



The unbroken Links
in the
Irish Republican Chain

Martin Calligan

The unbroken Links in the Irish Republican Chain

P. H. Pearse said we have renewed the struggle down the centuries and that's the way we will be while one British soldier remains on Irish soil. Today there are up to 20,000 and 9,000 armed sectarian police in the pay of England on Irish soil.

Republican Sinn Fein and the continuity Irish Republican Army are the only true organisations that uphold the proclamation of 1916. And the declaration of our Independence in 1919. It is sickening to hear the propaganda of the pro British - Irish media styling individuals and their parties Republicans - just to spread confusion.

The Proclamation of 1916 was endorsed by the Irish people at the general election of all Ireland in 1918 and the people's representatives in 1919 in national parliament declared that foreign parliaments in Ireland were an invasion of the Irish people's rights and must never again be tolerated. Yet you hear people today styling themselves Republicans who recognise two parliaments in Ireland (the 26 and the 6 counties) set up under the Government of Ireland Act 1920. Britain suppressed the lawful elected Government by sending in her Black & Tans. When brute force failed Britain called a cease fire. The negotiation was then between the two sides of the conflict (now it is only between her allies). Michael Collins insisted that he'd be one of the negotiators, the great and noble Cathal Brugha objected in case the negotiations broke down. That delegation to London had very definite instructions from their Government that the independence of the Irish Nation was not negotiable and nothing was to be signed in the absence of their Government. The delegates broke their trust by signing what was in fact only the British Government of Ireland Act 1920, put over a a treaty in 1921. Erskine Children who was secretary of the delegation said that Collins was blackmailed into signing, that he did have an affair with one of the establishment people and who was in the family way. Lady Lavery threatened to expose Collins if he did not sign. That would ruin Collins and put him in the same position as Parnell. Later the First Free State Government demoted Collins by promoting him to Chief of the Free State Army and making him answerable to the cabinet.

The reason appears that Collins was sending guns and men to the six counties. Collins is on record "That if we don't finish the war now - the money class that was never with us will take over" - (which they did)

Collins ordered the assassination of Sir Henry Wilson, for exterminating Catholics in the six counties. Tom Markham, a Clareman, was entrusted to go over the papers that the British left behind in Dublin Castle. He discovered and left in writing the name of the leading British spy - Tim Healy. Collins locked in a safe in Portobello Barracks, and was to deal with Healy on his return from the South. On his way south he called on Tom Malone - alias Sean Forde - to end the so called Civil War, the last thing the British wanted for they had supplied the guns and the ex Black 'n Tans to put over the 26 county State.

Emmet Dalton joined the British army and during an attack in France their officer was killed. Dalton took over and repelled the attackers, for which Dalton was decorated and sent to join Sir Henry Wilson, a position of trust. Back in Dublin after the war, Dalton offered to help the I.R.A. Sean McKeown was under sentence of death in Mountjoy. Five soldiers collected meat from the abettor each day under orders that the driver and sentry would not leave the armoured car, but they did oblige, and Dalton drove to Mountjoy, got past the two gates, the alarm was raised. How did they get past the two gates and the sentry? When State papers were released after 50 years General McReidy had stated never any danger we know in advance.

It was a British move to endear Dalton to Collins. Dalton was a member of MI5. He went away with an MI5 man's wife who had his papers, Michael Cunningham in his book stated that it was seen in the papers in her possession where the British Government had paid a large sum of money for the killing of Collins. Dalton was in charge of Collins bodyguard at Beal Na Blath, Dalton took Colin's remains to a British Military hospital and stated that the bullet was fired from a distance, and has only sufficient strength to penetrate his skull. But nurse Gordon who washed Collins wounds testifies to one entry and one exit wound. And that the bullet fires so close, that his hair was singed. We know that when Cromwell came to Ireland, he slaughtered men, women, and children that he uprooted the natives and gave their lands and property to his soldiers-later called "The Gentry". Under the Government Act 1920 Britain drew a border around six counties, so that a minority of Cromwell's descendants would always have a Parliamentary Majority in a contrived Puppet State, now they have a veto. The 26 county state operates within the structures of the British system. Their policies based on Foreign investments. You can never have prosperity here, Multi nationals will only come if assured a good profit and are under no obligation to pay a decent wage out of their huge profit.

You read in the capitalist press that unemployment is down and again that such a factory has closed making hundreds redundant. Since joining the Brussels block the 26 county prosperity depended on handouts-other peoples money. There is no such thing as free money - someone must pay. The rancher farmer did well their pressure groups saw to it.

The small farmers only got the crumbs, and now the crumbs are getting scarce. The rich refusing to pay. The 26 county Agricultural Policy is dictated by Brussels. Potato's and vegetables are imported from far away countries, while those depending on free money haven't even a hen. This policy leaves no future for your children. Ireland has fertile fields undeveloped minerals - Oil, Gas, and Fish in our waters. Foreign fish factory boats now will destroy our fishing beds while it is illegal for Irishmen to fish in their own waters. We have thousands unemployed while 4 out of 5 in our shops are foreign goods. A so called head of the 26 county Free State called President of Ireland, not a single person in 6 counties ever had a vote for. A so called Peace process and yet innocent people murdered month after month by British and pro British death squads. Our Martyred dead are an embarrassment to the pro British media 26 counties, who refused to publish my letter at Easter.

"Padraig Pearse said "We proclaim the Irish Republic - may your children enjoy the happiness and prosperity which only freedom can bring. I am not afraid to face the judgment of God or posterity". Tom Clarke served fourteen years under the most brutal conditions in an English prison for his part in a bombing campaign in England.

Eamonn Kent - "I leave for the guidance of other Irish revolutionaries who will thread the path that we have trod - this advice - never treat with this enemy, never surrender to their mercy - fight to a finish. This enemy has never cherished one generous thought for those with poor equipment and small in numbers - who withstood their forces for one glorious week. I shrink not from Death at Daybreak", Sean McDiarmada - "in a few hours I will join my comrades in a better world, I am sentenced to die in the morning - I die that Ireland might live. The job hunters will condemn our action. But posterity will judge us right".

Thomas McDonagh address to Court Martial - I chose to think that you have done your duty according to our rights in sentencing me to death and I accept your sentence with joy and pride since it is for Ireland I am about to die.

The British occupation have never for more than a hundred years been compelled to confront in field of battle such formidable force - while Ireland lives the brain and the brawn of her manhood will strive to destroy the last vestige of British rule in Ireland. Joseph Mary Plunkett left his sick bed to sign the proclamation. He married Grace Clifford hours before his execution - with all my love I place this wedding ring upon your finger, there won't be time to share our love - for we must say goodbye."

James Connolly said "We went to break the connection with England. She has no right in Ireland - never can have any right in Ireland. The presence in any one generation of Irish men ready to fight and die to assert that truth makes the British Government Usurpation and a crime against human progress".

Help to bring back the spirit of 1916. Help to show up the vile politicians who give you scandal after scandal. These men died behind lonely prison walls and their mortal remains are still behind lonely walls. Demand that their resting place be made a public place that Lover of Justice can visit.

When T.J. Ryan, Cranny was released from the internment camp in 1924 he set about re-organising the West Clare Battalion of the I.R.A. I happened to be one of his recruits. The law was not very oppressive until Cosgrave passed the Coercion Act in 1931. De Valera later amended this and made it one of the most oppressive Acts in the world - calling it the Offences against the State Act.

T.J. Ryan got three months in jail for membership of the I.R.A. Today, one could get up to 10 years for the same reason. I was offered a free passage to America if I could supply any information. My refusal to do so did not endear me to the C.I.D. In August 1929 I was taken from my home at 2.30a.m., stripped naked, put in the back of a C.I.D. man's car and held down on the floor of the car. The only words spoken were 'Drive to the Strand'. After about five miles the car stopped and I was told to get down on my knees and say an Act of Contrition.

One of my captors put a gun to my head and said "Let's kill the Bastard". Another said "No, we would be traced". I got a couple of kicks and I then had to travel nearly 2 miles, naked and barefooted, until I came to Mick Huxley's house, where I got clothes and shoes. I arrived home at 5 in the morning. When the Military Court was set up in 1931 I was in the first batch taken before it. In all I was to appear 5 times before the Military Tribunal. I spent 11 years as a "Guest of the State" - spent in all their Guesthouses including the Curragh Internment Camp. Immediately after the war was declared in 1939 I was interred without trial. Seamus Burke succeeded in proving we were illegally interred, and we had to be released. However, De Valera had the Act amended immediately to cover the loophole, and then I had to "Go on the Run" in the traditional manner of the Irish Rebels through the centuries. While on the run, a government agent who infiltrated the I.R.A. sent an order that I go to Clonmel. I tossed a coin with Joe O'Connor, Kerry who should obey this order and I won. This meant that I would stay in the present posting. Unknowingly, I had avoided a trap.

After 5 months on the run I got 6 months for refusing to answer questions. On my release I was arrested at the prison gate and sent to the Internment camp. Here, I was present when the Military Police fired on us without warning or provocation. Barney Casey was killed and others wounded in this affray. We burned a section of the camp for which I got 2 years, and I was sent to Arbour Hill Prison. While there I met George Plant and Joe O'Connor. De Valera had another Act passed. He asked Leinster House to give the Military Court power to accept verbal statements even if the people who were supposed to have made them were dead or insane. Statements were made under torture.

It was only passed for the purpose of convicting and killing George Plant, a man who fought with distinction against the Tans and the States. Sean McBride was defending Lawyer for Plant. The state solicitor's office told McBride that the only way Plant could save his life would be by a plea of Insanity. Plant told McBride to tell the States, that in no way would they be allowed to downgrade him. He would have death before dishonour. Plant and O'Connor, were then taken before the Military Court. The Superintendent involved in the case, made a slip, which led to O'Connor's acquittal.

Plant was sentenced to death. He was placed in the back of a Military truck, with his coffin and within 48 hours was executed by a drunken firing squad in Pothlaoise Prison. There was no right of appeal. These are the people who talk about justice, terrorists and men of violence

Note : In this I am not defending or condemning Collins, just recording facts to show that Britain only used her friends when useful and will drop them when a problem arises.

It would appear now that they did not want to execute George Plant on his own and that they would throw me in with him for good measure.

Martin Calligan,
Kilmurry McMahon
Co. Clare

*There's a Sacred spot in Dublin
It's a place called Arbour Hill,
Where sleeps our noble Martyrs,
Their message rings out still.
To you their message calling,
As called that Easter day,
When they flew the Flag of Freedom.
And proclaimed the IRA.
They march these men in Dublin,
And for Ireland struck a blow,
They raised the Flag of Freedom,
O'er Dublin's G.P.O.
Traitors tried to sell that cause
Traitors they may be,
But Connolly had one in mind,
Old Ireland's Liberty.
They followed Tone and Emmett
And faced a Martyr's grave,
That you may take their message,
If our Nation we must save.
Six counties subjected
Are held by England still,
Wake up and show devotion
For the men of Arbour Hill.*