

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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THE H-BLOCKS OF LONG KESH

BRITAIN'S OBSCENITY

THE H BLOCK STRUGGLE was three years old on Friday and for Republicans that is certainly nothing to be happy about. It was on September 14th 1976, which also roughly co-incides with the departure of direct-ruler Merlyn Rees and the arrival of the tyrannical Mason, that Kieran Nugent courageously refused to wear the British criminal uniform and became the first man 'on the blanket'.

Three years later under another direct-ruler nearly four hundred of our comrades — people's husbands, sons and brothers — are still 'on the blanket' and what is more, for the last eighteen months, they have been on the 'no-wash no-slop-out' protest. In Armagh jail thirty-five women political prisoners are also held under strict conditions, locked in their cells for twenty-one hours per day.

This suffering and deprivation is something to be bitterly angry about. It is something over which wives, mothers and fathers are heartbroken but also rightly proud.

The real conscience of the Irish nation — partitioned and weakened, by British military occupation in the North and by Free State weak-willed self-satisfaction in the South — resides in the Republican people, in the families, in the prisoners and in the volunteers of the Irish Republican Army.

If any anti-Republican wants to know why we hate the Brits, then drive along the M1 motorway and look at one of the reasons — Long Kesh prison camp. You can't miss it — though they've done their best to hide it. Across a bog, behind a huge concrete wall, beyond a trench, and waves of barbed wire, surrounded by British soldiers armed with machine guns, are the H-Blocks.

Here, naked men pit their will against a perverted and

brutal administration.

The architects of this prison camp are the same imperialist tribe which created partition and whose history of involvement in our country is written in blood.

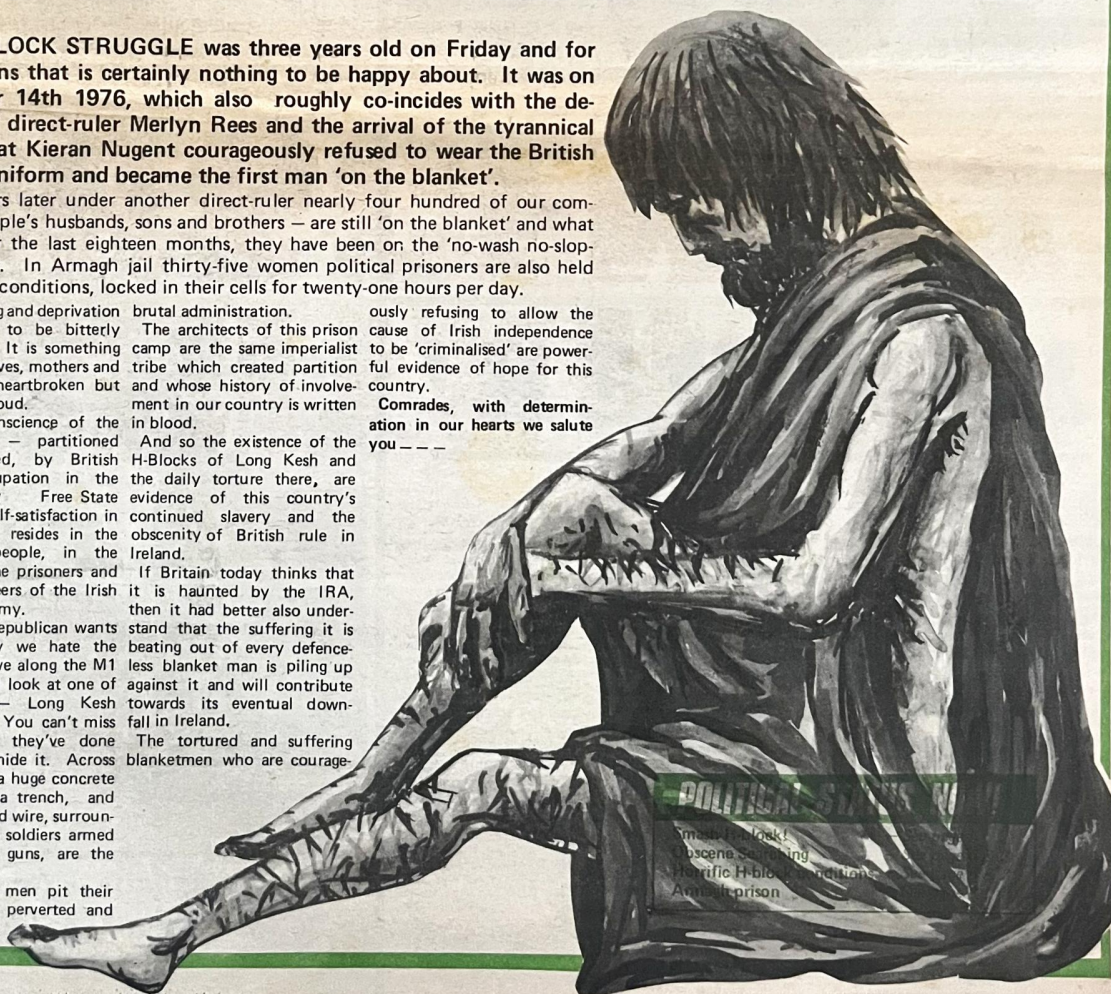
And so the existence of the H-Blocks of Long Kesh and the daily torture there, are evidence of this country's continued slavery and the obscenity of British rule in Ireland.

If Britain today thinks that it is haunted by the IRA, then it had better also understand that the suffering it is beating out of every defenceless blanket man is piling up against it and will contribute towards its eventual downfall in Ireland.

The tortured and suffering blanketmen who are courage-

ously refusing to allow the cause of Irish independence to be 'criminalised' are powerful evidence of hope for this country.

Comrades, with determination in our hearts we salute you — — —



POLITICAL STRUGGLE

Small booklet
obscene searching
horrific H-block conditions
Armagh prison



NORMALISATION DE-RAILED

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

IN THE aftermath of the devastatingly successful Mullaghmore and Narrow Water ambushes the last week has seen a predictable lull in IRA activity.

In a week that saw Britain's 'normalisation' policy de-railed with the gates going up again in Dungannon, a train commandeered on the main Dublin to Belfast railway was also de-railed, effectively blocking that cross-border route for several hours. Otherwise a quiet week was broken by one attack on the RUC, one on the Brits and a disruption exercise.

FRIDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER
Castellwellan:

Three vehicles commandeered in the Castellwellan area of Co. Down were placed on three nearby roads

causing widespread traffic disruption.

The vehicles blocked the Newcastle to Castellwellan road, the Castellwellan to Kilcoo road and the Castellwellan to Clough road.

SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
Coalisland:

Members of an RUC mobile patrol narrowly escaped injury when an IRA sniper opened fire on their vehicle on a road between Portadown and Coalisland in Co. Tyrone.

MONDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
Crossmaglen:

An IRA active service unit hit

a Brit helicopter flying near Crossmaglen village with at least one shot in a burst of automatic gunfire. The helicopter, although damaged, quickly returned to its base in the village barracks.

TUESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER
Newry:

A driverless CIE goods train worth more than a quarter-of-a-million pounds ploughed off the Dublin to Belfast railway line outside Newry after being commandeered by the IRA shortly before eight o'clock in the morning.

The train was pulling thirteen wagons laden with beer. It careered along the track towards Portadown but at Goragwood several wagons jumped the tracks as the train rounded a sharp bend and pulled it to a halt. British army bomb experts moved in closing the line for several hours. A similar incident happened in July when another goods train was commandeered. It was derailed at the same spot and on that occasion burst into flames.

Northern Ireland Railways later admitted that about twenty per cent of its service is disrupted by IRA activity.

Gates go up again in Dungannon

THE I.R.A. have scored a significant victory in Dungannon against the British policy of 'normalisation' of their sectarian six-county colony. It has been announced that check points and gates in the town centre are to be re-introduced after an absence of ten months.

This decision, forced upon Dungannon district council by the IRA, was taken reluctantly after consultation with Brit/RUC chiefs. (Dungannon is thus

following in the footsteps of other towns).

The decision follows the IRA's twenty-fifth successful bomb attack on the town's commercial centre; an attack which was the third car bomb this year. This latest attack happened three weeks ago, on Friday 24th August, when a 300lb car bomb exploded in Scotch Street off the Market Square. Sixty shops were damaged. Scotch Street has been bombed so many times that it is known locally as 'Detonation Row'. The business heart of the town has

been repeatedly ripped open. The town centre, following the latest bomb attack, looked as if it had been an air raid target. The day following, the Chairman of Dungannon district council, Ralph Brown, stated in bewilderment: "We are going to have to re-think our policy. Closing the town has failed and opening has also failed. We must find a way. But I feel that re-eraction of the barricades would be an admission of defeat to the IRA."

Well that admission has now been made;

MURDER!

'MURDER' is how Given Shuter, uncle of twenty-three-year old wildfowler James Taylor of Coagh, Co. Tyrone, describes his nephew's killing by the SAS. Given Shuter was with James Taylor and two other men when Taylor was shot dead in the back by an SAS man on the banks of the Ballinderry River near Coagh nearly one year ago.

At the inquest into Taylor's death which was held in Magherafelt ten days ago, the coroner returned an 'open verdict' which leaves open (theoretically, at least) the possibility of the Director of Public Prosecution (D.P.P.) charging the soldier with murder. But the D.P.P. many months ago stated that no charges will be brought.

In court last week, the plainclothes soldiers, who were referred to as soldier A, and Corporals B and C, claimed soldier A shot James Taylor in self-defence after he threateningly cocked a shot-gun at him.

This allegation was denied by James Taylor's companions.

After the inquest Given Shuter stated: "The evidence points to Mr. Taylor having been shot in the back and if that is the case how



JAMES TAYLOR SHOT IN THE BACK BY THE SAS.

can the soldier say or assume his life was ever in danger?"

He went on: "They are trying to make it out it is not murder. Surely there has got to be some justice somewhere, but we are not getting it." He concluded: "The army has cooked up the whole story".

On Saturday 30th September of last year, James Taylor and two other men went duck-shooting on the Ballinderry River. "It was after dark when they returned to their car parked nearby. They discovered all four tyres were deflated. So they walked to the house of Given Shuter, and then returned with him and his car to their car. Two cars were near the immobile car and when the occupants were challenged as to whether they were "the boys that are so good at letting down tyres" three shots rang out.

James Taylor was fatally hit, once in the spine and twice around the armpit.

The SAS seem to have developed a ritual excuse for their murderous habit of shooting civilians in the back. In both the case of Dunloy school-boy John Boyle and now of James Taylor they have claimed that their victim was shot in the back because he was on the point of turning around to aim a gun at them.

The unquestioning acceptance of this story by the D.P.P. (who only prosecuted the Boyle case after a press leak of their file) is yet another piece of evidence exposing the corrupt nature of the judicial system in the North of Ireland. A system basically geared to the needs of the Brit war-machine, whose aSASins require an unendorsed licence-to-kill.

IRA ADDRESS TO BRITISH PEOPLE —

'Many more deaths'

ACCORDING to the IRA there will be many more deaths until Britain leaves Ireland. This warning was sounded by the IRA on Thursday, a week ago, following the burial of the last of the dead from the Mullaghmore and Narrow Water ambushes.

The warning came in an IRA address to the British people issued through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau. The statement received wide coverage on the British media including BBC TV's *Nationwide* programme.

The full text of the statement reads:

"Now that you have buried your dead (as we have done with ours down through the years) and the understandable emotional responses which followed the events of last week have begun to subside, we sincerely hope that you can begin to understand the immense problems your government's presence has created in our country.

"We sincerely believe that you, the British people, must now honestly and logically begin to re-examine the role of your government in Ireland, and realise that a continuation of the occupation of a part of Ireland is a sure recipe for further heartbreak and suffering.

"You, the British people, must understand that while Britain continues to interfere in the internal affairs of the Irish nation, there will be many more deaths of both British and Irish people."

Moyard man's death

IRA denial

On Wednesday the Belfast Brigade of the I.R.A. issued a statement denying involvement in any way in the death of Moyard man Hugh O'Halloran.

Hugh O'Halloran died late on Monday night following a beating he received on Saturday from several men as he neared his home in Belfast's Moyard Estate. Rumours circulating in the area suggested that he was beaten by an I.R.A. punishment team but the I.R.A. statement said, "We wish to make it clear that we were in no way involved in the beating."

Belfast Sinn Fein H.Q. attacked

THE Falls Road premises which house the Belfast Sinn Fein headquarters have been the target for two attacks both unsuccessful in four days.

Late last Friday night a bomb in a plastic bag was placed outside the side door. It was later defused.

Then in the early hours of Monday morning arsonists broke into the building and attempted to burn it down. The fire was quickly extinguished by the fire brigade.

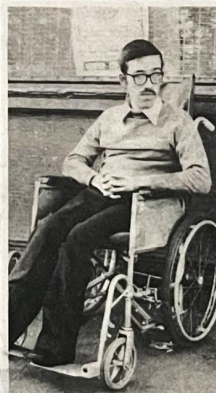
Over recent weeks the British army have frequently raided the building and issued dire threats to the Sinn Fein staff. On the anniversary of internment the KOSBies attempted to burn the building down.

Belfast Sinn Fein Chairman, Tom Hartley, believes both of last weekend's attacks were the work of the British army seeking to intimidate Sinn Fein activists.

ACT NOW ON H-BLOCK

ONE OF the reasons why Republicans have not yet broken the H-blocks is through lack of mobilisation and failing to build up enough public pressure. No Irish person should be able to plead ignorance at not having heard the name of H-block. So let Republicans redouble our efforts. Along the coast roads many 'strategic' rocks have not been given the message yet, and their are plenty of gable walls which could also do with a fresh coat.

We are certainly missing other golden opportunities. A good Republican heckler, after the example of Belfast's Harriet Kelly, could have probably forced out of Sile de Valera her position on political status, when she perched herself on the Republican tree at the Liam Lynch commemoration in Fermoy last Sunday. And every time Jack Lynch gets out of his car someone with strong lungs could obviously attract plenty of press interest. So let's act now.



CHARLES CAHILL
JEERED AT BY BRITS

KOSBies harass handicapped man

A severely handicapped man, fell foul of the notorious KOSBies in West Belfast last Friday afternoon.

Charles Cahill from Westrock Drive, who is confined to a wheelchair, was harassed by the Brits as he wheeled himself along Ballymurphy Road.

The Brits, who stopped him in the street, cruelly insisted that he get out of the wheelchair, and started tilting it about. When Charles Cahill explained he could not get out of the chair unassisted, one of the Brits searched around in it with him still sat in it. The Brits then climbed back into their jeep and drove off, jeering 'Crippled Bastard'; another act of peace-keeping completed.

Brit driving fails to improve

Another British soldier has been killed and one injured in an accident involving a military vehicle in Belfast. This latest fatal accident occurred on Monday afternoon just inside North Howard Street barracks when a Brit saracen drove into the two walls, both KOSBies, pinning them against a wall. The cost of occupation to the Brits continues to mount.

Political reactions to the execution of Lord Mountbatten and the wipe-out of eighteen soldiers by the Irish Republican army continue to work themselves out.

In the north, if the speech of Direct Ruler Humphrey Atkins to South Down Councillors last week is anything to go by, the British Government generally intend (much to the insecurity of loyalists) continuing their present policy of attempting to wear down and defeat Republicans within the frame work of existing repressive laws. Thus it appears that they will continue with the H-Blocks and Diplock courts ('criminalisation') instead of giving into calls for Internment, and they will continue with 'Ulsterisation' (the policy of the primacy of the RUC who are to be strengthened by recruiting an extra thousand loyalists).

'Normalisation' whilst still remaining their aim will be referred to less in propaganda, though it will continue to be aided by substantial economic investments.

However, it is from within a section of the ruling Fianna Fail party in the Free State, (which, next to the I.R.A. itself, bore the brunt of British racist hysteria), that the most political response to date has emerged.

Last Sunday, speaking at a commemoration in Fermoy County Cork, for Liam Lynch an I.R.A. leader during the Civil War, politician Sile De Valera, (grand-daughter of Eamonn De Valera), challenged the revision of their constitutional brand of 'republicanism' currently taking place within the party under the leadership of Jack Lynch. Peter Arnalis reports.

"They have the effrontery to ask our permission for their Army to operate a mile or so over the border.

"It must be pointed out to the British government in no uncertain terms that they were the cause of partition and that we at no time would wish to co-operate in any scheme of theirs which would attempt to keep the Border in existence."

With such fiery nationalist language twenty-four-year-old Sile De Valera, Euro-MP and Leinster House politician, shook the Fianna Fail Party to its foundations and in the process challenged the pro-Brit direction in which Jack Lynch is taking it. The importance of her speech should not be underestimated. 'WHO IS BEHIND HARDLINE SILE?' screamed the headlines of Monday's *IRISH INDEPENDENT*, describing her speech as containing "some of the most extreme republican sen-

timents uttered by a sitting T.D. in recent years."

The *IRISH PRESS* said: "If she were speaking solely on her own behalf the matter might not be regarded in such serious light, but because of her name and the possibility that she might have support from more senior members of the Party, the Taoiseach has obviously felt obliged to hit out at the tone of the speech straight away."

Jack Lynch did counter-attack but only exacerbated the policy rift and confirmed the existence of clear differences. A reading of some of Sile De Valera's speech, during which she invoked Pearse's *THE SOVEREIGN PEOPLE*, show up these differences.

"So many nowadays," she said, "who only have material interests at heart, would tempt us to dilute our political aim and goal - namely the achievement of a United Ireland. These opponents are dangerous, as they often cloak their views under such guises as reconciliation and peace."

This was aimed as much at Lynch as at Fine Gael leader Garret Fitzgerald.

JACK LYNCH

On the 8th January 1978, Lynch had affirmed early Fianna Fail Irish nationalism when in an interview on RTE radio he called for a British

FIANNA FAIL HAWKS PLAY DeVALERA CARD

BY PETER ARNLIS



Some of the colleagues of Jack Lynch (right) may be laughing as he leaves Dublin to collaborate with Thatcher. But others such as Charlie Haughey are sharpening the knife of fake Republicanism to stab him firmly in the back.

withdrawal, and received widespread party backing. However, under subsequent pressure from the British government (and bankruptcy in how to perform the transition) he never mentioned the demand again.

In fact, prior to meeting Thatcher last week in the wake of IRA successes the 'political initiatives' he was asking for amounted to nothing more than devolved government for the north with SDLP participation. Under pressure from the British media Lynch showed few qualities, but positive vacillation. Lynch's clear departure from his January 1978 position was casually recalled in an *IRISH TIMES* editorial when it posed the question "will she (Mrs Thatcher) recognise too that Mr. Lynch has in fact been making very low-key suggestions of late, compared with some of his past statements?"

Sile De Valera's comments thus amounted to a direct attack on Lynch's leadership, for she said: "Many so-called 'solutions' have been suggested under such names as a Council of Ireland or a devolved government in the north. As these are only half-measures they can only serve to exacerbate and fester the problem. Only a naive politician would attempt to look for a political framework acceptable to those who live in the Six-County area in isolation. In other words, a true and lasting solution can only be found

in an all-Ireland context with one democratic government to decide the affairs of the whole nation."

There were other references to quality of leadership:

"Now more than ever we need leadership of our nationalist cause. If our political leaders are not seen to be furthering our republican aspirations through Constitutional means, the idealistic young members of our community will become disillusioned and discontented with the politicians and, far more important they will lose heart in the political and constitutional process and turn to violence to achieve the aims which the politicians in their eyes had ceased to further.... I look to our party and particularly our leader to demonstrate his republicanism and bring these beliefs to fruition in our people."

Sile De Valera broke from party procedure to deliver her speech which since it referred to the north should have been, but wasn't, vetted by the party whip.

HAWKS

Irish Republicans need to be careful not to be mesmerised by the emergence of Fianna Fail 'hawks' at this critical time, coming surprisingly so soon after the orchestrated hysteria over the IRA's operations on the 27th August.

It is significant that the militant nationalist wing in Fianna Fail felt confident enough to raise the question of re-unification. Sections of the media and political parties predictably accused her of being a 'Provo supporter', which she is certainly not!

And though her statement that if Liam Lynch and his comrades were alive today they would be called 'men of violence or

terrorists', might implicitly suggest a degree of sympathy for the contemporary Liam Lynch in the IRA, Sile De Valera has yet to call for political status for the H-Block men, and unlike Republicans she certainly would not support the socialist content of the 1916 Proclamation.

However, the reason why the 'hawks' felt confident enough to raise the issue of re-unification was their realization and appreciation of the durability of the IRA. That is, that it has significant support, that it can continue with the struggle, and that the Republican Movement will continue to grow into an organised radical political force. Had there been no substance to the Republican cause (an impression often given by the revisionism going on in the Free State), or were the Republicans' aim of re-unification so unpopular, then the 'hawks' in Fianna Fail would not have risked the 'scourge' of being associated with us.

ATTEMPT TO COMPETE

They have certainly distanced themselves from the use of force, having let the suffering Republican people by their own blood, sweat and tears sustain the struggle and continually raise on their own the national question. The offer of constitutional means to settle this issue is an attempt to compete with Republicanism and wean away what Sile De Valera calls 'the idealistic young' who would otherwise be attracted to the Republican Movement, and who would contribute to building a socialist Ireland.

Paradoxically, in the meantime, Sile De Valera's comments will contribute to legitimising Republican aims, and in some respects putting pressure on British rule.



Sile De Valera trying to wean away what she calls 'the idealistic young' at Liam Lynch commemoration ceremony last Sunday.

Ardoyne Vigilantes Arrested

Seven young men from Belfast's Ardoyne area appeared in a Belfast court last Friday morning charged with disorderly behaviour. All were later released on one hundred pounds bail. They were charged - not as one might expect, after rioting - but because they had been patrolling the streets of Ardoyne as vigilantes guarding against loyalist attack.

Regular vigilante patrols in the Ardoyne area, which has suffered extensively from loyalist attacks in the past, started on Tuesday 4th September, following three assassinations of Catholics in North Belfast.

After darkness, make-shift barricades were erected to slow down cars entering the area in order to check out the occupants.

Almost immediately the Brits began intimidating the vigilantes by putting them against the wall and searching them and by driving through the barricades in armoured vehicles. Vigilantes at the corner of Berwick Road and Alliance Avenue had to take cover several times from Brits throwing stones at them.

The following night, after the attempted murder that morning of local man, Sean Smiley, shot on a bus on the Oldpark Road, more people came on to the streets to man the barricades.

The Brits, presumably worried about the Ardoyne people organising their own protection stepped up the pressure against them. At the corner of Stratford Gardens and Etna Drive, a major confrontation was narrowly avoided when the Brits backed down from a crowd of vigilantes who refused to dismantle a barricade. The Brits in armoured vehicles toured the area the rest of the night aiming their rifles at the

vigilantes and shouting abuse at them.

It was at the corner of Stratford Gardens and Etna Drive the following night, Thursday that the Brits arrested four of the seven young men later charged with disorderly behaviour. They were Charles Close (aged 18), Thomas Gibson (18), James McComiskey (18), and James Thompson (18).

Shortly after eleven o'clock two jeep loads of Brits pulled up beside the young men, demanded to know their names and addresses, began pushing them around and demanded to know what they were doing at the street corner. The men stated that they were protecting the area against attacks from loyalists. But two more saracen-loads of Brits arrived and the four young men were arrested at gun point and taken to Tennant Street RUC barracks.

Twenty-two-year-old John Close replaced the arrested vigilantes

(one of whom was his brother Charles) at the corner of Stratford Gardens and Etna Drive. Shortly after midnight a Cortina car turned in from Alliance Avenue and as John Close walked out to slow the vehicle down by waving a torch a man jumped from the car brandishing a hand gun. He grabbed John Close, put the gun to his head and trailed him into the back of the car which immediately reversed out of the street.

It only became obvious to a very frightened John Close that he had not been kidnapped by loyalist assassins, but arrested, when he realised that he was seated between a uniformed RUC man and a Brit Military policeman.

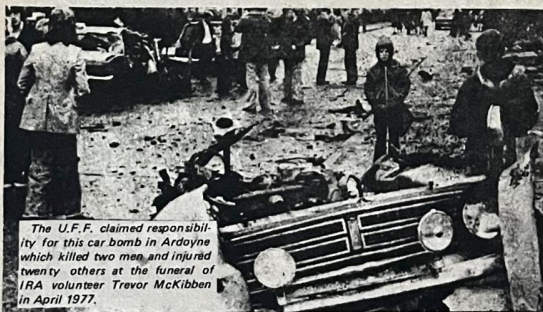
The other two vigilantes, who appeared in court, Matt McCarthy (aged 17) and Pearce Toal (18) were later arrested at another barricade.

Despite the fact that Brit harassment of the vigilantes continued on successive nights after the arrests, the area is still being patrolled and barricades are being erected nightly.

The Brits' behaviour, while not unexpected, is yet another clear example of how, far from being the protectors of the nationalist people, they are their oppressors, on this occasion opening the door to loyalist murder gangs by arresting vigilantes.

NINE MORE ARRESTED

As we go to press reports are coming in that in the early hours of the morning of Thursday 13th September nine more vigilantes in Ardoyne were arrested by British soldiers. The British army seem determined to deny the nationalist people the right to protect themselves against loyalist assassins.



The U.F.F. claimed responsibility for this car bomb in Ardoyne which killed two men, and injured twenty others at the funeral of IRA volunteer Trevor McKibbin in April 1977.

Shortly after the seven young men appeared in court another Ardoyne man thirty-four-year-old Billy Bradley, appeared, he was charged with assaulting a British soldier, and was later released on one hundred pounds bail.

The charge arises out of a confrontation on the evening of Thursday 6th September between a group of women, including Billy Bradley's wife, Mary, and a Brit patrol who were haranguing the women while they were shopping: Billy Bradley is admitting that he hit a Brit but is claiming that he was provoked.

The row between the Brits and

Brit Hit

the women started when a Brit manning a vehicle checkpoint made crude comments to the women on their way to the co-op shop at the corner of Brompton Park.

One of the women shouted back 'watch you don't stop any hay lorries!'

Several Brits followed the women into the shop shouting obscenely at them, Billy Bradley who was in the street, saw that his wife was upset at this intimidation. However, the Brits surrounding the

shop would not allow him through and began to get very abusive towards him.

Billy Bradley asked several times to be allowed in to the shop but the Brits ignored his request and tried to jostle him away. He then punched the nearest Brit hard on the face. The Brit immediately cracked up. He cocked his rifle pointed it at the women and started shouting 'I can't take any more'. Other members of the patrol grabbed the rifle from his hands and removed him hurriedly from the shop. They also arrested Billy Bradley and took him to Tennant Street RUC barracks.

Loyalist assassins using R.U.C. files - Adams

GERRY ADAMS, Vice-President of Sinn Fein, has claimed in a statement that the loyalist assassination squads who shot dead three Catholics the week before last, have active support from within the ranks of the RUC (and UDR) and that they have copies of RUC intelligence files in their possession.

Gerry Adams also suggested that one loyalist group have well advanced plans to bomb targets in the twenty-six counties including Sinn Fein headquarters in Dublin. He claimed: "They have detailed accounts of the movements of named Republicans - details which could only have been acquired from British intelligence and RUC files. Indeed the files produced at a recent press conference are duplicate copies of files compiled by the RUC and usually stored at Castle-reagh."

(The press conference Adams was referring to was held by the so-called Ulster Freedom Fighters a fortnight ago.)

He added "While those involved in the murder gangs have stated publicly that they will restrict their activities to republican targets - this holds only for the initial stage of their campaign."

"They intend to escalate or to divert to other targets as they see

fit. Indeed as recent murders show any unfortunate Catholic will do as an alternative target. Thus John Hardy, Gerry Lennon and Harry Corbett died."

He pointed out that these three are victims of a renewed campaign by loyalist assassination squads who are born out of sectarianism which is vigorously nourished by local Unionist politicians and sustained by the British government. He said: "These murder gangs are intent on terrorising those considered to be a threat to the Protestant Ascendancy and the British imperialist prop which supports that ascendancy."

And he concluded that, loyalist assassins present a threat not merely to Republicans but to a whole range of people who should realise that "there is thus a renewed and urgent need for continued vigilance and the adoption of basic security safeguards".



A copy of the photo - file sent to Benny Martin. His code - number in RUC terminology is 284.

R.U.C. PHOTO FILE SENT TO MOY MAN

A WELL-KNOWN member of Sinn Fein who lives in Moy, Co. Tyrone, has received anonymously through the post, four copies of an RUC photo file of twenty suspected Republicans.

The file, which is headed 'RUC (K) SOUTH SIGHTING LIST OCT 78' included the man's own photograph, name and year of birth.

Benny Martin of Charlemont, Moy received the copies of the photo-file last Saturday in an envelope which was franked the previous day in Armagh City. There was no statement, threat or remarks accompanying the copies of the file.

However, in the wake of loyalist murder gangs' claims that the files' arrival through Benny Martin's letter box amounts to an implied death threat. The files' sinister arrival also backs up the claim made by Sinn Fein Vice-President Gerry Adams, two days previously, that loyalist assassins have been given access to RUC intelligence files on Republicans.



POLITICAL STATUS NOW!

SMASH H-BLOCK!



THREE YEARS AFTER the H-Block protest began there are now nearly four hundred Republican prisoners 'on the blanket' in Long Kesh. British spokesmen have dishonestly claimed that the Republican Movement welcomes the H-Blocks as a propaganda weapon; but this is certainly not the case: the suffering of the men and their relatives must not continue. (If the H-Blocks are such an important propaganda weapon for Republicans why do the British not render them harmless by granting the prisoners political status?)

Of course it is true that the campaign for political status inside and outside the H-Blocks is a political campaign, but the H-Block issue is certainly not something that the Republican Movement wants to continue. For Republicans the H-Block struggle cannot be won soon enough; three years is already too long. The H-Blocks must be smashed and political status won — and quickly!

THE H-BLOCK CONVEYOR BELT

A WELL-PRODUCED six-page pamphlet called 'The H-Block Conveyor Belt' was recently issued by the Sinn Féin POW Department. As the pamphlet starts by explaining: "The H-Blocks at Long Kesh are not something isolated, existing on their own, but are the end product of the British manipulated legal system geared to the needs of its war machine in the occupied six-counties."

The pamphlet goes on to explain that the 'legal' shuttle, or conveyor-belt, system consists of a series of stages for political prisoners in the six-counties.

The main stages are:

- torture in RUC interrogation centres to obtain signed confessions;
- long periods of remand in custody giving rise in effect to internment-by-remand;
- non-jury Diplock courts in which the rules of evidence regarding the admissibility of statements have been loosened in order to admit statements made under duress;
- H-Block.

The pamphlet refers to the process of 'arraignment' introduced in December 1978, as "a cosmetic gesture to offset criticism of the long periods on remand." Prisoners are now expected to make a plea before the court not later than six weeks after their committal for trial, but in fact this 'arraignment' is simply a process of sifting, indeed encouraging, guilty pleas. Those pleading guilty are given an early trial date "with the carrot of suspended or reduced sentences being offered."

Obviously the more 'guilty' pleas the better, for the British, in terms of demoralising other prisoners and covering-up brutality in Castlereagh.

Copies of the leaflet may be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Sinn Féin POW Department, 44, Parnell Square, Dublin or H-Block Information Centre, 170a, Falls Road, Belfast. Enquiries for bulk orders are welcome — phone: Dublin 747611 or Belfast 46841.

The leaflet is sponsored by the H-Block Appeal Fund which exists to fund projects to publicise the plight of the blanket men. Donations, which will be acknowledged, should be sent to H-Block Appeal Fund, 85b Falls Road, Belfast.



The H-Block Information Centre

THE H-BLOCK information centre was established last October; it is housed in the Belfast Republican press centre on the Falls Road. Its purpose is to improve publicity on the deteriorating conditions in the H-Blocks; to provide a channel of communication for the blanket men with the outside world and to provide a focal point of contact for relatives.

The centre now has available for public use, a file of personal information on every blanket man; and it has built up regular contact with interested individuals, solidarity groups, trade unions and political groups, not only throughout Ireland, but in America, Europe, Britain, Australia and Canada. On request the centre will supply an H-Block pack of photocopied press cuttings, the H-Block booklet and several other leaflets.

The spokesman for the centre is Gerry

aney is currently in West Germany.

The centre itself has been raided, whilst unoccupied, about half-a-dozen times by the British army; and the former blanket men have been subjected to regular harassment and short-term arrest at the hands of the British army.

Only last Friday Ned Flynn was held for four hours and Ned Brown for two hours the previous Thursday. Three weeks ago Eugene Burns, Ned Flynn and Ned Brown were arrested whilst returning from a speaking engagement at Camlough outside Newry and held for six-and-a-half hours.

A second centre has also been established at the Creggan Sinn Féin advice centre in Derry. Its intention is to cater for the relatives of blanket men from Derry.

The H-Block information centre welcomes individual and press enquiries and can be contacted at 170a Falls Road, Belfast. Telephone 46841.

THE SMASH H-BLOCK CONFERENCE

A CONFERENCE to set up a national 'Smash H-Block' committee is to be held in Belfast on Sunday October 21st. (The venue is the Green Briar and the conference will take place between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.)

The conference, which is open to anyone opposed to the H-Blocks, is being organised by the six-county co-ordinating committee of the Relatives Action Committee and has the full support of the Republican Movement. Invitations to the conference are being sent to many individuals and organisations who have previously expressed support for the blanket men.

COMMITTEE

The conference will elect a committee whose task it will be to explore the co-ordination of all those groups and individuals who are opposed to the situation in the H-Blocks for whatever reason.

NO PRE-CONDITIONS

There will be no pre-conditions placed on those attending the conference, or on committee members, other than support for the four main demands of the blanket men.

These demands are that political prisoners should have:

- NO PRISON WORK
- NO PRISON UNIFORM
- FREE ASSOCIATION
- THE RIGHT TO ORGANISE

their own recreational and educational facilities; plus the right to receive one visit, and one food parcel per week plus unlimited incoming and outgoing mail.

This 'Smash H-Block' conference is being approached by its organisers in a mood of cautious optimism. A message has already been received from the blanket men urging unity on this issue between all those who support the blanket protest.

Anybody or any group, wishing to obtain further information on this conference should contact:

Liam Haddock,
Secretary, RAC six-county co-ordinating committee,
c/o 77 North Street, Lurgan.
Tel: 6795.

POLITICAL STATUS

OBSCENE SEARCH

—42 Men Battle

Each victim was then subjected to the latest obscene search already described, and whilst a flash lamp was shone up his back passage, a thin metal detector or another probe was inserted into his back passage. The various probes were a pen, plus gloved and ungloved warders' fingers.

When the search procedure was finished, each man was run into C wing through a gauntlet of twelve warders who punched

STATUS NOW!



POLITICAL STATUS NOW!



SEARCHING

Batoned

stamping on his
head him that if he
would be the

WEDNESDAY

day (the day of
funeral) the
tension against the
men was up again, during
the shift from 'B'

men in order to
keep empty
each H-block of
the wing is then
a wing shift brings
leaving another
cleaned. This pro-
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The three men
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(smaglen), Pat
(ersonstown) and
(Short Strand),
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time was taken
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to the circle
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was using a flash
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naked over the
placed on the
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until he fell.

TLET

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obscene search
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men, plus gloved
rder's fingers.
earch procedure
sh man was run
ough a gauntlet
who punched

him on the head and beat him
on his back and shoulders with
batons.

Anyone who fell was kicked
and dragged by the hair, ankles
and testicles to his new cell.
Everybody involved in the wing
shift was beaten and marked
to some extent. A number of
men were partially concussed as
a result of beatings to their heads.

THURSDAY

On Thursday, Joe Watson
(Bone) and Sean Lennon
(Andersonstown) were moved
from H6-block, where a handful
of blanket men had been left, to
H3-block. They were beaten
before they left H6-block and
beaten again in H3-block during
the obscene mirror search.

FRIDAY

On Friday Richard O'Rawe
(Ballymurphy) went out of H3-
block on a routine monthly visit.
When he was brought back into
the block, he was taken to cell
26 - the search cell, known by
the men as the romper room.
There he was punched twenty
times on the head and collapsed.
Seamus Kelly (Whiterock) got
similar treatment when return-
ing from his monthly visit.

OBSCENE

These obscene searches which
involve probing the men's back
passages and pull back the fore-
skin of their penises in brutal
fashion now appear to be a
regular occurrence in H3-block.
They were applied to the men
shifted from H6-block to
H3-block; to the men shifted
from 'B' wing to 'C' wing and
reportedly after every visit taken
by men since last Monday.

But even this search procedure
is not the lowest depth to which
the warders are now stooping to
humiliate the men. Prisoners
have also been selected to have
their excreta inspected. Both
during the wing shift and follow-
ing visits men have been placed
in a specially reserved cell or the
punishment block until they
defecate. The warders then grab
their 'prize' and inspect it suppo-
sedly to see if anything is being
smuggled.

Following the last week of
attacks the tension in H3-block
is electric. The warders are back-
ing up their physical attacks

with a concerted war of nerves.
Every time a cell door is opened
it is slammed very hard, and the
same is happening with the grills
which seal off the corridors
down each of the four wings.

When the warders are in a
wing the men there are very quiet
- not surprisingly, apprehensive
of what new barbarity awaits
them. The warders are continu-
ally walking up and down the
wings banging the doors and
grills with their batons, shouting
sectarian loyalist slogans and
singing 'The Sash'. At night-time
there is little break. The night
guards simply take over this role
of intimidation.

POLICY

The blanket men themselves
are convinced that this latest
wave of concerted brutality and
depravity is not just a result of
the warped minds of individual
warders but is the deliberate
policy of the prison regime.
H3-block has been selected for
attack because it is there that
the youngest blanket men are
held. Supervising the attacks
have been warders of the rank of
Senior Officer and Principal
Officer implying complicity at
even higher levels.

ESCALATED

It is true that recently with
the advent of direct-ruler Atkins,
in place of Mason, the brutality
of the prison regime had slack-
ened off for a couple of months.
Atkins through releasing no
statements and through cutting-
down warder brutality (thus
reducing Republican 'hooks' for
publicity) had attempted to
re-erect the wall of silence
originally built around the
H-Blocks, in order to stem grow-
ing international criticism.

But such a policy has proved
futile, and brutality has now not
merely returned to normal but
has been escalated in yet another
desperate attempt to break the
protest.

FOOTNOTE: The H-block
Information Centre would like
to remind prisoners' relatives
that unfortunately it is not always
possible to inform them of
attacks upon prisoners before
publishing the details. Relatives
seeking further information
should contact the centre
immediately.

HORRIFIC H-BLOCK CONDITIONS

MEDICAL TREATMENT DENIED

APART FROM the brutal beatings and obscene searches carried out by sadistic and sectarian warders, the deprivations of basic necessities inflicted upon all the blanket men, for their refusal to do prison work or to wear prison clothes, must not be forgotten.

As a punishment they are denied exercise, association and recreation. (The latter means no reading material, no writing material, no radio and no TV. They are also losing all remission which is effectively doubling their sentences.)

They are only allowed to have in their cells a mattress, a water container and a plastic chamber pot plus the blanket (and towel) which they cling around them. They are allowed out of their cells only for monthly visits, solicitors' visits, and on Sundays for Mass. This latter right is even denied them when they are held in isolation in the punishment block.

SEVERE DEPRIVATION

So the naked blanket men exist in damp dark tombs in a situation of severe mental and physical deprivation. Communications come out of how they have to fight at their cell doors with their dirty tattered blankets, trying to stop freezing jets of water from high-powered hoses from saturating both their 'pale skeleton-like bodies and their filthy already-damp mattresses lying on cold concrete floors.

Often the men are forced to give up drenched, to seek partial refuge in the furthest cell corner, sometimes up to their ankles in water, only able then to fight back with all they really have - their spirit of resistance.

The warders take great delight during cell searches in tearing chunks out of the men's foam

mattresses. One man's mattress is now reported to be only three feet in length.

The men's food is deliberately restricted, cold and spoiled and approaches starvation rations. The men have found metal and glass splinters in their food and normally search through their food for unwelcome additions before eating it.

The men exist in a continual state of hunger; a state which many have almost got used to so long it is since they knew anything else.

The warders are now refusing to give some of the men sheets of toilet paper and the men are therefore having to use their hands instead.

HEALTH COMPLAINTS

For some men the suffering that they endure is worse than for others. This is particularly true for those who suffer health complaints.

According to Gerry Brannigan of the H-Block information centre about thirty of the men are thought to suffer serious health complaints and currently more than thirty men are also suffering from severe diarrhoea.

Many of the men suffer from minor ailments which go untreated and whilst two out of three suffer headaches of some degree almost all suffer some sort of skin disorder. Three men who are currently suffering ear infections are John O'Neill (Ardayne), Sean McGerrigan (Armagh) and Gerard McAreevy (Lower Falls).

All the men are denied adeq-

uate basic medical treatment; all they are given is pain killers such as codeine. To obtain treatment they have to call warders 'sir', give their prison number, wear the prison uniform and break their no-wash protest. They refuse to do these things because they believe there should be no restrictions placed on receiving medical treatment.

WAR WOUNDS

A group of men who suffer the worst abuse and neglect in the H-Blocks are those who have war wounds. They are denied the specialist medical treatment that they require and have never received adequate treatment.

They include: John Chillingworth (Turf Lodge) who was shot in the base of the spine and the leg in August 1977; Colm Scullion (South Derry) who lost three toes when suffering multiple leg wounds in October 1977; Tom Mellwee (South Derry) who lost an eye in the same explosion; and Sean McPeake (South Derry) who lost most of his right leg also in the same explosion.

Sean McPeake was not fitted with a proper artificial leg until late 1978. In February of this year he was attacked by warders who broke his artificial leg. Since then he has been hobbling about holding the artificial leg to the stump of his own leg.

Another man, Hector O'Neill (Andersonstown) suffered leg injuries after being shot when captured two years ago. He needs a walking stick to get about with. This the warders have taken off him because they allege it is an offensive weapon. He had been wearing specially-made platform shoes but these have now been taken off him, also on the grounds of being offensive weapons.



The blanket men are only allowed to have in their cells a foam mattress, a water container, and a plastic chamber pot.



POLITICAL STATUS NOW!

Armagh Prison Contrast

LAST FRIDAY MORNING the gates of Armagh women's prison were opened and two Belfast Republicans walked to freedom, having completed their respective terms of imprisonment.

Newly-released prisoner Marie Valley is greeted by former blanket-man Ned Brown, outside Armagh prison last Friday. She was granted political status.

Nineteen-year-old Jacqueline Buckley (who spent one year in jail) and twenty-five-year-old Marie Valley (who spent six years in jail) were both imprisoned for their Republican activities. But while in prison they were treated very differently.

As part of the British 'criminalisation' policy Jacqueline Buckley, who was sentenced in September 1978, was denied the special category status of political prisoner, granted Marie Valley, who was sentenced five years earlier.

Jacqueline Buckley however, like other Republicans denied political status since March 1976 refused to conform; she has refused to perform prison work. She is the second prisoner to be released from Armagh Gaol, after serving out a term of imprisonment 'on protest'. The first was Roisin Black, released late last year.

There are now thirty-five women 'on protest'; they are held in 'B' Wing of the prison and are locked in their cells twenty-one hours per day. Although the conditions imposed upon them are nowhere near as bad as those for their comrades in the H-Blocks, the women do suffer numerous restrictions.

Looking back over the year, Jacqueline Buckley states "it's been a case of gradual deterioration with petty harassment by the prison wardresses increasing all the time".

ON PROTEST

The women are allowed to wear their own clothes, (as are all women in British prisons) but the type of clothes is restricted, anything black or dark is not allowed into the prison in order to prevent the women from making Republican uniforms.

Like their comrades in the H-Blocks they receive no literature other than an occasional religious magazine and radios are banned, as are cigarettes and food parcels. They receive one visit per month.

They are also subject to a stream of petty harassments. For example some months ago when two of Jacqueline Buckley's visitors passed her cigarettes at the end of the visit they were banned from visiting her again. (For several weeks both of the visitors' names were displayed on a notice board at the entrance to the gaol proclaiming this ban.)

Apart from loss of remission which effectively doubles their sentences the protestors main punishment for refusing to do prison work is that they are locked in



their cells for twenty-one hours per day. They receive only three hours association per day from 5.30pm, to 8.30pm. Much of this time is spent in carrying out personal tasks such as washing their clothes or cleaning out their cells; functions which the wardresses do not permit to be carried out during the day.

MEDICAL NEGLECT

Medical neglect is practised by the prison doctor named Cole, who through two nurses prescribes pain killers for nearly all ailments.

Last year, one of his victims, Monica Craig, from Dungiven, became gravely ill from anorexia nervosa. Widespread publicity, including the intervention of two American senators, eventually secured her release from prison.

Now another prisoner, twenty-two-year-old Pauline McLoughlin from Derry, who Cole keeps insisting on declaring 'fit for work' is suffering from the same illness.

When sentenced in February last year, she weighed nearly nine stone. But her physical condition has deteriorated so drastically that last month she weighed only

six stone five pounds. She suffers constant vomiting and dizziness; her whole face is shrunken and she resembles a walking skeleton. By last month she had suffered twelve different unsuccessful medications.

She is now in the prison hospital trying to build up her strength but the most recent report indicates there is no improvement in her condition.

REPUBLICAN DISCIPLINE

But despite a consistent campaign of pressure to force the prisoners off their protest, whenever and wherever possible they conduct themselves as a disciplined group. The prisoners' own staff conduct daily cell inspections and every night before lock-up the women line up outside their cell doors and their O/C dismisses them for the night. For these acts of Republican discipline those issuing the orders lose further remission and have their association time further restricted.

Apart from visits which are the high spot of the month, letters from their H-Block comrades 'on the blanket' are eagerly awaited

by the women and when a letter arrives it is read out to all of them.

The women's spirits are as high as can be expected given the conditions and their determination to see the protest through to victory is as strong as that of their comrades in the H-Blocks.

POLITICAL STATUS

For those women who do have political status their daily life is similar to that of the two-hundred-and-fifty men held in the cages of Long Kesh. They still enjoy all the benefits which were won following the Republican hunger-strike in Crumlin Road Gaol in 1972.

It was from these conditions that Marie Valley emerged last Friday, leaving behind only four Republican prisoners, Pauline Deery and Chris Sheerin, who are both serving twenty-one year sentences, and Dolores and Marion Price, who are serving life sentences.

These women are allowed not to do prison work, their command structure is recognised and they receive weekly visits, letters and food parcels. They are very strictly segregated from those who are denied political status.

These few prisoners organise their daily lives around a routine which maintains their role as a disciplined military group. Shortly after the cell doors are opened at quarter-to-eight in the morning, the prisoners are called to attention by their O/C, who then conducts a cell inspection.

After breakfast the women hold a fifteen minute session of military

drilling in the prison yard. Then the rest of the day they engage in educational and recreational activities. Apart from playing games, listening to their radios and record players, and pursuing hobbies, the women attend academic courses and hold their own political lectures and gaelic classes.

They can use the prison yard whenever they want during the day. At night before lock-up the prisoners again line up and are called to attention and dismissed by their O/C.

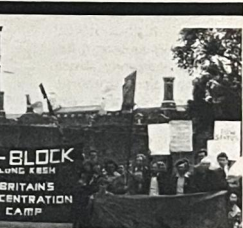
CEREMONY

On the first Sunday of every month a small ceremony is held to honour those killed in the present struggle. The women organise themselves into a colour party with flags, and messages from outside, from the IRA, are read out.

After the parade the wardresses usually carry out a raid and confiscate the flags. But the women's ingenuity always produces another set for the next ceremony.

Very little direct contact between the individual prisoners and the wardresses take place. Most matters are discussed daily between the O/C and the gaol governor Scott or a senior wardress.

For the thirty-five women now 'on protest' the political status enjoyed by four of their comrades provides a meaningful target. For the British and their prison regime it provides an embarrassing contradiction.



SALUTES FROM WORMWOOD SCRUBS WINDOWS

SEVERAL REPUBLICAN PRISONERS gave clenched-fist and V-for-victory salutes from their cell windows at Wormwood Scrubs prison in West London to salute a Sinn-Fein-organised picket being held outside the prison on the afternoon of Sunday 26th August.

A small makeshift banner proclaiming 'IRA all the way' was also hung out of one of the cell windows. For an hour a continuous barrage of slogans of solidarity were shouted, with the help of a loud-hailer, into the prison.

There are nine Irish political prisoners currently held there: Pat Hackett, Anthony Lynch, Billy McLarnon, Mick Murray, Steve Norndon, Shane O'Doherty, Phil Sheridan, Roy Walsh and Gerry Young. Mick Murray has been 'on the blanket' since October.

The picketers marched around the prison, passing by the living quarters of the warders, whose Sunday afternoon naps were rudely interrupted by a variety of bellowed slogans. At the main prison entrance, with police and warders looking on stoney-faced, a short public meeting took place. The main speakers were Kevin Colfer (Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle) and Michael Holden (An Cumann Cabhrach).

The picket was the biggest in the current series of prison pickets being organised around England by the Pearse/McDaid Sinn Fein cumann of Birmingham. It was supported by Sinn Fein Cumann from London and Nottingham; members of Cumann Cabhrach and the United Troops Out Movement; and by various British left-wing groups and individuals.

Four days later on Thursday 30th August there was a demonstration inside the prison by two-hundred prisoners protesting at their appalling conditions (which are even worse for the victimised political prisoners). Over one-hundred warders wearing riot-gear, and assisted by guard-dogs attacked the protesting prisoners. It is reported that more than fifty prisoners needed stitches inserted in wounds received from baton-wielding warders.



Newly-released prisoner, Jacqueline Buckley, is greeted by former blanket-man Ned Brown, outside Armagh prison last Friday. She was denied political status.

REPORT BY PAUL ROONEY

UNION RECOGNISED BUT- NO VICTIMISATION AT MAC'S!

THE STRUGGLE for trade union recognition — the first step in the fight for better pay and conditions — which has been fought in Dublin over the last six months, between members of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union and the management of McDonald's Hamburgers seems to have ended in a victory for the workers.

But the fight may yet be far from won given McDonald's notorious stance, world-wide, as an anti-union firm. And the danger of victimisation must be avoided.

On Wednesday 5th September the Labour Court in Dublin — a state arbitration institution — recommended that McDonald's should agree to recognise the I.T.G.W.U., "for negotiating purposes both individually and collectively on behalf of its members employed there".

When giving evidence to the court McDonald's stated that they would only negotiate with the union if the majority of workers wanted to be represented by that union. They said that company policy, towards work rules, breaks policy, wages and work schedules, would be seriously undermined if they had to negotiate with a union

representing a minority of workers. (They are correctly worried that the I.T.G.W.U., whether representing a majority or a minority of the workforce, will improve wages and conditions for all, irrespective of their trade union membership.)

BACKED DOWN

On Tuesday 11th September McDonald's management finally backed down and agreed to recognise organising rights for their workers — a victory for the strikers after tremendous sacrifice.

Arrangements are now being made for talks between the I.T.G.W.U. and the management of McDonald's, in order to thrash out an agreement on wages and conditions.

But as of yet, there has been no agreement on the re-instatement of the strikers, and in particular trade unionists are worried about



Jimmy Macken (standing) helping maintain Mac's strikers stall at the Carnore Point anti-nuclear festival held in August. Macken is now a prime target for victimisation by Mac's bosses.

the status of one of the leaders of the strike Jimmy Macken.

Macken during the course of the strike has felt the full brunt of action from the management of McDonald's, the state (through court injunction, and Special Branch harassment) and the cancellation

of his membership of the union by the executive of the I.T.G.W.U.

Those involved in the strike are determined that the talks between union and management will achieve guarantees that there will be no victimisation of any strikers.

FITTERS FIGHT ON

THE SIX-MONTH-OLD work-to-rule by fitters employed by Dublin Corporation at the Stanley Street Refuse Depot, is to continue. This is despite the fact that last week it was declared settled — not for the first time.

This follows the Corporation's refusal to lift the suspension, without loss of pay, of three of the fitters involved in the dispute — including a foreman employed there for forty-two years. (Dublin Corporation claimed that the men had refused to obey orders.)

The fitters have been operating a work-to-rule and overtime ban for the past six months in order to obtain a pay increase of £14 per week. Dublin Corporation have offered an increase of £10.17p, but the men are holding out for the full increase and last week refused to take part in an Irish Congress of Trade Union ballot which did not recognise Dublin as a special case.

Meanwhile fitters who are employed by the E.S.B. (Electricity Service Board), most of whom belong to the same union as the corporation fitters, the NEETU, are pressing for industrial action. They are seeking a better productivity deal, than the one currently on offer.

In line with the general discontent of craftsmen in the twenty-six counties, a product of the restrictive so-called 'national understanding', craftsmen employed by C.I.E. are also threatening to strike. The craftsmen had planned to strike last Monday, but deferred action to await a Labour Court decision on their claim.

BRITISH OVER-KILL BRINGS CHANGES IN IRISH TIMES

AFTER THE EXECUTION of Lord Mountbatten and the killing of eighteen British soldiers at Warrenpoint, there was an orchestrated outcry from political figures, Church Leaders and the media for whom the lives of these dead were of more value and importance than the lives of Irish people.

In the twenty-six counties there was initially potential for an anti-Republican drive, which has apparently abated considerably since. However, the overkill of racism and hysteria (not to mention hypocrisy) from the British media stirred up resentment and then nationalist sentiment within the Irish media. Through the editorials of the *Irish Times* it is easy to trace this change in reaction.

TUESDAY 28TH AUGUST

Tuesday 28th August was the day after the IRA attacks. The editorial bemoaned: "He met his death within the territorial boundaries of the Republic. The world will hold responsible for his death our people and, in particular, the Government."

"... the Flanna Fail administration stands in an unwelcome spotlight today."

FRIDAY 31ST AUGUST

By Friday 31st August with the British media continuing with their anti-Irish hysteria unabated, the racism was starting to bite. The editorial wondered:

"Was there a schoolmarmish hint of 'see me after the last class' about Mrs Thatcher's note to the Taoiseach on their meeting next week?"

The editorial then criticises the "uninhibited, self-righteousness" of the British press and reacted strongly against them by saying that one of the

factors contributing towards this attitude is "the security which one thousand years of life without military invasion has conferred on a self-satisfied people."

It goes on: "With various intonations and accents, the British press is pursuing the Dublin Government. Ignoring the fact that Airey Neave was done to death in their own holy of holies, Westminster, they are relentlessly indicting Irish security patterns..."

"But while sections of the British press can wax eloquent about injustices in Rhodesia or complications in the Middle East, they tend to look to Britain's involvement in Ireland as a simplistic story. Seldom is there a grappling with the underlying causes, very seldom an indication that a comprehensive peace conference between the islands is urgently needed."

The British press continued with the theme — despite a qualification from Thatcher to the contrary — that Lynch was being called to London to explain himself.

SATURDAY 1ST SEPT

On Saturday 1st September the *Irish Times* began to articulate the need for a British initiative, and gave encouragement to Lynch who shortly was to announce that an initiative would be what he would demand. The editorial also asserted the independence of the Free State:

"Ireland is a sovereign country, an equal member of the EEC with Britain, and Mr. Lynch is currently president of the Coun-

SEAMUS BOYLE
REVIEWS THE
CHANGING TIMES

cil of Ministers. Irish politicians of whatever party may have strong views on Mr. Lynch's recent inactivity, but it would be a serious misjudgement on the part of the British Government if it was to assume that there was not a unity of approach in Dublin on the question of security cooperation and on the need for a political initiative, quickly, from number 10 Downing Street."

MONDAY 3RD SEPT

By Monday 3rd September the *Irish Times* was accusing the British Foreign Office of being behind the propaganda drive and stated, "It is not to much that the British press is twisted as that it doesn't care. And that — as a reflection of the establishment outlook — is part of the reason why Ireland is still in the state of turmoil that we see today."

THURSDAY 6TH SEPT

With the Lynch-Thatcher talks over on Thursday 6th September there was speculation of major new measures to be taken by the Free State against the IRA. But by this stage the *Irish Times* counteracted against any drastic changes and continued to press for a political settlement:

"The British Prime Minister has now had her say about security. Let those who formulate Northern Ireland policy in the British government see that issue as secondary to the need to make political progress in the inter-relationship between these two islands. A thousand security initiatives will not bring a political settlement."

GARDA HARASSMENT OF SINN FEIN MEMBERS

THERE HAS BEEN a great increase in garda harassment of Sinn Fein members since the Lynch/Thatcher meeting, according to a statement just issued by Sinn Fein's Head office in Dublin.

"The president and other national officers have once again been stopped and searched in the street in Dublin and private papers and political documents have been seized," the statement says.

Dermot Mullooly, newly elected Sinn Fein member of Roscommon County Council was arrested at his home and held for forty-eight hours at Roscommon Barracks. Police spent four hours searching his home and when his wife went to see him in detention, he

too, was arrested and held for some hours. His children, the eldest of whom is nine years old were also interrogated.

In Donegal, Joe O'Neill, a member of Bundoran Urban Council since 1974 was arrested at his home last Tuesday and taken to Sligo barracks. About forty gardai were involved in a four hour search of his home and public house.

Other Sinn Fein members are receiving the same treatment, and a feature of the latest wave of harassment is the ordering of people from their homes under threat of arrest while squads of gardai search for several hours.

The statement also points out that staff of the Garda technical bureau, including those named as the 'Heavy Gang' under the Coalition administration, have been prominent in the searches and interrogation.

duirt siad

"Ambition: to experience mutual respect and co-operation between Ulster and the Republic of Ireland." Irish 'Who's Who' entry for Euro-MP John Taylor who a fortnight ago called for loyalist assassination gangs to launch cross-border attacks.

"Increasingly one notices nice middle-class people going about in clean, well-pressed workmen's overalls. Are these members of Sinn Fein the Workers' Party? Fresh from their triumphs in penetrating the media, are they now trying to infiltrate the working class?" Letter from a Dublin correspondent published in *Hibernia*.

"We don't want to import the Irish troubles to this area. Forces hostile to the regiment may make us a target."

Westminster Labour MP Ernest Ross calling for the UDR to be barred from the Barrydown rifle range, near Maniffeth, Tayside, Scotland.

"But the fact remains that Louis Mountbatten's profession was war. After being chief of Combined Operations — a sphere of activity in which dirty killing was practically the name of the game — he became Supreme Commander in an area where the world conflict was being fought out with particular ferocity. The campaign against Japan, in which he must have been privy to the highest decisions, culminated in the dropping of the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The very funeral which I have just been watching was in large part a celebration of his eminence, skill, courage and ruthlessness in the killing of other human beings."

Irish Times columnist Anthony Cronin.

"They kill women and children at bus stops not only soldiers on parade, patrol I mean."

Direct-ruler Atkins attacking the IRA and speaking about the criminal soldiers of the British army. (BBC TV 'Scene around Six')

"Over and over again we have heard public representatives and our press state how ashamed we are of the bombing that took place at Mullaghmore. Well I would like to make it quite clear that I am not ashamed. And I feel I speak for the vast majority of the people of this area when I say this... The Earl of Mountbatten was a British imperialist. The lands he enjoyed at Mullaghmore were stolen by his wife's ancestors, many of whom were killed in the process."

Independent councillor Declan Bree speaking at Sligo corporation meeting.

"Four men were being held at Paddington police station early today after being arrested outside Buckingham Palace shortly before the royal party left to attend Lord Mountbatten's funeral... The men are all from the North and one was carrying a violin case, which was later found to contain — a violin."

Irish Press report on English police paranoia.

"Paki-bashing is no longer fashionable. They're out to get the Micks. Everyone Irish can now be classed as a Green Wog. And in an amazing series of editorials, the English press have called for a parcel of sanctions and restrictions against Ireland that make the outpourings of 60s vintage Enoch Powell sound like soft-core trendy liberalism."

Colin McClelland column, Sunday World, on English anti-Irish chauvinism.

"I firmly believe that the reason the British police haven't caught up with the Yorkshire Ripper is that he slips across the border after every murder and lives openly in the Irish Republic. I'm only surprised that the British media haven't spotted this before now."

Kevin Marron column, Sunday World, on scape-goating.

GAEDHEAL BHEAL FEIRSTE —LEIRMHAS



TÁ EAGRÁN a cúig de Ghaedheal Bhéal Feirste ós mo chomhair. Tá sé lán ó chludach go cludach de nuacht agus de phlé ar chúrsaí na hÉireann. Léiríonn sé go bhfuil an Ghaeilge beo i mBéal Feirste agus ní hamháin sin, ach go bhfuil forbairt ar siúl an t-am ar fad.

Tá réimse mhór ábhair ann agus tá sé thar a bheith speisiúil. Tá comhghairdeachas ag dul don eagarthóir agus don foireann. Is iontach, go maireann an nuachtán gan cabhair ó Rialtas ar bith. Sa Deisceart ní

bheadh a leithéid de nuachtan beo gan cabhair.

"Sé an príomhscéal san eagrair seo na "Buille in eadan na Gaedhealtachta". Cur síos ata anseo ar dhúnadh Chló Chois Fharraige. "Forbairt

an Bhéarla" is teideal do alt mar gheall ar Ghaeltarra Éireann. Tá cur síos ann ar ar tharla nuair a tugadh fógraí di-fhostaíochta do na hoibrithe i monarcha Chriothliff.

Ag cur síos ar dhúnadh Chló Chois

Fharraige deirtear san eagarfhocal — "Tá polasaí in tSaor Stáit in éadan na Gaeilge a gabháil ar aghaidh gan stad... Bhí Gaeilgeoirí Bhéal Feirste ariamh sásta cuidiú le muinntir na Gaeltachta. Ní feallaimís ar mhuinntir Chonamara an iarraidh seo ach oiread."

Tá altanna speisiúla eile san eagrair seo mar gheall ar R.T.É., Euskadi agus McDonald's. Tá a lán eile ann

leis agus molaim do ghach Gael an nuachtán seo a cheannach. Is féidir gach eolas d'fhéil ach scríobh go dtí:-

**Gaedheal Bhéal Feirste,
76 Garrattacha Ramoan,
Béal Feirste 11 8LN.**

Ins an aois seo nuair atá muinntir óg na h-Éireann i mbroid ag éirge aithris a dhéanamh ar Mheiricea, tá a saith buidéal coke acu, i mBaile Átha Cliath ar sgor ar bith, tá neart hamburgers le faghail. Tá dhá theach theacháin ag 'Mc Donald's' i mBaile Átha Cliath (agus rún acu fiche teach eile a thógáil amach anseo).

AN

BUN-PHRIONSABAL

Tá McDonald's ar chomhlucht de na comhluchtaí is mó ar a' domhan chlár. (Rinne siad £3,000 milliún i 1977.) Tá McDonald's ar thús caghnaidheachta i measc comhluchtaí an domhain ar an ádhbhar go bhfuil sé bunuighthe ar oibridheannaí atá óg, atá saor le fostuighadh agus nach bhfuil eagraithe i gceardchumann.

Agus b'fhéidir gur ar a' bhun-phrionsabal sin a d'éirigh le McDonald's: an dóigh ar stad siad riamh daoine a rinne iarracht le caighdeán fostuighthe na n-oibridheannaí a bhiuighadh fríd na ceard-chumann.

Le linn an oll-toghcháin i 1965 i Meiriceá bhronn Mc Donald's 250,000 dólair ar Richard Nixon dá theachtas toghcháin i ndóil is go dtabharfadh Nixon tacaíocht do bhuille a bhí i nDáil Mhór Mheiricea a' t-am sin, bille a bhéarfadh cead do chomhluchtaí páighe níos lugha na an tuarastal is lugha, de réir a' dlighe, a thabhairt do ógáigh eadar 16 agus 17 d'aois sin aois bunadhas oibridheannaí McDonald's.

AR SGOIL

Tá ollscoil McDonald's a dheas do Chicago. Tháid duine ar bith ar mhaith leis a bheith os cionn teach itheacháin dá gcuidear spoil ins an 'University of Hamburgerology'. Anseo foghlaimigh-eann siad, le coisrudáil, an dóigh le h-oibridheannaí a mhealladh ar shiubhal ó lucht na gceard-chumann. Má fhoghlaimigh-eann duine an ceard go maith bheir McDonald's céim do agus is 'Hamburgerologist' é.

Agus anois, tá seo uilig i-n

Seo a leanas alt ata i gcló san eagrair reatha de Ghaedheal Bhéal Feirste.

Muinntir Mhic Dhomhnaill

Nuair a labhrann duine ar Mheiriceá smaointigheann an t-Éireannach ar Mheiriceá na bhfarús ard (ata a' sgríobhadh na spéire) agus ar Mheiriceá na gcar mór; agus smaointigheann sé ar mhuinntir Mheiriceá - daoine saidhbhré iad-san - agus ar an aos óg, bhuil ta fhios againn uilig nach fiú Mheiriceánach óg a dhath ar bith mur bhfuil buidéal coke i láimh amháin aige agus 'hamburger' ins a' láimh eile.



Éirinn againn, Thig leat siubhal isteach chuig McDonald's i Sráid Uí Chonaill nó i Sráid Grafton agus ní fiachadh ar bith ort fanacht ach leath-bhomaite agus beidh ca bith cineál hamburger a d'farr tú 'nó do láimh agat.

Ach d'éirigh gnóithe Mc Donald's searbh nuair a thoisigh stailc ar an 16ad la de Mhí Mhárta. Bail den ITGWU a bhí ins na daoine a thainig amach. Dubhairt siad nach rabh an lucht bhainisteoirachta sásta labhairt leo fa pháighe - d'farr siad oiread páighe agus a gheibhtear i dtoighthe itheacháin eile i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Dhíulitigh McDonald's glan labhairt leis a' cheard-chumann - cé go rabh 30 duine ar stailc - a'maoidheamh nach bhfuil ach cuid bheag de na h-oibridheannaí atá acu ins a' cheard-chum-

ann. Deir na daoine ar stailc go bhfuil sin amhlaidh de thairbhe gur tugadh 'na leabharthaí do dhaoine a rinne iarracht roimhe seo le ceard-chumann a chur ar bun.

Níl cead ag oibridheannaí McDonald's cruinniúghadh ar bith a' reachtáil i-n a nait oibre agus ó thoisigh an stailc, reachtáil na bainisteoirí scannáin agus leigheachtá do na h-oibridheannaí in éadan na gceard-chumann.

ÁDHBHAR GEARAIN

Agus maith go leor tá adhbhar gearáin ann. Tá an obair cruaidh; is beag uilig an t-am atá ag duine le n-a sgríste a dhéanamh; caithfidh an t-oibridhe ordúightheanta a ghlacadh go h-umhal muinte; ní thághann duine tuarastal nuair atá sé ar laethibh saoire; agus caithfidh tú oibriughadh cá bith seal a iarrtar ort.

Mur bhfuil bainisteoirí Mc Donald's sásta le h-oibridhe bhéarfadh siad na leabharthaí dó ar a' bhomaite - agus níl cúiteamh ar bith ag an oibridhe. (Dubhairt poiliticeoir amháin de chuid an Oileain Uí a bhí buadhartha fán dóigh a bhí ar thaos óg Mheiriceá, gur chóir do'n riaghaltas a thabhairt orthu uilig bliadhain a chaitheamh leis an arm nó le Mc Donald's).

Ó thoisigh an stailc trí mhí ó shoin tá McDonald's agus an ITGWU (an ceard-chumann is mó i-n Éirinn) a' troid leo. Chomhair a bheith go bhuil an dá dhream sa chúirt 'ach-aon la ag aragol.

Nuair a thoisigh an stailc sgab McDonald's cuid mhór duilleog i mBaile Átha Cliath a' minúighadh, dar leo, fáth na stailce agus a' fealltan mala sgeallógaí saor do

dhúine ar bith a rachadh thara an phicéad. Ach níor thaitin an cleas mailíseach seo leis a' phobal agus theip air.

Tá picéad ar McDonald's - ach an lá anois agus cé nach bhfuil cead ach ag triúr a bheith ar a' phicéad ag am amháin reachtáil an ceard-chumann cúpla picéad mór a fuair tacaíocht ó mhic-leighinn agus ó oibridheannaí eile.

Colcighthíos i ndiaidh toiseacht na stailce tháinig fir mhóra ó Mheiriceá le gabháil a dh'obair i McDonald's. 'Trouble shooters' a tugadh orthu agus bhí siad de shíor a' bagairt ar lucht a' phicéid.

Chruthuigh an ceard-chumann go rabh McDonald's ag innse bréag nuair a bhí siad a' maoidheamh do'n phobal gurb as an tír seo an fheoil uilig a dhóil siad. Fuarthas amach go dtáinig bunadhas na

feola ó Mheiriceá agus ó Shasain.

Fuarthas amach fosta go rabh McDonald's a' briseadh an dlighe nó bhí duine a bhí 14 bliadhain d'aois agus duine eile a bhí 15 bliadhain d'aois ar fosthadh acu. Níl fhios go fóill an dtabharfar McDonald's ós comhair na cúirte.

BATAÍ MÓRA

D'fhéach eagrais éiginteacht le cuidiughadh a thabhairt do'n cheard-chumann ach chaill an ceard-chumann tacaíocht de bharr a ngníomhachta.

Lá Bealtaine, bhris seisear - beirt fhear agus ceathrar ban - isteach i McDonald's i Sráid Uí Chonaill. Bhagair siad ar a' lucht bainisteoirachta agus sgríos siad cuid de'n treallamh le bataí móra a bhí leo. Sular imigh siad ghoid siad cead punta.

Thárla seo uilig roimh an dama mór-shiubhal a bhí i mBaile Átha Cliath fá'n chéin PAYE i ndiaidh an chéad mhor-shiubhail thug McDonald's amach sgeallógaí saor i-n aise do na daoine a bhí sa tsíol.

COIMHTHIGHEAS

Is cosamhail go rachaidh an stailc ar aghaidh go cionn tamaillt fhada. Ta lucht a' phicéid a' troid ar fad - tchfídh tú i Sráid Uí Chonaill lá ar bith iad - agus níl lá rún acu gealltinn do chumhacht Mheiriceá.

Tá oibridheannaí úra ag Mc Donald's anois agus tá coimhthigheas eadar iad agus lucht na stailce - rud atá McDonald's a chothughadh. Ní thiofadh na h-oibridheannaí eile amach ar stailc a dh'farráidh tuill-eadh airgid - tá postáil gan go leor i mBaile Átha Cliath agus tá a bhformhór sásta go bhfuil postáil acu - níor chóir, dar leo, iad a chur i gceantbhairt.

Sé an rud is measa agus is truaghánta go bhfuil McDonald's pacáilte Domhnach is dáilch d'aindeoin na stailce. Cinnte tá go leor nach rachaidh thara an phicéad ar ór na cruinne ach bíonn an áit plodúighthe le daoine óga go h-aithrid. Is mór a' truaigh agus a náire do Éirinn go bhfuil a leithéid de ghluin a' fás anois i mBaile Átha Cliath.

TOM WILLIAMS COMMEMORATION : KATHLEEN THOMPSON TRIBUTE

"Carry on my gallant Comrades until that certain day....."

ESTIMATES put the number of people who attended the Tom Williams Commemoration and Kathleen Thompson Tribute, held in the Green Briar in Belfast last week at close on one thousand people. It was one of the biggest attended Republican functions in Belfast in recent years. The groups Blackthorn, Pinch of Snuff, Tara and the Battering Ram, offered their services free and provided exceptional entertainment for the audience.

Speaking at the commemoration veteran Republican Jimmy Drumm said:-

"To speak of two people simultaneously, one who died before the other was born and who died under completely different circumstances is very difficult. But to couple the two is understandable - they had something in common - deep love for Ireland.

"Tom Williams was fated to give his life in pursuit of that love, Kathleen gave so much of her life, dedicated to the same ideal. Tom gave his life as a prisoner in Belfast Prison, Kathleen had a special gift for prisoners and indeed it is in this sphere that she should be best remembered."

Jimmy Drumm then outlined in detail the circumstances which led to the capture of young Tom Williams and five of his comrades after an ambush in the Clonard district of Belfast on Easter Sunday 1942 which resulted in the killing of an RUC man:-

"I remember Tom Williams and the others in basement cells in Crumlin Road prison. Almost a carnival atmosphere existed when they returned from exercise. The internees shouting messages, exchanging books and so forth.

"I don't think that we really comprehended the seriousness of the position, that by British standards of justice all six were likely to be executed. But as the trial proceeded it was obvious that the Brits were seeking their blood and all were found 'Guilty' and sentenced to death.

"Eventually all but Tom Williams were

reprieved. He alone had to face death on the gallows. The story of how he faced that sentence should be an inspiration to us all. His quiet composure and manly bearing whilst in the death cell and when the rope was placed around his neck has been recorded by the prison chaplain and others who were with him, during his last moments....

"I remember well, as I'm sure do others here present tonight, that morn whilst we waited, locked in our cells, eyes glued to watches, the second hand ticking away as Tom Williams' life was ticking away... someone we knew was going to his death only yards away. Then it was all over.

"Or was it? Tom Williams' soul may have gone to its maker that morning, but his spirit lived on, an inspiration during a period when the spirit of Republicanism was very low."

NATIONAL GRAVES

Jimmy Drumm continued:-

"Here I think a tribute should be paid to the members of the National Graves Association who have organised this function tonight. I think they are the most underrated branch of the Republican Movement. There were long per-

iods when their activities - holding commemorations, concerts in memory of Tom Williams and other Volunteers, parades to the graves of our patriot dead, erecting memorials etc - was the only visible sign of the existence of Republicanism in Belfast.

"Tom Williams by his martyrdom passed on the torch lit by the men and women of 1916. It was kept alight, though only a glimmer at times, by the members of the National Graves.

"Kathleen Thompson was a member of the National Graves and indeed helped in the organising of Tom Williams' memorial concerts. Those who remember her spirited singing of the ballad of Tom Williams realised that she was at one with him. Many of you will remember Kathleen by the tremendous sincerity of her singing and her never failing generosity to worthy causes.

"I would prefer to remember her for her work in the National Graves and also, in later years, for her welfare work on behalf of the prisoners, especially the women in Armagh Jail.

"Tributes have been paid to Kathleen tonight in the manner that she perhaps would have liked best - by the songs and music of her friends in the groups that she was associated with.



JIMMY DRUMM

"Tributes are being paid daily to Tom Williams by his comrades in a most effective manner, by their unrelenting war against British occupation.

"His final words to his comrades were:- 'Carry on, no matter what odds are against you, Carry on, no matter what the enemy call you, Carry on, no matter what torments are inflicted on you, The road to freedom is paved with suffering, hardship and torture. Carry on my gallant comrades until that certain day...'

Jimmy Drumm then concluded by paying tribute to all who have fought and made sacrifices in the struggle for national freedom.

BARBARIANS BARRED?

IT NOW appears certain that the planned visit to Ireland of the South African rugby team - the Barbarians - will not take place. The Free State Department of Foreign Affairs has given in to anti-apartheid protestors and indicated that it will prevent the team from entering the twenty-six counties if the Irish Rugby Football Union refuse to withdraw their invitation.

The I.R.F.U. are meeting on Friday to discuss this development but are powerless to do other than back down.

The Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement held a demonstration in Dublin on Saturday 8th September in protest at the planned tour.

About two or three hundred protestors assembled outside the Department of Foreign Affairs, St Stephens Green and formed a picket. Amongst those supporting the picket, were the Dublin branch of the National Union of Journalists, and Trinity College, Dublin, Students Union.

The demonstrators carried placards with slogans such as 'no sell out to racism' and 'stop the I.R.F.U. sell out'. A letter of protest was handed in to the Free State Minister for Foreign Affairs, by actress Siobhan McKenna. It urged the Free State administration, to order the Irish Rugby Football Union to cancel the matches and urged them to throw their full weight behind "the courageous sports players in South Africa struggling for genuinely non-racial sport, often at great costs to themselves."

After picketing the Department of Foreign Affairs protestors then marched to the Lansdowne Road headquarters of the rugby union. Here executive members of the Anti-Apartheid Movement attempted to deliver a similar letter of protest, but no one was there to receive it.

A short meeting was then held, and the protestors were told that the Barbarians' team consisting of eight whites, eight coloureds, and eight Africans was just a propaganda exercise, trying to normalise racist South Africa's position in world sport.



ANTI-APARTHEID DEMONSTRATORS OUTSIDE THE IRISH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION HEADQUARTERS, LANSLOWNE ROAD, DUBLIN LAST SATURDAY.

"Trade Unions in Northern Ireland", Bulletin No. 7 of the Belfast Workers' Research Unit, c/o 52, Broadway, Belfast 12. (Price 45p).

Trade Unions in The North

Review by
Una O'Neill

PARTITION is a heavy burden for the Irish working-class, and Republicans have often failed in the past to clearly formulate the direct link between their stance on the national question and their trade union activities (if they were lucky enough not to be on the dole or in jail, that is).

Literature on the subject is scarce, and the latest bulletin, 'Trade Unions in Northern Ireland' produced by the Belfast-based Workers' Research Unit definitely fills a gap. In spite of the lack of co-operation of the Northern Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) in making their research facilities available to them, the unit has managed to produce a remarkable set of articles, from which emerges a clear enough picture of the trade union movement in the six-counties.

The article on 'Trade Unions and

their endorsement of loyalist demands such as Sirocco workers protesting against the redevelopment of nationalist Short Strand.

In fact, to quote the Bulletin, all those instances were good examples of "how to deal with political lessons in a non-political way."

The articles on 'Women and the Unions' (well subtitled 'A Male Trade Union Movement for a Male workforce'), and the article on 'The Hazards of Work', would certainly be good starting points for a more thorough study. But the best article, is 'Decline of Newry'.

In this study of the minor victories and numerous defeats suffered by the workforce in Newry, it is possible to see all the tactics of division of the working-class, naked repression, economic exploitation disguised by subsidies. The situation throughout the six-counties is revealed in a nutshell: low wages, an impotent trade union movement and the classic attitude of foreign bosses: if demand for goods drops then close down the 'Northern Ireland' plant. Industrialists can safely bleed the workforce, then take themselves off



The latest Belfast Workers' Research Unit bulletin - cover pictured here - is well worth reading

The last article on 'The Payment for Debt Act' outlines the history of this act. Remember Paddy Devlin who supported the anti-interment rent-and-rates strike, then voted for the renewal of the Payment for Debt Act, in the ill-fated Assembly in 1974; and

has since been appointed by the Irish Transport and General Workers Union to negotiate on behalf of the workforce in the North....

It is important to remember how the impotence of the trade union movement has been heightened by partition. Two different paths have been followed in the past, both of which must be avoided: on the one hand republicans have concentrated on the national struggle, without linking it to the question of labour; and, on the other hand, socialists within the trade union movement have avoided the national question, have talked in abstract terms about working-class unity and have fostered the illusion that national independence can be achieved through a supposedly national Trade Union Congress (like the Congress of Irish Unions in the late 1940s). Both attitudes have already proved to be failures: national rights and workers' rights cannot be separated.

The bulletin 'Trade Unions in Northern Ireland' provides a good starting point for Republicans to develop their attitude to the trade union movement.

Birthday Greetings

BURNS, Mick (Portlaoise)

Happy birthday Mick. Best wishes from Eileen and Emmet. xxx

LOUGHLIN, Thomas (H3-Block)

Congratulations to our son Thomas and his wife Bernie on their 3rd wedding anniversary. Also our son's 22nd birthday. Best wishes. They are always in our thoughts and we have you in our hearts. God bless you and all your comrades. Love Mum, Dad and all the family.

LOUGHLIN, Thomas (H3-Block)

Congratulations Thomas on our 3rd wedding anniversary and also your 22nd birthday. I wish I could give you the key to set you free. Always thinking of you. All my love, your wife Bernie xxxxxx

LOUGHLIN, Thomas (H3-Block)

Congratulations to my nephew Thomas and his wife Bernie on their 3rd wedding anniversary. Also congratulations to Thomas on his 22nd birthday. You are always in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you and all your comrades. Aunt Bell.

LOUGHLIN, Thomas (H3-Block)

Happy birthday to my daddy who is on the blan ket. I love you all the time. God bless you and your comrades. From your son Thomas. xxxxxxxx U.T.P.

LOUGHLIN, Thomas (H3-Block)

Congratulations to my daughter Bernadette and my son-in-law Thomas on their 3rd wedding anniversary and happy birthday to Thomas on your 22nd birthday.

day. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. Thinking of you always. God bless you and your comrades from your mother-in-law and family.

LOUGHLIN, Thomas (H3-Block)

Congratulations to our sister and brother-in-law on their 3rd wedding anniversary and a happy birthday to Tom. Always thinking of you, God bless and take care. From Mary and Martine.

MARSHALL, S. (H-Block)

Birthday greetings to our son who is 21 on the 18th Sept. From Mum, Caroline, Francis and Annette.

MARSHALL, S. (H-Block)

Happy birthday on your 21st. From Aunt Margaret and Uncle Tom.

MARSHALL, S. (H-Block)

Happy birthday brother from Gary and John.

MARSHALL, S. (H-Block)

Birthday greetings on your 21st. All our love from sister Linda and niece Kerry.

O'BOYLE, Owen. (A Wing, Crumlin Road Jail)

To our son Owen on his 20th birthday. Behind those bars you are locked today, because you dared to have your say, and when old Ireland she is free, no more prison bars you will see. Even though we're miles apart, the thought of you is in our hearts. All our love from Mum, Dad, brothers and sisters.

BRADLEY, Seamus (H4-Block)

Congratulations Seamus on completing one year on the blanket. God bless, Doreen, John and children.

O BRALLAGHAN (BRADLEY), Seamus (H4-Block)

Solidarity greetings Seamus on completing one year on the blanket. Your fight is our fight. Marie Drumm Sinn Fein Cumann, Magherafelt.

O BRALLAGHAN (BRADLEY), Seamus (H4-Block)

We think of you in your tight our son, our hearts they fill with pride, for in a cold dark H-Block cell they lock you up inside. But someday son we will see your face, when all the lads are free when H-Block men have won again and they call it victory. Love Mummy and Daddy.

O BRALLAGHAN (BRADLEY), Seamus (H4-Block)

Solidarity greetings Seamus on completing one year on the blanket. Keep your chin up. U.T.P. Bernadette and Christopher.

O BRALLAGHAN (BRADLEY), Seamus (H4-Block)

They haven't broken your spirit, no criminal garb you wear, the fight goes on in the H-Block and out here by those who care. From all your brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles.

FINUCANE, Seamus; LAVERY, Sean; McDONNELL, Joe (H-Block)

Lenadon RAC salute, Seamus Finucane, Sean Lavery and Joe McDonnell on completing two years on the blanket. We are behind you and your comrades in your fight for political status.

Solidarity Greetings

LAVERY, Sean (H5-Block)

Two years on the blanket. Well done son we're all behind you. From Mum, Ann and Tony. Also greetings to Seamus Finucane, Joe McDonnell, Bobby Sands, also two years on the blanket.

LAVERY, Sean (H5-Block)

Keep your chin up Sean. From Martin, Sue and Patrick Pearse.

LAVERY, Sean (H5-Block)

Best wishes brother. Hope to see you soon. From Gerard, Teri, Shannah and Gerard Og.

LAVERY, Sean (H5-Block)

Well done Seamus Patrick (H3) Lavery, Sean. (H5-Block)

Will always be thinking of you. Mark and family - Martha and Marie.

LOUGHRAN, Paddy (H5-Block)

Congratulations Paddy on completing two years on the blanket. God bless you and all your comrades. Keep up the fight. From Mum, Dad, brothers and sisters, also from Anne and Graine.

MERLEEN, Phonsie. (H-Block)

Congratulations Phonsie on completing one year on the blanket. From the James Connolly Sinn Fein Cumann, Bellaghy.

McINTYRE, Charlie. (H3-Block)

Congratulations to our dear son on completing two years on the blanket protest. Our writing times are seldom, our meeting times are few, our thinking times are always when our thoughts are of you. Love from Mum and Dad.

McINTYRE, Charlie. (H3-Block)

Two years on the blanket protest. May God give you strength and courage as you now enter your 3rd year. Always in our prayers, from Marie, Jerry and children.

McINTYRE, Charlie. (H3-Block)

Well done Charlie, on completing two years on the blanket. Wrapped in a blanket, that must be hell, wish you were home not in that cell. Love from all your sisters.

McINTYRE, Charlie. (H3-Block)

Congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. Always in my thoughts and prayers. Love Grannie.

McINTYRE, Charlie. (H3-Block)

Congratulations brother on completing two years on the blanket protest for political status. From Tommy.

McINTYRE, Charlie. (H3-Block)

Congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. God bless you and all your comrades. From Sally, Sammy and Hugh.

McINTYRE, Charlie. (H3-Block)

Congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. Thinking of you always. Keep your spirits up. From Jim Ethel and kids.

McINTYRE, Charlie. (H3-Block)

Congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. Keep your chin up. Margaret, Gregory and kids.

McINTYRE, Charlie. (H3-Block)

Congratulations on completing two years on the blanket. Victory to the blanket men. All our love, Ellen, Kate and Peter.

McINTYRE, Charlie. (H3-Block)

Congratulations lads on this year's heroic stand for political status. We've had great men in the past but none could be greater than the men at present on the blanket. May God look over you all. The outcome must surely be victory. U.T.P. Dinty and the lads (Falls).

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Liam Lynch Commemoration

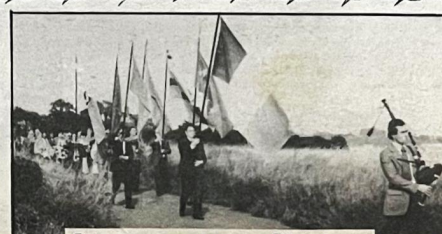
THE ANNUAL Liam Lynch commemoration organised by Sinn Fein was held at the memorial in the Knockmealdown Mountains in Tipperary on Sunday 9th September.

A large crowd, led by the Diarmuid O'Hurley Pipe Band, marched to the spot where the former IRA chief of staff was killed by Free State forces in 1923.

Richard Behal, director of Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Department, giving the oration said that the Republican Movement of to-day were the true inheritors of Liam Lynch. He described the heroic fight of the men in H-Block as one which was in the tradition of all those who had fought down the years.



Liam Lynch memorial in Tipperary



Andersonstown Martyrs Commemoration

LAST SUNDAY the annual commemoration to honour Volunteers from the Andersonstown area who had died during the past decade of struggle was held in Belfast's Milltown Cemetery, under the auspices of the Andersonstown Martyrs Commemoration Committee.

A lone piper led the parade to the Republican Plot where the chairman of the committee, Belfast Republican Jimmy Drumm, introduced a member of Sinn Fein from Turf Lodge, who gave the oration.

In the course of his oration he said: "The number of Republican funerals which have come through the gates of this and other cemeteries in the past ten years seems endless."

"On each occasion we have all prayed that it would be the last, but in our hearts we know that this wish is unlikely to pass, because, while this is the final phase in the long struggle to free our country there are still many hardships and sacrifices ahead."

"But the bitter blow of each death, the sense of loss and grief felt by loved ones, comrades and friends is always tempered by great pride because of selfless dedication to the cause for which they died."

Funeral of John McManus

THE DEATH occurred on Saturday 25th August of John McManus of Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim.

At his funeral on Tuesday August 28th his coffin draped in the tricolour was carried by Republicans who had been his comrades since the forties.

John joined the Republican Movement in the early 1930s, he was arrested in 1940 at the Meath Hotel, and having served a prison sentence he was immediately released in the Curragh until the general release. He remained an active Republican up to his death.

Paying tribute to John McManus's hard work and dedication, John Joe McGil, speaking at the graveside, recalled his service in the IRA in the Drumshanbo Company and the Battalion area, and in his later years in the sale of the Republican papers and collecting for An Cumann Cabhrach.

John Joe McGil finished by extending the sympathy of the Republican Movement to his wife and family.

Ar Dheis De go raib a anam.

SINN FEIN
COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHEAN
(Please note change of date)
2:30 p.m. Sunday 30th September
No. 5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN

Two delegates from each comhairle ceantar to attend. Observers welcome.

PICKET
WINSON GREEN PRISON
Winson Green Road.
BIRMINGHAM
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday 29th September

POLITICAL STATUS FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS!

REPATRIATE IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS!
Organised by Birmingham Sinn Fein.

