

WAR NEWS

ISSUED BY THE REPUBLICAN PUBLICITY BUREAU DUBLIN.

9th MARCH 1940

INSIDE MOUNTJOY.

Hunger-Strikers dragged from their cells -
Beaten and scalded with boiling water.

It was understood among the political prisoners on remand in Mountjoy, on Friday, March 1st, that the two hunger-strikers, Jack Plunkett and Jack McNeela had been certified by the doctor as unfit to go before the Special "Criminal" Court for trial. This was borne out by the fact that Seumas Mongan and Seumas Mongan were taken in the morning and the others left.

At 11.30 a.m. in Collins Barracks the Court waited. Then it was postponed till after lunch. The two Seumas, locked in basement cells, thought that everybody had forgotten about them. The two hunger-strikers in their beds in D. Wing, found that, in their case, there was no forget - fit or unfit they were to attend. This was their seventh day on hunger-strike, at was the eighth day for O'Doherty, the sentenced man who had been put among criminals but who was now, in a weak condition, in the prison hospital.

After lunch the Court again waited. If Plunkett and McNeela weren't fit to attend in the morning, thought the prisoners, they must be even less fit to attend in the evening. Hastily, but with guile, a barricade was run up. The Guards were sent for - one hundred and fifty, armed with batons, against the twenty-six that, with legs of chairs and tables, held the barricade.

Still the Court waited. Still the good barricade was held. The batons of the police were not long enough, pick handles were sent for. With these the gallant 150 pressed on, but not for a while, over. Hoses were used. Jack McNeela said in Court that boiling water was thrown on the prisoners from a higher landing. Det. O'Brien admitted that water "from a tap or something" was thrown but he claimed that it was not boiling.

Eventually the two were carried into the Court that had waited throughout the day for them. It was now evening, but the State was determined to have its conviction without further delay. First the hunger-strikers were laid on the floor. Jack McNeela was heavily bandaged, one side of his face was distorted with swelling from a blow of one of the pick handles. His whole person was a mass of cuts and bruises. He and Jack Plunkett, who had not been able to leave his bed during the fight, were propped up on two chairs. Never was there a more grotesque trial. The judge knew no law and admitted it. One of the prisoners, a lawyer, wanted to argue his case. He was not allowed to do so. The Court was there to administer a particular Act of Parliament - law was beyond their scope. The prisoner was not allowed to bring up legal points. The judge, ignorant of such points, was left to his own resources. The conviction was what he aimed at and where in the end he arrived.

It came to Jack Plunkett's turn. "Have you anything to say in reply to the charges?" "It does not seem to be any use my saying anything since you are now trying me for doing what I, twenty-years ago, tried you for not doing."

The detective was telling his story of the arrest. "I entered the room and saw Jack McNeela standing by the fireplace". "How did you know me?" said Jack. "Had you ever seen me before?" The detective knew him from a photograph supplied by Scotland Yard.

"Are there any previous convictions?" asked the judge. There was one each against Jack McNeela and Seumas Mongan. "How far back did you go for convictions" asked Jack. They couldn't tell. "Do any more of you want to claim convictions" asked the judge. "I was sentenced to death after 1916 if that is any good to you", said Jack Plunkett. Near midnight the Court broke up and the prisoners, with 18 months and 2 years sentences, were brought to Arbour Hill where they remain on hunger-strike till Doherty and Dwyer, the two men who, after being sentenced on political charges to five years, were put among the criminal prisoners; are restored to political or military treatment.

I.R.A. ACTIVITIES ON ENGLAND.

Two successful Operations were carried out by our Expeditionary Force in London on Friday 1st inst.

The Regal Cinema, Lea Bridge Road, East London, was the scene of the first Operation. After the Cinema had closed a fire was noticed in the building. Within a few minutes a bomb which had been carefully concealed exploded completely blowing down one wall, and damaging the others.

Later that night the Stores of Messrs. Whiteley, Bayswater, were shattered by a time Bomb, which had been placed on sandbags outside the premises. Owing to the late hour of the explosion - which had been carefully planned - no one was injured. Damage caused was extensive and included the destruction of four large plate glass windows and a considerable amount of stock.

A third Operation was carried out at the Neepsend Works of the Sheffield and District Gas Co. Here also there was considerable damage caused including the demolition of valuable machinery.

Although each of the above Operations was carried out under most adverse conditions, NO arrests were made.

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NEWS FROM THE NORTH.

DERRY:- The offensive by Derry Republicans against the showing of British propaganda films and Newsreels continues. On Wed. 28th Feb., tear gas bombs were discharged simultaneously at 9 p.m. in two important cinemas - The City in William St., and The Palace Shipquay. It will be remembered that two other Derry Cinemas - The Strand and The Midland had been bombed on the previous Friday. Following the earlier explosions many Republican homes in and around Derry were raided by R.U.C. A full special police guard was placed on all Cinemas. They, however, failed to prevent the explosions on Wednesday night. Proprietors were forced to refund money to hundreds of patrons, who rushed from the Cinemas, and it is now stated that there is a considerable falling off in patronage at houses where British Newsreels continue to be shown.

ARMAGH:- Patrick Houlihan and Patrick Grimes were remanded, on charges of endeavouring to obtain fire-arms from soldiers and inducing soldiers to desert.

WEAR AN EASTER LILY.

COURT CLEARED:- When James Boyle (15 yrs) Wellington St, and John Shields, William St, Derry, appeared in Court on Thursday, 29th Feb, cheers, applause and national slogans echoed from the public gallery. After repeated efforts to restore order, Capt. Bell, Magistrate, ordered the police to clear the Court. The two prisoners, who refused to recognise the Court, were remanded in custody for one week. As they were removed from the Court, both prisoners were loudly cheered by crowds who lined the streets.

BELFAST:- On Sunday, 25th Feb, two transmissions were made by the I.R.A. Broadcasting Station, situated in the North. Police and Post Office Engineers, believing that the "pirate" was somewhere in Belfast, combed out the entire City, but failed to locate the Station. The Announcer, referring to the Ballykinkar Camp raid, stated that 200 rifles and 20 Broad guns were captured.

RAIDS:- Several Nationalist areas in Belfast were subjected to intense police raids during last weekend. They stated that they were seeking literature etc. belonging to the I.R.A. The real object of their visits was, of course, the Republican Transmitter, which continues its activities from "somewhere in the North". In a house in Lincoln St. in the Falls Road area, a young man was arrested. He refused to give information about his movements - police believe him to be a native of Cork. He appeared before a Special Court together with another arrested man.

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DUBLIN SENTENCES.

Martin White, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, and Sylvester Fitzsimmons, Navan, Co. Meath, were sentenced to 4 and 3 months' imprisonment respectively by the Special Military Court at Collins Barracks on Tuesday, 27th Feb. They were charged with refusing to account for their movements.

As stated on page one, the following sentences were passed on Friday, 1st inst.:-

Jack McNeela	2 years
Seamus Mongan	2 "
Jack Plunkett	18 months
Seamus Byrne	18 "

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 Daniel Barry, Geraldine Place, Cork, was returned for trial to the Special "Criminal" Court at Cork on Thursday, Feb 29th. He was charged with illegal possession of documents.

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WHERE IS THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT?

There is some of the pathetic futility of a child's game about Mr. de Valera's reiterated professions of faith in what he calls the National Parliament. Where is this National Assembly which the Prime Minister of the Twenty-Six Counties of Ireland vests with a divine right? Is it in Stormont in Leinster House? Or does he mean the G.H.Q. of both in London?

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In the tragic history of our country, Mr. de Valera has not been the first leader to abuse the mandate of the people to coerce the people. An Irish Parliament sanctioned the death sentence on Tone and Emmet. An Irish Parliamentary Party applauded the executions in 1916. And now in 1940 a "National Parliament" in Dublin and an equally "National Parliament" in Belfast are allied with the Master of all "Irish Parliaments" in Britain to repress a Nation's striving for liberty.

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The first was suppressed by Britain's open declaration of sovereignty in the Act of Union. The second was swept away on the wave of national spirit evoked by the sacrifice of 1916. The failure of the third has brought the present struggle.

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"When a community declares war", said Mr. de Valera in Cavan, "it stakes its liberty, its independence, its prosperity and the lives and liberty of its citizens". Would he suggest that the Irish community declaring war on England has those things at stake? There is no liberty, no independence and certainly no prosperity to gamble and Irishmen hold their lives no more dearly now than they did in the last seven hundred years when the Cause is just.

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Does Mr. de Valera think that the Irish people can with his complacency accept this fictitious freedom of Twenty-Six Counties and this real slavery of Six? He speaks illogically of twenty-five years' persistent brave effort by a small people. The Finns have done more in twenty-five days - and the progression which he prides himself is not his.

It is the result, not of negotiation and concession, not of conciliation and surrender, but of blood and death and tears.

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ENEMY ACTIVITIES.

The Empire mouthpieces in Downing Street, London, and Merrion Street Dublin, have long been moaning about the money that has come mysteriously from somewhere to finance the Irish Republican Army's Campaign in England. The English have been hinting, some of them saying openly, that it is supplied by Germany; their Irish allies have bewailed the fact that Irish exiles in America have helped the Expeditionary Force to carry on its gallant war in England.

It will be remembered that in his broadcast to America last Christmas, Mr. Dictator de Valera, in his usual hypocritical fashion, asked Irish exiles in U.S.A. to give any money they had for Ireland to him, and to cut off supplies from the I.R.A.

Some weeks ago the New York police made a sudden swoop on scores of homes in that city and in Brooklyn, and arrested 17 or 18 young men, who were supposed to be concerned in some plot or other against the U.S.A. Government. Most of those arrested were Irish-Americans. The first question asked of them when they were being bullied by the police was not "Why are you in this plot?" but "WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE I.R.A.?"

It is now believed that the list of those arrested was supplied by Scotland Yard, and that the whole frame-up is part of the frantic and futile attempt of the English to find out the source from which our brave men in England get their supplies. It would be interesting to know just how much Mr. Bob Brennan and his Merrion St. Masters are concerned in this offensive against young Irish-Americans.

In the years following 1916, the American police acted against Irishmen in the States on information supplied by London and Dublin.

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"May the grass wither from thy feet! The woods deny thee shelter! Earth-a-home! The dust a grave! The sun his light! And heaven her God!"

----- Malediction invoked by Gen. Burke (Fenian) on the informer Massey, 27/4/'67.

THERE ARE STILL BURKES AND MASSYS.

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EASTER COMMORATION

Secretaries of Local Committees, who have not already done so, should communicate immediately with:-

Secretary, Easter Commemoration Committee,

12, St. Andrew's St., Dublin.

Let him know (a) Requirements re. Speaker, etc., (b) Venue of commemoration, (c) Amount of lilies required and address to which they should be sent. WEAR AN EASTER LILY.

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IRISHMAN SENTENCED IN LONDON.

"It's no use asking me where I got it. I won't tell you or the whole of Scotland Yard. I am proud to be a member of the I.R.A." - said John E. Hegarty, when he appeared at Ealing Police Court, London, charged with illegal possession of a .38 Webley revolver and 11 rounds of ammunition.

Sentenced to 3 months hard labour he left the dock shouting "God Save Ireland".

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THE IRISH CHRISTIAN BROTHERHOOD.

Several copies of a publication by the Irish Christian Brotherhood, whose declared objects are "a truly Christian form of Irish Freedom, unconfined by land frontiers or unfettered by cloaked allegiances or secret agreements", have come to us recently.

Having read the contents of same, we were impressed by the sincerity of its authors, and the clear and truthful manner in which the general position in Ireland to-day is dealt with.

Whilst appreciating the good work undertaken by the Irish Christian Brotherhood, we must point out that there is no connection, whatever, between this Brotherhood and the Irish Republican Army.

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THE SACRED FIRE.

They lit a fire within their land that
Long was ashes cold,
With splendid dreams they made it
Glow, threw in their hearts of gold.
They saw thy slowly paling cheek and
Knew thy failing breath,
They bade thee live once more Kathleen,
Who wert so nigh to death,
And who dare quench the sacred fire,
And who dare give them blame,
Since he who draws too near the glow,
Shall break into a flame?
They lit a beacon in their land, built
Of the souls of men,
To make thee warm once more Kathleen,
To bid thee live again.

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BECOME AN ACTIVE IRISH REPUBLICAN TODAY!

T E R R O R.

The terror which has been tearing at the heart of John Bull, since the I.R.A. opened hostilities in England in January 1939, has been shown in the various panicky precautions taken to guard against so-called outrages by the gallant band of men and women of the Irish Republic who day after day risk life and liberty to enable the Government of the Republic to pursue its Campaign against the Empire.

Never during the last twelve months have the English shown more clearly the extent of this terror, than on Monday last, when Humphreys, the "Judge" who has sent many an Irish boy and girl to the living death of a convict cell, arrived at Lewes to open the Sussex Assizes.

A guard of almost 100 fully equipped soldiers escorted Humphreys to service at St. Michael's Church, and then to the Court, where they remain on duty during the assizes. All streets leading to the Court room in the County Hall, have been closed to traffic, pedestrians are held up and parcels searched. At the judge's lodgings a strong guard of armed police watch over the terrified Humphreys.

By such precautions only can the Empire hope to prolong the lives of Humphreys and her other petty tools and tyrants - but no power on earth can ease the torture of a guilty conscience.

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ANOTHER BELFAST R.I.D.

Three men, whose names were given as Harry McGrogan, Cinnamon St., Frank Regan, Craig St and Hugh Kerr, were arrested in Belfast on Monday, when police swooped on a house in Christian Place. It is stated that several revolvers, a Thompson machine-gun and about 500 rounds of ammunition were taken in this raid.

Later on Monday over 30 armed police and detectives surrounded a house in College Square, where they claim to have captured many copies of "WEAR NEWS", a duplicating machine and other printing materials.

A young man, it appears, was questioned early on Monday by G.I.D. he was later followed to one of the houses. Thus the R.U.G. succeeded in locating the "WEAR NEWS" depot in Belfast for which they had been continuously searching since last July.

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