IRISH PATRIOT

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IRELAND

NATIONHOOD ? A WORD WHICH, TO SOME PEOPLE, SIGNIFIES LITTLE OR NOTHING; TO OTHERS, A LOVE OF LIBERTY, LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND EVERY FACET OF THE LIFE OF A NATION. A WORD WHICH CHERISHES WITHIN IT THE PHYSICAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF ALL.

To the Irish people it has no strange sound. Its meaning has been ineffaceably stamped on their hearts and minds, sanctified by the blood of their glorious martyrs, who for centuries have striven tirelessly to retain inviolate, their inherent right to freedom and the control of their own destiny.

Today, despite the "winds of change" which have swept nations to freedom and usurpers to oblivion, Ireland's position is still an unenviable one. To the Irish people it has been a long, continuous and bitter struggle for well-nigh [redacted] years to secure emancipation. For centuries, their sacrifices, their determination in pursuit of their ideal has shown the way, through their example, to those small nations which have since achieved their independence.

The demand for National Sovereignty, voiced by generations of Irishmen and Irishwomen and for which they frely and readily sacrificed their lives, is unassailable. Their demand cannot and will not be silenced. At times it has been obscured or subverted by those who would trade liberty for a life of ease and personal prosperity under the patronage of an imperious despot.

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IRELAND

It is mainly through the machinations of such as these that the greatest evil of all has befallen the Irish Nation. Today it stands devided with six of its native counties still occupied by its age-old enemy.

The partition of a country, never ordained by God to be so, is the greatest curse which can befall it. Its evil consequences are evident in the physical and economic anaemia which besets our Nation today.

It was not sufficient that England should have plundered, exploited, massacred, starved, and in every manner known only to her, attempted to erase the Irish People from the face of the Earth. She had to set her diabolical seal on it by the greatest injustice of all - Partition.

No country on Earth can prosper under the conditions imposed by partition. Since its inception in Ireland, we have been afforded the sorry spectacle of a house devided against itself, with all its attendent evils.

The demand for National Freedom has become inaudible, the ideal of unity is clouded and obscure in the minds of a section of the people. To them it belongs in the past and has no part in the present or future.

The cure for our ills can only be found in the complete separation of Ireland from England and that freedom and the unity of our country will bring us to the road which leads to happiness, prosperity and contentment.

Our country's hope for the restoration of freedom and unity lies in that heritage handed down through the generations; gloriously ememplified in the herioc efforts and sacrifices of the young men and women of this and previous genrations. Of those who fought and died and those who continue to suffer in alien jails so that the people of Ireland can enjoy equals rights and opportunities, to be masters of their own destiny. We hope their efforts have not been in vain.

Séamus Burns

Patriot - Volunteer

SEAMUS BURNS, SOLDIER AND PATRIOT, WHO WAS KNOWN TO HIS COMRADES AND FRIENDS AS "ROCKY", WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY R.U.C. SPECIAL BRANCH MEN ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 12th 1944, IN QUEEN STREET, BELFAST.

Seamus had got into the habit of dropping into St. Mary's Chapel in Chapel Lane to say the Rosary. Thus perished one of Ireland's most dauntless and courageous sons who by his constancy, fortitude and patriotism earned for himself a fame which will never die. He will always rank with those immortal spirits who in days of darkness and despair, died so that their country might live.

Born in the Falls Road area of Belfast, Seamus, from an early age evinced a keen interest in his countryšs history and the story of her unceasing struggle to break the fetters imposed on her by foreign domination and native dissension. This all found a ready response in his ardent temperment.

While only a lad, he joined Na Fianna Eireann, the Republican Youth Organisation, in which his activities earned him a term of six months imprisonment. When little more than 18 years old, he transferred into the ranks of Oglaigh na h-Eireann, where his early traing in Na Fianna was put to good use.

On the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, Seamus, along with hundreds of his comrades, was arrest-ed and interned in Belfast Jail. He put his time to good use in jail studying. Among the subjects he stud-ied was his National Language, which he also taught to his fellow-internees.

He was transferred to Derry Jail with 21 other volunt-

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SEAMUS BURNS

-eers, but he soon escaped through an ingeniously contrived tunnel, but alas and to their shame, to be captured by Free State forces and in--terned in the Curragh Camp.

When he was released in 1943, he returned to Bel--fast and immediately resumed his volunteer activit--ies. His determination and devotion to his country's cause soon won for him the respect of his comrades and the responsibilities as O.C. of the Belfast Batt. Staff.

Seamus and a comrade were stopped in Queen Street by four R.U.C. men on 12th February 1944, who attemp--ted to arrest them. In the ensuing brief but bloody gun-battle Seamus inflicted a grievious neck wound on one of his would-be captors before falling mort--ally wounded from numerous bullet wounds in his body.

The effection and respect in which he was held by his people was clearly evident from the enormous cortage which followed his coffin to Milltown Cem--etery and the thousands of weeping women who lined the route.

His life was short... his story simply written but his name and heroic sacrifice will be cherished in the hearts of his people long after the stones which mark the resting places of those who shot him down, have returned, like the bodies beneath them, to dust.

"We saw him fall, we saw him lie upon the hard unsheldered street, his caoin - the bullets whist--ling by, his funeral march our tramping feet.

"No mother's hand upon his brow, no loving kiss upon his cheek, but in our hearts a silent vow, his memory green, we'll ever keep".

LEARN IRISH... SPEAK IRISH... BE IRISH!!!

"KEEP CLOSE TO THEM"....

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and five were finally charged on suspicion only. Three were eventually acquitted but the other two, James Mc Cormick,(29) of Mullingar, Co. Westmeath and Peter Barnes,(32) of Banagher, Co. Offaly, in a "trial" at--mosphere of hostility, prejudice and anti-Irish prop--aganda, reminiscent of the atmosphere which prevailed during the "trial" of the Manchester Martyrs, Allen, Larkin and O' Brien, about 70 years before, were sent--enced to death by hanging. While James Mc Cormick was a member of Oglaigh na h-Eireann, Peter Barnes was not. Peter protested his innocence in court saying:"As I am going before my God, and as I am condemned to death, I must say I am innocent. Later, I am sure, it will come out that I had neither hand, act, or part in it".

James Mc Cormick said:"As a soldier of the Irish Repub--lican Army, I am not afraid to die for I am dying in a just cause. God bless Ireland and God bless the men who have fought and died for her".

In the days which followed their martyrdom, a great wave of national feeling arose not only all over Ireland but also all over the world where Irish exiles were to be found and the free, unbiased Press denounced this judicial murder of the two young Irish Martyrs by the "Hangmen of the Earth".

In a farewell message, Peter Barnes wrote:"I am recon--ciled to waht God thinks best. Thank God I have nothing to be afraid of. I am an innocent man, and, as I have said before, it will be known yet that I am".

James Mc Cormick wrote:"I know I am dying for a just cause. I shall walk out in the morning smiling, as I shall be thinking of my God, and of the good men who went before me in the same cause".

Barnes and Mc Cormick, we salute your memory! We salute your sacrifice. May your names be ever on Irish lips!

LET US BE STRONG IN OUR FA
COURSE, BRAVE AND CLEAN AN

(We publish below an interview with a spokesman for Na Fianna Eireann, the Republican Youth Organisation. We hope to publish in future issues, interviews with spokesmen for other Irish National bodies and with individuals whose viewpoints are likely to be of interest to our readers.)

IRISH PATRIOT: Is it true that members of you organisation who wish to leave it are not allowed to do so?

FIANNA SPOKESMAN: No, it is not true. No one is forced to join and no one who wishes to leave is forced to stay. Disciplinary proceedings are taken against any officer or member who breaks this regulation.

I.P.: Are your members permitted to have firearms, ammunition or explosives under their control?

F.S.: No. Na Fianna, according to our present policy, is a non-combatant body. Our members are not allowed to have any of the items you mention under their control or to hold them or move them for other people, including members of other organisations. The average age of our members is 14/17 years and we believe that 17 years of age should be the mimimum age for military service. We do not believe that children should have access to weapons of war. At the same time, we wish it to be clearly understood that it is our view that the use of force should not be ruled out to achieve Irish Freedom. Very few countries, if any, have won their freedom without the use of, or the threat of force.

I.P.: Well, what sort of training do your members receive?

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D LOYAL IN OUR DEEDS...

F.S.:. One of the subjects they learn is DRILL, which is common to most uniformed youth groups. This helps to inculcate discipline and encourages them to work as a team. We encourage them to learn Irish history, the Irish language and all aspects of Irish culture. We try to ensure that they have the opportunity to learn First Aid, map-reading, orienteering and other subjects that will help them to become useful Irish citizens imbued with a sense of patriotism and filled with the desire to be of service to their fellow-countrymen and women.

I.P.: How are funds raised for Na Fianna?

F.S.: We use ordinary, fund-raising methods like those used by other voluntary groups, viz:- social functions, private subscriptions, raffles, etc., Our members are forbidden to engage in hold-ups or the use of dishonest methods.

I.P.: There have been complaints about under-age drink--ing. Have you any rules dealing with the use of alcohol?

F.S.: None of our members under the age of 18 (almost our entire membership) are permitted to drink alcoholic drinks. Any member who violates this rule, like most other rules, is liable to be expelled from Na Fianna.

I.P.: Your organisation has been banned by the British and its members can be sent to prison or Borstal-type institutions. Do the young people who join know the risk they are taking?

F.S.: Yes, this is explained to them and they are trained in personal-security tactics. The Occupation Forces know that Na Fianna is a risk to England's unlawful rule in Ireland. The B.A. and R.J.C. have been active arresting young Nationalists and putting them in jail. Na Fianna is part of the Irish Resistance Movement.

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"THEY DIED FOR A JUST CAUSE"

(Barnes and Mc Cormick)

James Mc Cormick is complete. Two new names are added to the long unending list of Ireland's martyrs in the cause of her people.

In the prison yard of Winson Green they lie buried with a little plain cross with only their initials on it to mark their grave.

In January 1939, an ultimatum had been issed to the English Government by the Army Council of Oglaigh na h-Eireann, acting as the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic, demanding the immediate withdraw--al of the English Occupation Forces from the six counties. Refusal to comply with this demand would mean a renewal of war. The type of action decided upon was a form of sabotage and destruction of insta--llations, important buildings, bridges, subways, etc., in England. Definite instructions were given to take all precutions to avoid loss of life or inflicting injuries on any person.

What was known as the "English Campaign" commenced in January 1939 and as a result of that campaign many Irishmen and women from Belfast to Cork but living in England were arrested, deported or sentenced up to 20 years imprisonment.

Seven months later on August 25th 1939 in the city of Coventry, England, a bicyle was left standing at a kerb in the centre of the city. Concealed in the carrier of the cycle was a bomb which exploded, and unfortunately, five people lost their lives as a result. It was learned later that the explosion was premature owing to a defect in the mechanism or fuse. In fact, the bomb was in transit to a spot some miles outside the city where an operation had been planned for later in the day.

Scores of Irish people were arrested (Con/on page 5)

PETER BARNES AND JAMES MC CORMICK

(Died for Ireland 7th February 1940)

It is the eve of Ash Wednesday, 6th February 1940. Europe is in the turmoil of war. Late into the silent night the people of Ireland wait in a fever of hope, expectancy and dread - because the following morning two young Irishmen are to die on an English scaffold - martyrs in the cause of Ireland's unity and independence ... Every effort has been made to save them from the gallows. Hugh protest meetings have been held all over the country - freedom loving and liberal-minded people have raised their voices in support of a reprieve. The spirit and anger of the people have been roused and they have rallied to the defence of the two patriots.

Time is now wearing out and Ireland is now on her knees in prayer... praying and hoping for a last minute rep--rieve, but their hopes are dashed to the ground as the last official statement comes over the radio to announce the final decision of a vengeful, brutal tyrant...

"The law must take its course in the case of Peter Barnes and James Mc Cormick who are to be hanged to--morrow morning"...

The morn of Ash Wednesday, 7th February 1940 dawns - dull - grey - and gloomy - In the prison cell at Winson Green, Birmingham, Mass is being celebrated at 7.30 and 8 a.m. Holy Communion is given to the two patriots, then the Last Blessing and the Apostolic Blessing. A few minutes later the two patriots walk together to the scaffold, steadily, courageously and serenely with no trace of fear on their manly faces. Waiting for them are four hangmen.

They ascend the scaffold and with a prayer on their lips they both die together at the same moment... The martyrdom of Peter Barnes and (Contined on page 8)

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CALLING ALL REPUBLICANS

these young men, (hundreds of them now in prison) into the Movement. It was you who sounded the Clarion Call for youth to take their places in the ranks of the Irish Republican Movement.

Many who did answer YOUR call are STILL working unselfishly in the Movement. Quite a few of them lost their lives and many are still suffering in that service, through imprisonment, "on the run", etc.

But YOU! You have turned your back on it all - you would hardly like us to class you as a DESERTER but what else can we think of you?

There is no earthly excuse for the inactivivity of anyone claiming Republican principles today, providing he or she is physically fit, with no great personal responsibilities.

There are organisations within the Irish Republican Movement to suit all - young or old - There is a place for YOU.

AWAY WITH SHAM EXCUSES... AWAY WITH DISUNITY AND BICKERING... REPUBLICAN IRELAND NEEDS YOU... AND SHE NEEDS YOU NOW!!!

"IRISH PATRIOT" is published by the Irish Freedom Press as a contribution towards propagating the Cause of Irish Freedom. We hope to publish it regularly on a monthly basis following the example set by the late Brian O' Higgons who published the "Wolfe Tone Annual" for many years, and also the late Seamus Steele, who edited many little Republican papers, even from his prison cell.

Letters and articles are welcome; these should be handed to one of our sellers until we obtain suitable office premises. Go rabh maith agaibh.

PRAYER FOR IRELAND

(The members of the Provisonal Government who signed the 1916 Proclamation were not ashamed to ask God to bless their undertaking. The following prayer was composed by the late Terence Mc Swiney, former Sinn Fein Lord Mayor of Cork and O.C. Cork Brigade, Oglaigh na h-Eireann, when he lay dying on hunger strike in Brixton Jail. He issued it to some of his comrades who were on hunger strike in jails in Ireland.)

"O my God, I offer my pain for Ireland. She is on the rack. My God, Thou knowest how many times our enemies have put her there to break her spirit, but, by Thy Mercy, they have always failed. I offer my sufferings here for our martyred people, beseeching Thee, O God, to grant them nerve and strength and grace to withstand the present terror in Ireland... The spirit of prayer will defeat the cunning of Satan. Thy power, O God, is stronger than the malice of the devil. I offer everything Thou askest for Ireland's resurrection. It is Thy Will... May we, in dying, bring glory to Thy Name, and honour to our country, that has always been faithful to Thee...

"God save, bless and guard the Irish Republic, to live and florish, and be a model government of truth and justice to all nations".

CALLING ALL IRISH REPUBLICANS!!!

Are YOU serving Ireland and her cause today? Or are you one of those who have become tired or disgruntled in the struggle or who now claim immunity from further service - content to live in the past; with your record, prison or otherwise as an answer to your critics - looking with scorn or contempt on the men and women, especially the younger generation, who stepped into the places vacated by you and your friends.

Remember it was your words, your service, your activities and sacrifices that recruited (Cont/page ten)

(This ... by a Sinn Fein Cumann.)

I have been asked to say a few words and I think it was meant to be understood that only a few words were required; so a nod is as good as a wink!

I want to start by saying, that if speeches or orations could have freed Ireland, that our country would have been a free nation many years ago, but you and I know that this is not the case.

So, if we are agreed on that, we must accept that nothing that I can say tonight, by itself, will free Ireland. The only thing that will free Ireland is DEEDS. There is a saying in Gaelige that goes like this:."Teid fochail le gaodh ach teieann buille le cnamh"... ("A word goes with the wind but a blow strikes to the bone".)

At the same time, everything begins in the mind. I remember well when I was interned in Long Kesh Concentration Camp, a fellow-internee from Coalisland, used to be fond of saying: "It's all in the mind".

Someone once wrote:"The right idea in the right place at the right time, can be the most powerful force in the world".

The message that I want to get across to you in as few words as possible is this: IRELAND UNFREE WILL NEVER BE AT PEACE AND IRELAND WILL NEVER BE FREE WHILE THERE IS AN ENGLISH GARRISON ON IRISH SOIL.

Now that's it and if we accept this and providing we are not hypocrites, each of us, you and I, in our own way, will work to get the Brits, lock, stock and barrel out of Ireland. Remember, all the political programmes in the world, are only "pie in the sky" until we get the Brits out.