

republican NEWS



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THE VOICE OF REPUBLICAN ULSTER

VOLUNTEERS MOBILISED

IN DEFENCE OF PEOPLE

PEOPLE, the first week of the Loyalist general strike, despite all appearances and the British media's opposition, is going well for Paisley and the Loyalist fascists of the UDA.

As life and trade in the industrial and loyalist areas of the Six-County statelet grind to a halt the Republican Movement is taking counter-measures to ensure the relief, welfare and defence of the nationalist population.

In Belfast during the week a Strike Co-ordinating Committee was set-up. "With the object of maintaining essential supplies, alleviating hardships, preventing rumour and panic and providing a source of information for the entire area."

The statement issued by the SCC went on, "Most local groupings and organisations are actively assisting in this effort and committees are working to full capacity. These committees are coordinated through the main strike committee centre at the Celtic rooms, Falls Road. Anyone wishing to contact the committee can do so by ringing Belfast 23214."

Mason's policy of confronting the UDA mobs with the RUC has resulted in numerous disaffections, and in the UDR there has been resignations in Kilkeel and mid-Antrim from personnel who refuse to move against their loyalist colleagues.

SO-CALLED RIOT

In a so-called riot on the Newtownards Road in

ALL IRA VOLUNTEERS AND AUXILIARIES HAVE BEEN MOBILISED FOR A MASSIVE 'STAND-BY' DEFENSIVE OF REPUBLICAN AREAS THROUGHOUT THE SIX COUNTIES.

SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE WINDOW OF A NORTH BELFAST ESTATE - TWO VOLUNTEERS OVERLOOK THE AREA IN DEFENCE OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE.



Belfast the RUC and the UDA fraternised. Contrasting with the degree of State Violence used against Republican rioters, the

UDA in East Belfast met with no CS Gas, no rubber or plastic bullets, no water-cannons, and no baton-charges.

The British Government's whole position has been based on bluff. Mason said last week that extra troops and engineers were being called in to keep essential services going. But cornered on TV an hour and a half before the strike began Fred Mulley, British Secretary of State for Defence, admitted that the Brits couldn't maintain essential services.

MASSIVE INTIMIDATION

A mixture of latent fascism, good organisation, sabotage and massive intimidation has been the

momentum of the strike hitherto.

On Wednesday it was thought that the Action Council had secured the support of the power-workers at Ballylumford. Had this been the case this would have made total stoppage probable within five days.

The fanaticism of these people was demonstrated when they fired five shots into a school bus carrying Protestant children in Bangor, and then they glibly stated that there was no intimidation. And UDA men stopped at a checkpoint between Aldergrove airport and Belfast had seven rifles and ammunition in their possession. It is obvious that the Loyalists are moving weapons into the city for the next stage of the strike which could well be sectarian attacks against isolated Catholics.

Establishment politicians, the mass media, and the business-class have backed the British Government in its verbal determination to resist the fascist monster which it created in the first place. The SDLP have called on the Brits not to relent. Fitt, Hume, Currie and Devlin realise but won't admit their treacherous and collaborationist role during the last seven years. They threw in their lot with the Brits and supported the disarming of the Peoples' Army.

For if the People were not armed, if there was no Irish Republican Army, if the People had not resisted, and had the SDLP succeeded, then today, right now, the nationalist population would be easy prey to these murdering fascists, and at the mercy of a British Government decision.

Instead the Republican People rely first and foremost on their own strength, and it is that independent strength that will ensure now the security of the local population, and the continued Resistance to British imperialist rule in Ireland.

PORTLAOISE HUNGER STRIKE

We have been asked to release the following supplied statement from the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau, Dublin.

The decision to terminate the recent Portlaoise hunger strike was made as a consequence of the visit of Bishop Kavanagh to the Curragh and his conversations with the prisoners and in the light of the circumstances which he led

them to believe then existed.

The Dublin Government information service statement which said that Bishop Kavanagh "Had been asked on behalf of the associates of the prisoners to visit the prisoners and urge them to end their fast" is untrue in that no request to urge them to end their fast was made by associates of the hunger-

strikers.

The "Republican Movement" nevertheless supports the prisoners decision to end the strike and reaffirms its determination to vindicate and protect the rights of prisoners by a continuing campaign of protest and alternative means of mobilising public opinion. P. O'Neill... Irish Republican Publicity Bureau.

SUNNINGDALE '73'



"Mr. P. Devlin of the SDLP has called for the repatriation of all the Irish prisoners in English prisons, both Republicans and Loyalists".

That comrades was the beginning of an article carried in the Irish times last week and it provoked a discussion here in our cell on the SDLP., and that discussion we decided would be the subject of our article this week.

Why the sudden concern by an SDLP member for prisoners in English Gaols especially at a time when there was a hunger-strike in Portlaoise upon which they made no comment? Well, the way we see it is that with the local council elections coming off in Belfast in a few weeks time the SDLP have sent the most credible of and incredible bunch out to do a bit of electioneering. We all know how good they are at jumping on the bandwagon and we only have to look at the way they were formed as a party and examine their past record to see them for what they really are. While the following shall come as no news to anyone we believe that it does no harm to take a look at what lies behind the banner of the SDLP and having done so we shall see that their use of the emotive issue of Irish prisoners in English gaols is, but a mere political ploy which they hope will gain votes for them.

1969.

A strong opposition was the brain-child of Callaghan who saw its formation as the way in which to push his "too little, too late" reforms through Stormont, and at the same time, and more importantly, as a way in which to channel Catholic reaction into a harmless political grouping which had links with the British Labour Party. He put this idea at a private dinner party to some opposition MP's when he returned to the North in October 69. This marked the birth of the SDLP idea and in August the following year it

became a political party. At the time it was a case of self-preservation proving stronger than party loyalty. Formerly they had been members of the NILP., Republican Labour Nationalist Party or Independants elected in the hey-day of Civil Rights.

At no time did this group speak for the working class nor have they ever spoken for them. As a party they were supported by the Free-State Government and were financed mainly by Southern businessmen.

When Faulkner was elected head of the Unionist Party Austin Currie welcomed his promotion while the bulk of the Catholic community saw it as another swing to the right.

In June '71, Faulkner announced a scheme of 3 parliamentary committees to review and advise on legislation in the fields of social, environmental and industrial services. The SDLP nearly fell over themselves to welcome the scheme which granted them two of the three chairmen and special salaries. At the time John Hume said... "It should be made clear to all people today who say that no change had taken place that this is simply not true. There have been changes in this community".

On the 7th July 71 the SDLP attended what was to be the 1st of a series of all-party talks. That night in Derry the Brits., shot dead Seamus Cusack. The shooting followed 3 days of rioting in the Bogside and Creggan. Once again the SDLP were alarmed for they were completely out of touch with the ghettos and had become increasingly identified with the Faulkner administration. Hume called all his colleagues to Derry and all but Fitt and Devlin attended the meeting.

Those who gathered decided that they had to do something and so they called for a public enquiry into the shootings of Cusack and Beattie (another political expedient). They went on to say that if it was not granted within 4 days they would withdraw from

Stormont.

Fitt who did not attend the meeting was horrified at the statement. He headed off to see Maudling in the hope he could do a deal at a time when the Tory offensive had begun against the Catholic community. He failed and had to lead all his mates out of Stormont. Stormont was going into summer recess anyway. In a period of 3 weeks the SDLP., had somersaulted from a position of praise of the government to enforced abstention.

elocution lessons wearing the same jersey.

With the setting up of the Executive we again saw somersaults being done. Currie, Minister for Housing threatened to evict squatters from Farringdon Gardens, Ardoyne. He had squatted in a house in Caledon in 1968 during the Civil Rights campaign. He also announced there would be no amnesty for the rent and rate strikers and he imposed a weekly 25p fine for collecting arrears.

After the fall of the Executive which was set

cupboard and hired the coal lorry; for if Flanna Fall get-in down there the official policy of power-sharing will be dropped and they shall foot a fine jig into the Brits Out lobby of Flanna Fall. Either way such a cry when it comes shall be the cry of a party bankrupt of political ideas, ideals and principles.

This line as a step towards a solution is being adopted more and more in incongruous circles. The SDLP's main figures are still trying to hold on to power-sharing as a solution or rather, as a means of securing government positions. The party's failure to achieve anything in the last 7 years has meant that the grass roots are becoming dis-illusioned with their leaders' power chase and are turning more and more to a British declaration of intent. The entire party has sought every means to avoid this and even now the key figures are reluctant. Their bankruptcy, has left them desperate for a policy.

They fear that a declaration of intent jeopardises their position and allies them with Republicanism. However, as all else has failed it is a reluctant alternative. Remember, that they have been forced into this position, performing various contortions to gain power. Their policies are merely expedients and so it will be if Fitt and the boys are pressurised into adopting this. If they do so it will be as a result of their political bankruptcy and not because they're staunch advocates of this line. Their only concern in adopting any policy is to appear credible in order that they maintain their positions either in local government., or as the "voice" of the minority" in any possible governmental assembly left behind in the event of a British withdrawal. Their objective in taking up any line is power rather than a just, peaceful and lasting solution.

Beir Bua.
SOLON., (Long Kesh).

BY SOLON

When internment was introduced in August of that year they stated they would not participate in government, and they called for a rent and rates strike as a protest in order to win minority respect. It proved a hook.

In October '71 they along with what remained of the old Nationalist party held

a meeting in Dungiven where they set up what they called an Alternative Assembly. It was their way to try and win back some of the initiative from the IRA. The Dungiven assembly was the Catholic middle-class reacting with dignity and no efforts were made to represent the newly formed resistance committees and councils.

They desperately wanted off the hook and after a meeting with their Dublin masters they met White-law in August of '72. In October 1973 they agreed to form an Executive and to take 4 of the 11 seats. They were going to serve on the government under the man who

had introduced internment. Fitt became Deputy Chief Executive. This was a far cry from the days when he had electioneered from

the back of a coal lorry wearing a Glasgow Celtic foot-ball jersey and carrying a hurling stick. We wonder did he attend his

up to maintain Brit interests and institutions in Ireland the SDLP., again found themselves unemployed.

These past 2 years have seen them along with the other parliamentary parties in a political vacuum created by Westminster. In an attempt to fill that vacuum they entered into coalition negotiations with "shoot to kill-Craig" even though, he had publicly stated that he would ditch them from the coalition, as soon as he could. They took a full-page ad in the News Letter to show that they were good Castle Catholics. Devlin has talked with Loyalist para-militaries about Independence. Fitt made a statement in Westminster dis-owning him for doing so. This statement was never published in any Irish newspapers.

As a party they consist of agitators, plotters, questioners and leakers. To keep up morale in this time of vacuum they need to do well in coming local elections. Realising that local issues draw votes they have referred to the repatriation of POW's. At the same time they have appealed to the people they claim to represent and who they continually sell-out to contribute to party funds.

Gerry, we would say is keeping an eye on the Free-State and may well have taken the Celtic jersey out of the

A WELCOME CALL FOR UNITY

by **Brendan Steele England**



Opinion polls dictate that there is widespread sentiment amongst English people for an end to British involvement in Ireland.

However, this sentiment is very confused and has in no way given rise to a popular organisation calling for troop withdrawal.

In the past the Troops Out Movement (TOM) has played a central role in co-ordinating the building of an anti-imperialist movement amongst the British left.

However the TOM has unfortunately suffered an organisational decline and in order to overcome this decline it has become urgent to hold a broad national conference to regroup forces and to plan new activities.

The background to this decline is as follows.

Firstly, during the last couple of years, until recent months, there has been a decline in the number of Brits that the Provos have been sending home in little wooden boxes.

This decline meant that trying to build an anti-war movement in England the imperialist heartland was made difficult. For the national liberation forces, the Provos, were not essentially seen to be fighting the army of occupation.

The second reason for a decline in TOM was that it was part of a general downturn in radical movements because of the disorientation caused by having a Labour government at Westminster. Such people as that 'working class hero' Michael Foot have been carrying out anti-working class policies in order to preserve a so-called 'socialist' government.

Thus compared with the days when mass anti-Tory sentiment was expressed on the shop-floor and in the streets there has been a bad climate for growth of movements such as 'Troops Out'.

The third reason for a decline in TOM has been the factionalism of the British left-wing movements and their failure to see the Irish war as the most important challenge facing socialists in Britain.

This traditional factionalism has unfortunately been reinforced by the attitude of a small group in the leadership of TOM.

Their inadequacies were typified at a recent national TOM conference which was organised in such a way as to block maximum participation from activists. This would have led to the TOM becoming merely a small London-based committee. Regrettably a small group led by a controversial ex-republican still insist on pursuing this disastrous course of action.

However the potential for re-building the movement is clear. There is a renewed upsurge of the war in the North with corresponding renewed interest in Britain. The Brits have been unable to devise an acceptable formula for 'devolved' government in the six counties. And their rate of military casualties is on the increase.

Also in Britain the political climate is getting more favourable to radical activity. The depressing effect of the Labour government is slowly being reversed. The current rise

in industrial struggle and the recent battle against the fascists in North London are welcome signs of this.

OPEN

CONFERENCE.

As a result of seeing this potential the vast majority of TOM branches have decided that the best course of action is to organise a new discussion about the best way to build a mass movement for the withdrawal of troops from Ireland.

A planning committee has been set-up to organise an open conference in London on 25th, 26th June. An appeal for support has been issued. This is addressed to all TOM branches and to all individuals and organisations who support the call for the immediate withdrawal of troops in order to allow the Irish people the right to self-determination.

All attending the conference will have full speaking and voting rights. Thus this conference promises to be a welcome step to building a troops out movement. We appeal to all readers of this paper in Britain to give this conference their full support. Messages of support, resolutions and enquiries should be sent to:-

Troops Out Conference
c/o Rising Free
182 Upper Street,
London NL.

★★★★★★★★

TROOPS OUT MOVE IN HERTFORDSHIRE

The Troops Out Committee in Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire) launched the first phase of their fund-raising drive on Saturday night (April 30th) with a 'May Day dance and social' at the pavillion in the new town centre. The dance which was supported by the left wing political organisations in the town, and by provisional sinn fein supporters from the home counties and Kilburn (London) was well attended and very enjoyable. The music for the occasion was provided by local musicians free of charge, and further entertainment was provided with a selection of Irish dancing from children from the St. Albans school of Irish dancing and Gaelic culture, and a medley of songs from

Frank Duffy of High Wycombe (Bucks). The committee also had on display a varied selection of literature on Ireland and the aims of the Troops Out Movement locally and nationally.

The Committee recently decided to launch this fund-raising drive to enable them to continue producing their own printed literature locally-they are presently producing their own monthly pamphlet with articles and news items concerning the Troops Out Movement in Britain-and to help finance public meetings in Hemel Hempstead, Luton, Berkhamstead, St. Albans etc., mainly directed at the more politically-conscious British public, and Trades Union organisations.

THE IRISH NORTH EAST

1
The Tsars of Great Russia are rotted away;
The landlords of China are common-owned-clay;
The Dukes and Marquises and Bourbons of France
Went broke long-ago at their last game of chance.
Oppressors are everywhere leveled to dust,
But what is this corner still red with old rust
Where the globe has stopped spinning and growth has all
ceased!
The British are still in the Irish North-East!

2
Vietnam is united, and gladly that loud
The wooden-legged Yankee has limped his way out;
Angola's unfettered, 'tis hard to recall
That Portugal once ruled an Empire at all.
The robbers of Europe are forced to restore
Their bloody annexings, from Feg to Lahore.
But the first, and the worst, and the last if not least-
The British - are still in the Irish North-East!

3
"Say why, if Malaya and Burma are freed
Is it thought to be proper that Ireland still bleed?
Was Empire addictive? Might you be heartsore?
If you couldn't oppress your first colony more?
Or perhaps, we must screen from your cowardly sight
Great Britain's cold 'Great' where no ember' alight?"
Lest they should discover how much they've decreased
The British are still in the Irish North-East!

4
"We would all sympathise with your piteous plight
If it wasn't for Derry, Croke Park, and the Blight.
Your heartbroken keening for Empire we'd rue
If our heads and our bones weren't broken by you.
We regret to request you most courteously
(With the odd pound of jelly to help you agree,
And a Tommy or two from mundane things released)
You Vermin! Get out of the Irish North-East!

E.R. Sullivan.

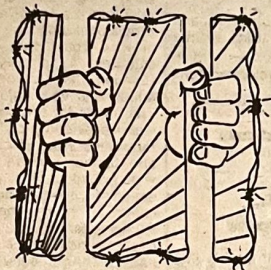


CENTRAL COMMITTEE RELATIVES ACTION COMMITTEE

POLITICAL STATUS

The Relatives Action Committee Belfast, organised a series of meetings on April 24th, as part of its continuing campaign to defend the status of Republican and Socialist P.O.W.'s.

An indoor meeting was held in Ballymurphy on Sunday afternoon, which was attended by relatives of prisoners in H Block, and C Wing Armagh Prison. The object of the meeting was to give relatives a chance to put their point of view to two French human rights lawyers, who were in Ireland at the invitation of the RAC and the Murray Defence Committee. The relatives explained to the lawyers the manner in which the British Authorities use brutality against the prisoners in an attempt to break their morale. At the meeting one woman, who had been beaten up by British troops still showed the physical signs of the savage treatment meted out to people living in Republican areas. The lawyers explained to the relatives what the situation was in relation to the question of the status of Political prisoners throughout Europe. The lawyers also pointed out that a new situation had developed with the passing



of the new Prisoner of War convention, which will give Prisoner of War status to people involved in Wars of National Liberation like the War in Ireland. The Free State Government had refused to sign the convention.

On Sunday night a march and rally took place in the St. James area organised by the Relatives Action Committee. At the rally speakers stressed the determination of the R.A.C. to continue the struggle for Political Status. It was important that the broad mass of the people show their solidarity with the political prisoners. Another speaker said that the hunger strikers at the Curragh had shown how

inhuman the conditions of Political Prisoners were in the 26 Cos. The speaker said that the people of St. James should be saluted for their action in coming out into the streets everytime the British troops enter their area. This clearly established that the people had no doubt that the British army were at war with them. The chairperson in ending the meeting called for maximum support for all future R.A.C. marches.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE
RELATIVES ACTION
COMMITTEE.

INTERNATIONAL

LAWYERS MEET

Lawyers from Spain, Italy, France, West Germany, Belgium and Ireland attended a legal conference at TOULOUSE, France last month. This conference was sponsored by M.A.J. (Mouvement d'Action Judiciaire) to examine the problems raised by legislation directed at the "repression of terrorism". Mr. Myles Shevlin, Soir, attended on behalf of Ireland.

Almost 100 lawyers, professors of law signed the statement plus other representatives from Syndicat de la Magistrature, Secours Rouge Int., and observers from association des Juristes Démocrates and from Comité International de Défense des Prisonniers Politiques en Europe Occidentale. C.I.D.P.P.E.O.

A resolution, proposed by the Belgian section and passed unanimously, called on the Dublin government

It will be recalled that at a similar type of conference held under the auspices of C.I.D.P.P.E.O. in Brussels on 12th. March 1977, and that it too called on the Dublin Government to grant Political status and humane treatment to the Portlaoise Prisoners.

1. To institute an immediate public inquiry into the conditions affecting Political Prisoners in Portlaoise Prison.

2. To recognise that the demands of the Hunger Striking prisoners are just.

3. To accede political status to Republican Prisoners.

Richard Behal
Sinn Féin, Foreign Affairs Bureau.

PROTESTS CONTINUE

The Central Committee of the Relatives Action Committee organised a protest picket outside the B.B.C. Northern Ireland headquarters at Ormeau Avenue on April 28th. The protest outside the B.B.C. was carried out to focus our objection to the one-sided approach of the mass media to the question of Political Status.

The B.B.C. have consistently put forward the official line of the British Government in dealing with the question of the status of Republican and Socialist Prisoners of War.

They repeat parrot fashion the statements of Mr. Mason in which he attempts to portray the political prisoners as criminals. The British Government have adopted a contradictory stance on the

manner in which the political prisoners are dealt with, on one hand they have established the special Diplock Courts to deal with the political prisoners, this puts these prisoners in a special category. Yet they still insist that the political prisoners having being sentenced by special courts should be treated, as if they were ordinary prisoners, without any special status. The Relatives Action Committee rejects the criminalisation policy of the British Government. The Relatives Action Committee intend to continue its campaign on behalf of Republican and socialist Prisoners of War. We intend using all kinds of protests, to mobilise people in defense of the prisoners.

The Relatives Action Committee recognizes that the prisoners have won an important victory in H-Block Long Kesh by forcing the authorities to end the isolation torture, the original housing of prisoners one a cell was obviously an attempt to break the morale of the P.O.W.'s by total isolation. The Republican prisoners have forced the British Government to retreat, now we must redouble our efforts to firmly establish the special status of the Republican and Socialist POW's.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE
RELATIVES ACTION
COMMITTEE.

ARDOYNE & BONE BRANCH

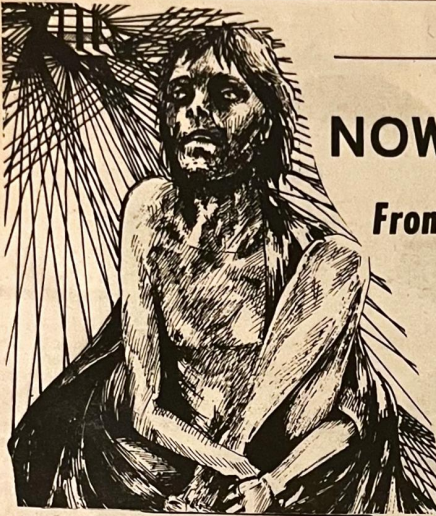
EX-PRISONERS ASSOCIATION

A public meeting to pledge continued solidarity with the POW's was held on Sunday 24th April in Ardoyne, Belfast, by the local branch of the Ex-Prisoners Association.

the prisoners in the struggle for political status.

The meeting was chaired by local Republican Mary McGuigan and the speakers Malachy McNally (Ex-Prisoners Association) and Malachy Foots (Sinn Féin) each outlined conditions the POW's were enduring and extended fraternal greetings to them on behalf of the Ardoyne and Bone people.

Despite recent British harassment and provocative activities in the area recently, a large crowd turned our showing by their presence that they stand firmly behind



PRISONER NOW 8 MONTHS IN SOLITARY

From Sinn Fein England

Irish Republican Prisoner Shane O'Doherty is now in his eighth month of solidarity confinement in Wormwood Scrubs Prison, London. 'Republican News' has consistently highlighted the evil conditions he has been held under. Despite their playing down of the ill-treatment of Irish Political Prisoners,

the British Home Office are being bombarded daily by letters and phone calls from not only members of the Public but by a number of MP's and Civil Rights Groups in Britain.

Hertfordshire MP, Robin Corbett, was asked to contact the Home Secretary Merlyn Rees about the

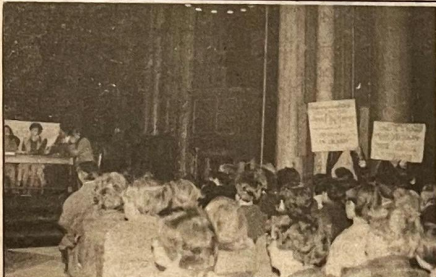
ill-treatment of Shane and in a reply to Corbett, Rees says: "No Prisoner has a right to be transferred to Northern Ireland to serve his sentence". It would appear this 'Right' only applies to 'Loyalists', many of whom have been repatriated to the 6 counties within weeks of being sentenced, not to mention the immediate repatriation of British soldiers from the occupied area to England and Scotland after being sentenced for crimes of murder, theft, assault, and many other "Misdemeanours".

If the mass murderer Col. Callan had not been repatriated to Britain from Belfast many innocent black Angolans would be alive today. Repatriation to the British is a one-way effort on their part. Mr. Rees goes on to say: "Mr. O'Doherty was born in N. Ireland, and I have

carefully considered his circumstances, but I am afraid that they are not so exceptional as to justify transfer to Northern Ireland". We wonder then, why Mr. Rees thought fit to transfer British soldiers from the occupied area who have been found guilty of the most heinous crimes against the Civil Population? or why Rees, Callaghan and Queen Liz crawled to the Angolan Revolutionary Government begging to save the lives of the beaten British mercenaries last year after Justice was handed out to them by a Peoples Court?

We in Sinn Fein (Britain) do not accept this decision to keep Shane O'Doherty in permanent solitary confinement. Picketing will continue outside wormwood scrubs prison, London. Plans are

also going ahead to expand picketing the prison, to picketing and demonstrating outside the British Home Office, House of Commons and Downing Street, in the coming weeks. Every Irish Republican and British Revolutionary, Trades Unionist, shop steward etc. is a potential political prisoner. It is Shane today, tomorrow it may be one of us. Now is the time to take action. We appeal to all revolutionaries, Irish and British, to join forces with us and bring to an end ill treatment of Irish POW's. Join our picket at Wormwood Scrubs, and the other 'Establishment' Buildings in London. We assemble at the scrubs at 3 o'clock every Sunday afternoon until further notice. Decisions to picket and demonstrate elsewhere when necessary will be made jointly by those taking part.



Communique from the Comite Irelande

During the evening of Tuesday 26th April, militants of the Comite Irlande held a protest picket inside and outside the Church St. Germaines-Pres in the heart of the Latin Quarter, the centre of Paris, where leaders of the Peace Movement, notably Corrigan, WERE holding a fund-raising meeting. Leaflets explaining the real situation in Ireland were first of all distributed outside the church to those about to attend the meeting and passers-by and during the duration of the meeting inside the church the Comite Irlande maintained a constant circulation of political sign-boards and questioning of the platform speakers. French television was present as well as various journalists, and all in all, the intervention was a success, given that a sizeable proportion of the meeting supported the political explanations of the war as opposed to those presented by the peace agents.



SEAN Mc CAUGHEY MEMORIAL

Sean McCaughey Memorial Milltown Cemetery Belfast. The memorial was erected by the National Graves association, Belfast and unveiled on his anniversary by its Secretary the late Joseph McGurk, in 1948. Sean died in Portlaoise Prison on May 11th 1946. Following 4 and a half years solitary confinement, 50 days hunger-strike, during the last 12 days of which he was also on thurst strike, at the age of 30. He was a native of Co. Tyrone but lived most of his life in Ardoyne, Belfast. He became o/c Northern Command Ogligh na h-Eireann in 1940 and adjutant General a year later.

MILLTOWN CEMETRY



In proud and loving memory of
SEAN mac eócaid
(SEAN McCAUGHEY)
Adj. General, Irish Republican Army
Who gave his life for the Republic of Ireland in Portlaoise Prison, May 11, 1946, aged 30 years. After four years of unmitigated suffering and persecution he entered upon a hunger and thirst strike as the only means left to him of fighting injustice, and of drawing attention to the state of his fellow-prisoners. He was a teacher of Irish, a fearless soldier, and a Gael who followed always in the footsteps of MacSwiney.

Clonard/ Colin R.A.C.

Protests in support of Political Status continue in all areas of Belfast. Last Sunday, 1st May, Clonard/Colin Relatives Action Committee, local Sinn Fein Cumainn and the Clonard Martyrs band took to the streets canvassing for support.



THE PEARSE I KNEW

by
**NORA
CONNOLLY
O'BRIEN**



Pádraic Mac Piarais

1879-1916

P. H. Pearse

PADRAIC PEARSE was a mature man when I first met him. I knew nothing of his early childhood until I began to read Ruth Dudley Edwards' book about his youth. She gives a terrible picture in her first chapter about his poverty-stricken life. She states that he went begging on the streets and emphasises his delight in dressing up in his sister's clothes. My interpretation of that statement is that Ruth Dudley-Edwards is too young to have any knowledge of the conditions and games the children of sixty or seventy years ago had to content themselves with. She even spoke of his love of charades, but that was a thing all homes-poor and middle-class, alike-used for entertainment. One of the ways in which children in those days enjoyed themselves was dressing up in each others' clothes, and the two great days in their lives were at Easter and Halloween. It must have been something like this that Ruth Dudley Edwards heard when she refers to Pearse begging on the streets of Dublin.

Padraic Pearse was his mother's favourite. Mary Bridgid and Margaret did not get on well with each other; Willie and their father I never met. Mrs. Pearse recognised, as so many country-women do, the most promising member of the family and helped Padraic all she could, telling him tales and stories she had heard from the seanachies who used to call to her cottage home.

Pearse had a great abhorrence of the syllabus provided by the English Board of Education which controlled the Irish schools system. While a school-boy he had been taught English history, but nothing of Irish history. One of his most famous pamphlets was the one he named *The Murder Machine*, in which he claimed that the syllabus which the schools received from the English Board of Education was bent on destroying all Irish traditions and making the Irish school-going pupil into "a happy English child".

It was this lack of gaelic culture in the schools that caused Pearse to think of starting a school of his own. There, he could maintain Irish traditions and teach boys the Irish language and still prepare them for Matriculation if they so desired. He found a house he thought would suit his purpose. It had an Emmet tradition, as Emmet's sweetheart, Sarah Curran, lived in a house known as "The Priory" directly across the road, and Emmet and the young lady used to tryst in the wood nearby. Pearse went into debt to get possession of the house, and in 1914 went to the States in the hope of raising funds to finance the school. I learnt, during the times I visited St. Enda's that Padraic was sadly disappointed with his American enterprise as it did not relieve him of his debts; but he carried on, despite his difficulties, and the school was still in existence until the Easter holidays of 1916.

Padraic Pearse was a shy, reserved man and, after the death of Miss Eileen Nicholl, the girl he was to marry, he became more of an introvert. Following this loss, all the love of his heart was shared by his mother and Ireland—the greater share by Ireland, I believe.

Pearse was greatly influenced by something he read in my father's paper, *The Workers Republic*. It was a letter from a Polish Socialist who, when his country had been divided and occupied by three other nations, wrote to my father telling him that his part of Poland was Russian-occupied. He said

that Polish children were being taught Russian only in the schools, and what would my father advise the Polish socialists to do about it. My father gave his answer that if the Polish people lost their language they would lose their identity as Poles and, since they were compelled to speak Russian in the schools, to make it a rule that Polish should be spoken in the homes and to see that the rule was kept; for when a country loses its language it loses its identity as a Nation.

From that time on, Pearse began to watch my father's writing; he understood that my father regarded the people as Ireland and not the combination of mineral elements and geographical position, as other writers believed. It was from that period on that the two grew closer and friendship ensued. My father did not speak Irish but he could read it, and it was my task during his expedition to the States to collect money for his paper. The Workers Republic to send him every issue of Pearse's paper, *An Claidreamh Soluis*, and the other political paper, *The United Irishman*. He told my sister, Mona, and me to write to him every week and put the last sentence in Irish, so that he could see how we were progressing at the language.

Pearse had a column in the *J.R.B.* paper, *Irish*

Freedom, and during the 1913 strike he always mentioned the struggle that was being waged between the workers and their employers and defended the workers' right to join the Trade Union they preferred. He was always very sympathetic to the workers' cause.

It was in February, 1916 that he published his last book in Gaelic called *An Mathair*, and he gave a copy to my father which he inscribed with both their names and dated "Feabhra 1916". If you consider that date, you will understand how close they were before the Rising.

The last time I saw Padraic Pearse was in Liberty Hall on Easter Monday, 1916. We were six girls who had come down from the North to try to find out why I had received word that there would be no fighting in the North. As we were waiting, as couriers, to catch the train to take his message back to the North, Pearse came towards us, carrying a rolled paper in his hand as if he was carrying something sacred. He unrolled the paper and made us draw nearer to read it, and urged us to try and remember as much of it as we could to tell to the people he was sending us to meet. It was too dangerous, he said, to let any of us carry it with us. It was a copy of the "Proclamation of the Irish Republic". He said,

"Tell them we start the fight at noon today". Then he said "Beannacht De libh". I never saw him again.

I was not present on the steps of Liberty Hall on Easter Monday morning when the Irish Citizen Army paraded before my father, but one of the I.C.A. men told me in the following words:

"Your father called Right Turn and we all turned and faced him. He said to us 'The first step you take as you go to the post allotted to you means that you are no longer the Irish Citizen Army, but members of the Irish Republican Army. One part of us, led by your father, Padraic Pearse and Joseph Plunkett marched to the G.P.O. I was with the party that Michael Mallin marched to St. Stephen's Green. I do not know where the others went'".

That is the mental picture I carry with me all my days—three great men, marching out with the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army to the G.P.O. and bringing into being the Irish Republican Army.

ABOVE ARTICLE

COURTESY

OF HIBERNIA.

P. H. PEARSE

ROMANTIC OR REALIST

Irish revolutionaries, like others throughout the globe, when living were incarcerated, tortured and slandered, but after their deaths every effort was made by their ruling classes to render them harmless. Like Robin Hood they were outlawed and hounded during life, but on death he doesn't seem such a bad character after all. The agents of the state, usually taking the form of bourgeois historians or politicians, will always invent myths, which from their point of view is necessary so as to cloud the real man, the real ideals, and the real objectives. Even in death the martyrs are feared, and great lengths are gone to so as to present them in such a way that does not challenge the status quo. They fear that their true ideals and deeds may shine from the grave to inspire the common people who have little to gain from the existing

social order. Irish revolutionaries have been described as "pure nationalists", "dreamers" or "simple romantics", men and women who have nothing in common with our modern space age. The establishment of today on both sides of the Irish Sea have done a good job in mythology. It is necessary therefore to combat these reactionary myths, so that the generation of today can learn the truth about yesterday.

It is appropriate that both O'Brien and Hume & Co. have recently made public statements on questions relating to the educational system, 'offending' articles in the Irish Constitution, and control of the mass media. They are concerned with opposition forces, particularly those who would follow in Pearse's footsteps, having access to the media, which they wish to see firmly in the hands of the Irish ruling elements. These spheres of influence on public opinion and social conditioning, are to remain censored and strictly controlled. So much for their 'democratic' inspirations and institutions.

mineral wealth and the elimination of the small farmer by the early 1980's. All of them have two things in common, their hatred of the ideology of Pearse and their designs on obtaining the plums that go with becoming Euro-crats in Brussels. The political positions of the Neo-Redmondites can be traced back to the abandonment of attempts to create an independent Irish economy, (as was witnessed during the era of Sean Lemass), the signing of the Free Trade Agreement, the cross-border talks, and the wholesale sell-out of national sovereignty by entering the European Economic Co-

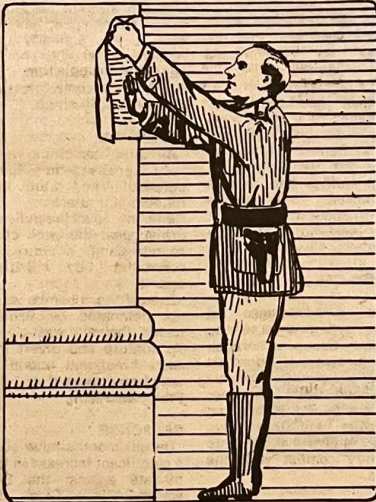
many an occasion he openly attacked the Catholic Bishops of Ireland for what he considered their "anti-nationalism", and opposed their control of the educational system. At a time when such was indeed rare, it required a special courage, which Pearse never lacked throughout his life. His ideas on education are very prevalent today, when we consider the current debate on 'integrated schools', which has been joined by all the leading political parties, including the S.D.L.P. and Alliance. These politicians now see the subject of education as a scapegoat for the present social unrest in the occupied-area, and have given no mention to the need to preserve our separate identity in the cultural sense. In fact this omission is quite deliberate, in that they would have as their objective an educational system which would ignore Irish culture and produce little west-Britons, who could read, write and count so as to serve the interests of the exploiting class. Certainly if Pearse was with us to-day, he would have a great deal to say on this subject, and would warn us all against this new liberalism which could well be the death-knell of our language, culture and games.

a great historic truth, namely, that in Ireland "the gentry" (as they affect to call themselves) have uniformly been corrupted by England, and the merchants and middle-class capitalists have, when not corrupted, been uniformly intimidated, whereas the common people have for the most part remained unthought and unterrified. It is, in fact, true that the repositories of the Irish tradition, as well the spiritual tradition of nationality as the kindred tradition of stubborn physical resistance to England, have been the great, splendid, faithful, common people that dumb multitudinous throng which sorrowed during the Penal night, which bled in '98, which starved in the famine; and which is here still-what is left of it-unthought and unterrified. Let no man be mistaken as to who will be Lord in Ireland when Ireland is free. The people will be lord and master".

by Scopoli Derry

It is significant that Pearse, and all the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation took a progressive position during the 1913 Lock Out in Dublin, when workers were fighting for the right to organise within trade unions. The press at that period, controlled by the employers of the city, and the clergy, manipulated by them, ranted and raved against Connolly and Larkin whom they labelled as "Bolsheviks", "terrorists" and "subversives" etc. etc. It is significant, in that all the forces of the establishment were arrayed against the trade unionists and that even Arthur Griffith, the founder of Sinn Féin, and the nationalist John Redmond lined up alongside the employers against the workers. Griffith even went so far as to call on the British Government to use force to get the strikers back to work, and remained silent as hired gangs and the R.I.C. attacked pickets and street meetings, and wrecked homes, so as to intimidate the workers. When one begins to see how much the signatories of the Proclamation had in common, it is not difficult to realise how they became such close allies in the struggle against imperialism. None of them could be considered 'romantics' when faced with the realities of social and economic conditions in the first quarter of the twentieth century, in Ireland.

When the names of Conor Cruise, John Hume, and Cosgrave and Cooney are long forgotten and the attempts of the neo-Redmondites have failed, the name of P.H. Pearse will still tower above them in the pages of our country's history.



P. H. PEARSE DECLARING THE REPUBLIC 1916

NEO-REDMONDISM.

P.H. Pearse has been singled out for very special treatment by the myth-makers, and this is no accident because of his place in Irish history. He was foremost in those who spoke, wrote agitated, drilled, trained, and eventually ended his life at the age of 36, as did his brother William, before an imperialist firing squad. Initially these neo-Redmondites were quite content to brand Pearse as 'a romantic', but since the early 1970's the crude attempts of Frank Shaw to discredit this martyr, have been replaced by the polished Conor Cruise and John Hume, who are anxious to combat the ideology of Pearse at a time when imperialism is being resisted.

They argue for changes in the educational system, and their position on media censorship can only be described as the antics of desperate reactionaries who have a vested interest in the continuing status quo. These elements use the language of the academic in their fee-paid articles, radio programmes and T.V. appearances, but their polite use of language is hardly adequate to disguise their motives. Like all conservatives, they fear change, but above all they must project themselves as 'reasonable men', having the 'best interests of the people' at heart. Their 'moderation' includes the expansion of NATO, the continuation of the EEC, the loss of national sovereignty, the export of our

immunity, which could at a future date involve the loss of Irish lives in an effort to maintain such a military and economic union of capitalist states.

EDUCATION.

P.H. Pearse was a man of many talents. He realised the need to be actively involved in various aspects of national life. In the sphere of education he had a very definite set of values, and seen the need for mass educational endeavours such as speaking in public, writing articles and pamphlets, taking part in the running of revolutionary journals, promoting the revival of the language, and by establishing a lay school. On

THE PEOPLE.

In recent times, particularly since the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the 1916 Rebellion, the relationship between the I.R.B. and the Citizen Army from 1913 onwards is gradually being understood. In particular the development of the bonds between Pearse and Connolly during those years has not been fully explored, but it would seem from the writing of Pearse that he had embraced much of Connolly's ideology. In his last work, **THE SOVEREIGN PEOPLE**, he had this to say... "I assert then, the divine right of the people... God's grant to Adam and his poor children for ever... to have and to hold this good green earth. And I assert the sovereignty and the sanctity of the nations, which are the people embodied and organised. The nation is the natural division, as natural as the family, and as inevitable. That is one reason why a nation is holy and why an empire is not holy. A nation is knit together by natural ties, ties mystic and spiritual, and ties human and kindly: an Empire is at best held by ties of mutual interest, and at worse by brute force. The nation is the family enlarged: an Empire is a commercial corporation enlarged.

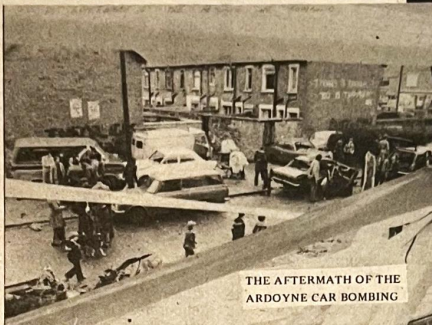
"Tone had appealed to 'that numerous and respectable class', and in that gallant and characteristic phrase he had revealed his perception of

by Peter Dowling

BRITISH COUNTER GANGS

Three recent bombings are typical of British terror tactics in Ireland. Such atrocities are approved by routine strokes of the pen by the war-lords sitting in Westminster.

First was the fire-bombing of several Dublin stores on Saturday 9th April. Second was the Beechmount bomb attack on those watching the Stick Easter Parade. Third was the Ardoyne bomb attack on the mourners at Trevor McKibbin's funeral.



THE AFTERMATH OF THE ARDOYNE CAR BOMBING

ARMED CONFLICT.

The prime intention of these three bombings is crystal clear.

They were meant to draw the Provos into armed conflict with the Free State, the Sticks, and the Loyalists respectively. But we are hardly going to fall into such traps. At this stage of the war only the British could gain from such conflicts.

Such provocations could have been carried out by three different types of gang. They are as follows.

BRITS

Gangs of Type-One are British Army Special Operations Forces. These special operations units are drawn from both the SAS and other specialist forces. They are small units of regular British soldiers operating from barracks.

The London 'Sunday Times' of March 13th reported on the tip of the iceberg of their activities. It reported that special teams of paratroopers had been issued with plastic explosives. They had been ordered to 'cause confusion' and discredit the Provos who would be blamed for their explosions.

LOYALISTS

Gangs of Type-Two are Loyalist paramilitary groups such as the UVF, Tara and the Red Hand Commandos. These gangs form the ugly face of the Orange Frankenstein depraved through bloodlust. They are drawn from the most bigoted parts of the Loyalist community. Their purpose is to maintain the Protestant Ascendancy by intimidating Catholics.

COUNTER-GANGS

Gangs of Type-Three are both Loyalist gangs infiltrated by the British and 'mixed' gangs set-up from scratch by the British. The most notorious example is the UVF.

Such gangs are now drawn just from Loyalist areas. A year ago the Belfast Brigade executed a man from Andersonstown who was working for the British Army in a gang with contacts in Loyalist and Nationalist areas. In British military circles such counter-insurgency groups are called 'counter-gangs'.

Their use in Kenya is explained by General Kitson in his book 'Gangs and Counter-Gangs'. Counter-gangs are basically 'armed groups of 'locals', operating outside of the 'normal security

forces', but directly controlled by the British army.

Such groups are necessary to the British for a number of reasons.

EXPOSED

This disadvantages of the Type-one are obvious. Regular British Soldiers might be caught or killed in the act of assassination or bombing. A soldier might even repent and 'spill the beans'. In either case British army dirty-tricks might be exposed.

In fact this has already happened in a small way. Five years ago it came out in the Belfast magistrates court that two soldiers in plain clothes had used a Thompson sub-machine gun to shoot at a group of men here in Andersonstown.

MANIACAL

The disadvantages of gang type-two are also obvious. Groups of enraged Orangemen cannot be relied upon to operate precisely how and when required. Their maniacal actions can back-fire and they have been known to get into military combat with the Brits.

BLACKMAIL

In contrast gangs of type-

three have big advantages. Their murderous actions can be controlled precisely. If caught or killed there is no obvious connection between their foul deeds and the British. Gang members who outlive their usefulness are ruthlessly 'eliminated' or generously pensioned off. Their local knowledge and ability to merge with 'the natives' are vital to their success. Blackmail and high financial rewards mix with quisling-mentality as the driving force of such gangs.

PROVOCATIONS

This brings us back to the Dublin, Beechmount and Ardoyne bombings. Evidence points to all three provocations being the work of this latter type of gang, the British counter-gang.

The Dublin fire-bombs were reported to be similar to bombs used by the Provos. It is not outrageous to assume that these devices were supplied by the British army given that the Loyalists have never excelled themselves in technical innovations.

Beechmount on Easter Sunday was a bit too 'cheeky' for Loyalists. Their mentality would dictate that the area was seething with IRA men. Not the kind of target a purely Orange gang has the guts to hit. Similarly the Ardoyne funeral bomb bears the hallmark of British hypocrisy rather than Loyalist outrage.

DIVERSION

All three bombings were very precise in their purpose. They were not random attacks on Catholics. So all the indicators suggest the work of a counter-gang directly controlled by British agents.

Even if these bombs were not detonated by British hands their aim was clear. To confuse and divert the current national liberation war being waged by the Provisional IRA.

RESPONSE

Recent months have seen a significant increase in the hit-rate against the Brit war-machine. Thus the response of the Dublin, Beechmount and Ardoyne

bombings. However the Army Council and Belfast Brigade have made our position clear.

We refuse to be deflected from the urgent task of cleansing the country of the British presence. Too much has been learnt during the eight years of war to fall for these dirty-tricks developed in the heart of 'Merry England' at the Joint Warfare Establishment at Old Sarum in Wiltshire.

INTENSIFY

We will not be led by British tricks into military conflict with the Free State. There will be no assassinations of Protestants. There will be no feud with the Sticks. Instead, the war against the barbaric Brit war-machine will proceed, not just as usual, but will be intensified. The only lasting defence against fresh British atrocities will be the setting-up of a 32-county Socialist Republic.

TRADE UNION COMMITTEE AGAINST THE P.O.T. ACT.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act was introduced in March 1975 in the belief that it would prevent the bombings.

Since then, nearly 2500 people have been held under the Act; mostly Irish, but also some British Trade Unionists involved in the Irish question. Less than 5% have been charged with any offence, and only two under the Act itself. However, over 100 people have been deported and many Irish Trade Unionists have been victimised. Many Irish homes have been raided as well.

For example, Louise Cunningham, aged 12, was taken from her school by the police whilst her parents were in custody. She was interrogated for some hours until finally released to stay with relatives. It was only due to the action of her teacher that the Special Branch were prevented from picking her up the following evening.

Joe Gallagher, a member of Blatchley Trades Council, and A UCATT shop/steward was actually served with a deportation order, but with support from the local Trade Union and Labour Movement this was withdrawn. Even though he was found guilty of nothing he had to pay £300 costs and has been unable to get a job since.

This type of victimisation is undermining the basic right of Irish workers to be active in their respective Trade Unions, or political organisations. This is a right that workers have won after years of struggle, we appeal to you to protect that right.



On Saturday, April 17th in Newport Beach, California, the United States clinched the American Zone final of the Davis Cup Tennis Tournament defeating South Africa.

Outside the Tennis Club at Newport Beach, approximately 800 demonstrators picketed against South Africa's racial policies, all part of the Committee to Stop the U.S.-South Africa Tennis Match.

Irish group demonstrate against U.S. - S. Africa tennis tournament

The Friends of Ireland, a Los Angeles based Irish coalition marched with the demonstrators carrying signs and banners reading "Free South Africa and Ireland" and "Belfast and Soweto-Same Struggle."

Leaders of the demonstration said their aim was to direct attention to "the injustice of apartheid."

Police arrested two Los

Angeles men Saturday the 17th for allegedly tossing oil on the tennis court, and ten men and women the following Sunday. The ten were arrested for trespassing when they attempted a sitdown on the court as the matches were about to begin. In both cases the protesters were attacked by Tony Trabert, American team captain.

Photos: Richard Johnston.

CENSORSHIP AND THE MEDIA

by

Richard McAULEY

In a recent article Jonathan Dimbleby, a free lance British journalist with a very respected reputation, talked about British media coverage of the War of Liberation and the thorny question of censorship. He said, "Reporters find themselves under enormous psychological pressure operating within an atmosphere which makes it very difficult to apply normal integrity of judgement on the situation in Northern Ireland. That is self censorship. On top of that there is an institutional censorship, not a government instruction, but by those who control the media and Independent Broadcasting Authority or senior B.B.C. executives. They impose a degree of rigour which if they imposed it in other areas of broadcasting - would make journalism all but impossible."

As a direct consequence of this censorship an organisation made up of conscientious journalists, called Free Speech on Ireland, was formed to highlight the censorship problem and to force the media to undertake programmes of the type Dimbleby himself thought necessary; "I would do an objective account of the history of the conflict. An objective account of Northern Ireland would show two things: that historically it is a colonial issue and that the behaviour of England in Ireland over the past 400 years has been one which has disgraced our name....To do an accurate history of Northern Ireland calls into question the role of the State, the police and the army in Northern Ireland."

Those few quotations from Mr. Dimbleby's interview should explain to you the reader why it is such programmes have never been undertaken. Britain cannot afford to allow the question of her dealings with Irish people over the last centuries to come under close scrutiny. To allow that would mean revealing to the world the true situation in Ireland, for example the British Army's role. It would mean that the oft repeated claims by Westminster that the British Army is a "peace keeping force" and that the conflict is "sectarian" would be laid bare for all the world to recognise as the lies they undoubtedly are. (Working from Mr. Dimbleby's first premise that the conflict here is colonial in nature, it would therefore be impossible to describe the occupying army - the Brits - as a "peace keeping force".)

A few months ago a delegate from the Helsinki World Peace Conference visited Ireland to examine the aims and objectives of the "Peace Movement" then at the height of its power. After considerable research on his part the delegate reported, not only that the "Peace Movement" was "naïve" but also that the "British are not a peace keeping force in Northern Ireland. They are an army of occupation."

If as a result of some weeks work this gentleman was able to reach that conclusion how then would the British public react to a media which examined the Liberation struggle on the two principles Mr. Dimbleby outlined i.e. that it

By a strange quirk of fate, in the same week that Sam Silkin has been busy trying to defend Britain's use of Torture in the 6 counties at the Strasbourg court, the Northern Ireland High Court awarded the Norney family of Turf Lodge £3,000 as compensation for the death of their son two years ago at the hands of the Black Watch. In Strasbourg the Brits have gone to great lengths to try and prove to the world that the torture which took place did so without the approval or sanction of the British government. They have also attempted to claim that the occupation forces are accountable to the 'law' for their actions. On the first point, that of government responsibility for the use of torture, anyone who has even a slight knowledge of the facts which have emerged in Strasbourg know that the Irish people were being, and still are being used as guinea pigs by British interrogators.

The Leo Norney Case however completely destroys the second assertion of Sam Silkin i.e. that the "security forces" can be held responsible for their activities. Here in the Leo Norney affair we have the case of a totally innocent young man on his way to his girlfriends



LEO NORNEY (17 years) KILLED BY
BLACK WATCH REGIMENT 13 SEPT 1975.

home, shot dead by British troops and then alleged to be a member of the IRA. For two years the British establishment both here and in England attempted to cover up this murder, after all they have had considerable success in other similar cases. Two years later however they have been forced to admit

publicly that Leo Norney was an innocent victim.

The repeated calls by establishment figures, whether clergy or politician, certainly ring hollow when one remembers this case and that of Paddy McIlhane and others. British Justice? It doesn't exist.

Long Kesh

is a colonial struggle and the behaviour of Britain in Ireland is something to be ashamed of.

Since the beginning of this present phase in the struggle for Liberation the British have censored the facts concerning their occupation and have distorted what little information they have allowed to filter out. Generally we in the occupied part of Ireland through our daily involvement with the British army, and with the British economic and political system (a system which has laid to massive unemployment and poverty) are aware of the truth. Sometimes, however so well have we been conditioned by the British system that even we do not recognise the truth until someone points it out to us.

We, therefore, who are aware of the facts must do

all in our power to explain to the people of Ireland, Britain and the world what is happening here; we must not allow British censorship to defeat us.

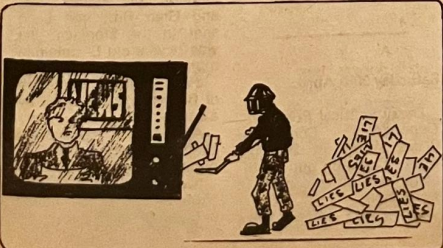
P.S.: Censorship is undoubtedly a problem on the outside. However, here in Long Kesh it reaches ludicrous proportions. Last week for example, I had 3 papers sent into me - Republican News, Unfree Citizen and Andersonstown News - All 3 were stopped by the Prison Authorities.

When I asked for an explanation I was told that all 3 "mentioned" the "security forces". It was then pointed out to the Assistant Governor that all national papers, including Brit papers had recently carried reports on the bomb squad which had been found guilty of looting and that these papers had not been stopped. He shrugged his shoulders.

Cathal Brugha Accordian Band

THE COMMITTEE
AND
MEMBERS OF
THE CATHAL
BRUGHA ACCORDIAN
BAND, WISH TO
THANKS ALL
THOSE WHO MADE
DONATIONS
TOWARDS THEIR
TRIP TO
AMERICA, ON ST
PATRICK'S DAY
WHICH WAS A GREAT
SUCCESS.

A Sincere Thank You!



DIARY OF EVENTS

Thursday 21st April

-18 year old Sean Mac Bride, critically injured yesterday in Etna Drive bombing, dies in hospital.
-one man dies, 2 slightly wounded in shooting attack on 4 people in Shankill area. Claimed by 'Republican Action Force', which states it has no connection with IRA.
-In Suffolk, member of Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve injured in shooting; in Ulster Ave., son of a part-time UDR man shot. Both attacks claimed by Belfast Brigade, IRA. In Ulster Ave. attack, son of UDR man was shot 'because he interfered with the Volunteers'.
-In St. James' area, a riot starts when Brits attacked women who were protesting in the usual fashion against harassment by troops. A schoolgirl is brought to hospital.

Friday 22nd April

-a Catholic worker shot at on a Sandy Row building site. Ill in hospital.
-In NewBarnsley, protest against British Army harassment. Later, a land mine explodes, a British soldier is seriously injured. Belfast Brigade claims responsibility.
-hunger-strikers in Curragh stop fast, after visit of auxiliary Bishop of Dublin Cavanagh. It is however understood that various organisations now concerned with the plight of prisoners in Portlaoise will take up their claim for an independent enquiry into conditions.
-2 incendiary devices destroy shops in a Derry shopping arcade, near Craigavon Bridge, shortly after 4.30 pm. A warning was phoned. No casualties.
-Free State Gvt. abstains at Geneva conference about the right of guerrillas to POW status.
-5 in court after funeral attendance for supposedly wearing uniforms; 3 are charged with membership of IRA.
-House in Finaghy Road North attacked by bomb thrown from passing car.
-later, in same area (Andersonstown), British troops fire rubber bullets on a crowd. Several people arrested.

Sunday 23rd April

-10 people charged for riotous behaviour, 12 for disorderly behaviour after clash in Finaghy Road last night.
-Airey Neave calls for '3rd force' to 'mop up' republican areas.
-In Craigavon, a gun attack on a Catholic pub leaves one dead, 7 injured. The gunman escapes on motorbike.
-a Lenadon man is shot dead by Brits. He is volunteer Brendan

O'Callaghan, 1st Battalion, Belfast Brigade, IRA, and was operating a patrol to protect the area against British Army and Loyalist counter-gangs.

Sunday 24th April

-The Sunday papers carry rumours of a Loyalist stoppage, 1974-style.
-the IRA attacks the occupation forces in Andersonstown.
-at night, Brits attacked again by the IRA in Turf Lodge. Later, the Brits attack crowd of civilians, firing plastic bullets.
-In Newry, the IRA claims a fire-bomb attack on a shop.
-IRA attacks Warrenpoint Harbour from Omearth, with mortars (Warrenpoint used by the Brits as a base)
-in Norglen Road, Brits attack a crowd of youths with plastic bullets. 4 youths arrested.
-Catholic church in Dungiven damaged by a bomb

Monday 25th April

-trial starts today of the British paratrooper who murdered Majella O'Hare last summer.
-the 'strike': the rumour spreads. Mason meets the leaders of Orange Order on 'security', and stresses there will be no change in Gvt policy.
-Leo Norney's mother appeals for justice, and announces she will go to Strasbourg, and an international conference in Warsaw to publicise her son's case.
-in Dublin, Supreme Court reopens case of Marie Murray, by hearing the witnesses.
-one of the 19 Portlaoise escapees who blasted their way out in 74, is found in Portadown (Thornberry).
-a shop in Coleraine is destroyed by a bomb.
-Relatives' Action Committee holds a meeting in St. James, Belfast.
-at a meeting in Ardoyne, called for by Ex-Prisoners Association and Sinn Fein, several hundred people claim solidarity with Republican POWs in their fight for political status.
-Relatives' Action Committee describes the conditions of H Block and explain the claim for political status to two French lawyers, Zibie and Tubiana, from the Mouvement d'Action Judiciaire (progressive movement for legal justice). These lawyers were in Ireland to attend Marie Murray's retrial, and to get the facts on Portlaoise and on the suppression of political status.
-a bomb destroys a Catholic church in Carrickmannon (North Down).

Tuesday 26th April

-Belfast Newsletter publishes ad by the U.U.

Action Council, launching an ultimatum of 7 days to Mason. The UUAC includes various Loyalist gangs, the DUP, the UWC... They demand to be handed back 'security' operations and their old Stormont.

-April's jobless in 6 Cos. total 56,615 (near 11% of insured working population).

-after the funeral of Vol. Brendan O'Callaghan, youths are arrested for supposedly wearing uniforms. Their parents complain that they are not allowed with them in to Castlereagh Torture Centre.
-Belfast Brigade IRA Volunteers attack British Army Saracen on Springfield Road. The rocket was deflected and hit the wall of a house. No casualties.
-Catholic worker is gunned down in Shankill area.
-Liam Cosgrave categorically rejects enquiry on prisons.
-bomb attack on the home of a screw in Antrim Rd area, later claimed by the Belfast Brigade IRA.
-Gun attack on Andersonstown RUC Station.

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Wednesday 27th April

-Provisional Sinn Fein announces they will not take part in local elections in North.
-Free State Gvt sends extradition order for Thornberry (see last Monday).
-while the deadline for the UUAC stoppage draws nearer, contracts for two ships come to Belfast shipyard (coincidental?). Mason warns that 'strike' will wreck economy and 'will be resisted'.
-pro-British respectable establishment (ICTU, TUC, Alliance, SDLP, Orange Order...) protest to Mason against threatened 'coup'.
-Mason announces that the number of SAS operating in 6 Cos. has been doubled now.
-USC case is adjourned until June, while UUAC stages demonstration outside Dungannon court. Later, claims were made that USC roadblocks have been operated at night in Dungannon area.

Thursday 28th April

-2 shops in Derry destroyed by incendiary devices, at dawn.
-the Loyalist 'strike' is condemned in Westminster. British Gvt. envisage flying more troops to Ireland and declaring a state of emergency.
-the Mayor of Derry quits Nationalist Party because of its involvement with the Irish Front, which includes Provisional Sinn Fein, IRSP, etc....
-Amnesty International expresses its concern over ill-treatment of prisoners in 26 Cos.
-the Republican Move-

ment pledges assistance to Nationalist areas in case of Loyalist stoppage, and invites the population to mobilise and organise. Shops are warned not to put their prices up.

-in court, a man claims he was arrested by the SAS in the 26 Cos., handed over to the British Army in the North, then made to sign a statement under duress.

-Dramatic turn in Marie Murray's retrial in Dublin. Garda witness now unsure of calibre of gun used, and unsure whether Marie Murray signed statement to protect her husband...

-at University Rd. Pub which had been bombed last year by Loyalists is bombed again. This time, no casualties.

Friday 29th April

-Paisley now advocates passive resistance to British Gvt. - 'rates and rents strike'.

-Mason announces emergency measures (extra troops brought in, UDR mobilised) and pledges to maintain essential services.

-IRA attack plain clothes RUC on Falls Rd. 15 shots strike RUC and a number of other shots hit a stationary vehicle.

-200 UDA men arrive from Scotland. More are said to be expected.

-at Cookstown Bacon Factory, over a hundred workers stage an hour and a half token strike in support of Monday night's UUAC stoppage.

-2 buses are badly damaged in Oxford St. Belfast depot.

-Bill Craig is called back to Belfast to try and talk the UUAC leaders into cancelling action.

-UDR captain Eric Shields is killed by IRA in Dungannon.

-10 shots are fired at occupation forces south of Dungannon.

-several hundred women from St. James' Belast, picket Springfield Rd RUC Station, after the arrest by the Brits of two women who were protesting with others against British Army harassment in the area. Brits had then attacked the protesters in the street, firing rubber bullets, and the two arrests had been made.

Saturday 30th April

-Derry Political Prisoners' Dependents' Committee urges voters in 26 Cos. to put Coalition out for ill-treatment of prisoners in Portlaoise.

-the Lenin Peace Prize

is awarded to Sean Mac Bride.

-more about the 'strike' Paisley threatens to quit if 'strike' bid fails. There are rumours of planned putsch by UUAC.

-a Derry shop is damaged by incendiary device.

-while RUC are detaining a pregnant woman from Ballymurphy in Castle-reagh Torture Centre, women picket Springfield Rd Barracks, to protest against harassment in area.
-reports come in of a riot in Long Kesh Concentration Camp, between Republican prisoners and Screws.

Sunday 1st May

-more troops are flown by British Gvt. to 6 Cos (2 Batt. 1200 men).
-several hundreds take part in rally in Clonard, Belfast, for political status.

Monday 2nd May

-while deadline for Loyalist stoppage draws closer, housewives stock food.

-Majella O'Hare's murderer is acquitted in court. The thesis of the 'gunman behind the hedge' has been accepted. Fr. Faul and Fr. Murray voice the indignation of the people at the verdict, saying that now the people have come to expect that no member of the RUC or the British Army will ever be charged for crimes such as this one.
-at night, 3 shops in North Street, Belfast, including Woolworth, are badly damaged by incendiary devices.

-four Loyalists stopped at checkpoint outside Belfast. In their possession are seven rifles. Obviously Loyalists are moving arms and ammunition into Belfast from dumps in South Antrim.

Tuesday 3rd May

-on the first day of the UUAC 'strike', although many people have attempted to reach work, reports come in of widespread intimidation and, later in the day, the RUC's inefficiency to deal with these complaints. A few roads have been blocked. The Larne-Belfast railway line has been destroyed by a bomb. At night, industrialists call for 'higher profile' by British Army...

-in Dublin Supreme Court, Marie Murray gets a life sentence for 'simple murder' of Garda Reynolds - body of a man found at junction of Suffolk Rd. and Glen Rd.; had been shot in the stomach. He was 24 year old E. Coleman married with two children.

-a warehouse in the centre of Belfast was damaged by a bomb.

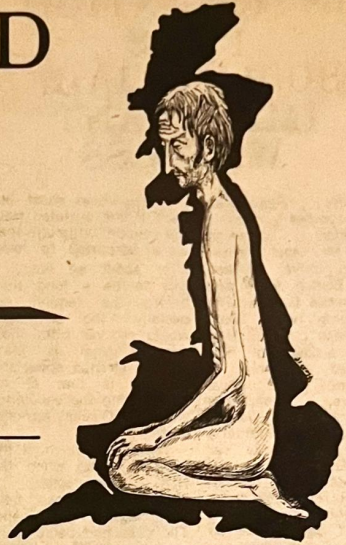
-Ardoyne community shop damaged by bomb at night.

-two Loyalists get life for triple murder at farmhouse in Ligoniel last summer.

PRISONERS AID COMMITTEE EXPOSE DEVLIN

By

Jacqueline Kaye



Dear Sir,
I have recently had drawn to my attention a copy of the text of a letter from Paddy Devlin to Willi Brandt in his capacity as President of the Socialist International. The letter is a plea for Mr. Brandt to take up the cases of Irish political prisoners who are being ill-treated in English jails, and it has received some publicity in Irish papers at least. The body of the information contained in the letter derives from that distributed by the PAC over the last few years. Several paragraphs are in fact verbatim quotes from our advert which appeared recently in The Irish News and Hibernia and another part quotes a Law Guardian Gazette article which was based in its entirety on case histories built up by the

PAC. A medical report which first appeared in Republican News is quoted. Mr. Devlin neither refers to his sources nor does he mention the PAC at all. Instead he refers Mr. Brandt to the work of Amnesty International on behalf of Irish prisoners. This is surprising in view of the fact that the only Irish prisoners whose cases Amnesty has taken up are the six prisoners injured in Albany. The report which Amnesty published with the Howard League and the National Council for Civil Liberties was undertaken at the suggestion of the PAC.

Mr. Devlin has appended to his letter a xerox of a page of our magazine, The Irish Prisoner, giving a list of Irish prisoners in England. This again is un-

acknowledged. He has also appended the text of two private letters from Frank Maguire MP and Harry Fell to Paul O'Dwyer. I have been assured that he did not request permission to publish copies of these letters to a third party.

Mr. Devlin's interest in and concern for Irish political prisoners in England is to be welcomed. He is one of the few members of the SDLP who have shown such concern. However, his letter to Mr. Brandt is worrying in many ways.

1. His ignorance of the facts of the situation except what he has gleaned from other sources has led him into making grave mistakes, e.g. his claim that Irish prisoners are the only prisoners who are Category A.

2. His desire to impress the situation upon Mr. Brandt has led him to assert that "Pre-trial detention of Irish prisoners... contains more torture devices than were found in Hitler's concentration camp". This ludicrous statement is not only an insult to Mr. Brandt's knowledge of his own country's history but is one which I feel sure not a single prisoner would support. The effect of such exaggeration can only be to discredit and undermine their whole case.

3. The letter is written on SDLP notepaper. Does it mean that it represents SDLP policy? If so, has Mr. Devlin informed his party leaders? In my personal experience Mr. Fitt has refused to help any

Irish political prisoners, including his own constituents. He refused help to Dolours and Marian Price when they were on hunger strike and has helped no-one since.

4. Mr. Devlin took a part in the hunger strike and visited Dolours and Marian in Brixton. He has not, as far as I am aware, set foot in an English prison since. This contrasts with the record of Frank Maguire who has visited seven top security English prisons, some more than once, in his term of office as MP and who has written literally hundreds of letters to Irish political prisoners, advising them on their conditions. If Mr. Devlin were to emulate this he would be able to gather first hand information which would enable him to avoid not only grossly wrong statements but also errors like naming Shane Paul O'Doherty as "Sean".

Mr. Devlin has received and will continue to receive information from the PAC in the hope that his dissemination of it will be more accurate in future even while its source may continue to be disguised. Our main concern remains the prisoners and their welfare. We have no wish to see any honest effort on their behalf go to waste. They cannot be helped by distorting the facts, by being made pawns in some political game or by obscuring ready access to information. I doubt if Mr. Brandt will get much further if he applies to Amnesty for this. Perhaps Mr. Devlin would tell us exactly why he is so concerned about the treatment of these prisoners and what is the policy of the SDLP towards their demand for transfer to Irish prisons.

Yours etc.,
Jacqueline Kaye

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

H BLOCK

A Chara,

We the Republican remand prisoners C wing, H1 Block Long Kesh, would like this opportunity through your paper to let the public know of the conditions for remand prisoners. While the N.I.O. refuse to acknowledge segregation of Loyalist/and Republicans, sectarian discrimination is taking place on this wing. An agreement with the Loyalists was entered into some four weeks ago, allowing them to have their exercise and meals one day, and Republicans the next day, and so forth. The authorities have tried their best to break this arrangement by threatening the removal of exercise and association time, (which is the time all-

owed at the end of the evening meal, during which prisoners can watch the T.V. and talk to their friends in the canteen). Presently the prison staff are constantly harassing Republicans by allowing us only 1 and a half hours out of the cell on our day out, while Loyalists get the maximum 4 hours on their day. Once again Republicans are in the fore-front in the fight for Political Status and segregation. We would also like to bring to your attention, the medical facilities in this wing, where the doctor leaves medical assessment and diagnosis to unqualified medical orderlies who are nothing more than Screws dressed

in white coats. We quote the example of a prisoner who recently received a 'deep cut' in his forehead requiring stitches, yet when he went to the doctor he was told by the doctor that he had no time to look at it. If this is the treatment that remand prisoners are receiving, we hate to think what the conditions are like for our comrades who are sentenced and on the blanket.

Is Mise
P.R.O. H. Block,

Youth Beaten

We have been asked to release the following supplied statement from the Sinn Féin centre Falls Rd.

At 25 minutes past twelve on Saturday night (30th April) Danny Mc Cooney and a friend left the three C's Club in King Street Belfast. After leaving the club Danny and his friend made their way round to Castle Street to get a Taxi home, on the way round they were stopped by British soldiers. The soldiers started to abuse Danny's friend. It was then that Danny intervened to help his friend and cool down the situation. Danny was then set upon by the British soldiers and given a very severe beating. At 2.50 a.m. on Sunday morning he was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital where he underwent an operation. Danny is now in the intensive care ward of the Royal and the doctors have told his family that the situation is now touch and go.

INTIMIDATION FAILS SO R.U.C. JAIL IMPORTANT WITNESS

Recently 'Republican News' reported a massive intimidation campaign against Mr. Noel Owens, of Horn Drive, Belfast, by the British Army and RUC Special Branch. The intimidation began when Mr. Owens gave an eye-witness account of how uniformed members of the Kings Own Royal Borderers, deliriously drunk, shot and wounded Miss Kathleen Doherty as she sat in her car in Horn Drive.

It was Mr. Owens' refusal to retract his statement which prompted a series of dawn raids on his home after which he was systematically arrested and held for "security screening." In one notorious episode, Noel, his wife, and his three young children were stopped on the Shaw's Road, Andersonstown, as they were driving off on a shopping trip. Their car was escorted convoy-style to the British Installation in Musgrave Park—a sinister move in itself, since people seized in this area are invariably taken to Fort Monagh. At Musgrave a British Army Military Policeman entered their car, and, to the horror of the three children, produced an automatic pistol and held it against Mrs. Owens' head. He ordered her to drive to the Short Strand Fort with the clear instruction

that he would shoot her dead if she deviated from the column. Although they were permitted to leave after about an hour, it was to be a long time before the family, especially the children, would recover from their ordeal. What is particularly strange about the incident is that at no time during the encounter were the Owens' formally arrested.

The final crunch of the jackboot came when the RUC 'resurrected' a charge of riotous behaviour against Mr. Owens. The case had been heard some eighteen months earlier, but, at some time in between, all the prosecution witnesses, members of the Black Watch, had been tried and found guilty of falsifying evidence by "planting" ammunition on suspects. All the witnesses were serving prison sentences at the

time of Mr. Owens' appeal hearing, but nevertheless they were brought from jail to testify against him. The appeal judge upheld the nine month sentence imposed at the earlier hearing and Mr. Owens is now behind bars—where the RUC Special Branch told him he would be if he failed to retract his statement against the Brits.

RESIDENTS OF DERRYBEG ESTATE ADMIRE THE PLAQUE MADE BY A FEW YOUTHS FROM DERRYBEG.

THE PLAQUE REMAINED ON THE WALL FOR TWO DAYS BEFORE IT WAS STOLEN



THE PLAQUE WAS MADE IN HONOUR OF TWO VOLS.

Captain. PAT HUGHES

AND HIS SON

VOL. MICHAEL HUGHES.

Brits out rally

Kilkenny.
Sunday May 22nd
Assemble Railway Station
at 3.00 p.m.
organised by
Leinster Executive S.F.
and Kilkenny C.C.

SYMPATHY

Paddy Donaghy An App-
reciation.

The late Paddy Donaghy who died suddenly in Bray on Easter Saturday was a life long Republican and a native of Cooley Co. Louth. While working in London he was arrested in July 1939, tried at the Old Bailey and sentenced to 20 years Penal Servitude for his part in the IRA Campaign of that time. Most of this long sentence was served in Dartmoor and Parkhurst Penal Prisons.

On his release he was deported back to Ireland and spent the remaining years of his life in Dublin. The remains were taken from Bray covered with the National Flag and accompanied by his Republican Comrades from Dublin and Dundalk to Kil-

wirra cemetery where he was laid to rest in his native Cooley. A short oration was given by Dick Mulready.

George Nolan (St. Albans).

The Committee, Members and Supporters of Provisional Sinn Fein St. Albans, (Hertfordshire) regret the passing of the Late Vol. George Nolan, (Formerly of Nenagh Co. Tipperary) Sean Oglaigh Na h-Eireann, who died following a short illness in St. Albans City Hospital on April 29th. A wreath was laid on the grave on behalf of the Home Counties Comh. Ceannairt, by Noel Lysaght, Chairman of St. Albans Sinn Fein (Connolly/Keegan Communn).

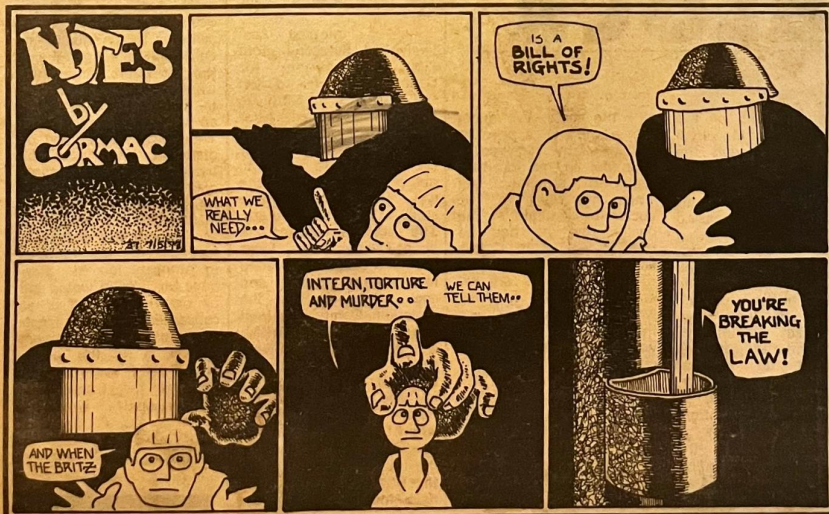
"We may have great men, but we'll never have better"

IN PROUD AND LOVING MEMORY OF VOL TEDDY CAMPBELL 'D' COY 2ND BATT BELFAST BRIGADE DIED MAY 3rd 1974. ALWAYS REMEMBERED BY MRS CAMPBELL AND FAMILY.

IN PROUD AND LOVING MEMORY OF VOL TEDDY CAMPBELL 'D' COY 2ND BATT BELFAST BRIGADE DIED MAY 3rd 1974. ALWAYS REMEMBERED BY HUGHES/BURNS SINN FEIN CUMANN.

In proud and loving memory of
VOL. TEDDY CAMPBELL,
'D' Company, 2nd Batt.,
Belfast Brigade,
died May 3rd, 1974.
Always remembered by the
Officers and Volunteers, 2nd
Batt., Belfast Brigade, Oglaisin
Na h-Eireann.

In proud and loving memory of
VOL. TEDDY CAMPBELL,
'D' Company, 2nd Batt.,
Belfast Brigade,
died May 3rd, 1974.
Always remembered by the
Officers and Volunteers, 2nd
Batt., Belfast Brigade.



O'Callaghan (Brendan)
Vol. We, The Republican POW's 'C' Wing, Crumlin Rd gaol, deeply regret the death of our friend and comrade, Vol. Brendan O'Callaghan, 'F' Coy., 1st Batt., Belfast Brigade, shot dead by British forces of occupation on Saturday 23rd April, 1977, while on active service. You lived, fought and died for the Liberation of the Irish People. Great is the glory of the man who giveth his life for the love of his country. "From the graves of our patriot dead will spring a living nation." To his wife and family we extend our deepest sympathies and offer our sincerest condolences. A true friend of the people, who shall never be forgotten.

Venceremos.