DERRY DEMONSTRATION Thurs August 9th**

Assemble 2.30pm CREGGAN SHOPS  
March followed by Rally  
At FREE DERRY CORNER

## **DUBLIN DEMONSTRATION Sat August 11th**

2.30 p.m. St. Stephen's Green  
March to G.P.O. for mass rally

## **NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION**

## **BELFAST Sun August 12th**

Assemble 3 p.m. Sinn. Fein headquarters, 85b Falls Road.  
March to Casement Park for mass rally

### **OTHER BELFAST DEMONSTRATIONS**

Saturday 4th August  
10 a.m. — 4 p.m. VIGIL  
Sinn Fein headquarters, 85b Falls Road

Monday 6th August  
8 p.m. PUBLIC RALLY  
Busy Bee, Andersonstown

Wednesday 8th August  
8 p.m. PUBLIC RALLY  
Junction of Whiterock/Falls Road  
10 p.m. START OF 24-HOUR VIGIL  
Sinn Fein headquarters, 85b Falls Road.

### **Dublin buses to Belfast**

FOR AUGUST 12th  
NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION  
LEAVE: 6 p.m. Saturday 11th August  
(after Dublin march)  
FARE: £5 return.  
Please book in advance at the Craft Shop  
44, Parnell Square.

### **Dublin picket**

Saturday 4th August  
3 p.m. — 5 p.m.  
British Embassy, Merrion Road.

### **Toome**

MARCH AND RALLY  
Thursday 9th August  
Assemble 8 p.m.  
March from the Elk Bar, Toome to the town centre.

### **Dungannon**

MARCH AND RALLY  
Thursday 9th August  
Assemble 8 p.m.  
Ballygawley Rdad, Dungannon

# **MOBILISE FOR AUGUST**

### **Mullingar**

PUBLIC MEETING  
3 p.m. Saturday 4th August  
Speakers: Ita Dalton, Jimmy Drumm  
and Andy Boyle

### **National collection**

Saturday 4th August  
and Sunday 5th August

**Support the August Demonstrations - BRITS MUST GO!**



# RURAL PATTERN OF DISCRIMINATION

## velvet glove

the Republican Movement within the nationalist community by removing obvious grievances.

But this has not happened. Any small effects of the reforms (which have produced mainly leisure centres and local de-centralised dole offices) have been outweighed by continued British military repression directed against the nationalist aspirations of the people.

The reforms have in practice failed to overcome sectarianism and discrimination and have failed to produce substantial material improvement for the nationalist working-class people because the whole basis of society, of the six-county state, is loyalist privilege.

In February of this year the colonial Northern Ireland Office released a document which outlined the gloomy prospects for "ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS" in the six counties. In almost every respect - bar language and currency - everyday life in the six counties has nothing in common with Britain.

The dissimilarity is not just with respect to military repression (Brits on the streets, special powers, Castlereagh and the H-Blocks.) Unemployment is higher, average weekly earnings are lower, emigration and infant mortality rates are higher and there is a great dependence on social security payments such as benefits and family income supplement. Also, domestic electricity and gas charges are higher. Furthermore, and this is no accident, the nationalist working-

class people bear a disproportionate amount of this poverty.

The latest report of the Fair Employment Agency, published on June 13th, paints a lurid picture of Catholic unemployment and of bias against Catholics in employment.

One should not be surprised, or fooled - as have the Sticks - by the candid nature of these public reports, or conclude that they are evidence of British government sincerity and honesty.

The Agencies, Commissions and government departments which produce the analyses and statistics are performing an invaluable service for the British who need to know exactly the degree and magnitude of the social problems THEY HAVE CREATED. Without such knowledge the plotting of supposed solutions - and counter-insurgency programmes - would continually be going up blind-alleys, would be counter-productive and strategies based on unrealistic reports would probably only exacerbate the situation.

Of course, if Atkins, Mason, Rees, Pym or Whitelaw believed that publication would have risked the British government being brought into disrepute then the results of such studies would have almost certainly been suppressed.

Andersonstown Road  
dole office, in West Belfast.



'Any small effects of the reforms (which have produced mainly leisure centres and local de-centralised dole offices) have been outweighed by continued British military repression ...'

## NO COMPLAINTS UPHELD

ONE SECTION of the Fair Employment Agency report is entitled 'INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS'. This section reveals that since its foundation the agency has received only one hundred and thirty written complaints of which only seventy-five (thirty-seven of which were from Catholics) fell within its scope. Of these forty-two cases were considered worthy of investigation and findings have been made in twelve cases. (This gives some indication of the pitiful power of the agency's machinery to rectify discrimination.)



Some self-awareness of the reasons for its lack of customers are revealed: "The Agency has found, as it anticipated, that there is a considerable reluctance among members of the public to make complaints even when they feel they have suffered from unlawful discrimination ..."

"In certain districts people consider it would do them harm if it became known they had made a complaint. White collar employees, despite legislative provision outlawing victimisation, worry in case making a complaint would be detrimental to their future employment and promotional prospects. Others believe, quite understandably, that discrimination is so difficult to prove, that there is no point in making a complaint."

Others of course do not wish to unnecessarily become involved with a British government body - no matter how apparently benevolent.

Some of the complaints the report explains away as (Catholic) neurosis over discrimination: "It must also be said that employers' past practices or present reputation frequently gave a complainant reason for making a complaint."

Also, "In three cases certificates were signed by Ministers of the Northern Ireland Office certifying, under Section 42 of

the Act, that the acts complained of were done to safeguard national security or to protect public order. In these circumstances the investigation must cease."

This provision - Section 42 in the Fair Employment Act - allows the British government to discriminate against those whom it considers politically objectionable.

In one case which came to the notice of the Fair Employment Agency, the Department of Environment turned down a job applicant (a Catholic) because of "some doubt about his security standing", appointed a Protestant, and then lied to the agency about the reason for the original non-appointment.

### THE DORIS CASE

Out of all the complaints made in one case only did the agency make a finding that unlawful discrimination had occurred.

In 1977 Miss Susanna Doris, a twenty-three-year-old Catholic, complained that she had been discriminated against in the selection of a clerk in the Petty Sessions Office, Cookstown, on religious and political grounds (that her brother James was a former president of NICRA).

The qualifications demanded were five 'O' Levels and an ability to type (she had seven 'O' Levels, two 'A' Levels, a degree, a typing qualification, a secretary's certificate and previous clerical experience). A seventeen-year-old Protestant girl got the job instead.

The two-man selection committee, Mr. Pollock (the Clerk of Cookstown Petty Sessions) and Mr. Rainey (the manager in the local social security office), denied discrimination, denied knowledge of the activities of her brother, and denied knowledge of her religion. (All this ignorance despite the fact that her sister was employed at Mr. Rainey's social security office and her application form included the revealing information that



she went to St. Joseph's school.)

The agency believed that unlawful discrimination had occurred and stated that Mr. Rainey was acquainted with her family background. "He specifically brought this matter to the attention of the other panel members at the CONCLUSION of the Board."

Mr. Rainey stated that the reason why he thought Miss Doris was unsuitable for the job was that she was over-qualified! He stated that he was, in fact, doing her a favour by not selecting her and "IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A DISSERVICE TO APPOINT HER".

Apparently this was the sole reason he did not favour her appointment. (Unlike his colleague he had no quarrel with her personality at all.)



Mr. Pollock argued that "over-qualification had not been a factor as far as he was concerned." He had found her "aggressive" and "abrasive" and therefore "totally unsuitable". (The agency remarks rather strangely at this point: "We are particularly conscious that for some people the personality of a member of another religious group can make an adverse impression on them.")

The civil service commission (responsible for the selection panel and the job appointment) appealed to the county court against the agency's finding of discrimination.

No better an Orangeman could have been found to sit in judgement. Former Stormont Minister of Home Affairs, Judge Topping, threw the discrimination case out.

"I found", he claimed, "the evidence of both Mr. Pollock and Mr. Rainey truthful and convincing. In particular I found Mr. Rainey a most helpful witness ... I cannot help feeling that if there had ever been a breath of suspicion against his impartiality or his procedural methods it would have been fully ventilated ... The question then is did Mr. Pollock himself discriminate against Miss Doris. I think he was entitled to pay particular regard to her possible attitude to the public ... I find it impossible to hold on the balance of probability that he discriminated against Miss Doris either on political or religious grounds ... the Agency was unduly anxious to find discrimination."

Thus did the agency's one case of discrimination disappear.



## CRAIGAVON TO LURGAN

For the first time ever a republican march (a section of which is pictured here) was held from Craigavon to Lurgan last Sunday afternoon. More over the nearly two-thousand jubilant demonstrators penetrated further into the town centre than any previous march in Lurgan.

The protest, organised by the six-county executive of the Relatives' Action Committee, was in support of the demand for political status for Republican prisoners on the blanket protest.

The crowd, which included contingents from different parts of the six counties, heard militant speeches from Maura McCrory (Belfast RAC), Miriam Daly (IRSP) and Ned Flynn, (the second man to join the blanket protest). The theme of all the speeches stressed the need to intensify the protests on the streets throughout the six counties.

So impressive was the turn-out that the Brits/RUC retreated at least two hundred yards from their routine march-blocking spot to skulk behind the town's barriers.

During the public meeting which was held adjacent to the barriers at Church Place a mob of about two hundred loyalists chanted sectarian slogans in an attempt to drown out the speeches. At one stage they threw bricks and bottles over the heads of the Brits/RUC into the crowd.



The head of last Sunday's Craigavon to Lurgan march.

## BLANKET MAN PADRAIC McCOTTER

TWENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD Padraic McCotter from Belfast's Lenadoon estate was released from the infamous H-Blocks on Friday 27th July three years to the day after his arrest in 1976.

Relatives and neighbours welcomed him home - he is pictured with them in the photograph below - he is standing to the left with his arms folded.

He is the eleventh blanket man to be released having spent the last two-and-a-half years on the protest.

Apart from all the usual deprivations which the prisoners suffer Padraic spent two periods of time in the punishment block for refusing to allow the warders to verbally intimidate him.

Two days before his release his comrades in H5-Block gave him a tremendous send-off, which took the form of them banging on the pipes and cell doors and giving him shouts of solidarity from behind their bolted cell doors.

Comradeship in the H-Blocks is forged out of the men's Republican identity, their common suffering and their tremendous will-to-win. It is this bond which has not only held the men together but has encouraged others to join the protest.



## BELFAST

### Sit-ins

Members of the Belfast RAC staged a protest outside the Eastern Health and Social Services offices in Broadway in West Belfast on July 18th. The protesters later staged a sit-in in Iveagh House, the headquarters of the social services.

They were protesting at the silence and inactivity of the health board over the unhygienic conditions prisoners in the H-Block are being held in.

In further protests the American Embassy in Queen Street, and the Aer Lingus office were occupied by members of the Belfast RAC on Thursday 27th July.

The occupiers handed in a letter of protest to the American Consul urging President Carter to speak out about brutality in the H-Blocks.

In a statement after the occupation the Belfast RAC said that the sit-ins are part of their campaign to highlight the prisoners' plights.



Members of the Belfast RAC picketing the Eastern Health and Social Services offices.



## Disgusting antics

THE DISGUSTING antics of the prison warders in the H-Blocks continues as they pursue the harassment of Republican prisoners on the blanket protest through using the weapon of intimate body searches.

During a wing shift in H3-Block on Thursday July 26th, Euan Broily, (Dungiven) was trailed from the area where the prisoners undergo the mirror search. He was thrown into a bath before having his back passage forcibly searched.

### DENIAL OF TREATMENT

The appalling medical situation continues in the H-Blocks. In H3-Block, John O'Neill from Belfast's Ardoyne area is reported to suffer daily from severe headaches caused by ear trouble, following denial of medical attention because he refuses to wear the prison gear.

### FLOODED CELLS

Several prisoners in H3-Block had their cells flooded by warders using a hose pipe. The prisoners were Pat Lavery (Lenadoon), Sean Toner (St. James), Tom Holland (Ardoyne) and Denis McFeely from South Armagh.

### CHRISTMAS TURKEYS

As usual when VIPs visit the H-Block the content and quantity of the men's food temporarily improves. This was the case during the recent visits of Westminster MP Frank Maguire.

According to a statement from the H4-Block blanket men shortly before Maguire's visit they felt they were 'being fed like Christmas turkeys once again'. Immediately following his visit the food reverted to the normal cold and inadequate garbage.

## CAMLLOUGH TO CORK

Seventy-one-year-old James Piers (pictured here) intends cycling the two-hundred-and fifty miles to Cork from his home town of Camlough in County Armagh in order to raise money for the H-Block appeal fund. His cycling marathon begins on Saturday and he expects it to be about eight days.

Many people not only in Ireland but also America are sponsoring his trip which is being organised by the South Armagh Committee, Chairman of Sinn Féin. He will be escorted along the entire route and H-Block meetings are scheduled en route.



The platform party, left to right: Andy Connolly, Christy McQuillan, Jim O'Brien, Ned Flynn, Maire Og Drumm, and Sean Mac Stiofain.

## NAVAN

SEVERAL HUNDRED people attended an H-Block meeting in Navan on Friday 20th July. The meeting was organised by the Meath-based Prisoners Action Committee (PAC). Speakers at the meeting were Sean Mac Stiofain; Maire Og Drumm, recently released from Armagh gaol; Ned Flynn, recently released blanket man; and trade unionist Andy Connolly (ITGWU) and Jim O'Brien (IWU). Another trade unionist Christy McQuillan (ITGWU) chaired the meeting.

Maire Drumm spoke of the conditions inside Armagh gaol and stressed that the protesting prisoners (demanding the retention of status) are determined to refuse to comply with the British criminalisation policy despite consequent loss of remission and other hardships. She stressed the need for a general intensification of street protests to win political status.

Ned Flynn, who spent two-and-a-half years on the blanket, pointed out that the men in H-Block are demanding the right to be treated as POWs similar to their comrades already in the cages.

They are demanding nothing more. He went on to say that the men in H-Block are not ordinary prisoners, they are there as a direct result of their participation in the revolutionary struggle; and their willingness to endure the hardships of H-Block rather than forsake their principles shows that their motives are totally unselfish.

Sean Mac Stiofain said that the plight of the men in H-Block and the women in Armagh must be made a matter of great

concern to every Irish man and woman. He pointed out that all those who are working for the poor and the underprivileged should have an ideological commitment to the men on the blanket.

He went on to say that all those who are working for any aspect of Irish culture are working against British cultural imperialism and should also have a strong commitment to the men in H-Block. He said that the Prisoners Action Committee are asking every organisation and group in County Meath to support the demand for the restoration of political status, and, as the situation is desperate there is no room for neutrality on this issue. Either people are for the men in H-Block or they stand with the Brits and the Unionists.

FOOTNOTE: It should be noted that Coiste Dulche na Mi of Conradh na Gaeilge and Navan Trades Council have responded to the PAC and have come out in full support for the men on the blanket, other organisations in Co. Meath have agreed to receive delegations.

## KILLARNEY

THE COUNTESS MARKIEVICZ SINN Féin Cumann recently organised an H-Block meeting in Killarney town centre. The meeting took place on the evening of Wednesday 18th July during the week that thousands of holiday makers flocked to the resort for the horse racing.

Mary McDermott (Belfast Sinn Féin) outlined the background and development of the fight for political status



Padraic O Maileon

from the day Kieran Nugent, the first blanket man was sentenced, to today when four hundred men are 'on the blanket'.

She reminded her listeners that while remembering these men we must not forget their comrades - the women in Armagh, the prisoners in Portlaoise, the men (and women) in English jails - some from the Killarney area - relatives and friends of whom she was glad to see at the meeting.

Padraic O Maileon (Limerick) also addressed the meeting. He said that the British occupation of Ireland has never meant anything but suffering, death and misery for the Irish people - the Republican prisoners in the H-Blocks are paying the price for loyalty to their country. We must ensure, he said, that this generation will be the last generation of Irishmen to suffer at the hands of the British oppressor. He urged support for the prisoners and the cause for which they are enduring such hardships - the establishment of a thirty-two county socialist republic.

Support the August Demonstrations - BRITS MUST GO!



# HERMON WILL BE NEW MAN

## EVENIN' ALL!

Well, at last the news is out. I've been able to get rid of that tedious little sneak, Kenny Newman. 'Supercop', as he called himself can now potter off to Bramshill police college and bore everyone there witless with his tales of how he personally tortured the paddies at Castlereagh.

Personally, I'm delighted to be able to sack him, since he has become tedious in the extreme. The last time he came to see me to brag about the latest crime figures (which he knows are fakes since I write them myself), his false teeth fell out and I had to spend five minutes crawling round the carpet looking for them. What a ghastly man he is!

I much prefer his replacement Jack Hermon, (Hermon the German, as the boys in blue call him). He is, it must be admitted, exceedingly thick, but he's a loyal little fellow, quite prepared to lick anyone's boots in order to get promotion.

It was he who was in charge of setting up the torture centre in Holywood Barracks in 1971, and a fine job he made of it too, along with Micky Slevin, OBE, CBE etc.

Once he's had a few remedial lessons, learnt to read and write — and his term report from the Metropolitan Police School for the Intellectually Backward, which I've just received, indicates that he is trying hard — he'll be a real credit to the RUC.

Which is more, I'm afraid, than can be said for Paul Gangel, ex-Brit soldier and now full time RUC man. Gangel, of Coronation Gardens, Aghalee — where the heroes come from — shot and paralysed a by-stander in London.

Giving him three years Judge Alan King-Hamilton explained his leniency by saying that the offence was clearly out of character and because of his 'courageous military and police record'. The usual stuff.

What they didn't say however, was that Gangel behaved like a raving loony in the dock, claiming that his girl friend was Mata Hari and that he was attempting to kidnap two girls and hold them hostage to exchange for Mata and that shooting the by-standers was an accident. Purdysburn or Grangegorman, I would have thought would be more suitable billets than HM Prison, Brixton.

But it gives us cause for hope, does it not? It is proof positive that no matter whether you are mentally defective, raving mad, thick as Tom Troy of the gardai (or for that matter D/Con Brady, the garda officer who is at present in possession of a top secret document detailing geriatric terrorists — not one

## by The Brigadier

under eighty — and who thinks he's on to something) there is always a place for you in the new RUC. Kenny may be getting the heave ho, but, the force will batter its way on.

Only a few bad apples this week, what with the judges off on their hols (even the former LCJ McDermott is off on an exciting visit to hell), so let me mention Francis Charles Stringer of Cheetham and 'B' Coy Fusiliers. He's been charged with assault and kidnap. Well done, Franny.

## POIGNANT MOMENT

And now to a serious subject. Many of my loyal readers have written asking me my most poignant moment of the year so far. A couple of weeks ago the editor of

this rag even speculated that it might have been standing between the dummy cardboard royal cut out that they sent over to Hillsborough and Fr. Murphy, the kidnapped priest who had turned up to grovel before the RUC (three of whose members have been charged with kidnapping him.) Nothing could be further from the truth.

No, when it's poignancy I seek to recall, my heart goes back to the beautiful little country churchyard, St. Mary's at Longworth. There on a warm, balmy morning, April 6th, 1979, I attended the memorial service of my old chum and fellow warrior, Airey Middleton Sheffield Neave.

How moving it was to sing all his old favourite hymns again: 'To be a pilgrim', 'Mine eyes have seen the glory', the 121st psalm and the All-eluia; and the inspirational lesson: 'When I was a child, I spoke as a child' and on to 'through a glass darkly'.

Verily the old Brigadier was touched. Blinking back the tears I knelt down on the old worn hassock, and, then, I saw it. Engraved

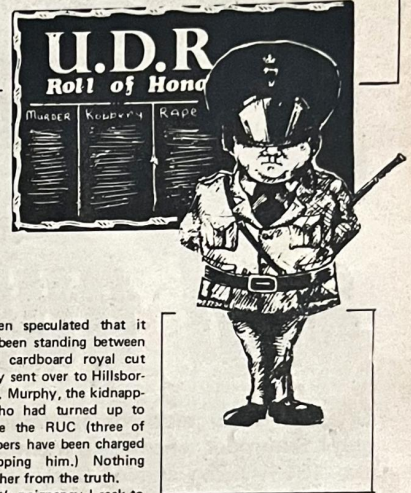
on the back of the pew in front of me, the little poem:

INLA  
Blew Uncle  
Airey  
Away.

The tears welled up, and before I knew it I was being led blubbering from the little church. Are these fiends everywhere? Is nothing sacred? Is nowhere safe?

I can tell you, I jolly well had a good check under my car in Thiepval barracks. I wouldn't put it past some of these commie NCOs to have it in for,

Your old chum,  
The Brigadier.



## duirt siad

"Six years ago he left gellignite in an Apprentice Boys' Hall in Bridgton, in an oven, for safe keeping. The oven was duly lit and is believed still to be in orbit."

Report on the activities of Scottish UVF commander Bill Campbell, who is obviously a Brit-trained quarter-master. ('Hibernia')

"I just tried to bring them up to scratch."

Bombardier Ian Myatt, a typically sadistic Brit NCO who got six months imprisonment for beating new recruits for having an untidy barrack room.

"As he pulled out to pass a tanker he observed the oncoming Army Land Rover. And it was then the 'dodgems' developed. The policeman headed for the hard shoulder on his right and the Army driver did likewise. In a bid to avoid colliding both swerved back onto the road again, but without success—there was a collision."

"Belfast Telegraph" describing the antics of the Brits and RUC on a Co. Armagh road.

"Hotels fine when not repairing bomb damage, but on arriving you are likely to be confronted with more bombs, truculent paratroop corporals, religious fanatics and rain."

British 'Business Traveller' magazine describing the scene which greets visitors to the occupied city of Belfast.

"After the treaty, native Irish institutions had openly assumed responsibility for preserving what was still in effect the old colonial system."

Desmond Greaves in his recently published book 'Sean O'Casey: Politics and Art'.



A crazy man

"Out, out, crazy man!"

French member of the European Assembly who was unfortunate enough to be seated near the Orange monster at the Assembly's opening session.

"I understand Mr. Paisley's attitude. I knew this would happen. I walked out myself when Lynch started babbling away in Irish, which is not even an official EEC language. There was no interpretation and for all I know he could have been saying something quite insulting."

John Taylor, Official Unionist Euro-MP, tail-ending Paisley's bigotry.

## Faoi glas i Sasana



TÁ NA cimir poblachta ag fulaingt i Sasana. Tá na húdaráis ag iarraidh sprid na gcimir a bhriseadh. Tá na cimir gan géilleadh agus tá a misneach láidir.

Tá go leor slite difriúla á úsáid ag an Stát chun na cimir a bhriseadh. Tá siad ag baint úsáid forleathan as drugaanna chun na cimir a smachú. Tamall ó shin, is cuma cén pian nó gearán a bhí ag cimir ní thabharfaid na bhairdéirí dó ach aspiirín. Anois tugann siad instealladh dos na cimir. Ní fios go díreach cén druga a thugann siad san instealladh seo ach tugann na cimir "liquid cosh" air.

Ach ní sin amháin atá ceann le cúsáil leighis sna príosúin. I dtuaisce leis an Rúnad den British Society of Radiographers dúirt se x-geabolach an úsáid atá á bhaint as gathanna sna príosúin.

Ní tugtar ach oiliúint cúpla seachtain dos na bairdéirí nuair is gé oiliúint dhá bliain a dhéanann chun feidhmiú leis an National Health Service. Tá na cimir i mbéal ós na bairdéirí seo ach is cuma leis na húdaráis.

Tá na cimir poblachta faoi glas i

Special Security Prisons. Tá dian slándáil i bhfeidhm sna príosúin seo agus tá cuairteanna faoi dian smacht. Cuirtear na príosúnaigh i gcillín ina aonar ar feadh tréimhsí suas le bliain. Bíonn go leor gearán ag na cimir mar gheall ar na soilse sna cillíní seo. Toisc go mbíonn an solas ar lasadh an t-ard faid bíonn pianta sna súile acu.

Seift eile atá ag na húdaráis ná na cimir a aistriú ó phríosúin amháin go príosúin eile. Tarlaíonn seo go minic díreach sula a dtagann cuairteoirí chuchú. Go minic toisc go mbíonn na cuairteoirí ag teacht ó Eirinn chuchú, bíonn an-deacracht acu an cuairt d'fháil, gan breis costais a chur san áireamh.

Tá na cimir ag fulaingt. Braitheann se orainn an scéal a phoiblíú agus agóid a dhéanamh. Ach i ndeireadh báire ní ach an t-aon leigheas amháin ar an scéal, sin Saoirse na hÉireann.

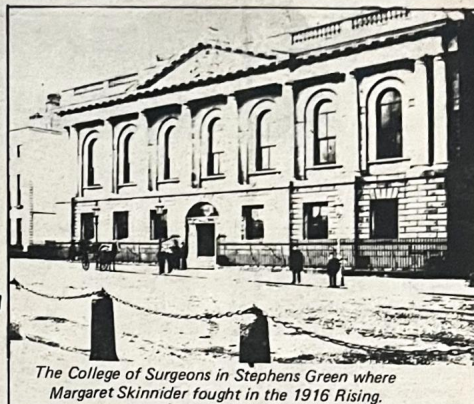
Support the August Demonstrations- BRITS MUST GO!



# MARGARET SKINNIDER

## Courage and quick wit

by Siobhan Wilson



The College of Surgeons in Stephens Green where Margaret Skinnider fought in the 1916 Rising.

ONE OF THE great women soldiers of Ireland was the late Margaret Skinnider who was a member of the Citizen Army during the 1916 Rising and of Cumann na mBan during the War of Independence.

During the terrible days of the Black and Tan war, Margaret Skinnider acted as courier to the leaders of the Irish Republican Army. Her immediate bosses included Michael Collins, Dick Mulcahy, Harry Boland and Cathal Brugha.

On her courage, her daring, her quick wit and ability to talk herself out of situations of deadly danger depended the lives of men of the IRA.

Margaret was born at Coatbridge near Glasgow, and reared there. Her father came from Monaghan and from him she acquired that knowledge of Irish history which induced her to join the Republican Movement in Glasgow city. She was a member of the Glasgow branches of the Gaelic League and of Cumann na mBan and a very active member at that.

On Holy Thursday, 1916, she arrived in Dublin and made her way straight to Liberty Hall, Headquarters of the Irish Citizen Army. Here she was interviewed by James Connolly, who immediately admitted her to membership of the Citizen Army. (Unlike the Volunteer Movement, Connolly was prepared to take women into the ranks of his armed force.)

### EASTER WEEK

When the Citizen Army occupied Stephen's Green area at noon on Easter Monday 1916, Margaret, fully equipped with rifle and bayonet was one of the soldiers who took possession of the Green and then retired to the College of Surgeons and adjoining houses which they occupied.

In the first two days' occupation, Margaret was one of those who took her place on the roof of the College, and with her rifle replied to the fire of the British sniper who was operating from the roof of the Shelbourne Hotel. On Thursday it became necessary for the College of Surgeons' garrison to communicate with Republican H.Q. at the GPO.

Margaret was picked by Commandant Michael Mallin to lead the party which would attempt the breakthrough. She was placed in charge of a squad of five men, with orders to get through the British lines. In this sortie Margaret was badly wounded in the shoulder. As far as she was concerned the Rising was at an end — she was transferred to St. Vincent's Hospital.

The surrender came on Saturday, and in the middle of the following week Margaret Skinnider was arrested in her hospital bed and transferred to the Bridewell for interrogation. Her doctor protested to the military authorities about the removal of his patient and after long consultations between himself and the British, it was agreed that Margaret be taken back to St. Vincent's.

Her doctor was determined that she should not go back to jail. He wanted her to escape and said: "When you are better and ready, get out! There are more ways out of here than one!"

Margaret Skinnider took his advice. When she was ready she just



Some of the live bombs made by Republicans in the College of Surgeons during the 1916 Rising.

York to help Mellows and Boland in their work of preparing American public opinion for a renewal of the Republican struggle at home.

From December 1916 until June 18th 1917, Margaret remained in America. Then, the general release of Republican prisoners having been completed, she sailed for home and immediately joined Collins in his reorganising campaign.

Army she knew all the secrets, military and political, of the Republican leaders.

Never once during the whole period of the Black and Tan war did she make a mistake. The Minister for Defence, Cathal Brugha, and the Chief of Staff, Dick Mulcahy, relied absolutely on her to see that their instructions were communicated to the fighting units, and carried out in the letter and the spirit.

With Maire MacSwiney, President of Cumann na mBan Margaret carried out her job so well that the Cumann na mBan organisation was the one body of which the British authorities knew nothing. They did capture some of the members but they never got any important documents from them, Margaret Skinnider saw to that by her devoted attention to detail and routine.

Eventually, the British authorities got to know the name of the woman responsible for co-ordinating and running efficiently the IRA Intelligence and auxiliary services, but even then they did not succeed in capturing her. Like Collins, she was always lucky, always resourceful and able to talk her way out of a dangerous situation. Right up to the very hour of the truce at noon, June 11th 1921, Margaret evaded

only Republican organisation which immediately declared against the treaty by a united vote.

Margaret Skinnider knew that the struggle and terror of war would begin all over again, only this time it would be civil war, and civil war it was.

After the IRA convention was held in March, against the orders of President Griffith, that section of the army which opposed the treaty seized and occupied the Four Courts. Rory O'Connor was in command and Margaret Skinnider was again attached to G.H.Q.

Harry Boland, (the brother of the future Fianna Fail Minister for Justice) was Q.M.G. of the IRA. Free State troops located him in a hotel in Skerries. Boland was shot and fatally wounded in the encounter. Margaret Skinnider succeeded him as Q.M.G., the first woman to hold such a rank in the Republican Army. She was well fitted for the position, for even before her appointment she was doing most of the Quartermaster-General's work.

Through the Black and Tan War she had been attached to the Q.M.G.'s department and was responsible for paying active service units their weekly wages. On one occasion, she had several thousand pounds in her possession, during a raid, but the raiders did not get it because Margaret placed a baby on the lap of a friend who sat on the money. The raiders did not like to disturb the baby.

### PRISON

On Christmas night, 1922, Margaret was arrested by Free State forces and taken to Mountjoy Prison. Later she was transferred to the South Dublin Union which the Free State had opened as an internment camp for women. Here, she went on a hunger strike and was eventually released.

A colleague of hers, Theresa MacGehin states: "Margaret Skinnider was one of the greatest women in the prison. We always relied on her. She was cool, calm, courageous and resourceful. When we wanted to do mad things she was the controlling power that stopped us. She never attempted anything unless she knew it was possible and feasible. As good as that, she was always in good humour and helped to keep our spirits up when we knew that the Civil War was going against us and that we had lost. Margaret's stock remark was: 'The end of a phase - there will always be another day.'"



A company of the Irish Citizen Army outside Croydon House, Croydon Park, Dublin during a training session just before the Rising.

disappeared and lost herself in the populous city of Glasgow.

### SOLDIERING

Before coming to Ireland for the Rising, Margaret had been a teacher in Glasgow. From 1916, however, until 1927, when she again began to teach in Dublin, her time was given not to teaching but to soldiering. She helped to reorganise Cumann na mBan in Glasgow, and on December 16th 1916, sailed to New

### BLACK-AND-TAN WAR

After the setting up of Dail Eireann in January 1919, the Republican Army became more active. Clashes between them and the military and police became daily occurrences. When the Black and Tans and the Auxiliaries arrived in Ireland to augment the standing army and the police force, Margaret led a life of danger, adventure and hair-breadth escapes from death. As courier to the top-ranking leaders of G.H.Q. staff of the Republican

capture. She had got through the Tan War and never had become a prisoner.

### CIVIL WAR

On the night of December 6th 1921, Collins and Griffith signed the Anglo-Irish Treaty in London. Two days later the Republican Movement was split in two. De Valera had declared against the settlement. Sinn Fein was split, the IRA was split but Cumann na mBan was still intact and united. It was the

Support the August Demonstrations - BRITS MUST GO!





## Sinn Féin statement on Garda harassment **FIANNA FAIL DIVERSION**

SINN FEIN wishes to point out that there has recently been a noticeable increase in the harassment of its members and sympathisers by the twenty-six county administration. The Special Branch presence around the grave of Wolfe Tone in Bodinstown on June 17th was the first major public indication of this.

Since then however, and particularly since the visit by Humphrey Atkins to Dublin we have had reports of greatly increased Garda harassment from all parts of the state, but particularly in border areas. Some homes have been raided and searched, the occupants threatened and some people held for interrogation.

From other parts of the state

there has been a greatly increased Garda presence at Republican functions and meetings; road blocks and checkpoints are reminiscent of the Cooney-Cruise O'Brien period; and there have been several spot arrests and overnight detentions.

Not all these operations are being carried out by the Special Branch, uniformed Gardai are very much in evidence.

Where those who are stopped give their names and addresses in Irish or insist in answering in Irish, there is an immediately aggressive response, with threats and abuse.

The reason for all this in our opinion, is that the Fianna Fail government is creating a diversionary security scare to take public attention from the other real and pressing problems such as spiralling prices and the energy crisis. The Coalition used the same tactic during their term but the electorate showed little thanks, only their disgust."



## Sinn Féin Congratulate Victorious Sandinistas

FOLLOWING the overthrow of the despotic Somoza regime in Nicaragua, Sinn Féin President, Ruairi O Bradaigh, and Richard Behal, Director Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs Bureau, sent a message of congratulations to the victorious Sandinista liberation front. The text read:

"Revolutionary Greetings and congratulations to the victorious F.S.L.N. (Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional) and liberated people of Nicaragua.

"Your heroic struggle has been an inspiration to the Irish Republican Movement and the oppressed people of Ireland struggling against British imperialism and neo-colonialism.

"We rejoice with you in your hour of triumph and eagerly look forward to your reconstruction of Nicaragua as a Free, Democratic and socially just society."

## Demoralisation

FURTHER evidence of British army demoralisation comes in the *Daily Mirror* of July 11th which reveals that twenty-three fed-up Brits from the 1st Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment are buying themselves out, including one whose cautionary tale is told in a *Mirror* exclusive.

This particular Brit was supplied with a travel warrant with the wrong plane time on it, and consequently missed the Belfast flight when returning from leave. When he did arrive back later he was fined £114 out of a month's pay, even though he had phoned to explain the delay.

His brother who alerted the *Mirror* to this particular method of boosting morale wrote, "During his latest tour in Ireland my brother had two of his friends shot and killed and another one blown up and killed. He has lost £114 in pay - no wonder he is buying himself out." No wonder indeed!

## SLAN LIBH

TÁ triúr saighdiúir is fiche de chuid Arm na Breataine ag fágáil slán le saol an tsaghdiúra tar éis tréimhse i mBéal Féirste. Bhí siad ar fad sa chéad Bathlan den Kings Liverpool Regiment.

I gcás fear amháin acu maraíodh triúr dá cháirde i rith an tréimhse deirneannach a chaith sé i mBéal Féirste. Tá líon na saighdiúirí atá á marú sa Tuaisceart ag cur imní ar na saighdiúirí agus ní theastaíonn uathu dul thar nais.

De réir na tuaraiscí is déanaí tá meánma na saighdiúirí imithe an-íseal ar fad. Creideann siad nach

feidir leo an cogadh a bhuachaint. Cosnann sé go leor aird orthu iad féin a cheannach amach sa Arm na Breataine.

Mar sin féin tá go leor acu sásta an t-eargead a íoch seachas bás d'fháil. A luaithe is a thuigann saighdiúirí uile na Breataine an fíoras sin is ea is fearr dóibh féin.



Daily Mirror  
Issue dated  
July 11th.

## WELSH COMMEMORATION

### Dros Rhyddid Collasant Ei Gwaed

(for freedom they shed their blood)

ON SATURDAY July 7th in the little North Welsh town of Abergelle, one hundred Welsh Republicans marched to remember two young volunteers in the Mudlad Amddiffyn (Welsh Defence Movement) who died on active service ten years ago. The two, George Taylor and Alwyn Jones, were killed by a premature explosion while attempting to destroy the railway line which was to carry the Royal family to the arrogant investiture of Charles Windsor as the self-styled "Prince of Wales".

The march this year was distinguished not only by the many colourful banners from all parts of Wales but also by the attendance of Sinn Féin and Scottish Republican representatives. The two Sinn Féin

banners present were given a prominent place on the march.

In the field beside the graves an oration in the Welsh language was given by Siôn

Aled, a Welsh Republican who recalled the sacrifice made by Volunteers Taylor and Jones, pledging that their deaths would not be in vain but that the Welsh would one day go forward to freedom. A statement of solidarity from the Blanket men in the H-Blocks was then read by Gerry Mac Lochlainn from Sinn Féin.

A subsequent speaker at the gravesides went on to ask what had the so-called nationalists of Plaid Cymru done to alleviate the suffering of the Irish people. He said that Welsh soldiers were now killing Irish

people and yet these quislings were doing nothing. The duty to do this fell with the Republicans gathered at that graveside, those who held true to the memory of Wales' patriot dead.

The march, one of the most successful in many years, came to an end with a short meeting in the town car park.

Later people met for an evening of Celtic music in a nearby village. After short speeches from Jim Reilly from Sinn Féin and Neil Ap Slancyn from Mudlad (Restoration Movement) everyone settled down to entertainment from a group known as Climen.

The day ended with the singing of the national anthems of Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

## Pudsey picketers pinched

ON SATURDAY 14th July four supporters of the Leeds branch of the United Troops Out Movement were arrested for handing out anti-Army recruitment leaflets at the Pudsey Show at Pudsey in West Yorkshire.

They were arrested under Section 5 of the Public Order Act, for distributing a handbill likely to cause a

breach of the peace. They were released after two hours, and are now waiting to see if the police decide to continue with the case. A British Army officer had asked the police to get rid of the picketers. The police told the four to either put their leaflets away, or they would be ejected from the show. The four turned to the bystanders and announced: "The police have prevented us from handing out anti-army recruitment leaflets".

It was then that they were arrested; despite the fact that they had put the leaflets away, and were about to leave.

From UTOOM  
leaflets



**Support the August Demonstrations - BRITS MUST GO!**





## Birthday Greetings

**CANAVAN, Gerard (A Wing, Crumlin Road Jail)**  
 Birthday greetings to my loving husband and our darling daddy. Though prison walls divide us and we are far apart, they have you in their keeping, we have you in our hearts. Lots of love from Briege and Kids. xxxx

**FITZSIMMONS, Michael (H4 Block)**  
 Birthday greetings to our dear nephew Michael on this your 22nd. Thinking of you and all your comrades in your struggle for what is rightly yours. We pray that your demands are speedily met. From Uncle Joe and Aunt Phyllis and Family.

**FITZSIMMONS, Michael (H4 Block)**  
 Birthday greetings to my cousin and comrade, Michael, on his 22nd birthday. Wishing you all the best. From Cousin Joe (H5 Block) and Fiancee Kate.

**FITZSIMMONS, Michael (H4 Block)**  
 Happy birthday to my loving cousin, Michael, on his 22nd birthday. Wishing you as good a birthday as possible in your unpleasant surroundings. From your ever loving cousin, Mary. xxxx

**McGRATH, Thomas (H3 Block)**  
 Birthday greetings Thomas (7 months done, 7 'Lives' to do, keep going (ha, ha)). Some day you will be free and hold your head up high. For those who ignored you in your struggle will be unable to look you in the eye. From Patricia, Noreen, Peggy and Mary (Wild Bunch).

**McLAUGHLIN, Raymond (Wakefield Prison, England)**  
 On this your fifth birthday in an English prison. They may have you in their keeping, but we have you in our hearts. Marie agus Patrick and all your family in Donegal.

**WILSON, Patrick (H4 Block)**  
 Happy birthday Paddy. For England knows and England hates the fearless Northern Gael. God bless you and all your comrades. From Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Moira, Deirdre and Teresa.

**WILSON, Padraic (H4 Block)**  
 Birthday greetings Paddy from Roseleen, Martin (H5 Block) and Baby Aine.

**WILSON, Padraic (H4 Block)**  
 Happy birthday Padraic. We are proud of you today and every day. When we hear your name, we hold our heads high. Good luck and God bless. From Ned and Jackie.

**WILSON, Padraic (H4 Block)**  
 Happy birthday Padraic. Behind those bars you are locked away because you dared to have your say, but when Ireland she is free, no more H-Block will you see. I know it's rough, but you will try to keep your chin up and your head held high. With love. From Imelda. xxxx

**MICHAEL (Crumlin Road Jail)**  
 Happy 21st Michael. It does not take a special day, to bring you to my mind, for a day without a thought of you is very hard to find. Lots of love, Eileen (Bellaghy).

## Solidarity Greetings

**BROWN, Ned**  
 Congratulations Ned on successfully completing two years in the Hail Holes of H-Block, and walking out a free man. From your old cell mate, Ricky.

**McLARNON, Perry (H-Block)**  
 Congratulations Perry, two years on the blanket on the 6th August. God bless you and all your comrades. From Linda, John and Wee Sean.

**McLARNON, Perry (H-Block)**  
 Congratulations Perry on completing two years on the blanket. All our love, Granny McLarnon and Uncle Terence.

**McLARNON, Perry (H-Block)**  
 Congratulations Perry on completing two years on the blanket. A felon's cap is the noblest crown an Irish head can wear. God bless you and all your comrades. From Granny Copeland and all at '56'.

**McLARNON, Perry (H-Block)**  
 Congratulations Perry on completing two years on the blanket. We're proud of you. God bless you and your comrades. Love from Mum, Dad, Erin, Terence and Paul.

**McKENNA, Kieran Patrick (H-Block)**  
 Congratulations to my son on completing two years on the blanket and all the best on your 21st birthday on 26th July. From Mother, Brothers and Sisters, Newbridge, Toomebridge.

**Goss and Gaughan Commemoration DUNDALK**  
 Sunday 5th August  
 Assemble 3pm Market Square  
 Organised by Sinn Féin

## MEMORIAM

**McCRIDDEN, Bobby (7th Anniversary)**  
 In proud and loving memory of our son Volunteer Bobby McCradden died 3rd August 1972.  
 Lay him away on the hillside, along with the brave and the bold, inscribe his name on the roll of fame, in letters of purest gold.  
 Always remembered by his Father, Mother, brothers and sisters.

**O'HAGAN, Danny (9th Anniversary)**  
 In loving memory of our dear son Danny, murdered by British forces, July 31st, 1970, R.I.P. St. Anthony pray for him.  
 At night when all is silent, and sleep forsakes our minds, our memories wander to the spot where our dear Danny lies; we think of him at early morn, we think of him at noon, but never once did we think that he would die so soon. I love my God o'er all he said, and then I love my land, oh mother dear I was true, to God, to Ireland and to you. Always remembered by his loving Father, Mother, Brothers, Sisters, Nephews and Niece, Antrim Road.

**SKILLEN, Martin (5th Anniversary)**  
 In proud and loving memory of our dear son and our dear brother, Martin Patrick Skillen, Coy. 2nd Batt. Ogligh na h-Eireann, killed on active service 3rd August 1974. R.I.P. Masses offered. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him and for all of his brave comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice fighting for Irish freedom. Dear Ireland take him to thy breast, this soldier son who died for thee, within thy bosom let him rest, among the martyrs sanctified. We remember with pride (Martin) why you fought and how you died. Proudly remembered by your loving Mother and Father, Sisters and Brothers, and large Family Circle in Belfast, Isle of Man, Scotland, Liverpool, London, and U.S.A.

**SKILLEN, Martin (5th anniversary)**  
 In proud and loving memory of Vol. Martin Skillen, D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Ogligh na h-Eireann, killed 3rd August 1974. Mary Queen of Ireland pray for him. Always remembered by the Lower Falls Commemoration Committee.

**SKILLEN, Martin (5th anniversary)**  
 The committee and members of the Lower Falls Martyrs Band remember with pride Vol. Martin Skillen, D' Coy, 2nd Battalion, Ogligh na h-Eireann, who was killed while on active service 3rd August 1974. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

**TOLAN, Tommy (Todler) (2nd Anniversary)**  
 In loving memory of our friend Tommy, who was shot by renegade Irish men. St. Patrick pray for him. Always remembered by his friends, Eugene Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Parker and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Mulvenna and Family, Martin Walsh (H Block), the Walsh Family, the Valley Family and big Marie, Armagh Jail.

**TOLAN, Tommy (Todler) (2nd Anniversary)**  
 In proud and loving memory of Vol. Tommy Tolan, killed by enemies of Ireland 27th July 1977. Always remembered by Eibhlin.

**TOLAN, Tommy (Todler) (2nd Anniversary)**  
 In proud and loving memory of Vol. Tommy Tolan, who was shot dead by traitors. A mhúine na Gael dear idir gul ar an sairn uasal. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

**TOLAN, Tommy. (2nd Anniversary)**  
 In proud and loving memory of my dear husband Tommy, murdered by renegades 27th July 1977. Mary Queen of the Gael pray for him.  
 Each morning I awake, and realise you are gone, no one knows the loneliness or pain that I suffer, words cannot heal the heartache, nor stop the silent tears, for when you lose the one you love, you cry for many years.  
 Very sadly missed and eternally remembered by his loving wife Maureen.

## THANKS

**SEAN AND MARGARET**  
 Thanks to Sean and Margaret of the Harp Bar, Puerto Le Cruz, Tenerife, for their donations for the prisoners (20 pounds and 500 pesetas).

**PORTLAOISE PRISONERS**  
 H-Block Appeal Fund acknowledges with thanks the generous donation of £150 from the Republican Prisoners in Portlaoise.

**BELFAST WOMEN'S MARCH AGAINST RAPE**  
 Friday 3rd August  
 Assemble 8 p.m.  
 Turf Lodge black taxi terminus, Monagh Rd March to the Falls Park.  
 This protest is organised by Women against Imperialism to highlight the increasing number of sexual assaults on women in West Belfast and to show that women will not tolerate this treatment any longer.

## Sympathy

**KENNEDY, Kevin**  
 The Republican Movement deeply regrets the sudden death of Kevin Kennedy, and extends its sympathy to his relatives and friends.

**SINN FEIN COMHAIRLE CUIGE ULAIHD**  
 Monthly meeting  
 Saturday 4th August  
 Same time; same venue  
 Officers and members are asked to attend.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF TROOPS BEING SENT ON TO THE STREETS

## LONDON DEMONSTRATION

Sunday 12th August  
 Assemble 2.30 p.m. Speakers Corner  
 'We call on the British government to commit itself to a policy of withdrawal'.

Demonstration initiated by National League of Young Liberals and organised by August 12th Demonstrations' Committee. Sponsorship includes sixteen Westminster MPs, one Euro-MP, four Lords, and many organisations and individuals.

**SEAN HARRINGTON**  
 An Appreciation by a Comrade  
 Friday July 26th marks the first anniversary of the death of Sean Harrington of Ballyduff, Co. Kerry. Sean, a first class hurler with his home team in his young days, was a keen student of Irish and a fluent speaker of the language. An uncompromising Republican he was associated with the movement from an early age, eventually becoming Chief of Staff of the I.R.A. He was arrested in the early war years and was interned for four years in the Curragh which contributed in no small way to his early demise.

## Notes

## by Cormac

THE BRITZ NO LONGER CLAIM THAT THEY CAN DEFEAT THE I.R.A.



GIVEN THEIR REPUTATION FOR HONESTY PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE THAT THEY'RE GOING TO WIPE OUT ALL THE REPUBLICANS NEXT WEEK.



OH, I DON'T KNOW—EVEN THE BRITZ HAVE TO ADMIT TO THE OBVIOUS ONCE IN A WHILE.



SEE YOU LATER...



WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



DOWN TO THE PUB TO CELEBRATE OUR VICTORY!



HE'S A BIT PREMATURE IN HIS CELEBRATIONS—THERE'S STILL A LONG, HARD STRUGGLE!



ARE YOU STILL HERE, SHORTY?



THEY DIDN'T WARN ME ABOUT THIS WHEN I ENLISTED!



## Support the August Demonstrations- BRITS MUST GO!