



THE VOICE OF  
REPUBLICAN ULSTER.

# REPUBLICAN NEWS

England/Scotland/Wales 12p PRICE 10p

Vol. 7. No 32. Saturday. August 27th 1977.

THIS STATEMENT WAS HANDED OUT TO THE WORKERS BUILDING THE WALL ON THE FALLS ROAD, AT 1600 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 24), AND WAS THEN RELEASED TO THE PRESS. WE NOW REPRINT IT IN FULL:

## BRITISH ARMY HOSPITAL FORTRESS

"We are intervening at this critical stage and are banning any further brick-laying or perimeter construction. This statement is *an explanation* to the workers here, to the employees inside this British Army hospital-fortress and to the general public.

-IT IS ALSO THE FINAL WARNING TO THE UNREASONABLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES WHO, WHEN APPEALED TO BY A TRADE-UNION FOR A "DE-MILITARISATION", CHOSE TO CONSOLIDATE THE BRITISH ARMY'S MILITARY FOOTHOLD AND LOYALIST SUPREMACY WITH THIS ABOMINABLE STRUCTURE.

These Hospital Authorities WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE by us, and by the workers, and by patients' visitors, for now choosing between working in increasingly dangerous circumstances or demanding from the British Army a complete demilitarisation so that peaceful medical practice can continue.

We have NO INTEREST in the Royal Victoria Hospital complex bar the use the Brits have made and continue to make of it.

The British Army since SEPTEMBER 1969, when they occupied the Broadway buildings, have enjoyed within the grounds and within the buildings surveillance rights, canteen hospitality (and side-ward meals) and military vehicel access rights. It is they who have developed it into a military base.

Hospital supplies and equipment have never interested us. In fact most of the stolen medical supplies have been unearthed in UDA/UVF dumps in Jean Coulter's old constituency.

Innocent Catholics have been murdered by Loyalists operating inside the grounds via the "VILLAGE" entrance. The loyalist "VILLAGE" entrance *is to be open 24 HOURS a day: vehicle access for patients from the FALLS area to be restricted to 8 hours a day.*

This is sectarian, is a sop to Loyalism and was suggested by the Brits. The building of a three quarter mile wall (which takes in the Grosvenor Road/Falls Road) was Brit influenced.

WE ARE NOW HALTING THE BUILDING OF THIS DEPRESSING TEN FOOT HIGH STRUCTURE. It is a Brit symbol of repression, a reminder that the nationalists are to stay on the outside. We allowed it to reach this stage to illustrate to People the sectarian horror it represents.

No worker will lay another brick in this structure, and we shall soon see if the practice of medicine is to COLLABORATE with the practice of repression."

BELFAST BRIGADE, IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY



A DEMOCRACY by definition is an open society; suppression of information within a democratic society is an evil not to be tolerated, demanding where practised the fullest justification.

Broadcasters, reeling from attacks on cherished notions of 'impartiality', 'balance', and 'objectivity', have stoutly rallied to the side of democracy, free speech and the angels. With the fervour of new converts they confess that news and current affairs programmes are biased to democracy. "The broadcasters are operating within a system of parliamentary democracy", as the Annan Report confirms, "and must share its assumptions" [paragraph 12.9]. Dick Francis, BBC Controller Northern Ireland, in his talk to the Royal Institute of International Affairs in February 1977, said "I believe we [the broadcasters] have a contribution to make to the maintenance of democracy, both by providing a forum where harsh differences can be aired, and by reporting and courageously investigating the unpalatable truths which underline the problems in our midst". Annan agrees - it considers that a definition of "due impartiality" (which is a legal obligation laid on broadcasters) includes the transmission of "the widest possible range of views and opinions" (paragraph 17.10).

"... And to those who claimed that a policy of censorship should be imposed in the 'national interest' Kyle retorted that 'There is no higher national interest than avoiding self-deception on Northern Ireland.'"

IRISH TIMES 24.11.71  
(Keith Kyle is a BBC reporter)

It's a comforting thought that such knights in shining armour are zealously guarding democracy while we sleep-through their programmes. But whose and what notion of 'democracy' are they defending? Whose notion of 'free speech', whose notion of "right and wrong" (words used by Dick Francis)?

Fine words come cheap. Northern Ireland was a closed society, ignored by the British media, before conflicts came into the open in 1968. As the conflicts have deepened, and solutions recede further, it's plain that "television has contained its Irish coverage more and more tightly within a catalogue of bomb blasts, casualty figures, and laundry lists of sectarian murders, punctuated by the occasional very special programme" (Chris Dunkley, Financial Times 6.4.77).

But "Northern Ireland is a special case" (paragraph 17.11) we are told. True, it's the only part of the United Kingdom (as presently constituted) where there is a massive permanent armed force. But the crassness of Northern Ireland coverage is no

different from the treatment of issues such as industrial and race relations, justly criticised, as Annan notes (paragraphs 17.16-17.22). It is not an isolated case. W. Stephen

Gilbert (Observer, 5.6.77) convincingly demonstrates how ill-informed was ITV's coverage of the Loyalist strike (and gives the lie to Annan's praise for ITV's more 'adventurous' news and current affairs output in contrast with the BBC's. Annan complacent-

ly excuses "bad news" as being a product of bad journalism, i.e. laziness, incompetence or ignorance. Bad journalism can never be discounted, but alone it is a ludicrously naive and simplistic explanation of the deficiencies in Northern Ireland coverage. If Northern Ireland is a special case, it is because the broadcasters have contrived to make it so. BBC and ITV have both pursued a deliberate systematic policy to suppress information, inevitably distorting information which is available. Small screen therefore equals smokescreen.

Three important films made for television, which attempt to provide a historical or political context for the conflicts

and to present alternative views, have never been shown. Marcel Ophuis' A Sense of Loss was commissioned by the BBC and never transmitted. Kenneth Griffith's Hang Out Your Brightest Colours: The life and death of Michael Collins, made for ATV, was banned. World In Action: South of the Border (Granada), which includes a short sequence of a Republican meeting, was banned on IBA intervention. Made under the existing constraints, the films can hardly be described as revolutionary, undermining the very fabric of democratic society.

In March the nervous BBC did transmit (in Tonight) Keith Kyle's interview with Bernard O'

"Two Forces." In this classic confrontation between the forces of good and evil, Tenniel shows Britannia protecting a distraught Hibernia from a stone-throwing Irish anarchist with repellent features.

Connor, an Enniskillen schoolmaster who alleged he'd suffered brutality at the hands of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The howling that greeted the programme was deafening and sustained. Far from being congratulated for exposing a matter for public concern (despite British Government assurances at Strasbourg, its agents, the RUC, apparently still used torture), the BBC were hysterically attacked by Roy Mason, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Airey Neave, the Opposition spokesman, - and the RUC, who blamed Kyle for the subsequent killing of a policeman by the IRA. Kyle described (in the Guardian, 31.3.77) how rigorously O'Connor's story was checked, and its eventual "reference-up" to higher authorities. "Before the governors decided... That Tonight was correct in transmitting the interview, they had asked for and received a detailed memorandum in which I described every stage of the preparation and production of the interview and the motives that determined every important decision that I made". Annan records the BBC's statement that "in considering what should be broadcast the BBC had intensified the reference-up system; and... that they gave particular consideration to the effect of BBC broadcasts on the army in Northern Ireland" (paragraph 17.11).

If coverage of all issues was subject to such exhaustive (and exhausting) checks, journalism would be impossible. The O'Connor episode proves it is impossible in the Northern Ireland context. It is hardly sur-



Small Screen =  
Smokescreen

A RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON THE FUTURE OF BROADCASTING, CHAIRED BY  
LORD ANNAN

Campaign for  
Free Speech on Ireland



Continued on page 3



Continued from page 2

prising that so many obstacles to reporting responsibility on Northern Ireland conspire to deter all but the persistent, and courageous; that the majority of journalists, producers and editors succumb to an insidious self-censorship-and the illusion that censorship doesn't exist. Who knows how many news and current affairs stories are casually murdered in the mind or left for dead on the cutting room floor?

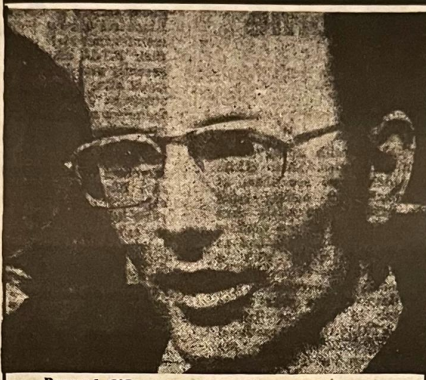
Annan alongside "impartiality" refers to its twin "due accuracy" (both are enshrined in the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act-paragraph 17.6), and conveniently omits to examine the concept further. The exhaustive checks for accuracy applied to O'Connor's allegations did not apply to stories emanating from British Army or Northern Ireland Office sources, swallowed whole by the broadcasters with practised ease. A serious lapse from duty, for they might well have discovered earlier that many stories were "black propaganda", part of a deliberate Army policy to spread falsehood and confusion, as exposed by the press (Sunday Times, 13.3.77) Majella O'Hare, a 13 year old who was shot by a soldier in Armagh in 1976, was according to the army's original statement shot by a "gunman". A bizzare example of a scare story occurred recently-a soldier en route from Paddington to Aldershot was reportedly a victim of the IRA. By the end of that news bulletin he had been discovered alive, well, and happily living in the country, away from army life.

The banner of democracy and of free speech the broadcasters proudly raise is tawdry and tattered, hardly serving, as intended, to disguise their own shortcomings under a cloak of virtue. Maintaining democracy is narrowly interpreted as a negative act of supporting the status quo-a tacit support of the (British) Government (of whatever party) and its policies, and by extension of its Army and their practices. "Nobody is trying to deny us the right to hear television relaying the message of the state. Freedom of speech means the right to hear the other messages, too" (Chris Dunkley, Financial Times 6.4.77).

It might well be concluded that the enemies of the open society are not just the bogeymen in the public glare, but the pen-pushers hiding in the fastnesses of TV Centre and Brompton Road and their satellites.

Courtesy Of  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR FREE  
SPEECH ON IRELAND  
84 Claverton Street,  
London S.W. 1

**The CAMPAIGN FOR FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND**  
is now researching a study of media coverage of the Irish question. If you have any relevant information, including personal experiences, please write to us. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence and all contributors will be consulted before publication.



Bernard O'Connor making his torture claims to B.B.C.'s "Tonight" programme.



Demonstrators protesting against the lack of free speech on Ireland, at the Television Centre.

## QUEENS VISIT PROGRAMME BANNED

Today the Campaign for Free Speech on Ireland releases 'SMALL SCREEN SMOKESCREEN', a response to the report of the Committee on the Future of Broadcasting, chaired by Lord Annan.

Our response has been made all too relevant by the Independent Broadcasting Authority's decision to ban yet again a documentary about the situation in Ireland.

The film, 'Ulster..in Friendship and Forgiveness?' was about the Queen's visit to Northern Ireland. Made by Thames Television's 'This Week' team with reporter Peter

Taylor, it was due to be broadcast throughout Britain and Northern Ireland. It was banned shortly before its transmission time of 8.30 pm on Thursday 18th August and was replaced by a repeat of a film about drinking and driving (also featuring Peter Taylor).

The IBA is said to have objected to a sequence showing a Republican rally (although when the programme makers removed the offending sequence, the IBA still refused to allow the film to be transmitted). They gave the same reason when on 1st November

1971 they banned Granada's

'World in Action' film, 'South of the Border'. (Lord Aylesstone, ITA chairman, said 'South of the Border' was "aiding and abetting the enemy".)

Clearly the IBA is not meeting its obligation under the broadcasting acts to observe "due impartiality" - which, in Annan's words, includes the transmission of "the widest possible range of views and opinions".

More than that, the IBA has suppressed the only TV current affairs programme which attempted an overall assessment of the

Queen's visit to Ireland.

We understand that the film provided valuable information on the context of the visit - information sadly lacking in the proliferation of 'jubilant' coverage.

Once again the IBA is displaying high-handed disregard for editorial freedom; as they told the Guardian, "We have total power. We are the broadcasters."

"They are also showing disdain to be denied full information and background knowledge on one of the most crucial issues facing us in Britain today."

## BOMB IN CRUMLIN JAIL

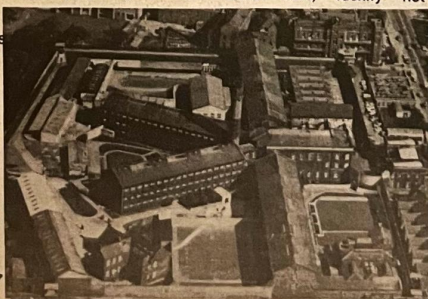
On Thursday 10th Aug 1977. An explosion occurred in the Crumlin Road prison, in which two inmates were hurt; The authorities immediately took action against the three occupants of the cell in which this explosion happened: They deprived the three persons of ALL of their clothing and personal property, and left them naked the only covering being allowed was one blanket to cover themselves.

The truth of this incident is as follows Thursday 18th Aug 1977 was exercise day, (as is generally known exercise days are alternate) C Wing inmates were outside in the exercise yard. After their spell; they were brought back to their respective cells.

The three inmates of the particular cell where the explosion occurred, went

about their normal routine, one was sitting on a bed another was sitting at a table preparing to write

a letter, when there was an awful bang, as stated above two of these people were hurt; luckily not



CRUMLIN ROAD JAIL.

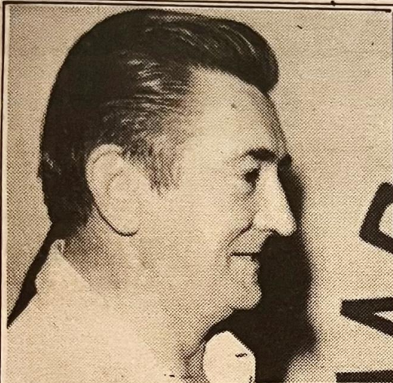
serious.

First impression of one of the inmates was that perhaps a Mortar attack was in progress and he tried to cover himself with a mattress.

The second impression which came to him shortly later, and after some consideration, and which he says; is the only one possible, is that some members of the Loyalist paramilitaries planted the "bomb" in the cell while they were out on exercise; as the doors of the cells are always left open during this period. Failing this, then they say; the 'Bomb' must have been planted by one of the many "Loyal" warders.

This 'Bomb' was meant to kill. In the circumstances it is wished to advise the people and the relatives of the Remand and Sentences inmates to be on their guard against any such "ACCIDENTS" which may occur in the future.





# CHRIS RYDER— SUNDAY TIMES

## THE LATE MR. JACK MCCARTAN.

The article in the 'Sunday Times' 21.8.77 re the murder of Jack McCartan, Manager, Andersonstown Social Club, once again raises the question of the declining integrity of the 'Sunday Times' and it's hack reporters in it's coverage of events in the North.

One can recall the fine work done by the 'Insight' team into the events of 1969-71, also the detailed investigation into Derry's 'Bloody Sunday'. Compare this coverage with this recent blatantly Brit Army 'Hand outs' conveyed by Chris Ryder. This reporter can best be remembered as the person who first floated the allegations (again via courtesy of Brit. Army, Lisburn) of massive financial aid gained by the Provisionals from control of unlicensed drinking

clubs, black taxis and extortion from Housing Executive contractors. He can also be remembered by his unsympathetic article on Maire Drumm (whose hospitality he so often enjoyed). Following her murder he pursued the line taken by the Brits, i.e. that she had become unpopular with the leadership of the Provisionals and was eliminated. This was obviously to detract from the opinion held by so many that she was the victim of an S.A.S./Loyalist murder squad. Is it a coincidence that he puts forward this theory as to the cause of Jack McCartan's death? In his article on Maire Drumm he came up with the smart observation that with the final 'M' in her name obliterated, her name, in reverse read "Murder I am". An observation that amused Brit

Army chiefs but revolted fellow journalists. To return to the Jack McCartan article. Every line, every word, every paragraph has the ring of a Brit Army source about it: An obvious detraction from the accepted fact that he was murdered by the Brits. The same old line, he was murdered by fellow Provisionals because he was becoming too powerful etc." He quotes a police source - "He (McCartan) had a position of power and exploited the hardship of Belfast and the ghettos". He could have attributed the content of the complete article to the same source.

Recently we had an 'exclusive' on the I.R.A. from David Blundy, a colleague of Ryder, and one can safely assume the source from which it was derived was again Brit Army/R.U.C.

Let's have a look at the career of Belfast-born Chris Ryder. An ex-St. Mary's C.B.S. student, he rather fancied himself as a D.J.

in Discos run in the old Plaza ballroom and later in London. His advent to Journalism was via a 'Pop Column' in the now-defunct 'City Week'. To return to the Jack McCartan article. Every line, every word, every paragraph has the ring of a Brit Army source about it: An obvious detraction from the accepted fact that he was murdered by the Brits. The same old line, he was murdered by fellow Provisionals because he was becoming too powerful etc." He quotes a police source - "He (McCartan) had a position of power and exploited the hardship of Belfast and the ghettos". He could have attributed the content of the complete article to the same source.

of some of his 'exclusives'.

At this time he also co-operated with 'Sunday Times' reporters in supplying local knowledge. Following his summary dismissal from the 'Irish Independent' he was employed full time by the 'Sunday Times'. To safeguard this lucrative position he has co-operated with the Brit Army Press Officer and is ever willing to use the columns of his paper to expound Brit propaganda especially in the field of 'Provo bashing'.

## THE LATE MRS. MAIRE DRUMM.



## "GOOD YEAR FOR R.U.C." SAYS NEWMAN— ONLY 23 KILLED

Last Wednesday (17.8.77) Kenneth Newman, head of the RUC, issued his annual report of "successes" and "achievements". However, certain admissions had to be made, the most important of which was the fact that military attacks by the Irish Republican Army rose by 1000 to 8,500. Incidentally these figures don't take into account the recent increases in state forces fatalities, and the decrease in civilian deaths; evidence of an increasing militarisation of the armed struggle and a reluctance of Republican Forces to get drawn into disastrous feuding/Sectarianism.

Belfast Sinn Fein counteracted Englishman Newman's Brit lies with the following statement:

"The Nationalist population and young people drawn from it have had to go through untold suffering so that Kenneth Newman could make his in-

flated boast of RUC 'successes'.

The bulk of these so-called "successes" have been based on the repressive 7-day detention orders and not on people caught in the act of committing political offences. Medical evidence and court statistics show the relationship between RUC interrogation and RUC torture and RUC successes, where 80 per cent of people convicted during the last year for political offences have been sentenced on 'confessions' in the form of signed statements. These statements alone have superceded real evidence (People caught in possession of firearms or explosives, or in the act of committing a felony).

The attempted suicides during interrogation, the admissions to mental hospitals and the overwhelming documentation of the use of torture must be stated alongside Newman's boast."

## Q.U.B. NOTES



As reported in 'Republican News' earlier this year, the CIA and Brit Ministry of Defence have been carrying out and financing various scientific experiments in British universities with a view to furthering their capacity to wage war. Recently a national student newspaper reported on the issue, referring to the fact that much of the work on "sensory deprivation" techniques were pioneered in British colleges, the same as used in the Irish war zone.

### FRESH INFORMATION

And now comes fresh information on the activities of the CIA. It must be emphasised that many of the following techniques were and are being used on Republican prisoners while in custody.

### 15,000,000 RESEARCH PROGRAMME.

The US Central Intelligence Agency have conducted a 25 year £15 million research programme into mind and behaviour control. Eighty institutions, including 44 colleges

and universities and several other US agencies, were involved in the programme. Scientists tested drugs on hundreds of unsuspecting people. At least two died in the tests, and several were seriously enough affected to require hospitalisation. Undoubtedly the most grisly study was a test of a "knockout drug" conducted on advanced cancer patients.

### USE OF DRUGS.

Detailed information on these activities has come after a two - year legal battle. The cover was blown to reveal the CIA use of drugs, electric shock treatment, radiation, ultrasonics, psychosurgery, psychiatry, harassment substances, and paralytic devices and materials". The use of drugs, it was proposed, should be extended to tests on prisoners of war, federal prisoners and other personnel 'likely to find them of use'. LSD and marijuana derivative were used on inmates at Iona so that agents could observe the reaction since this compared with 'field situations'. LSD studies were con-

ducted extensively on mental patients, hospital staff and prisoners. McGill University, Montreal, figured largely in the operations. A college official studied some prisoners when a certain drug induced loss of speech, pangs of pain, and rare memory sensitivity.

The CIA studied ways of silencing their own staff by researching an amnesia drug so that once they left the agency, they would be of no use to anyone. And they paid a large sum of money to a professional magician to write a manual on sleight-of-hand to aid agents in surreptitiously administering drugs.

It can be seen that capitalist governments will go to great lengths to safeguard their corrupt institutions amid an ever growing clamour nationwide for liberation from foreign manipulation, as epitomised in the occupation of part of our country.

Ni stoichan go saoirse.



# R.A.C. MARCH AND RALLY

The Central Relatives Action Committee applauds the support given to the Relatives Action Committee rally held in Ballymurphy last Sunday, especially those people who had marched in the protest march organised against British Army Brutality in Turf Lodge, and who stopped the march in Ballymurphy to join the rally, before continuing on to Turf Lodge.

At the rally R.A.C. speakers stressed the importance of the struggle to defend Political Status, as it clearly established that there was a struggle for National Liberation being waged in Ireland. One speaker pointed out that when we are fighting to defend the political prisoners, we should think of the conditions in 'H' Block Long Kesh, and C Wing Armagh Jail. Especially, in 'H' Block, where the prisoners sit in their cells, with its strip lighting, which is slowly going to make them blind. The speaker said that very few people could fully understand, what it was like to have to continuously look at nothing,

but four white walls, for weeks, months, maybe years. We must realise the actual physical conditions of the prisoners: their nails slowly coming away from their fingers, think about their mouths full of ulcers. We must think of the rapid deterioration in the general health of the prisoners. The speaker said we must break the vicious circle of pretence that all was well with the prisoners, it was not, while their morale was still high, they had suffered the most barbaric treatment meted out in modern times. The prisoners could not win the battle for their political status alone; they need our support. We must stand and fight with whatever means we have for our Republican Socialist POW's.

The chairperson in ending the meeting appealed for support for local R.A.C.'s—it was important that people join and help build the R.A.C. into a stronger organisation.

P.R.O.  
CENTRAL RELATIVES  
ACTION COMMITTEE.

# DERRY COMMEMORATION

On Sunday 14th August, a large crowd gathered in the City Cemetery to commemorate the deaths of Staff Captain Eamonn Lafferty and Vol. James O'Hagan, who gave their lives for Ireland and for us. The oration was given by the chairman of the Eamonn Lafferty Sinn Féin Cumann.

## ORATION.

Another new day has dawned and again we are gathered to commemorate two of our dead Volunteers, Staff Captain Eamonn Lafferty and Vol. James O'Hagan. These two young men were in the prime of their life with everything to live for, but they had ideals. Instead of fighting in the ranks of Oglagh Na h-Eireann, these two young men could have been enjoying their youth, but as I have said, they had ideals and these ideals came first.

They had seen British brutality on the people of Derry, they had seen enough of torture and harassment, the brave men that they were, they went out to stop it, as Volunteer Soldiers of Ireland.

On the 18th of August 1971, on top of a hill at Kildrum Gdns, Eamonn Lafferty and his Comrades took on the overwhelming forces of the British Army and defeated them, but the cost was high, in the battle in defence of the people, Staff Captain Eamonn Lafferty gave his life.

The following day, 19th of August, Vol. O'Hagan

prepared to go into action, but his young life too was cut short, as the result of an accident. Derry mourned the deaths of two brave young men, two men who were loved and respected by the Republican Movement, their families and their friends.

I am proud to say that they did not die in vain, for to this present day, there are, and always will be young men and women ready and willing to carry on the fight that these their lives for. An Ireland that we can call our own, no ties to any foreign nation, no shadow of death and corruption, only peace, freedom and justice reigning over all.

We remind the world and England in particular, that we are a risen people and we will never lie down, this fight must continue, this fight will continue. Once again we tell the British Government, get out and take your army and police force with you.

To Elizabeth, Queen of murders, rapists and torturers, who only a few short days ago came to our occupied land, to inspect her so called loyal subjects, we say keep out, we do not want you or any of your bigoted loyal subjects in our land.

People say that they are tired of war, they want to live in peace, yes, the war is getting harder but we pray soon it will end, soon we know it must end! end in the final victory for the people of Ireland.

# QUEEN OF DEATH

We are off to visit Ulster  
The Queen of England said  
And before she left our country  
Three commoners lay dead.

Two Brits and a boy  
from Springhill  
Breathed their dying breath  
They were the price this  
province paid  
To greet the Queen of  
Death.

The Announcer said The  
Queen looks nice  
She look quite calm and still  
Our people said, she can go  
to hell  
She's really dressed to kill.

But now the facade is over  
The Queen of Death is  
gone  
Our murdered Boy's at rest  
With some of Ireland's best  
And the struggle will go on.

## DERRY INFORMATION CENTRE

REPUBLICAN  
INFORMATION CENTRE.  
15, CABLE STREET,  
DERRY CITY. Telephone;  
68926.

# BIG BROTHER COMPUTER IS A DWARF

BY SEAN MAGUIRE

Despite the many setbacks encountered so far, computer data collection is still proceeding at the same frantic pace, and, predictably, it is still as irrelevant as before. The British Army has not been able to keep its information up-to-date-the obvious and essential requirements for personnel surveillance - and all the signs indicate that they never will. Many factors contributed to the eventual decline and imminent collapse of their ill-conceived and incompetently-conducted scheme, not the least of which was the "Irish dimension", taken in this context to mean a distressing inability to tell the truth to foreign soldiers. Other major contributors were the mass migrations of the Nationalist population to new addresses in the ghettos after the Brits spent many tiresome curfew days to illegally collect the old ones; the astonishing rate at which second-hand cars are bought, sold and exchanged in the ghetto areas, usually within an

hour after the computer got to know the owner, and finally, the growing public awareness that no prosecution can result from giving false information if the same information is being collected illegally by street interviews or door-to-door censuses.

Since all the computer-stored information here must be retrieved by using a special code number, each suspect is allocated a personal code which must be used to open his file. Once the file is opened, all intelligence collected up to that date is made accessible to the interviewer who can then proceed to interrogate his unfortunate victim from a position of superior knowledge. At least that's how it looks on paper; in reality the most commonly used coding systems are derived from the suspect's last known address, his last car registration number, or his date of birth, and these are the very variables which the Brits overlooked.

More and more people came to appreciate the

enormous complexity of information that was sometimes required to open a personal file for screening if the personal details supplied did not exactly match the details on record. The realisation dawned that even a simple change of address was enough to throw the entire computer configuration and its operators into confusion; driving an unknown car or van could engender such bewilderment in the machine that entire regiments of operators would be driven to distraction for hours until sanity was restored. A change in one's date of birth, given accidentally, caused total breakdown in the system.

Giving barely-true information proved equally disastrous to the system, since the person under surveillance or scrutiny could happily trot out these near-truths without fear of recrimination, while the computer was more than willing to gobble up any rubbish that filled up its empty or redundant memory banks. How many would-be suspects, for in-



stance, cannot now be traced because, after moving to a new home address, they gave as their last known address some holiday home or derelict house?

Essentially what the Brits have at Lisburn is a multi-million pound white elephant, sustained by a small army of operators and clerks who prefer programs to patrols, capable of printing out ream after ream of information which is as

meaningful and illuminating as yesterday's "Irish News". For any readers who are still doubtful about this mechanical marvel, consider this poser; why did the British government close down the computer factory in Castle-reagh and then pour in immense amounts of cash to rebuild the RUC torture centre behind it? Hardly a gesture of faith in space-age technology, is it?



# ANNE DEVLIN

## (1780-1851)

...A TRIBUTE TO A HEROINE by SCOPOLI

ANNE DEVLIN



Anne Devlin was born into an industrious small farming family in Co. Wicklow during the year 1780. Their family and clan had for many a long year been associated with the rebel cause, and her immediate relations were no exception to that tradition. Among them was such notable Irish Republican as Micheal Dwyer, the captain of the Wicklow rebels of 1798, and his next in command, Hugh O'Byrne, the two most determined freedom fighters from May '98 to December 1803. Both men, leading a few score insurgents, continually struck at the landed gentry and Yeomanry, returning always to their mountainous habitation, well concealed dug-outs.

Anne herself is one of the most neglected figures of this period, but here was an Irishwoman who held the fate of many in her hands, yet in spite of cruel persecutors, revealed nothing. During the '98 rebellion her home became a 'safe house' and a welcome refuge for wounded and dying United Irishmen. After betrayal by a neighbour, a tale of repression commenced which included not only Anne herself, but all her immediate family and relations. Their cousins' home was set on fire, while her Uncle Patrick lay dangerously ill with fever, after the Yeomanry found that the menfolk had gone, and only the women remained at the farm. Although the rebellion subsided the activities of Micheal Dwyer who remained at liberty, brought the family into constant confrontation with the establishment.

Anne began to visit her outlawed relations in the mountains, and returned on each occasion deeply impressed by their determination and skill in combat. Above all she was amazed at the fact that they could remain free, in spite of regular military incursions into the mountains by the Crown seeking their capture, execution and defeat. On one such occasion, a General Eustace led 500 in hot pursuit, while high above them 30 odd insurgents mocked and cheered them out of reach but within hearing distance.

Like to-day, women played an important role in the revolutionary struggle. Anne and her mother witnessed public executions, and on one occasion

took the body of a hanged youth to a friendly house, and prepared him for burial. On another occasion she organised local women, sought the aid of young carpenters to make coffins, and exhumed two bodies, of fallen rebels, so that they could finally rest alongside their former friends and comrades. In relating the story, long years afterwards, Anne remarked, "We the women did it alone, for no man dare venture on so perilous a mission without risk of being shot".

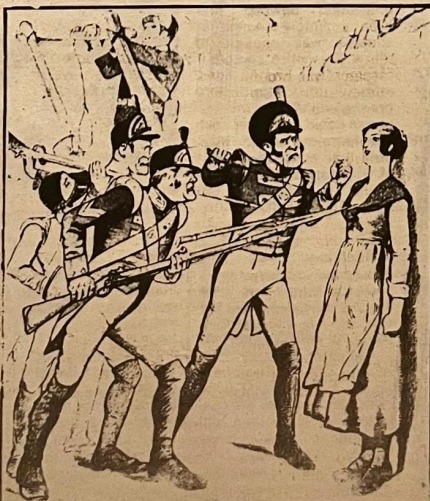
In October '98 her father was arrested, and held for two years and five months in Wicklow Prison, with no particular charge laid against him, save for the fact that his nephews dared to resist, and his family were generally sympathetic to the cause. After his release the family sold out their holding, bought some land in Rathfarnham near Dublin, and began a small dairy business, at the beginning of 1803. In the spring-time a cousin, who had enlisted in the British army while in England, returned home with 48 deserters, as part of Emmet's rebellion plans. Emmet himself then settled later in the district, and informed the Devlin family that he wished to engage a housekeeper, "...one in whom we can place implicit confidence and trust in every respect". In Anne Devlin he found such an exceptional person, who was to live up to all his expectations even long after his departure from this earth.

G.H.Q.

Into Emmet's household at Butterfield Lane Anne moved. The house was given the appearance of a business premises, with Anne's father giving Emmet, now assuming the name Mr. Ellis, a cart, horse and cow towards this end. The house in fact became General Headquarters, into which 'business partners' such as Thomas Russell, and W.H. Hamilton, two close associates of the Late Wolfe Tone, moved in to give the 'venture' a helping hand. Anne was not paid by Mr. Ellis or his associates, rather her own family supplied her with personal expenses, fully aware of her 'employer's' work for Irish liberation. The whole operation at Butterfield Lane was run on such a business-like fashion, that no suspicion could be entertained by any casual passerby.

To Butterfield Lane, leaders from all over Ireland made their way, including Anne's cousin Micheal Dwyer. The degree of trust in which Anne was held can be gained from the fact that she was a regular messenger all over Dublin, and frequently packed arms, ammunition and pike heads and handles, at times aided by another great Irishwoman, Rose, the wife of James Hope.

ANNE DEVLIN BEING  
INTERVIEWED BY  
BRITS



### REBELLION.

Things went wrong however, An accidental explosion at the rebel powder manufactory in Patrick Street, disorganised plans. On July 23, 1803 the rising took place, because of, but certainly in spite of, this unfortunate event. Plans again went wrong. On the evening of the rising a false alarm that the military were approaching Thomas Street, where the main body of insurgents were located, led to street battles before the time formerly arranged. Vicious clashes took place, and there were heavy losses on both sides. The authorities closed off the area around Thomas Street, to disguise this fact. Emmet, Mahon, Wylde, Heavey, Stafford, and Quigley (who had raised the false alarm) returned near mid-night to Butterfield Lane. Papers, letters and other items were destroyed. Arms and ammo were taken to secret hiding places. The leaders then went to Anne's father's home, before splitting up on Monday 25th, to go into permanent hiding.

Early on Tuesday morning, July 26, G.H.Q. was surrounded. Anne and her little sister were literally dragged from their beds by an inebriated Yeomanry who swore, taunted, and prodded them with fixed bayonets, causing them to be covered in blood and extreme pain. This 'interrogation' continued for some minutes, until an impatient commander ordered Anne out to the yard to be hanged. They tied a rope around her neck, fastened it to the shafts, and lowered the cart until she was suspended in mid air. Her little eight year old

sister's appeal for mercy were ignored, and leaving Anne for half dead, the Yeomanry retreated, having gained no information whatever from their bloody exercise.

Anne now was forced to go into hiding. Soon after she was again arrested and taken to Coombe Guardhouse, and then to the Castle. Through it all her identity was not discovered, as the 23 year old woman looked more like a agged street-seller than a revolutionary. On release she went back into the thick of it. Again she wrote dispatches, received and delivered them. Again she was in communication with her employer and his associates, now 'on the run'. But for Anne the long arm of repression was again reaching out to administer another injustice. The Devlin home, where Anne now lived, was surrounded by a large party of horse and foot soldiers, after the family had retired for the night. Her mother, father, three sisters and three brothers, one severely affected by smallpox, were dragged away, half dressed, and bound like animals in cords.

Through the night the family were forced-marched to Dublin Castle, their only stop being at an inn while the soldiers 'tanked-up' with purchases of whiskey and porter bottles. On entering the Dublin Castle yard, an informer by the name of Halpin, speaking to a Major Sirr and pointing to Anne's father said, "That is the greatest rebel in the County Wicklow".

(To be Continued).

## BRIGADE DENIES INVOLVEMENT

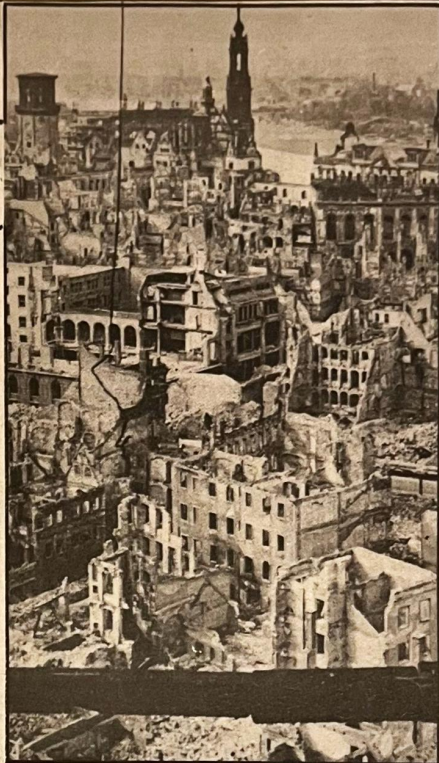
In a statement to this paper the Belfast Brigade Irish Republican Army denies involvement in

in the recent spate of robberies which have occurred in the Andersonstown area of West Belfast. Among the robbers targets were Sinclair's farage, and post offices, which subsequently closed down and forced mothers and old age pensioners to have to travel into town for benefits and enslo



# Brit terror-bombing and Brit hypocrisy

Photo shows Dresden City Centre in the After-math of the the Brits bombing raids. 135,000 people were killed within 14 hours.



The Brits certainly have a consistent record on one question. That is, smug hypocrisy.

They condemn the methods of war used by the Provos. Meanwhile they continue to terrorise the people of the six counties with their full array of counter-insurgency techniques.

Rampaging groups of frenzied robots are directed into areas like Turf Lodge to attack the people and rip their homes apart.

Torture, murder, and prison camps are the main "benefits" of Brit "civilisation" currently being imposed on us. Rape and robbery are also essential ingredients of "Brit Law and Orange Order".

All in the interests of "peace-keeping" as explained by the racist bigot Mason and other faceless dummies.

In order to examine such Brit hypocrisy one important part of the current war is worth a close look. That is, bombing.

## BOMBING.

Neither here in the North, nor over in Britain, has there ever been a systematic blanket campaign of anti-civilian terror-bombing by the IRA.

In fact great risks have been run by many Volunteers in determined attempts to rule out casualties amongst ordinary people. (I do not classify "leading" businessmen either here or in London as ordinary people.)

This has not been the case with Brit bombing policy. Either in this war, or during the Second World War.

In this war they have ruthlessly tried to use anti-civilian bombs to their benefit.

The bombing of the Abercorn, the "Bloody Friday" set-up, the "exploits" of Brit agents in Dublin (and Birmingham?) and the "events" around this year's Easter parades are just a few of the commonly acknowledged "incidents" which show this.

## WORLD WAR II.

Even clearer evidence is available from the Second World War. During that war the Brits developed a systematic anti-civilian terror-bombing campaign. Their aim was simple. To kill and to make homeless as many German civilians as possible in order to destroy the morale of the population.

The Brits tried to cover up their strategic

ing offensive" with a huge propaganda campaign of lies and distortions. They aimed to publicly project their bombing as being solely directed against military and economic targets.

Maps were issued to their bombers with the heading, "Hospitals are marked 'X' and must be avoided". As a Brit Air Marshal later admitted, "this made it possible to get up in Parliament and say that the crews were specially briefed to avoid hospitals".

Just after the "area" offensive got really under way "The (London) Times" leading editorial of 31st May 1943, "recognised and regretted that no matter how accurate Allied bombing of military objectives may be, civilian losses are inevitable".

Such lies about "military" objectives come naturally to the Brits' puppets in Fleet Street.

## DRESDEN.

The day following the destruction of Dresden "The (London) Times" reported that, "British and American bombers have struck one of their most powerful blows at Dresden, now a vital centre for controlling the German defence against armies advancing from the east".

It goes on, "the master bomber watched throughout and as soon as one part of the industrial area was well alight, switched the attack to another".

In fact the bombing of Dresden in February 1945 was deliberate anti-civilian terror-bombing designed to cause fire-storms. The Brits called it ambiguously "area" bombing.

This terror-bombing of Dresden stands as a grotesque monument to the depths of criminality typical of the Brits.

## FIRE-STORM.

In over fourteen hours of bombing a "triple-blow" killed more than 135,000 of the population of a city swollen to twice its peace-time size. This increase in population was due to a massive influx of refugees from the Eastern front.

The bombing of Dresden killed more people, nearly all civilians, than any other air-raid in history. It was worse than the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima which killed 70,000 people, about half the Dresden toll.

Dresden was not an industrial cen-

tre. There was no significant movement of troops through the city. Instead it was full of refugees.

The Brits deliberately created fire-storms in order to commit mass murder. This tragedy was not the result of an accident but the result of cold plans and deliberate decisions.

Mass murder was insisted on in the face of queries from RAF Bomber Command and "distaste" from some crews.

Criticism of the terror-bombing was suppressed by the Brits. They continually tried to cover up their campaign with deliberate lies.

## MASK SLIPPED.

At a press conference the day after the destruction of Dresden the "mask" slipped badly for a moment. A spokesman outlined that the plan was to "bomb large population centres and then to attempt to prevent relief supplies from reaching them and refugees from leaving them all part of a general programme to bring about the collapse of the German economy".

He even referred to "terror-raids".

An international news-agency reporter picked this up. He reported that: "Allied air chiefs have made the long-awaited decision to adopt deliberate terror-bombings of German population centres as a ruthless expedient of hastening Hitler's doom. More raids such as those recently carried out by heavy bombers of the Allied air forces on residential sections of Berlin, Dresden, Chemnitz and Kottbus are in store for the Germans, for the avowed purpose of heaping more confusion on Nazi road and rail traffic, and to sap German morale."

## TOTAL BAN.

This despatch was broadcast throughout "Liberated" France and printed across America as front-page news. However the Westminster government imposed a total ban on publication of this despatch throughout Britain.

At Westminster itself an "awkward" MP read out the despatch and asked: "Was terror-bombing now part of official Government policy? If so, why was the decision released, and then suppressed? Why were the British people the only ones who may not know what is done in their name?"

An "official" spokesman replied: "We are not wasting bombers or time on purely terror

tactics. It does not do the Honourable Member justice to come here to this House and suggest that there are a lot of Air Marshals or pilots or anyone else sitting in a room trying to think how many German women and children they can kill." Thus ended the last war-time "debate" on the Brit policy of terror-bombing. The Westminster government was able to safeguard its "secret" right-up to the end of the war.

## BLAME.

Afterwards the war-criminal Churchill and the Westminster government tried unsuccessfully to shift the blame to RAF Bomber Command and to Chief Bomber Harris.

They even tried to blame Russians for requesting the destruction of Dresden. This was despite the Red Army only being informed of the attack two days before it was due to happen.

This attempt to shift the blame was a routine attempt at the old scare-story of "Reds-under-the-beds".

In fact where the "Reds" do come in is worth a look.

## BARGAINING COUNTER.

The Brits and Americans were making slower progress against the Germans

useful when the "spoils of war", such as territory, came to be divided up amongst the victors.

## TEMPTATION.

This condemnation of the Brits' terror campaign of anti-civilian bombing does not mean that either myself or "Republican News" in any way defend fascism or Nazi Germany.

Despite the temptation to go for a "hard" response to repression and fascism, like terror-bombing such methods will reap a rotten reward.

In Germany the Brit blanket terror-campaign tended to drive the people into the arms of the fascists. For the campaign could easily be presented to its intended victims as a plan to totally wipe them out.

In no way could or can such a bombing campaign be a justified part of a struggle against oppression and for human justice. But then what could be expected from the Brits. They are hardly defenders of liberty and freedom, as we know only too well.

This brings us right back to the current war.

## COMPARISON.

Given that the Brits are prepared to use such methods then their propaganda

by PETER DOWLING

on the Western front than were the Russians in the East.

The Brits wanted to gain "bargaining counter", which would be

attacks on the methods of the Provos are totally hypocritical.

Continued on Page 11



# THE BENEFITS OF A COMMUNITY POLICE FORCE

by CONALL CEARNACH

Since 1969 when the present struggle by the people against British occupation and oppression began a certain thug element has appeared on the scene. This thug element is common to most built-up areas of Ireland. Loyalist people claim to support the RUC and Loyalist Politicians claim that the only way to eradicate the problem is by RUC presence in Nationalist areas. This is a blatant contradiction as the crime rate (Petty or Major) in Loyalist areas is as high if not higher than any other areas, despite the claim that there is a heavy RUC presence in these loyalist parts.

## RUC A FALLACY.

Barry White of the Belfast Telegraph is of the impression that the RUC are becoming more acceptable to the Catholic people. A fallacy indeed. The RUC have not reformed in any way and while the RUC thugs, who led the pogrom on the Falls and Derry, murdered innocent civilians in '69 and who are at this moment torturing men and women in Castlereagh Barracks etc., are still in the RUC and being promoted for their deeds, they will never be acceptable.

## AN ALTERNATIVE.

The fact of the matter now is that it isn't enough just to condemn the much discredited RUC without offering the Nationalist people an alternative. A fair system must be devised to deal with the criminals who are taking advantage of the situation. The important thing now at this point in time is to form a community police force. This in itself raises many problems.

## WHO CHOOSES THE INDIVIDUALS.

The first and most important question to be asked is who chooses the Individuals that are to form this force? The main criteria in this choice is that the men and women chosen should be respected individuals beyond reproach. The RUC, if we are to judge by their actions, would seem to be chosen for quite the opposite qualities.

## CRIME AND PUNISHMENT.

The most frequent crimes committed are breaking-and-entering, mugging, vandalism, and crimes related to young

"the crime rate in loyalist areas is as high if not higher than any other areas, despite the claim that there is a heavy RUC presence in these loyalist areas"

people, some of whom have no respect for the old or the community in general. It is important that all criminals regardless of status within the community are treated equally. The judicial system in the 6-counties is clearly seen to be biased against the Catholics i.e. number of acquittals of Republicans in relation to those of loyalists and also in the length of prison terms etc.

## WHY NOT REHABILITATION?

Habitual criminals in our communities are in most cases well known. The people chosen to decide the fate of these individuals would be in a much better position to decide if they were

"The important thing now at this point in time is to form a community police force"

British Judges have proved beyond all doubt that they are either biased or completely out of touch with reality. In a recent case in England three judges released a Brit soldier after being found guilty of vicious rape. This Brit claimed "Northern Ireland made me do it" and he hadn't even been here yet. In another case an old etonian judge released without sentence a fellow etonian despite the fact that he had been found guilty of a £30,000 robbery. So much for British justice!

## SERIOUS CRIME.

The RUC are clearly, biased, brutal and nothing more than the military wing of the British establishment and unionism. A community police force must clearly be seen to be quite the opposite. This must apply especially in the event of a serious crime. The Irish people pre-'69 were basically a non violent people. Serious crimes such as murder, and crimes of a sexual nature were almost unknown. Quite the opposite from England and contrary to what the Brits would have the world believe.

## ERADICATE THUGGERY.

A community police force would bring an end to thuggery etc and give the hard pressed people of our communities the opportunity to live some kind of normal existence. This thuggery which is wearing down the will and morale of the people must be eradicated for once and for all.

# AN IRISH CHILD'S SONG TO THE QUEEN'S MEN

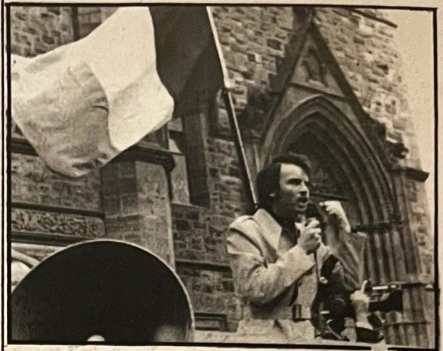
## AN MADRA RUA

We were fondled, formed,  
Out of the blasted limbs  
Fleshing all the soil  
Burying our bones.

We live! If lucky! Under  
gas and baton Now a  
perpetual pattern, too big,  
too strong, Where you  
soldier!  
Can never hope to belong.

Or enter in with bullet or  
knife, Though you may  
take a life  
Aiming miraculously with a  
marksman eye;  
You cannot celebrate our  
fate.

Hunted as you are with  
hate  
Of games, dances and Irish  
song Of all our charity, of  
all the soil,  
Freely cultivated, In the  
blood of your wrongs.



Andreas O'Callaghan speaking at Derry Anti-Jubilee March.



City Centre, as usual blocked to Nationalists by sectarian R.U.C.

# DERRY MARCH

Republicans in Derry marched in their thousands in a Black Flag Anti-Jubilee protest on Wednesday 11th August. The March was organised by

the Irish Front and Sinn Féin; Andreas O'Callaghan addressed the crowd on behalf of the Republican Movement.

# AN CUMANN CABHRACH (PRISONERS DEPENDANTS FUND)

This committee came into being in October 1972, initially to supplement the activities of the Internee's Relief Committee, and later to carry on after that committee went out of existence.

Since October 1972 an approximate total of £316,248.00 has been collected and paid out to provide financial assistance to the families of prisoners and to subsidise transport facilities to those Prisons in Ireland and England which contain Derry boys and girls.

The present average weekly commitment of our committee is £707.66 in payments to families of

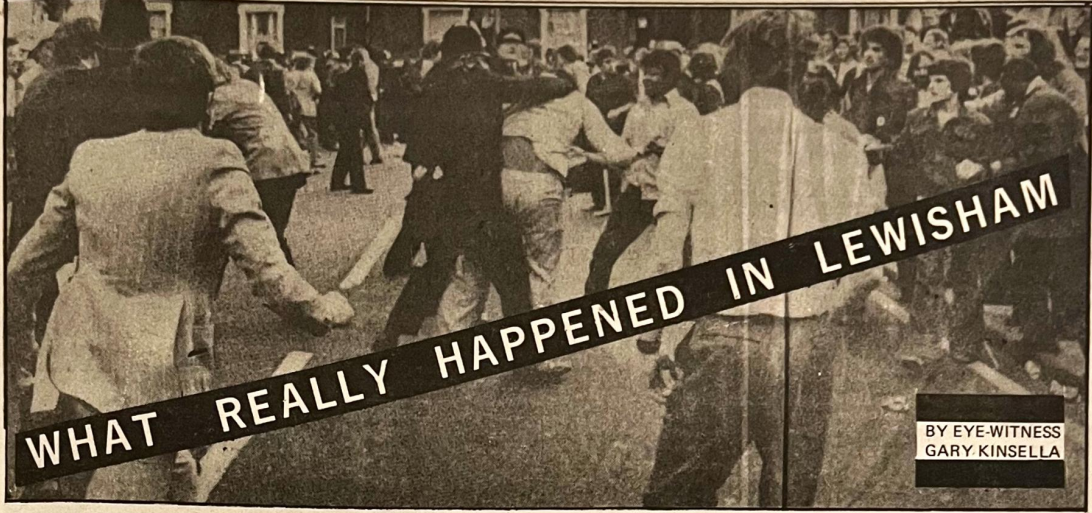
prisoners and £372.95 in providing transport facilities.

As the burden of maintaining this charitable work is an ever increasing one, we now take this opportunity of asking for your support for all P.D.F. collections and functions in your area and particularly for the Church Gate Collection on Sunday 28th August 1977.

Thanking you in anticipation of a generous response to this appeal.

Yours faithfully,  
AN RUNAI  
AN CUMANN CABHRACH





The day the Apprentice Boys marched in Derry, protected by thousands of British troops, the butchers' apron was being waved by a miserable crowd of their National Front friends in Lewisham. South London. They faced the anger of 3,000 workers, who took to the streets to kick the fascists back into the gutters from which they crawled - and for the first time in England their police escorts had to cover behind riot shields as they were pelted with a hail of improvised missiles.

Saturday 13 August was a pathetic day for the National Front, who had claimed they were going to have their biggest demo ever. Their excuse for fouling the streets of Lewisham was that posing as defenders of "law and order" - they wanted to march to demand more powers for the police to harass the black people in the community, who they blame for the rising number of muggings.

Hitler blamed the Jews for everything that went wrong with society, and put forward their extermination as a solution. The NF nazis have just the same policy towards black people. These racist bigots oppose everything which is progressive and in the interests of ordinary working people. One of their pet hates is Irish republican-

ism. Their supporters in Manchester beat up republicans who were visiting graves in Moston Cemetery, as RN reported recently. And in November 1975, a meeting in opposition to the Prevention of Terrorism Act was smashed up by a combined gang of NF-ers and UVF thugs. They did thousands of pounds worth of damage to the hall, in the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, beat up an old lady, grandmother of one of the meeting's organisers, lacerated the face of one man, and broke the arm and seriously damaged the eye of another. No police action was taken.

A great debate went on in the press before Saturday's march, with local councillors and even a Bishop saying it should be banned. They organised a "peaceful" counter-demonstration in the morning, carefully designed not to meet with the fascist marchers. Despite these terribly respectable protests, police chief David McNee - the man responsible for smashing up the Grunwick picket lines - insisted the NF march should go ahead, in the name of freedom and democracy. Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary who had deported over 100 Irish people under the PTA, agreed. They claimed that a ban would play into

the NF's hands by giving them publicity. I suppose that is why they banned the Provo's Belfast march the week before, and why they wouldn't let republicans march beside the coffin of James Mc Dade in Coventry in 1974 - so that the Provos would get plenty of publicity!

One quarter of the metropolitan police force were in Lewisham to defend the freedom of the fascists to march - 4,000 of them against 3,000 anti fascists, who occupied the place where the Front men intended to assemble. This counter demonstration, organised by the Socialist Workers Party and backed by many left wing and black militants, was determined not to let the nazis have the freedom of the streets. Trained bully-boys of the police Special Patrol Group (SPG) waded in to try and clear a way for the Front to march. Even with the assistance of police on horseback, they failed. The march had to be diverted from the start - the first victory for the anti-fascists.

The new route was soon discovered, and a vigorous attack launched to break through the police lines and halt the nazis in their tracks.

Republicans and socialists have always warned that Ireland was

being used by the army as a training ground for tactics they wanted to employ in Britain, and on Saturday, riot shields made their first appearance in the streets of England. But they had to face people who were also starting to learn from the Irish experience, and the shields were no defence against the bricks, cans, bottles and sticks which pelted the fascists and their defenders. The Union Jack ran with blood that day!

Don't believe what the papers have said about the police being innocently caught between opposing groups of "extremists" - far from being "pigs in the middle", they were firmly committed to the fascist side, and deserved everything they got.

Martin Webster, the Front's chief thug, knows they are on his side. He has now advocated the use of plastic bullets and armoured vehicles so that the police can defend his right to intimidate people.

Police and fascists were coated in indelible dye from canisters of red powder thrown through the air. They were pelted with flour bombs.

At one point, 20 demonstrators trapped up a side street, used a fence they had pulled

down in order to get at more ammunition from a building site as a barricade, keeping more than 100 police at bay, cringing behind their riot shields under a hail of bricks. Police without shields picked up dustbin lids in a vain attempt to protect themselves.

The attack was so successful that the Front's battered ranks were split, and the cowardly "honour party" moved on under heavy police escort, leaving their straggling followers at the mercy of the anti-fascists, now being joined by people from the local community. A lot of those fascists won't be out on the streets again for a good while.

On the Monday following, the riot shields were in action again as socialists and blacks in Birmingham took a lead from their London comrades, and besieged a school where NF Führer John Tyndal was speaking at an election meeting.

The people of England still have a lot to learn from the struggle in Ireland, but events like these should make them see that their struggle is the same as the republicans'. The balloon has gone up in England.

## TROOPS OUT CONFERENCE

# A CALL TO ACTION

by **BRENDAN STEELE**

As already reported in "Republican News" the United Troops Out Movement recently held a well-attended conference in London.

This conference was a successful first step in rebuilding a troop withdrawal movement in Britain. It formed the launching pad of a genuine and determined effort to build an open democratic movement. It made a welcome break from previous Troops Out Conferences held in an atmosphere of intrigue more akin to an Orange Lodge.

One of the decisions of this July conference was to call another Open Conference in November. The November conference is to discuss the role of the Brits in the North, make a balance sheet of the United TOM so far, and have workshops on different fields of work.

It is very much intended as a work-oriented "activists" conference. There will be a national planning meeting for this conference on Saturday 17th September in Manchester.

The meeting will start at 1.00 pm in the Committee Room of Cavendish House at the Polytechnic Students Union, All Saints, Manchester.

There will also be a preparatory meeting for the national planning meeting. This will be held in London on Friday 2nd September at 8.00pm in the Northumberland Arms pub, Kings Cross Road, near Kings Cross station.

(Unfortunately this means a meeting about a meeting about a conference. Perhaps "Troops Out" people like talking to one another!)

Attendance and voting at both the London preparatory meeting and the Manchester national planning meeting are open to all "Troops Out" supporters. That is, open to anyone who supports the demand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops in order to allow Irish self-determination.



It is to be hoped that the November conference can be built and held with a co-operative spirit of "unity in action", while acknowledging genuine political differences.

Any reader wanting more information about the November Troops Out Open Conference or the United TOM should contact:

Troops Out  
c/o Rising Free  
182 Upper Street  
London N1.

## LETTERS

### THANKS

A Chara.

On behalf of my committee and members I wish to thank the Local Irish Community for their generous contributions to our collection last week for the An Cumann Cabhrach Fund.

The total amount collected was £60.30 and this has been forwarded to the Treasurer of Cumann Cabhrach in Hemel Hempstead. Again, many thanks for your help, it is greatly appreciated.

Is Mise.  
Teresa O'Brien, (Secretary)  
Sinn Féin, (St. Albans).

## PAINTING ROCKS!

Dear Sir,

On the 11th August several people were watching the R.U.C. stopping the cars at a check point on the Altanadue Road or the back Ballymagreehan Rd, as it is locally known.

The purpose of the exercise was they were guarding two car loads of R.U.C. who were painting out the National flag which flies on the Mountain beside where they were stopping the traffic.

I think it is a shame these police are put to painting rocks, such a dangerous job! they should have had the backing of the U.D.R. who painted it on the 10th of July.

Yours sincerely,  
Local Resident  
Castlewella.







U.S. ARMY BASE  
BASE  
IN THE  
CANAL ZONE

RAISING THE  
PANAMA FLAG  
IN THE CANAL  
ZONE

# PANAMA FIGHTS IMPERIALISM

## BY JUAN SOSA

The Panama canal zone is a center of military training against the workers and peoples of Latin America, with fourteen strategic military bases complete with nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological weapons, as well as spy planes. It is a refuge for mercenaries, hired killers, and drug smugglers. Such is the canal zone, a dagger in the heart of Panama aimed at guaranteeing the sanctity of imperialist interests throughout the southern hemisphere.

When the territory that became Panama acquired its independence from Spain in 1821 it was an integral part of Colombia. Between 1880 and 1889 a French company undertook to dig the canal; it later sold the rights to the Americans for 40 million dollars. Since Colombia refused to cede a zone for the canal, Panama declared itself independent on November 3, 1903, and immediately conceded a zone five miles on either side of the canal, which accounts to a territory of 1,600 square kilometers, for a ridiculously small rent compared to the profits the United States extracted from the canal zone.

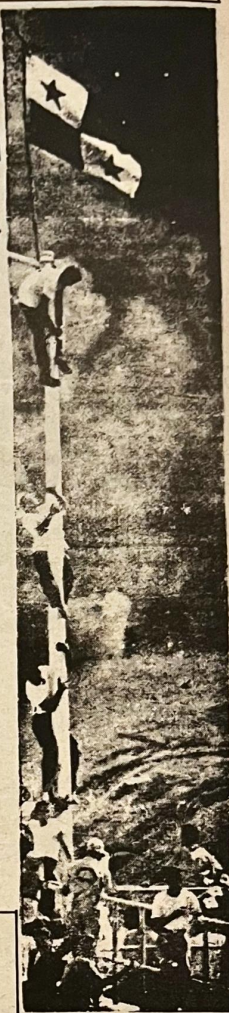
The Panamanian people have traditionally struggled against the military presence of the US in their country and for the recovery of the canal zone. Anti-American riots in 1964 resulted in 22 dead and 500 wounded, and the image of Marines opening fire on the crowd remains one of the symbols of American determination to hold onto the territory. In 1968 a military coup brought General Torrijos to power and he has since postured as a nationalist and declared his intention of fighting for the recognition of Panamanian sovereignty over the canal zone. Torrijos however cannot fight the aggressive US military presence in Panama, on his own, even if he wanted to. He has consistently refused to mobilize the Panamanian masses, to this effect, nor has he called on the rest of the Central American peoples and the American working class itself to press for an American withdrawal.

A recent declaration by Central American revolutionaries explains the importance of the fight against US imperialism in Panama. "The problem of the military bases affects all revolutionaries in Latin

America and throughout the world. It is thus a problem that we must resolve along with all revolutionaries in Latin America and the world. The illegal intervention of imperialism on Panamanian soil affects all peoples since it is the obstacle that prevents us from establishing socialism, the society of the toilers. It is necessary to internationalize the problem of the imperialist military presence on our soil. This internationalization of the problem of the military bases is the only possible solution today. We believe that the problem of the military bases will not be resolved through negotiations, not through the support of bourgeois governments, because the existence of the military bases is a guarantee of the existence of the bourgeois governments of capitalism in our Latin American countries and in the world. There is an objective basis for the internationalization of the problem of the military bases. If the function of the bases is to maintain the capitalist system in Latin America, then all revolutionaries of Latin American and the world

who are struggling to overthrow this unjust system must unite against the military bases established in Panama."

Those fighting against the presence of murderous British troops in the six north-eastern counties of Ireland can appreciate the importance of the fight the Panamanian masses are waging against US imperialism. We should not only express our solidarity with the working people of Panama but also learn from this experience. Clearly, anti-imperialist demagoguery, whether by Torrijos or by the Finna Fail government in the South is no substitute for the real struggle of oppressed peoples. Repression is internationalized against it must also be internationalized, and this means to us, in the first place the involvement of the British working class in the Troops Out Movement, which we should do everything to encourage. Finally, we must rely only on our own strength, and reject negotiations behind closed doors whether Torrijos in Panama or by the collaborationist SDLP in the North of Ireland.

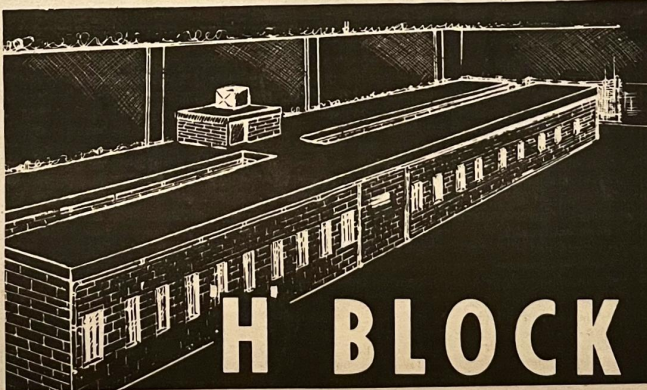


To whom it may concern, these are the conditions that men on the blanket in "H" block Long Kesh are living under for the past eleven months. Men have to be up at 7.30 a.m. when their doors are kicked and batoned by screws with remarks like "Get up you fenian b...s. and empty your pots".

When you are walking up the corridor screws make you take off your towel as you are slopping out, as you are not allowed to wear the blanket outside the cells. No one is allowed to go to the toilet, you must use the pot in your cell. At 8.30 basins are given into the cells to wash as we are not allowed to use wash hand basins as they want us to stand in the nude and it is now 6 months since we have had a shave. We used to have two towels, a hand towel and one for around your waist but they took the hand towel from us 6 months ago.

We are refused our exercise and the only way they will give it to us is, if we will wear the prison uniform or in the nude, they will not allow us out in the blankets or the towels. We asked for football shorts and slippers but they refused us. All the sentenced prisoners who are co-operating with the

# THE FACTS AS TOLD BY A PRISONER



## H' BLOCK

prison system are given these shorts and slippers and a hand towel. We are locked up 24 hours, a day in our cells and it is 11 months since some of the men here have been further than the canteen on a Sunday to mass, or to empty their pots.

The physical condition of some of the men is

deplorable, they are very pale with dark rings under their eyes, they have pains in their legs from standing on concrete all day, pains in the chest and constant headaches.

The governor comes around every 14 days and charges you with refusing to wear prison clothes and going to work. He says "How do you plead?"

We answer "No plead". Then he says "Anything to say?" We reply "Yes, as Republican prisoners of war I refuse to wear prison clothes or to do prison work". The governor then states that he has no alternative but to find you guilty and his sentence is as follows: 3 days in solitary confinement 14

days lost remission, 14 days association, ALL PRIVILEGES, WHICH would include visits, parcels, letters, earnings, tuck shop and the use of leisure clothing.

(PRISONERS OWN CLOTHES). The bedding is taken from the cell for three days, it is taken out at 7.30 am and returned at 8.30pm. The above procedure takes place every 14 days usually at the weekend.

The screws on night shift kick the doors and shout abuse at us into the early hours of the morning, after they have drunk their "carry out" of beer and spirits which they bring in with them. Some nights the screws open the cell doors and attack helpless prisoners, if the prisoner tries to defend himself he is dragged naked to solitary confinement and held there for weeks. I must finish now as the lights have gone out, as you all know they control the lighting, heating etc. so we ask you our own people-HELP US-

P.R.O.  
H BLOCK 5  
LONG KESH.



Continued From Page 7.

# BRIT TERROR BOMBING AND BRIT HYPOCRISY

Thus the Brits bombed cities just behind the German's Eastern front so as to be able to claim part responsibility for Russian successes. Brit-thinking was that this would strengthen their "bargaining" position.

So it could be said that the destruction of Dresden was carried out more in order to combat Russian communism than German fascism. This is hardly surprising given that the Brits have so much in common with fascism.

The true Brit attitude is shown by the following.

The Target-Marker force for the attack on Dresden contained "some of the most advanced electronic equipment developed by Western scientists". The force were told that if they "got into trouble, they were to head back west, and try if possible to avoid being forced down, or landing, to the east of Dresden. The crews were to land in German-occupied territory in preference to that overrun by the Soviet army."

In fact given such Brit attitudes to the "Reds" it is not too fanciful to suggest an even more sinister "reason" for the "crescendo of destruction" of Eastern cities.

The Russians were finding it possible to rapidly capture cities without blasting them to pieces. Perhaps the value of their "prizes" could be reduced a little, by turning them into heaps of rubble and ash, plentifully mixed with blood.

Such is the hypocrisy of the Brits.

The Provos are regularly denounced by the Brits and their mass media for their "murderous" bombing tactics. The cry goes up: "It is not the aim of a 32-county Irish Republic that we condemn. It is the mad-bombers and terror-tactics of the Provos that we deplore."

But a direct comparison of Brit and Provo bombing campaigns can and must be made.

On the one hand the Brits were prepared to blast, burn and suffocate tens of thousands of "enemy" civilians.

On the other hand the Provos have not thought similar tactics to be in line with their traditions and aim of establishing a Socialist Republic.

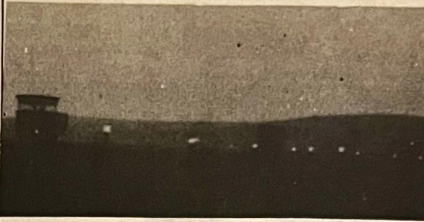
The Provos bombing campaigns have been aimed at economic, prestige or military targets. They have certainly never engaged in a policy of blanket anti-civilian terror-bombing against either Loyalists or British people.

What the Brit establishment really object to about the Provos is not the morality of their methods but their effectiveness.

For the Brits know as well as we do that the only way Ireland will be free will be through force of arms. The Brits fear the Provos determination to kick them out and set-up a 32-county Republic totally free from Brit rule and economic control.

Their nightmare remains our goal: A Socialist Republic of Ireland.

# LONG KESH



# NOTE BOOK

## weekly commentary from behind the wire

Wednesday last 17 August witnessed the publication of the annual report of the Chief Constable of the R.U.C. Kenneth Newman. Apart from the usual platitudes about the "great" work his force is supposedly doing Newman spent a great deal of time detailing statistically the increased "success" the R.U.C. is having, for example, the increased amount of explosives, weapons etc which are being lifted. In keeping with the propaganda strategy laid down by his political master Roy Mason, Newman also boasted at some length of the increasing number of "terrorists", members of the IRA etc who were captured during 1976. (What ever happened to that "great principle" of English law - a person is innocent until proven guilty? In his report as in the weekly statistics issued by the Northern Ireland Office, Newman is presuming that all those individuals charged are guilty.)

### POLICE BRUTALITY.

However, it is in the field of police brutality that we once again find the greatest inconsistency and the most blatant lies being told. Newman reiterated his statement of some months ago that "terrorist organisations have adopted a deliberate policy of manufacturing allegations to discredit the police", although on this occasion he refrained from claiming that the injuries of victims were self-inflicted. And he also stated that "to ensure that justice is done there are now more senior officers in the complaints and Discipline Branch than in the Anti Terrorist Crime Squads." Yet for all the supposed numbers of R.U.C. men investigating R.U.C. men, and for all the complaints lodged (1834 com-

plaints in 1976) not one R.U.C. man has been imprisoned for ill treating a prisoner. In March of this year Bernard O'Connor, a Co Fermanagh school teacher appeared on a BBC Tonight 'Special' and in a lengthy interview gave a lucid and terrifying description of his ordeal at the hands of the R.U.C. In Castle-reagh. Four months later the Director of Public Prosecutions returned the file to the R.U.C. Complaints and Discipline Branch with the ridiculous and alarming statement that the R.U.C. had no charge to answer. Recently there has been increasing evidence of R.U.C. brutality in such places as Castlereagh and Springfield Road. Two men in the space of two weeks were taken straight from the interrogation centre to Mental Hospitals while countless others have had to go to the Royal Victoria Hospital.

In July the case of Gerry Dowdall came to prominence when he engaged in a hunger and thirst strike in Crumlin Road Prison. Dowdall had been severely injured by the British Army shortly before Easter and for a time his chances of survival were described as slim. Indeed his condition was so bad that doctors decided not to perform a number of major operations to remove bullets until he improved slightly.

After a number of weeks the first operation was carried out, followed shortly after by a second. Although still critically ill and now with only one kidney it was felt he would survive. Only 10 days later he was taken by the R.U.C. to Castlereagh where he was severely beaten and ill treated.

### BRUTALLY ASSAULTED.

Dowdall's case while serious, has not been the

worst example of R.U.C. brutality. The Irish Times 18.8.77 gives the case history of a young Derryman John Donnelly who was arrested last February and charged with killing the Du Pont Chief Jeffer Agate. Dr. Joe Hendron was called in as an outside doctor to examine Donnelly following interrogation: "The police doctor - a man I know agreed with me on every point. Of all the guys I have seen, Donnelly was the most badly assaulted man in Castle-reagh. The man was really thumped!"

### SERIOUS INJURIES.

The Irish Times then went on to list some of the injuries: "The list of injuries noted by Dr. Hendron and his medical colleagues is extensive: it includes area of bruising on the upper abdomen, bruises all over the upper arms and over pat of the spine; a haematoma (blood clot) on the bone at the side of the pelvis, bruise marks over the right kidney, over the left buttock, evidence of hair having been pulled out! The charges against John Donnelly were dropped by the DPP on the 16th August. Again while this is a terrifying description of treatment, at the hands of the R.U.C. there are many others which are much worse. Most recently there have been the cases of men lifted because of Elizabeth's visit. In particular there is the case of Leo Martin a 23 year old Andersonstown man who was lifted on Friday 12th August. A doctor who examined him in Castlereagh said "When I saw him he had difficulty in standing or walking. He had been beaten all over...."

In 1968 the RUC harassed and batoned Civil Rights marchers; one year later they shot dead defenceless men and children on the Falls Rd; and in the 8 years which have followed they have beaten, tortured, harassed and murdered thousands of men, women and children. It has since its foundation as the paramilitary arm of the Unionist clique followed a policy of oppression against the nationalist minority of the 6 occupied counties and consequently have never had anything except the contempt of the minority. Mr. Newman attempts to whitewash with the use of propaganda and statistics the criminal activities and repressive policies of his force have been total failures. The Republican Movement has not had to adopt "a deliberate policy of manufacturing allegations to discredit the police," - for they are doing a good enough job without any assistance from us.

## WARNING TO DERRY BAR OWNERS AND OFF-LICENCES

Supplied Statement By The  
Brigade Staff, Ogligha Na  
h-Eireann, Derry City.

Having in the recent past received numerous complaints concerning the sale of intoxicating drink from Off-Licence's and Bars to young people under 18 years of age, we have now completed our own investigations and can confirm that this is so.

Realising the disastrous

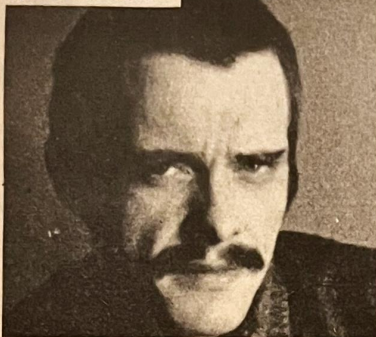
effect that this practice has on the youth of Derry, we now demand that all Off-Licence's and Bars cease to sell or supply

teenager under 18 years of age. If the owners or their employees do not take heed of this warning, then any resulting action that will be taken, will rest solely on the shoulders of those who put profit before the morality and well being of our youth.

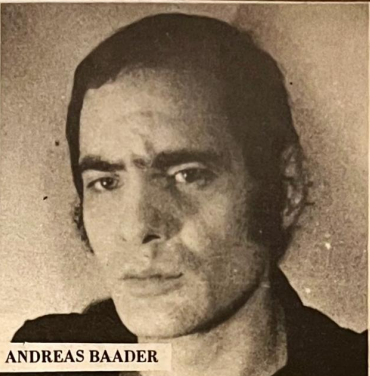
To the many owners and employees of Bars and Off-Licence's who do not indulge in this insidious practice, we would ask for their support to stamp out this



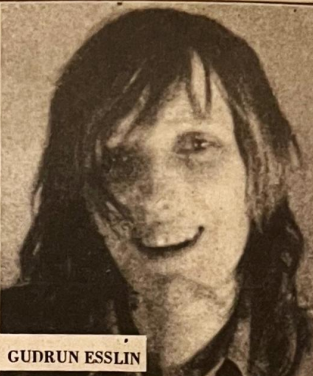
JAN CARL RASPE



ANDREAS BAADER



GUDRUN ESSLIN



## HUNGER -STRIKE IN WEST GERMANY

On 30th April following a fairly successful and prolonged hunger strike the members of the Red Army Fraction (RAF) and other antilimperialistic guerilla groups were granted the right of association in groups of 15 by the Ministers of Interior.

Subsequently 2 girls in Stammheim went on hunger strike because they were going to be moved to another prison. After about six weeks on hunger-strike. During which they were force-fed they were granted to stay in Stammheim prison with the other members of the RAF. A couple of weeks later three guys from Hamburg prison were deported to Stammheim. This meant then that there were eight prisoners in Stammheim in an association group.

In June about 15 political prisoners all over Germany - including Siegfried Haag, the commando that carried out the action in the German embassy in Stockholm and Ronald Augustin - demanding to be transferred to the Stammheim prison.

On the 30th of July the spokesman of the board of directors of the Dresdner Bank, Juergen Ponto, was executed. As the American magazine NEWSWEEK once wrote, Ponto is one of the five men being the real rulers of W-Germany. He was financial adviser to chancellor Helmut Schmidt, but also here and then of Egypt's Sadat and the South African fascist and racist prime minister Vorster. Beside being leading member of the board of directors of the second largest German bank, he was on the board of trustees of more than a dozen leading banks and companies, e.g. German-South-American Bank Daimler-Benz, Krupp, Thssen and so on. He had other functions in other well-established firms with an international reputation.

Since Ponto's death the campaign of psychological warfare is at its peak; black propaganda against political prisoners as well as against their legal advisers and also against so-called 'sympathizers' is worse than after the execution of the chief federal

public prosecutor Siegfried Buback in April. In the media it was pointed out permanently that there should have been 'contacts between the 'murderers' of J. Ponto and some of the prisoners on hungerstrike. So on the 4th of August the prisoners decided to interrupt their hunger-strike.

On the 8th of August about 50 screws as well as the prison governors Nusser and Schreitmüller assaulted the 8 prisoners from the RAF in the room within the special corridor where they had associated. The prisoners were beaten, tufts of hair were torn out, the prisoners were kicked and severely ill-treated, finally they were thrown in their cells head foremost; no prisoner was in his own cell, so a few hours later the screws appeared again and brutally put them back in their cells. The prisoners were totally isolated, so late afternoon the next day they went on hunger and thirst strike. Among those on hunger-strike are Andreas Baader, Gudrun Esslin, Siegfried Haag and Jan

Carl Raspe.

This marks the beginning of the abolishing of all the changes which had been gained during the five year's struggle against solitary confinement, which had ended with a success although only a small success on the 30th of April. It also shows that the state is taking imprisoned revolutionaries as hostages when the guerilla attacks the system outside the jails, as in the case of the prominent figure Juergen Ponto. After Buback had been executed the same thing had happened: two hours after Buback had been shot the prisoners in Stammheim were totally isolated, not even their legal advisers were allowed to see them.

"This is always a very bad thing to happen, but this is the consequence that has been shown to the prisoners and their legal advisers." This means that he is ready to kill the political prisoners in West-Germany, it means a so-called Final solution to his problems with the guerilla in W-Germany.

Since the hunger and thirst strike has lasted for over two weeks now, and the state the prisoners are in is very critical, we have to do everything to support them.

Protest telegrams and letters should be sent right away to Bundesjustizminister im Bundesjustizministerium 5300 BONN

## CROSSMAGLEN IRA EXECUTE INFORMER

Second Batt. Provisional I.R.A. Crossmaglen. Accept responsibility for the execution of an informer. William Martin St. Joseph's Place on Aug 22nd.

Martin who, was kept under observation for the past 18 months, was one of a ring of informers in the area. He ignored repeated public warnings to all informers to leave the area and while we regret that such action had to be taken, that this is the consequence which every informer must face so long as the war of liberation continues. We again repeat our warning to all informers to leave the Crossmaglen area forthwith.

Martin Forsythe Sinn F.C. New Advice Centre Beside New Shop Turf Lodge. If you need advice/help Please Call.

### REPUBLICAN NEWS

Printed and published weekly by the Republican Press Centre, at 170a Falls Road, Belfast. Telephone 46841. Telex: 747523. All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, at the above address.

