

# WAR NEWS

ISSUED BY THE REPUBLICAN PUBLICITY BUREAU DUBLIN. 9th September 1939

## FORTUNE FAVOURS THE BRAVE

French, German, Italian and American papers are giving great publicity to the I.R.A. campaign in England. One of the main features noted by them is the inability of the British Police to curb our activities and their growing bewilderment after each new operation has been successfully carried out in the face of their most elaborate precautions.

The Continental Press stresses this incompetency and the resultant panic in British Official Circles. M. Jouvenal, a French journalist, treating of the War in England writes:- "There is a wide-spread feeling of panic. The whole country and especially officialdom is in a state of nerves".

This "feeling of panic" has been responsible for the enrolment of thousands of extra police, bringing the total strength of the force up to 75,000 men, and the diversion of military and A.R.P. workers to the task of guarding Public Utility buildings and Social Services.

## THE COST

The cost in money of this War, to the British Government, is £100,000 per day, besides the estimated \$9,796,000 worth of damage caused by explosions. Monetary expenditure however, is the least worry on the mind of British Officialdom.

Our campaign is seriously delaying their war preparations for the inevitable conflict with Italy and Germany. It also provides England's enemies with useful knowledge of the vulnerability of key points such as power-stations, railway bridges, and reservoirs. The world-wide publicity evoked by the bombings has seriously hampered British War propaganda, not only in America, but also on the Continent. An Italian newspaper, "The Telegrafo" states:-

"These Irish bombs have a political value in this historic moment when Britain pretends to defend the principles of international justice, these bombs are evidence of the atrocious injustice on which Britain founded her empire".

Thus is British hypocrisy exposed at a time when she needs all the allies she can get to defend her crumbling Empire. The Arabs too have profited by our example and taken to the use of time bombs with shattering effect. Britain's rulers cannot afford to let panic reign in the "hearts of oak". A frightened citizen makes a timid soldier. The civilian population and social services are the nerve centres which actuate the military arm. If these are disorganised or paralysed by fear, the armies cannot function. That is why civilian populations are bombed -- to make them afraid. Readers will, therefore, see clearly how important it is for England to quell the I.R.A.



## PRECAUTIONS.

Every Irishman in England suspected of having I.R.A. sympathies is constantly shadowed by the police. His house is watched day and night; when he goes out he is followed at a distance of a few paces by his own special "shadows", in cars or on bicycles; if he enters a cinema the management is informed that a terrorist is on the premises, and the attendants watch him the whole time he is there. Even at work he is kept under surveillance, and his employer is notified of his supposed activities, often with result that he is dismissed from his employment. The same applies to Irishwomen suspected of Nationalist sympathies.

Membership of the Gaelic League or G.A.A. is often enough to bring a person under suspicion. The scene outside an Irish house or hall during a ceillidhe or social gathering generally presents the aspect of a car rally. Raids take place frequently and at all hours. Toothpaste, Irish books, even recipes for hair lotions have been taken away by C.I.D. officers for expert examination. Irishmen and women have been beaten up in Police cells and even on the public streets in attempts to intimidate them into divulging information.

## POLICE CO-OPERATION

Enquiries have been prosecuted in Ireland and lists of Republicans missing from their homes have been sent to Scotland Yard. These lists have helped the British to capture a number of our Volunteers but, in the majority of cases, the police have failed to trace the missing men.

British papers have also reported, from time to time, the seizure of I.R.A. documents by Scotland Yard Special Branch officers, as a result of POLICE CO-OPERATION WITH EIRE. Chief of these documents were the so-called "plan S" and "plan Z".

Besides the guard placed on all public buildings, dockyards, railways, aerodromes, armament factories and social services special precautions were taken to guard vital points outlined for attack in the captured plans. All police leave has been cancelled almost continuously since the outbreak of Hostilities, but despite these special measures operations have been successfully carried out under the very noses of the English authorities; in many cases by men and women under the surveillance of the police. Contending with such conditions the list of 189 explosions given in our previous issues - now risen to 195, represents a truly marvellous achievement on the part of our men.

## PRESS EVIDENCE

On June 16th there occurred a fire in an Aerodrome near Salisbury, caused by incendiary bombs. The following report appeared in the "Daily Mirror" of June 24th:-

"An I.R.A. secret bomb factory in Harlesden N.W. was raided yesterday by Scotland Yard Special Branch officers, and members of the "flying squad"... For weeks detectives have been keeping two of the houses, derelict and unoccupied, under observation. Three or four I.R.A. men, now on the run had been using them. One of the men had been sent over from Ireland to organise the "rubber balloon bomb" campaign. All have returned to their own country leaving their contingents leaderless".



This raid took place on the 23rd of June. It was followed on the 24th by five London explosions in Banks situated in the heart of the City, and carried out one after another in the presence of thousands of people. Many minor explosions on the same night were caused by incendiary bombs, and the troops were called out to control terrified mobs. according to the "Daily Mirror" of June 26th:-

"The Air Ministry and War Office warned Territorial units and R.A.F. auxiliary units training near London during the weekend to increase the guards.... All police leave was cancelled over the weekend".

They obviously expected something and this is what they got: three fires at Warehouses in London between the 26th and 28th doing £1,500,000 worth of damage; and three explosions in Liverpool. A press description of one of the fires is worth repeating; it appeared in the "Daily Mirror" June 28th:-

"Flames leaping from a five story house in Barbican E.C. last night set a whole street alight, and began the biggest London fire in forty-two years. Seven large buildings were destroyed, seven badly damaged. Cost is estimated at £1,000,000. It was the second big London fire in two days. The fire followed an explosion at the corner of New Zealand Avenue and Barbican".

On June 27th the same paper reports:-

"Sabotage is suspected following two mysterious fires in a week at the aerodrome of Phillips and Powis Aircraft Ltd., Reading. The aerodrome police force has been increased".

All these fires were caused by I.R.A. incendiary units acting on instructions from their leaders who had very obviously not left the country, however much Scotland Yard might wish and consequently think they had done so.

On July 2nd, there occurred seven major explosions at Railway Stations in Birmingham, Coventry, Derby, Leamington, Leicester, Nottingham and Stafford. As a result of the Leicester explosion:-

"Eleven truckloads of debris, apart from that of the demolished office, were removed from the booking hall (Independent July 3rd)

On the same date 10,000 tons of coal were set on fire at Croydon Electrical Works. Firemen were unable to control the blaze. Two days later Government contracts were destroyed in a Birmingham Small Arms Factory and the commercial offices of the factory were badly damaged by fire. Another fire broke out in Eccles Varnish Works, Manchester, the same day, doing £10,000 worth of damage. Trains were held up by a further fire at Cannon Street station on the night of the 7th.



PLOTS AND PLANS

A new plan "the Z plan" was reported captured on the 8th July. The Belfast Telegraph of that date says:-

"The documents include two new plans for further bombing outrages in London and the provinces. Scotland Yard regard this discovery as one of the most important they have made since the I.R.A. bombings began in January. In consequence of the discovery special watch is being kept at vital points of the country".

The Sunday Graphic July 9th assures us that:-

"Police now believe with the discovery of this latest terrorist plot that they can stamp out future attempts to bomb important public utility buildings in London and the provinces".

Other press reports of the same date are as follows:-

"Sixteen thousand police were put on special duty in the London area, to KEEP SPECIAL GUARD AT VITAL SPOTS. Thousands of other policemen were told to be on guard in the provinces".

"In London police leave was cancelled and every Special Branch officer had to report for duty by seven o'clock last night. A number of suspects were shadowed continuously".

The Sunday Express informed us on July 9th that:-

"Sabotage in arms factories - mostly in the form of incendiarism has started the Secret Service and Scotland Yard's Special Branch on a new spy hunt. In the past few weeks FIRES HAVE BROKEN OUT AT KEY POINTS IN SEVERAL AIRCRAFT WORKS.... I.R.A. men are suspected more than enemy agents. A complete list of all Irishmen employed in aircraft and arms factories is being compiled. This contains the length of time in Britain, the work done, and the general characters of the workers themselves, as well as names and associates".

Two more fires in Cannon Street Station and a further outbreak of fire in the Birmingham Small Arms Factory synchronised with the elaborate precautions detailed above.

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THE CAMPAIGN IS INTENSIFIED

The Great Western Railway Station at Wolverhampton was bombed on July 17th according to Schedule; and was followed two days later by a huge fire at Borough Market under the Railway Viaduct near Cannon Street Station, London. Train services between London Bridge and Cannon Street were suspended for days; the viaduct was destroyed and:-

"Travellers from stations as far away as the Kent Coast were warned of the hold up. When workmen arrived at dawn, at the damaged arches, the fire was still smouldering".  
(Evening Mail, July 20th)

Exactly a week later July 26th - King's Cross Railway Station was blown up by a bomb, DESPITE EXTRA-ORDINARY PRECAUTIONS BY THE POLICE



A writer in the Daily Express asserts:-

"The bomb explosion at King's Cross Railway Station yesterday was part of the Irish terrorist "plan S". I understand that the authorities have information that an attempt will be made to carry out all the sabotage plans set out in the "S plan" and that the terrorists will try to demonstrate their daring by carrying the whole plan through unaltered in spite of the fact that all its details are known to the police.

This explosion:-

"Shook the station with terrific detonation. Sent up a dense cloud of black smoke to a height of 100 feet. Ripped the left luggage office, a wooden structure, and flung debris 30 to 40 yards across the covered roadway on to the platform. Tore the clothes from two women and a man nearby; and sent squads of Police to re-inforce the guard on other Stations and watch for suspects". (Independent July 27th)

The Daily Express of the same date reports:-

"Sixteen thousand police, hurriedly mobilised, were on special duty late last night to guard against new outrages after a bomb explosion at King's Cross Station had killed one man and injured 13 others. Extra guards were posted at all public places, bridges, airports, factories and railway stations. The weekly conference of C.I.D. chiefs at Scotland Yard was in progress when news of the explosion was flashed to them. Sir Norman Kendal Chief of the C.I.D. was able in a moment to organise the big search by detectives of parcels and suitcases in every cloakroom in London. An immediate round up of suspects by Special Branch officers and C.I.D. men began in all districts. Fearing that other bombs had been placed similarly to that at King's Cross ALL CLOAKROOMS WERE VISITED AND PARCELS EXAMINED. Staffs were instructed how to deal with bombs. The reserve reporting for duty at 6 p.m., were the biggest night force known in London for many years".

"The explosion at King's Cross Station occurred at 1.40 p.m. The Victoria explosion occurred at 9.30 p.m. The explosions occurred despite extra-ordinary precautions by the police" (Independent July 27th)

This huge force had plenty of time during the eight hours that elapsed between the two explosions to perfect their precautions against the second one, and to make a thorough search of every station cloakroom in London before the second explosion occurred. It is, therefore, clear that the SECOND BOMB WAS PLACED AFTER VICTORIA STATION HAD BEEN SEARCHED, and that the operator or operators had to penetrate a guard composed of the combined forces of 16,000 police; C.I.D.; Special Branch officers; Secret Service; Railway police; and the "Biggest reserve police force known in London for many years", which had been mounted on all London Stations. None of the men who carried out these operations were captured.

"Police chiefs in the great cities of the North of England were warned by Scotland Yard to be on the guard against a fresh outbreak of bombing." (Daily Express, July 27th).

The next morning there were THREE EXPLOSIONS in Liverpool and district

"One wrecked a bridge spanning the Leeds-Liverpool Canal at Maghull five miles from the city completely blocking the waterway. A second practically wrecked Mount Pleasant Post Office blowing out the front and littering the street with debris. The third was in a letter-box near the post Office". (Irish Press, July 27th)



"The explosions were brought about" says the Press Association "despite most extraordinary precautions by police who suspected that fresh acts of terrorism would synchronise with the final stages of the Emergency Bill in the House of Commons".

#### PANIC SPREADS

The police had long been striving to allay the rapidly rising panic of the British Public and incidentally to keep their jobs, by repeated assurances that they had the situation well in hand; that there would be no more explosions; that they knew all the members of the I.R.A. etc., etc. The waning confidence of the English people in the prowess of their police force had to be bolstered up from time to time with convenient reports of captured plans, which would enable them finally to defeat terrorist activities. Each fresh assurance was invariably followed within a day or week by a fresh outburst of bombings in all the principal cities. Panic grew; it waxed apace; it stalked through the portals of an Empire's palaces and Parliament; it crept into Scotland Yard itself. General Sean Russell says:-

"It is rather uncanny when the English are attacked in London, Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester, while they are reading about bombings in Palestine".

It is more uncanny, when every suspect is shadowed, and despite the most elaborate precautions in the history of England, that the bombings take place repeatedly and to schedule; even though the police claim to know beforehand the very places to be bombed, and the very names of the bombers, not one I.R.A. man has been caught in the act.

#### POLICE OUTCLASSSED.

The truth is the English police are outclassed; the people and rulers of the British Empire are on the run. In nearly every case where a conviction has been secured against Republicans they have been savagely sentenced, on mere suspicion or perjured evidence, in a vain effort to stop the bombings.

Lieut-Commander Fletcher (Labour Nuneaton) admitted in the British House of Commons that:-

"In the two supreme tests Ireland and Palestine the world had seen British Policy fail, and it's intentions defeated by a murder campaign".

#### AN ADMISSION OF FAILURE.

To the world the Prevention of Violence (Temporary Provisions) Bill passed by the English Parliament was an admission of failure; to the I.R.A. Executive it was something more.

It furnished definite confirmation of what we had already long suspected - that, apart from the Volunteers who had been attached to I.R.A. units in Britain before the outbreak of war, the vast majority of our expeditionary force were not even under suspicion.

The Bill was rushed through the English Parliament and received it's final reading on July 27th in an atmosphere of panic, accentuated by the explosions of the previous day. The "Reading" occupied five minutes and the Bill received the King of England's signature that night. This emergency measure was a complete suspension of the British Constitution - the first such measure during the last 140 years;



a tremendous sacrifice, but great results were expected. The public were assured that secret plans for dealing with the 700 "Irish Enemies" estimated to be active in England were already completed. Supt William Page Chief of the Manchester C.I.D. said:-

"The plans are confidential. We think it would be absurd to make them public at the moment. We have the exact number of people we propose to deal with and the evidence against them".

Hundreds of terrorists were reported fleeing the country for fear they might be deported. Compare this with Sir Samuel Hoare's statement during the final stages of the Prevention of Violence Bill, reported in the Irish Press, July 29th:-

"In the past day or two a number of young Irishmen had come over to Britain and were living in conditions which were very suspicious. They came to Britain in the morning and were gone in the evening."

#### DEPORTEES AND EXPULSIONS.

It is now nearly a month since Hoare signed the first thirty expulsion orders and the grand result of the "big round up" is at the date of writing 84 expulsions, seven prohibitions and twenty registrations out of a possible seven hundred.

Leaving 200 for London the average strength of the I.R.A. in each of the other large cities subjected to bombings should be over 100. The average number of expulsions, giving 20 to London is 16. That is to say out of an estimated 100 I.R.A. men in each city, excepting London, only 16 suspects have been deported. In the case of one large city on the West Coast, only four deportees were members of the I.R.A. The rest were suspected sympathisers or ex-members some of whom were deported because they were active in 1921. In no instance were the latter active in the present campaign. Not one of those expelled from a certain English city in the Midlands is a member of the I.R.A.

#### BOMBINGS CONTINUE

That Hoare's Coercion Bill has failed to stop the bombing's is shown by the list given below:-

JUNE 28th Telephone wires cut in several kiosks in the Euston Road and Leicester Square areas, London.

AUGUST 1st. A Wing of the Co-op., Society's Jam Factory at Reading gutted. 500 barrels mincemeat destroyed.

AUGUST 4th. Mails in letter boxes and bags at Blackburn, Preston, Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield, destroyed by balloon bombs.

AUGUST 10th. A Fire at Burley Territorial Camp Hampshire seriously damaged the store camp of the London Irish Rifles.

AUGUST 14th-15th Two explosions in hotels at Southport and Fleetwood, Lancs. The Fleetwood explosion did extensive damage to the hotel and adjoining buildings

AUGUST 15th. A fire in Johnson Belfar Ltd., packing case factory London. Flames leaped over 60 ft. in



in the air. 150 firemen with 30 fire-engines helped by 100 auxiliary firemen and firewomen were mobilised. Hundreds of families in surrounding streets fled from their homes. The outbreak was got under control but 100 firemen and fifteen engines remained a couple of hours later dealing with the smouldering ruins.

AUGUST 18th. Officers Mess and other buildings destroyed by fire at Winterbourne Gunner Militia Camp. Wilts.

AUGUST 20th. Incendiary bombs explode in three post offices in Birmingham.

#### A FRESH OFFENSIVE.

Meanwhile the I.R.A. is steadily pouring men into England both to fill up gaps in the units which have already been in action and to supplement those units which have not so far been called into action and of which the British police are not yet aware. The latter are stationed in places not yet touched upon, and will shortly take part in new and MORE TERRIBLE CAMPAIGN AGAINST BRITAIN WHICH WE HOPE WILL CARRY US TO OUR FINAL GOAL, A SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT IRISH REPUBLIC.

#### S P I E S.

In our last issue we warned readers to beware of English spies and detectives in their midst. On Sunday August 13th, two Liverpool C.I.D. men were observed watching a meeting in aid of Deported Irishmen in Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin.

#### D E P O R T E E S

Deportees are ordered to report at the "Republican Review" offices, 12, St. Andrew Street, Dublin, between 2-5 p.m. on the day they land.

#### SEDITIONOUS DOCUMENTS

On Monday August 14th, there began a series of raids on Republicans in Dublin, Belfast, Tir Eoghain, Down, Offaly and England. They continued for some days. In Dublin the police produced "Warrants" empowering them to search for "sedition documents".

In each case the people raided were speakers, writers and publishers - those, in fact, whom the police thought most likely to be connected with the "War News".

#### THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL.

As a result of the raids by police and "plain clothes men" Miles Heffernan of Dublin was arrested and detained on a charge of possessing "sedition documents".

Two proclamations were issued by the 26 County Government AFTER HIS ARREST:-

"The first putting part V of the Offences Against the State Act into force and the second putting part III of the Act which gives Government special powers of arrest detention, and search of detained persons into operation (Irish Press August 23rd)



The "Irish Independent", "Irish Times" and other papers, but not the "Irish Press" announced on August 26th, that according to the "Iris Oifigiuil"-

"The following officers had been appointed members of the Special Criminal Court, set up under part V of the Offences Against the State Act.

Colonel Francis Bennett.

Major John V. Joyce.

Major Cornelius Whelan,

Major Patrick Tuite.

Commdt. Richard Feely has been appointed registrar of the Court.

The personnel of the new court is the same as that of the former Military Tribunal.

### R E M E M B E R

When England goes to war a determined effort will be made by the Pro-British Press and by certain factions in this country to involve Ireland in England's War. Irishmen must be prepared to recognise and defeat these attempts in no matter what form they may come. . . .  
Remember Redmond.

The last time we gave England soldiers in return for specious promises, she gave us back firing squads and Black and Tans.  
Remember Hamar Greenwood.

Britain wants our foodstuffs. She is plotting to get them to feed her population while Irish people starve. By supporting England with men and supplies we are liable to be classed as combatants and allies of England.

Your only protection against wholesale bombing is the I.R.A. Your Government is already at war - with our only enemy England. Therefore, you will not be bombed by England's enemies.

Remember - This is England's last stand to save her robber Empire.  
ENGLAND'S DIFFICULTY IS IRELAND'S OPPORTUNITY.

### I M P O R T A N T ! !

We request our readers to listen in to our weekly Broadcast from the Irish Republican Broadcasting station, on a wave-length of approx. 21.4 Ms. at 9 p.m. In order to avoid interference by Free State authorities, we are not in a position to name the night on which Broadcast takes place. This information will be forwarded to each area immediately prior to Broadcast.

We further request our readers to help in ensuring that as many as possible read each copy of the "WAR NEWS". Please do your duty in this respect by passing on this copy to your friends.

We sincerely hope that our readers will forgive us for failing to make use of our National language in this issue. This will not be the case next time.