

WANTED FOR

MURDER AND TORTURE

THE QUEEN of England, her government and her agents, including members of her armed and police forces, were found guilty of torturing Irishmen between August and December, 1971, by the European Commission of Human Rights this year. Since the Commission began its deliberations at least one victim of Crown torture has died, leaving Crown and agents open to a charge of murder.

The violations of Article Three of the Human Rights Convention took place in *Palace Barracks*, Holywood, Co. Down; in *Albert Street Barracks* and *Girdwood Park Barracks*, Belfast, and several other centres, including the officially "unknown interrogation centre".

In the Crown report to the Commission, British government witnesses, RUC Special Branch men and British soldiers were not named. Crown obstruction has prevented bringing to justice those found guilty of criminal assault on the internees. However, following investigations, it is possible, now, to name the torturers and murderers found guilty of "inhuman treatment".

Palace Barracks, Holywood, is a British armed forces barracks used by the RUC to "interrogate" people. The RUC officer in charge of "interrogation" (questioning under torture) between August and December, 1971 was *S.H. Kyle*.

Next in command was RUC Special Branch Inspector *Harry Taylor*. Among those assisting him were: *Inspector Jackson and Browne*, Andersonstown RUC Station; *Inspector Peter Flanagan*, Omagh, head of the local Special Branch unit (now dead). Detective constables, selected by the Crown to appear as witnesses, included *B.J. Wilson, Morrison, McKnight and A. Libey*.

The Commission found that in Palace Barracks the torture was the result of an "administrative practice" and not caused by occasional assault by a few individual members of the "security forces".

Bought off by the Crown

PERHAPS the most successful tactic the British used is the one that has drawn the most comment from the media for the wrong reasons.

The practice of settling, for considerable sums of money, any actions brought against them by people alleging "inhuman treatment" has meant that none of these civil actions has ever gone the whole way through the courts.

In turn this has meant that no names ever have come out as to who was involved in the alleged torturing. Since 1971, 978 civil actions have been taken against the British government by Irish citizens.

The British have spent £450,000 in awards and ensured that none of these actions has resulted in the accused being named in court. Of those cases dealt with by the Commission, only four have not yet been settled by the awarding of substantial damages.

Of course, the British legal team represented these awards as somehow absolving their Government from any further responsibility in the matter of the treatment of the detainees.

This attitude, disguising the real motives for the awards, has been generally parroted by the media, and even the Irish papers have accepted it, rather slavishly, at its face value, like so many other British policies.

Collaboration of the press

THE PRESS, and the media in general, have cooperated with the Crown in its efforts to cover-up the activities of its agents in Ireland in 1971.

They have done this by their use (or mis-use) of language, by substituting the jargon of propaganda for the ordinary words that state the facts of the matter.

Instead of "torture" we read "interrogation in depth," instead of "brutality" we read "inhuman treatment," and instead of "beatings," "starvation," "sleep deprivation," "physical torture" and every other conceivable way of degrading the person, we read the "five techniques".

As a reminder of what one of those stock phrases (beloved by every weary journalist) really means, the following is what the Report refers to as "inhuman treatment". It is from the evidence given by an Irish witness, one of whom the Commission had found to have been the victim of the "administrative practice" of "inhuman treatment".

"They asked me if I was prepared to tell them all I knew. I told them that the answer was still the same. He called me a liar and started punishing me again, striking me on the stomach, on the ears and around the head and face . . . He then put me up against the wall with his arm across my throat.

"He struck me as hard as he could on the stomach and I fell to the ground. As I fell he hit me with his knee in the ribs, and I was also partly struck with his knee on the face . . . one of them told me to stand up.

"I was not able to do so and one of them caught me by the clothes on my chest and held me up. I had a chain and religious medal around my neck which my wife had brought me from Lourdes.

"He grabbed it and said, "What are you wearing this fucking thing for?" . . . I was then struck by several of the men about the eyes and on the stomach. At this stage I fell full on the floor . . .

(14 A, 17 C, 2 A and 12 G). At one point he is identified as Kyle's second in Command: *Inspector Harry Taylor*.

Next in line for his brutality, after *Harry Taylor*, was PO 4C (also masquerading in the Commission Report as PO 2B, 12 E and 17 A): *Det.-Const. Morrison*.

PO 4 E (PO 4 F, PO 17 D and PO 17 E) have been identified as *Det. Constables Knight and B.J. Wilson*. Wilson was charged with criminal assault on a prisoner in 1974 but was acquitted by a court.

Witness 10 A has been identified as *Corporal Graham* and 10 B as *Major Smith*, stationed near St. Columban's School, Belfast.

British witness 15 A, in charge of Albert Street Barracks in winter, 1971, was *Lt.-Col. Richard Freeman Wallace*.

MYSTERY DOCTOR

Crown witnesses 5 A, 5 B and 5 C, in charge at Ballykinler, Co. Derry, were: *Capt. Eric Ronaldson Bryson, R.A., Lieut. Ian Roger Barton* and a B.A. doctor, *Capt. David Plant* (according to a statement in court, in a civil action by a compensated prisoner though, later, the Crown stated that no such person ever existed).

Most, if not all, of the Crown witnesses — the main torturers — have received PROMOTION, following their brutal activities, as have also those who took part in the April, 1971, torture seminar in Belfast, including the then *Chief Supt. C.H. Rodgers* (now assist. chief constable); *Chief Supt. W.J. Hood* (now up-graded to Operations); *Supt. M.J. Slevin* (now a Chief Supt.), as well as Kyle and Taylor.

Far from ending torture in the Six Counties (or against Irish suspects in Britain), the Strasbourg Report, in fact, has been ignored by the Crown, as thousands of Six Counties families can testify.

Torture continues in the Six Counties. It has extended to Britain. Torture variations are being used against Republican prisoners of war in British jails.

Sadly, the Dublin government which brought the Crown to Strasbourg on the torture charges now is responsible for similar methods being used against Republican and other suspects, including trade unionists, in the 26 Counties.

A number of civil cases, where torture is alleged by Dublin are pending in the courts.

The main culprit, perhaps, as regards the Strasbourg-proven torturers, was the British premier of the time, *Edward Heath*, backed fully by his Northern Gaultier, *Willie Whitelaw*. Behind both, however, urging them on, was *Brigadier Kitson*.

It appears from published reports that members of the RUC Special Patrol Group were employed to torture internees at the undisclosed secret interrogation centre.

In 1971, the SPG was commanded by Supt. J.I.C. Gilchrist, whose headquarters was in Musgrave Street RUC Station (at present he is in charge of "T" Division, in the notorious torture centre of Castlereagh RUC station, east Belfast).

Other leading members of the SPG at the time were: *Chief Inspector K. Patterson, Inspector Hood* (No. 1 Section, Musgrave Street), *Inspector R.A. Stewart* (No. 2 Section, Tennent Street), *Inspector R.J.A. Catterson* (No. 3 Section, Mountpottinger), *Inspector Nichol* (No. 4 Section, Castlereagh), *Inspector D.J. Robinson* (No. 5 Section, Derry) and *Inspector N. Crowe* (No. 6 Section Armagh).

Albert Street Barracks was a place where some tortures took place. It was under the command of *Lieut.-Col. Richard Freeman Wallace*.

In Girdwood Park Barracks, tortures also took place, according to the Commission: a group of British soldiers there brutalised an elderly man.

FIVE CASES

The Commission had before it five cases of brutality by Crown forces in Blacks Road military post. In three of the cases *Special Branchman Samuel George McKinney*, Springfield Road, is blamed.

McKinney, on two later occasions, was accused of assaulting civilians, charged, brought to court but acquitted.

Ballykinler Camp, Co. Down: *Capt. Eric Ronaldson Bryson* prepared the huts in which detainees were held. *Lieut. Ian Roger Barton*, Royal Military Police, was responsible for taking the detainees into custody assisted by *Staff Sgts. Smith and Love*. The military doctor was *Capt. David Plant*. In charge of "interrogation" was *Supt. Magill*.

One of the most important British witnesses was identified only by the code PO 17 B; but a study of the report makes it clear that, despite British obstruction and efforts to confuse, this thug also was PO 12 B and 13 G, in Palace Barracks.

The officer in charge of the Special Branch at the time was named variously as PO 12 and B/17B. This was *Inspector S.H. Kyle*, who was questioned by the Commission on the use of the "five techniques" of Crown torture.

The fact that the Commission bothered to question him, in all the circumstances, would indicate that Kyle was responsible for more than just what happened in Palace Barracks. It is believed that he was one of those who attended the secret torture seminar in Belfast in April, 1971.

SAS UNIT

Kyle revealed to the Commission that, in Palace Barracks at the time, were members of the Military Reaction Force (MRF) which now is known as the SAS.

Strongly associated with Kyle was PO 4B, in beatings and tortures. The report also refers to him under other codes

All Ireland torture chamber