

An Phoblacht REPUBLICAN NEWS



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RPG-7 ATTACK
SEE ALSO PAGE 2



WAR AND WORDS

FOUR RUC MEN narrowly escaped death when an RPG-7 rocket clipped the front of the landrover they were travelling in through the Beechmount area of west Belfast last Tuesday, July 27th.

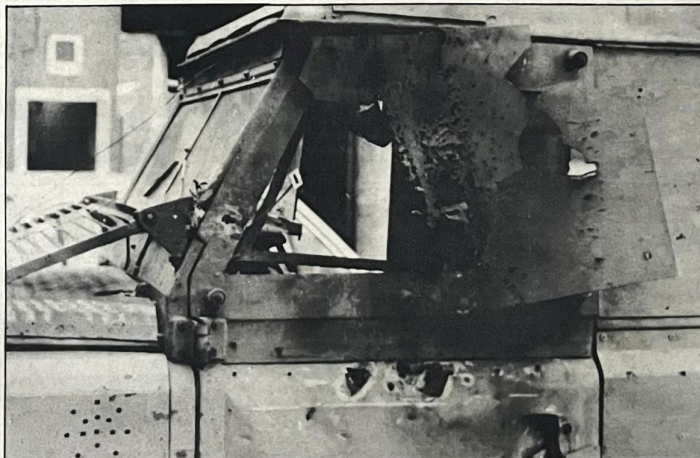
The mounting of the surprise attack, the withdrawal of the Volunteers from the vicinity and the evading of arrest or seizure of the arms used, is an indication of how nationalist ghetto areas, despite heavy enemy patrolling, are a safe haven for Ireland's liberation soldiers. And throughout the six counties, be it in south Armagh or south Derry or Fermanagh, IRA Volunteers rely on the support and sympathy of local people in the areas from which they operate and base themselves.

IDEOLOGICAL

Another struggle, besides the war between the oppressed nationalist people and crown forces, is also being waged daily, and that is the ideological struggle for the hearts and minds of those who support the IRA with arms dumps, meeting places or billets, or those who merely do not oppose the IRA.

Attempts have long been made to criminalise the IRA — by criminalising captured prisoners-of-war, which failed but at the cost of ten brave martyrs — and to isolate republicans by painting them as blood-thirsty devils.

Foremost in this battle has been the collaborationist SDLP, the Catholic hierarchy and the media as well as, of course, the



● The RUC jeep which was pierced by an RPG-7 rocket in last Tuesday's attack in west Belfast and whose four occupants narrowly escaped serious injury

Free State authorities and the Brits and their allies.

Last Wednesday's decision in Dublin's Supreme Court reinforcing the RTE censorship of and ban on Sinn Féin did not come as a big surprise, but the latest attempt in the North to beef-up the supremacy of nationalist collaboration is very serious.

Two weeks ago the Republican Press Centre in Belfast received

complaints from relatives of several dead hunger-strikers and Sinn Féin cumann that death insertions for the nationalist daily *Irish News* had been refused because they referred to 'IRA Volunteers' or 'Oglaigh na hEireann'. This change in a 60-year-old policy came about as a result of a take over of the ownership and management of the paper by affluent Belfast solicitor Jim Fitzpatrick and his

trendy young editor and sycophant Martin O'Brien.

Two members of the Belfast Republican Press Centre met with Fitzpatrick and O'Brien on Monday week (July 19th) and asked them to reconsider this uncalled-for and offensive change but Fitzpatrick refused. There were angry exchanges and the two republicans left. Notices which appeared in last Wednesday's

edition had the appellation 'Volunteer' censored from the names Kieran Doherty and Kevin Lynch.

CONTROL

So the *Irish News* has taken upon itself a pro-Brit, anti-republican crusade and an assertion of the collaborationist middle class's attempts to control the nationalist community's thinking. It should be remembered that the *Irish News* carries recruiting notices for the RUC and UDR and prison authorities and publishes, without interference, death notices for RUC men inserted by the Police Federation.

Attempts to undermine nationalist resistance and morale is part of an ideological struggle behind which the *Irish News* has thrown its biased and considerable weight, providing as it does the daily diet of news and announcements relevant to the nationalist community.

This abuse of monopoly is just one more example, although hardly subtle, of the psychological war waged against the legitimacy of resisting foreign invasion, laying down one's life for one's national rights and being given due honours when being referred to.

That much-prated middle-class property — freedom of speech — is just one more lever to silence the influence and call of the republican dead.

But, however much the *Irish News* will attempt to douse the flames of resistance, the IRA, as they showed in London on Tuesday — ak, and as they showed in Belfast last Tuesday, will be heard!

Brits flex Stormont muscle

BY PETER ARNLIS

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S rail-roading of direct-ruler Jim Prior's assembly proposals against opposition from the nationalist and loyalist communities, Dublin government, Tory backbenchers and sections of the British cabinet (who apparently 'couldn't care less') took a welcome turn this week with the deterioration in relations between the London and Dublin governments.

The ostensible reasons for the imperial capital once again snubbing its neo-colonial minion were the latter's exercise of its so-called neutrality during the British war in the South Atlantic and a recent speech from the Free State's Minister for Foreign Affairs attacking London for pushing ahead with the devolution proposals without consulting Dublin.

The snub has taken the form of a virtual repudiation of the accord reached in the December 1980 Anglo-Irish talks in Dublin between Thatcher and Haughey in which Dublin's interest in the North was acknowledged in the joint communiqué.

Despite this deterioration and despite opposition in the North to the assembly elections on October 20th it seems likely that cross-border collaboration will continue unabated and that the SDLP will break nationalist ranks and force everyone into contesting the elections, even if they boycott the assembly. (They would prefer to have even a rump of elected representatives which could do deals with Prior at some stage in the future, possibly even entering the assembly after 'assurances' had been given.)

COLLABORATION

Questioned about the effects of cross-border collaboration an IRA spokesperson interviewed in the Sunday Tribune said:

"The increase in cross-border collaboration is, when you think about it, causing serious problems for Mr. Haughey. What successive Free State governments have done is to create an industry which in turn creates its own momentum. The Special Task Force is an example of this. They are a political police force and the use of Irish people's taxes to prop up Britain's border wall backfire on the Dublin government, not the IRA..."

"The Free State policy of guaranteeing



● Crown forces and the forces of loyalism — the main beneficiaries of Prior's apparent determination to resurrect Stormont and snub the SDLP and the Dublin government

British security is dragging down the twenty-six counties' economy. Furthermore, it is not we who are destabilising the twenty-six counties, but the Dublin government that has created a self-perpetuating process. It would now be virtually impossible for Haughey — and Britain knows this — to demobilise the Special Task Force even if he wished to. Reactionary forces inside the Free State see the Task Force as an instrument to be used against all dissidents."

The IRA spokesperson also stated the IRA attitude to the assembly proposals and indicated support for a total electoral boycott:

"The assembly is a subtle attempt to revive Stormont and we are committed to destroying it. If it can be brought down by other means then well and good. If various nationalist parties adopt a united

boycott — which even the Dublin government appears to be advising — then the British will have to proceed to their next option, whatever that might be. It is our aim to destroy every British option until they conclude that there is none left other than withdrawal."

INITIATIVE

Efforts to establish a total boycott continue to fall on stony ground. Sinn Féin, which, along with several other groups and individuals, launched an initiative to have all other nationalist groups subscribe to such a boycott pledge has been joined by the IRSP, but the Irish Independence Party (IIP), which originally called for a conference and then shied away from it if it couldn't be seen to be in control, has made its position slightly clearer.

On Thursday, July 22nd, they issued a rather whimsical and ill-thought-out suggestion urging the Dublin government — in the event of nationalists participating in the elections — to set up a non-legislative all-Ireland assembly in which those elected on October 20th could sit. But Sinn Féin has pointed out that not only does the Dublin government not have the will to take such a step but presently practises discrimination insofar as it will not even meet Owen Carron who is an elected MP.

IIP party leader, Pat Fahy, said that they were still in favour of a complete nationalist boycott of the elections in October, but if that could not be achieved then they would aim for the non-legislative assembly. However, Fahy said that because all the parties hadn't given such a commitment they were going ahead with electoral plans and nominations.

The IIP are partially to blame for the failure to achieve a total nationalist boycott — they have not attended any meetings to discuss the issue and have not signed the 'Stop Prior Pledge' (which has thus eased the pressure on the SDLP), seemingly for reasons of vanity, that is, they were not the movers. This was seen in the statement last week when they said that they felt the response to their call for a total nationalist boycott of the elections has been lukewarm!

DISTRACTION

The ban on SDLP leader Seamus Mallon from the assembly, although not from the elections, which has twice been reaffirmed by Prior and Lord Gowrie, has been allowed to distract attention from the real danger — the disastrous reintroduction of Stormont. Had the SDLP an established attitude to the elections and the assembly — instead of waiting until August 24th when executive members are back from their holidays — then Mallon's disqualification would be merely academic (had they decided to boycott the elections) or else a real obstacle (had they decided to contest the election and attend the assembly).

Instead, they are fighting on a secondary issue and a wily direct-ruler could quickly suck them in by removing the ban and appearing magnanimous, making it very difficult for the SDLP not to attend the assembly.

The assembly bill became law last Friday, July 23rd.

...War News... War News... War News... War News...

RUC JEEP HIT BY ROCKET

NORTH DERRY IRA Volunteers caused damage estimated at £40,000 in a commercial incendiary bomb attack on Dungiven bus depot last Monday morning, July 26th.

Volunteers entered the Ulster-bus depot around 1 am and planted three bombs aboard buses. Two exploded at 1.30 am, destroying one bus and damaging three others in the ensuing blaze. The third bomb unfortunately failed to detonate and was later defused by British army disposal men.

LURGAN

INCENDIARY ATTACK

Only two hours after the Dungiven attack, north Armagh IRA Volunteers were responsible for a blast incendiary bomb attack at Wilson's Garage on Lurgan's Portadown Road. The bomb detonated at 3.15 am causing a fire which damaged the premises though not extensively. A second bomb, placed at a petrol-filling station 100 yards away, was discovered by Brits three hours later and defused.

LUCKY ESCAPE

An RUC man in Dromara,



● The scene in Beechmount Avenue at the corner of Oakman Street shortly after the occupants of an RUC jeep survived an IRA rocket attack

County Down, narrowly escaped almost certain death at the hands of the IRA when he discovered by chance a high-explosive booby-trap bomb attached to the front axle of a lorry he was about to drive, on Monday, July 26th.

The lorry had been parked overnight on the Castlewellan Road, and the RUC man, who arrived to collect it at 9.30 am, was routinely checking the vehicle's oil and water when he spotted the bomb.

RPG7 ROCKET ATTACK IN WEST BELFAST

Another spectacular IRA attack, indicative of the calibre and high personal courage of its Volunteers, was carried out in the heart of enemy-patrolled west Belfast on Tuesday morning, July 27th, when a two-vehicle RUC landrover patrol came under rocket attack and high-velocity fire in the Beechmount area.

The operation was set up about 12 hours earlier when an Active Service Unit took up positions in a commandeered house in Beechmount Grove, at 11 pm on Monday. Shortly before the attack was launched, the Volunteers established a firing position for the RPG7 hand-held rocket launcher in a back garden, while other Volunteers positioned themselves, armed with rifles at a number of firing points.

When the RUC patrol drove up

Beechmount Avenue towards Oakman Street at 10.45 am on Tuesday, the IRA fired a rocket at the second landrover, while Volunteers simultaneously opened up with high-velocity bullets. The RPG7 rocket struck the front of the landrover, disintegrating part of its armour plating, but apparently failed to cause serious casualties.

Despite an immediate and very intensive follow-up operation by British troops in the Beechmount area, and half-a-mile away where the IRA abandoned a commandeer car they had used in their withdrawal from the area, all the Volunteers involved returned safely to base.

PUNISHMENT SHOOTING

The Belfast Brigade IRA has claimed responsibility for the punishment shooting in both legs of a north Belfast man, Hugh 'Booster' McMahon from the Unity Flats area. McMahon, who had carried out persistent criminal activities directed mainly at old people in the north Belfast area, was shot in Upper Meadow Street early last Saturday, July 24th.



Rumbles continue

BY SEAMUS BOYLE

THE BRITISH ARMY'S death-toll in Tuesday week's two London bomb attacks reached ten with the death last Friday of a corporal-major of the Blues and Royals household cavalry regiment. Eleven soldiers are still in hospital and only one woman civilian — all the others were figments of Scotland Yard's imagination — is in hospital, albeit in a 'critical' condition with an ankle injury.

While most public reaction in Britain continues to manifest itself in outrage that outrage was shown up for all its hypocrisy at the victory service in St Paul's Cathedral, London, last Monday, commemorating the South Atlantic war.

Dr Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, whilst justifying bloodshed spilled by the British (it was a 'just war') and scathing of the recent IRA attack was, nevertheless, roundly attacked by British MPs and the Tory press because the Thanksgiving was not triumphalist enough and concentrated too much on peace! Bringing British force into the moral fold he said:

"Sometimes, with the greatest reluctance force is necessary to hold back the chaos which injustice and the irrational element in man threaten to make of the world."

Then it was on to the springboard for a quick somersault as he continued:

"This is a dangerous world where evil is at work nourishing the mindless brutality which killed and maimed so many in this city last week."

But poor Runcie's service (attempting a modicum of racist impartiality), to the needs of Thatcher and her war-mongers, was a disservice according to the British press and several outspoken politicians who were angered that the Argentinian dead were mentioned and who refused to say 'Amen' to pacifist sentiments with which they disagreed. It was also revealed that some of Runcie's original plans for the service had been deleted because of political pressure. These were that the Lord's Prayer be recited in Spanish as well as English and that the pope's Coventry sermon with its strictures on nuclear arms be repeated.

RESPONSIBILITY

Extra security — said to be the tightest ever witnessed in London — was placed around St Paul's for fear that the IRA would call again.

-London bombings bring out the best in the British—hypocrisy!

While the IRA statement of responsibility for the bombings was ignored in the British radio and television news it was carried in sections of the British press — those with fertile imaginations embellishing the claim with the addition that 'we did it because of the British victory in the Falklands'!

In elaborating on the claim an IRA spokesperson interviewed in the Dublin Sunday Tribune said:

"There is no use in telling us that governments can't be changed by force when force created whatever limited freedoms exist in the twenty-six counties and when Britain itself has recently shown that force pays. That is why we cynically quoted Article 51 of the United Nations' Statute, on the right to self-defence."

The day after the bombings, Wednesday, July 21st, British premier Margaret Thatcher

visited Royal Green Jacket casualties in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, while the Duke of Edinburgh (who is the colonel-in-chief of the Grenadier Guards) toured the various London barracks of British army regiments, as did Prince Charles, in an obviously much-needed morale-boosting exercise.

Public confidence in the British army had earlier taken a steep dive. On Tuesday afternoon — immediately after the bombs — attendances at the Royal Tournament in Earls Court fell by an estimated 40%. A worried spokesperson for the Tournament, appealing for greater public interest, foolishly explained that all profits went to British army military charities — a sound reason, in the circumstances, for not going!

Last Thursday's *Daily Telegraph* (July 22nd) claimed that the IRA Volunteer who

parked the blue Austin Morris containing the radio detonated bomb in Hyde Park's Rotten Row had been seen by a member of the public who was now under police protection! His description would, the police boasted, soon form the basis of a photo-fit picture. By Saturday the *Daily Telegraph* was reporting that the police believed they knew the identity of at least two members of the Active Service Unit in London. Lengthy articles in other newspapers detailed to a hopeful British public that RUC Special Branch and garda were checking out if any republican activists in Belfast and Dublin were missing from their usual haunts. In spite of all of this, a far more accurate assessment that Scotland Yard hadn't got a clue who was involved was shown when, last Sunday, they cancelled plans to issue any photo-fit pictures. "We are just not sure if it is accurate enough," they said.

LEADERSHIP

Elsewhere in the press there was propaganda-inspired 'speculation' about a new 'ruthless and desperate' IRA leadership behind the London bombings, and even one bit of speculation — in the *Daily Mail* on Saturday — that the London ASU was operating against the leadership's wishes and was 'out of control'!

The RUC played their part too in the 'psy-ops' war of words. A spokesperson, stating that the operational strength of the IRA was down to 400 Volunteers and that this had forced the IRA to adopt the cell system, went on ludicrously:

"We think they are finding it very hard to recruit now. And the Catholic community in Northern Ireland is being extremely helpful."

In Westminster, the politicians expended hot-air in abundance, but to little avail. On Thursday, July 22nd, a call by a Tory MP for the restoration of the death penalty was rejected by Thatcher and other calls for voting rights to be withdrawn from Irish citizens resident in Britain, were listened to sympathetically but rejected by parliamentary representatives — the British Home Office.

ROYAL FAN

IN the French town of Le Mans the right-wing deputy mayor Dr Jacques Richard was so incensed by the bombings that he rushed out to tear down signs of a street named after Bobby Sands.

Explaining his action, which was unauthorised by the town council, Richard said that he had had some doubts for a long time but the bomb attacks "confirmed my mind and I just went along and ripped the sign down... No doubt there will be a terrible reaction when the other councillors and the mayor return from their holidays."

The inaccuracy of one newspaper headline which exultingly declared 'IRA lose a supporter' was amply shown when Richard referred to the British royal wedding as 'that marvellous occasion' and suggested that the street could be renamed instead after Princess Diana: 'L'avenue Princess De Galles'.

POSTER CAMPAIGN

ALSO obsessed with signs is the business community in Kinsale, County Cork, where shops, hotels and restaurants displayed signs apologising to England for the bombs.

However, the exercise of prostration (as low tourism than commiseration annoyed some locals, several of whom tore down such signs in a restaurant and said they were insulting.

The principal movers of the feigned acts of sale supported by John Hurley, chairperson of the urban district council.

No notices have ever been displayed protesting against the British army's plastic bullet war against nationalist children or the RUC's torture of detainees, but then again Northern nationalists are not rich tourists. And if last week's explosions in London do herald the beginning of an IRA campaign then Kinsale's Good Food Circle is going to need a lot more posters!

FREE STATE SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS THE BAN ON SINN FEIN

Censorship reinforced

BY KEVIN BURKE

THE political censorship of republican spokespersons on radio and television in the twenty-six counties has been given the judicial seal of approval by the Dublin Supreme Court in a decision announced last Wednesday, July 28th.

The RTE ban, under Section 31 of the Broadcasting Authority Act, was held by the court to be in accordance with the Free State's constitution. In a unanimous judgement, Free State Chief Justice O'Higgins said that the Coalition Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Patrick Cooney, who made the latest order under the ban, was justified in his belief that, in regard to Sinn Fein, he was "dealing with an evil and dangerous organisation."

The Dublin Supreme Court decision overturns a ruling in the High Court on February 16th this year on the application of Longford Sinn Fein county councillor Sean

Lynch, who was standing in the twenty-six county general election for Longford/Westmeath, had been invited by RTE to make a two-minute election broadcast on behalf of Sinn Fein.

Coalition minister Patrick Cooney immediately stepped in with an order under Section 31 extending the existing ban on republicans to cover election broadcasts.

This supplementary order was found to be unconstitutional by Mr Justice O'Hanlon in the High Court because it appeared "to contain insufficient safeguards for the constitutional guarantee of the right of freedom of expression of opinion with particular reference to the freedom of the press, radio and now television from executive control."

An immediate appeal to the Free State Supreme Court by the Coalition government was made and the ban remained in force during the election campaign, thus preventing the broadcast.

Submissions were made to the Supreme Court in early March and its decision has now been announced.

HYPOCRISY

The court decision highlights the hypocrisy of invitations by Free State politicians for republicans to

concentrate their efforts in electoral activity, in what they describe as the 'democratic process'. And in view of the fundamental principles of political freedom involved, the decision is made even more sinister by the punitive ruling that the state costs involved — which could be up to £50,000 — should be borne by Sean Lynch, the individual who brought the action.

In a statement on Wednesday Sinn Fein said:

"The Supreme Court decision today to uphold the constitutionality of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act is a major retrograde step as regards freedom of speech and democratic practices.

"The reasons advanced by the court to justify political censorship simply highlights the conservative, reactionary and right-wing thinking of the judiciary. Republicans were under no illusions about securing justice in a Free State court and today's decision simply reinforces that belief.

"Taken with the recent developments in the Owen Smyth and Gerry Tuitt cases where a British judge and British police sat in a Dublin court, today's Supreme Court decision warrants only one action — namely to fly the Union Jack over the Four Courts and Leinster House."



SEAN LYNCH

Buncrana march

A HIGHLY-SUCCESSFUL hunger-strike commemoration march was held in Buncrana, County Donegal, on July 18th. The march was led by five bands from Derry and County Derry: the Maguire/McBrearty Band, Sean Dolan Band, Kevin Lynch Band, Patsy O'Hara Band and Micky Devine Band.

Speakers at Market Square were Jim McMenamin (Sinn Fein), Eddie Fullerton (Sinn Fein urban and county councillor), Tony O'Hara (IRSP), Mitchell McLaughlin (Sinn Fein) and Bill Cody from the H-Block Committee, Clonmany.

H-Block fines

THIRTY-ONE people were fined a total of £1,800 at Tralee court in County Kerry last week on charges relating to protests during the H-Block hunger-strike last year.

The charges related to occupations at the Royal Liver Assurance Company, the General Post Office and Allied Irish Banks in the town as well as three street protests, all during August. All the protests were peaceful and no damage was caused.

The obvious political motivation of the charges and their vindictive nature, coming a year after the actual incidents, is taken locally as a reflection of the fury of gardai at the level of support for the hunger-strike, which was evident in the town throughout the seven-month fast.

Protest activity in Tralee, and the numbers attending memorial ceremonies for the dead hunger-strikers, were among the highest in the twenty-six counties.

Monaghan dole

IN A strongly-worded statement, the Fergal O'Hanlon Sinn Fein cumann in Monaghan has condemned the condition of and facilities at the town's unemployment exchange.

It points out that 800 people are now signing-on at the tiny antiquated office, with queues stretching down the narrow stairs and into the street in all kinds of weather. No privacy is afforded to those making applications.

The statement also condemns recent attacks by local councillor Francis McCarron, last year's chairperson of the town council, on those drawing unemployment benefit.

THE RESIDENTS of Alma Terrace, in the Finisklin area of Sligo are now reaching a crucial stage in their long-running dispute with Sligo Corporation over the municipal dump in Finisklin.

The dump, which is situated only a stone's throw from the 13 families living in the terrace, is a major health hazard with widespread rat and fly infestation. Added to this is an overpowering stench — at its strongest in summer weather — which can sometimes be smelt as far away as Carton Point on the other side of the harbour.

The rats and flies have now made a virtual nest of the front gardens of the houses and children in particular are very much at risk. And at the other side of the dump is a meat factory!

Two weeks ago a deputation from the residents went to Sligo Town Hall to present their case to the town councillors. They pointed out that the dispute has gone on in one form or another for nearly 30 years.

The first dump, established in the early '50s had been closed down after local people protested that it was uncontrolled. Later, business interests pressed the corporation to reverse that decision, but dumping was only to be resumed on strict conditions.

BY BRIAN MARTIN



The overloaded dump at Finisklin, in Sligo

These conditions have been ignored. In particular, refuse was only to be dumped on the north side of the tip, away from the houses. Deposits were to be in layers not exceeding six feet in depth, but are now over fifty feet high and moving closer to the houses.

Finally, each layer was to be covered with at least nine inches of clay each day to prevent rat and fly infestation and the release of noxious odours. This has not been done.

OPPOSED

The present phase of the dispute dates from

1978/79 when the corporation and county council decided to acquire an extra 300 acres between the existing dump and Far Finisklin, as the old dump was full.

Not surprisingly the residents were opposed to an extension, but when it became clear that the corporation was not prepared to move, they decided they had no choice but to leave their homes.

An offer of between £11,000 and £16,000 made by the corporation for the houses was rejected as comparing unfavourably with the price of new houses in Sligo of up to £40,000.

However, the County Manager has stated that he will not negotiate further until he actually gets the lease for the new dump from the Harbour Board. It in turn will not agree the lease until the Department of the Environment, which has its own stipulations, authorises it to do so.

The residents, caught in this vicious circle and unable to move away, continue to suffer the effects of the present overloaded dump.

Noreen Cawley, secretary of the Finisklin residents' association, claims that nothing is being done because there are too few involved and consequently have no political muscle.

"The various councillors will express their concern at the whole situation," she said, "but we always have to live with it."

Cavan closure feared

BY BRIAN MARTIN

FOR OVER three weeks a bitter dispute has been in progress in Cootehill, County Cavan, at the Italian-owned Alfa Cavan Rubber Manufacturing Company.

An official strike by members of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union began on Monday, July 5th, following the refusal by management to fill two vacancies from among seven workers compulsorily made redundant the previous Friday. A total of 18 workers have been laid off by the company in recent months.

The two vacancies were instead filled by the transfer of two office staff to the jobs in breach of agreed procedure.

Although it was this issue which immediately sparked the strike, the

union cites other reasons for its action, including the alteration of the company sick-leave scheme, the reduction of wages of six utility men and the elimination of tea-breaks, all without consultation.

Also in the background is the failure to conclude a wage increase agreement for 1982 at the factory. Alfa are proposing a deal involving a five-month pay pause and a direct linking of any increase not to the rise in the cost of living but to productivity increases.

An ITGWU circular accuses the company of 'deliberately provok-

ing the dispute for its own devious reasons'. And this is understood to refer to the fact that Alfa's seven-year 'tax holiday' as a foreign company is now almost up. It is suspected that Alfa, like so many others before it, is preparing to abscond.

The fact that a new operation, called Emerald Rubber, owned by the same parent company, is due to start up shortly in nearby Ballyjamesduff, only reinforces the Alfa workers' fears.

Last week a picket was placed by the strikers on the proposed Emerald Rubber factory which is currently being renovated with IDA grant assistance. Non-union building labourers are continuing to work there.



ITGWU pickets at Alfa Cavan

Join Sinn Fein

ANYONE interested in joining Sinn Fein should contact their local cumann; or head office at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin.

I am interested in becoming a member of Sinn Fein

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Brit murder-bid

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER of 18-year-old Paul McCullough from Ballymurphy, in Belfast, in the early hours of Saturday morning, July 24th, by members of the Coldstream Guards has caused a wave of anger among nationalist people in the area.

Paul was going down the White-rock Road shortly after 12.30 am on his way to buy chips when he was shot in the chest by a foot patrol in the vicinity of the city cemetery. Not knowing at first that he had been shot he ran terrified into a nearby house. His elder brother recalls:

"A few minutes after Paul went out I went upstairs to bed. Next thing I heard about four or five pistol shots ring out. I went and looked out the back bedroom window and saw a crowd gathered at the community centre on the

Ballymurphy Road. The RUC and Brits arrived at the house and told me Paul had been shot. They then raided the house for six hours, placing me and my sister under house arrest. They threw everything about the house and wouldn't let my sister return to her own home and child."

After a three-hour emergency operation in the Royal Victoria Hospital doctors confirmed that Paul had been shot with a low velocity weapon which punctured his chest and lung.

In a follow-up search after the

shooting in an attempt to somehow excuse and camouflage their murderous actions the Brits and the RUC raided between 50 and 60 houses in the Ballymurphy area, claiming they were looking for five 'gunmen' who had 'refused to stop' on being challenged by the patrol.

Given the British army's long history of not needing any excuse to shoot unarmed nationalists in the past, it seems highly unlikely in this situation that they would open up with a mere short-arm at 'five armed men'. For people in nationalist Ballymurphy as for those innocent victims of British violence in whatever form, no amount of excuses or whitewashing will conceal the truth.



● PAUL McCULLOUGH

Draft policy documents

A RECENT circular from ard oifig, enclosing two draft policy documents and the 1982 and their papers, was sent to all Sinn Féin cumann, comhairle ceantair and comhairle saigh.

If any of these bodies have not received this circular or should further copies be required, please contact ard runaith at 44 Parnell Square/Dublin 1.

NOTE: The telephone at ard oifig (Dublin 726932) which was out of order for over two months is once again operational. We apologise for any inconvenience caused but this was due to circumstances beyond our control.

Troops Out delegation



ON Saturday, August 7th, the annual Troops Out Movement delegation from Britain will arrive in the North on a solidarity and fact-finding visit, to meet local people and to take part in the weekend's protests, marches, etc.

The delegation shall be visiting Crossmaglen and Derry during their three-day visit (August 7th/8th/9th) but will be based in Belfast.

All local Sinn Féin cumann are asked to help in providing billets for the weekend and if anyone else is able to help in the way of billets they are asked to contact the Republican Press Centre, 51/53 Falls Road, telephone 246841.

Unconditional withdrawal

A PROTEST supported by several Irish solidarity groups in London on July 17th heard a call from Plaid Cymru MP Daffyd Ellis Thomas for a British withdrawal from Ireland.

He made the call during a 'Victory to the Irish people! Troops out now!' rally at Clapham Common organised by the South London Irish Solidarity Committee. Thomas is apparently the first MP for many years to support a march calling for the immediate unconditional withdrawal of troops from the six counties. He drew comparisons between Britain's war in Ireland and the British state's attacks on the black community. He concluded by saying that:

"The interests of the British working class are not served by British rule in Ireland and only when a movement has been built which can succeed in getting the troops withdrawn will the British working class really be able to deal with the problems which confront it."



THE LATEST (and third) edition of IRIS magazine is available from this week. This issue contains an exclusive interview with a senior IRA spokesperson, exclusive IRA photographs, details of IRA operations over a six-month period, and major features on loyalism; Jim Prior's assembly plans; the politics of repression; a comparison between two communities in Dublin and Belfast; the RUC; and Lebanon; as well as the post-hunger-strike prison situation, in 60 pages of print and photographs.

IRIS is available at most republican outlets and costs £1.20, £1 sterling in the North and £1.50 in Britain.

Singled out

IN YET another example of Brit harassment of Derry youth, the Anglian regiment have been issuing death threats to Paul O'Reilly, a 16-year-old from the Bogside.

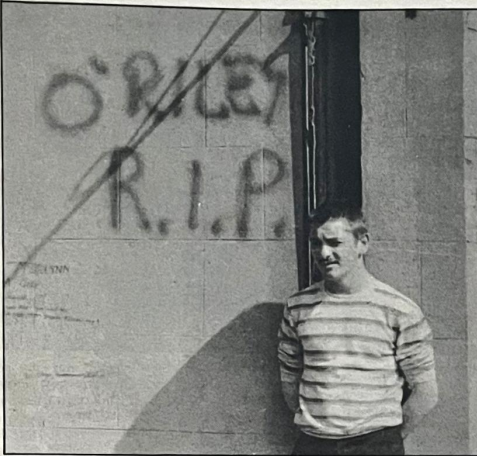
The harassment began on July 6th, when Paul and two friends were stopped by a foot patrol by the city walls. They were being checked out when one of the Brits said to Paul, "Are you going to join the IRA? They will teach you to shoot." Paul made no comment.

The following Thursday night Paul and his friends were stopped by the same patrol beside the high-rise flats. A Brit grabbed Paul by the throat and asked him, "What do you know about Tony Anderson? It must have been you that murdered him, you Fenian bastard." This referred to a Brit who was run over by a saracen armoured car after a petrol-bomb attack at Butcher Gate earlier this year. Paul was amazed at this and ignored the question.

Since then almost every patrol he meets shouts at him that they

will kill him because he killed Tony Anderson. He was stopped by a patrol on Monday, July 19th, and checked out. As he was walking away, a Brit from another patrol shouted, "Do you know who he is? He killed Tony Anderson."

The Brits have also sprayed on a wall beside Butcher Gate, "Flat O'Reilly" and "O'Reilly RIP". Paul is very disturbed about all this, and cannot understand why he has been picked out for special attention as he was nowhere near the incident to which the Brits referred.



● Tony Reilly stands beneath one of the death threats painted by Brits

Reprisal victim

THE NOTORIOUS 1st Parachute battalion which has been responsible for intense harassment of the nationalist population in County Fermanagh recently, once again showed their vindictive hatred last Tuesday night, July 20th, following the successful IRA London bombings.

A local man, 26-year-old James Murray from Rallin, Roslea, was stopped at the permanent Brit vehicle checkpoint in Mullabady near the Monaghan border while returning home from a friend's house. He was roughly ordered out of the car by several Brits and told to open the boot. While he was doing so he was jumped upon, kicked, punched and hammered with rifles to the ground.

His beating was so severe that local people living almost a quarter of a mile away heard his screams and went to the scene. They found him moaning on the road with pain, unable to raise himself up. By this time his cowardly assailants had crawled out of sight behind their sand-bag sangars. A local doctor was sent for and James was taken to Erne Hospital where he remained for two days having sustained bad bruising to the ribs, back and torso.

In a statement condemning the assault Owen Carron, MP for the area, also stated that the RUC had tried to intimidate one of his office workers (who was held in Gough barracks last Thursday, July 22nd) to spy on his movements. Two election workers and another office worker were also held.

CHILD HIT BY SARACEN

IN UNITY FLATS, Belfast, over the weekend a six-year-old boy was badly injured when he was deliberately run over by a British army saracen. At approximately 2.30 pm on Saturday afternoon, July 24th, little Michael Bennett was playing with a few friends at a pile of bonfire wood in the court-yard in Unity Place. His mother Betty and grandmother passed him on their way to some shops in North Street and told him to stay where he was and not to follow them.

Two Brit saracens were parked in the entrance to the flats, just several yards from where the group of children were playing. Mrs Mary Matthews, the child's aunt, witnessed events as she looked over her balcony:

"The first saracen pulled out on to the main road but the second one which was facing the bonfire wood moved forward instead of turning around to go out. I thought it was going to stop but it didn't, it just kept going on. I saw Michael at the wood, but it was too late for him to get out of its path. The saracen mounted the firewood pinning him on



● Young Michael Bennett with his mother shortly after being released from hospital

his back underneath it. It was terrible, I thought he was dead."

Local people rushed down from balconies, shocked, angry and screaming for the saracen to back off. The driver then got out and went around to inspect the damage he had done and, unmoved, got back into it and drove away from the scene. When other Brits were asked to send for an ambulance local people were callously told, "It's got nothing to do with us," regardless of the badly-bleeding and shocked boy who was now needing urgent medical attention.

A passing car was waved down and Michael was taken to the Mater Hospital from where he was transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital suffering

from three deep lacerations to his back, bad bruising to his body and head and a black eye. His mother, Mrs Betty Bennett, expressed anger at the RUC in which they dismissed the incident as a mere traffic accident 'which they were investigating'.

"It was no traffic accident," declared Mrs Bennett. "That soldier saw my child playing and ran straight over him. I want people to know what they did. It could happen to their children next because those people don't care who they kill or injure."

THREE SHOUTS ON A HILL

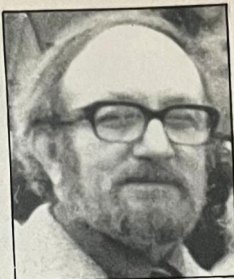
TARA HILL is the eleventh article in the occasional series 'Three Shouts on a Hill' by historian and broadcaster Eamonn MacThomais, in each of which he recalls personal and historical memories associated with a different hill and then gives three shouts on any subjects of his choice.

The idea of the series comes from the old Celtic romances which contain a story about three brothers who were very badly wounded. Despite their wounds they rose up in victory and gave three shouts on the hill-top.

Sean O'Casey, the Dublin-born writer and playwright and one-time secretary of the Irish Citizen Army, wrote a book with the title 'Three Shouts on a Hill'. His first shout was at Sinn Féin, his second at the Gaelic League and his third shout at the Labour Party.

For reasons unknown, the book was never published and it is thought that O'Casey later burnt the manuscript.

Since the first of this series was



published in An Phoblacht/Republican News in March 1981, Eamonn MacThomais has, in his own inimitable style, shouted his thoughts from Hill Sixteen, Cave Hill, Arbour Hill, Kilmalmain Hill, Keyser's Hill, Vinegar Hill, Primate's Hill, Shooter's Hill, the Seven Hills of Dublin and Knockmaroon Hill.

By Eamonn MacThomais

Tara Hill

SEVERAL years ago an old widowed lady lived all alone in Dublin's Inchicore. Every evening after tea she went up to the bedroom and took a large cardboard box out of the wardrobe. She laid the box on the bed and sat down beside it.

After thinking for a few moments she opened the box and took out the strange uniform and the small envelope which contained a photograph and documents. She looked at the photograph and read the documents. Slowly, when she finished reading she folded the documents around the photograph and put them back into the envelope.

Then she laid the strange uniform out on the bed. She examined it piece by piece, brushed it down with her hands and folded it carefully and put it back in the cardboard box.

She then knelt down to say her prayers using the cardboard box as an arm rest. During her prayers it struck her — 'what would happen to the strange uniform if I die?'

She became worried. She tried to continue her prayers, but the thought of death and the strange uniform and what was its destiny, took control over her mind.

She made the sign of the cross, got up and hugged the cardboard box. A few moments later she carried the cardboard box down to the fire. She sat at the fire all night thinking, with the cardboard box on her lap. Now and again the thought came into her mind to burn it and be finished with her worry.

But then she started to think of the man who wore the strange uniform. He was her husband; a strange man too, like his uniform. A kind man, a gentle man, an idealist, a Gael, Sorra the pity there were not 10,000 like him.

His favourite church in Dublin was the Dominican priory, St Saviour's in Dominick Street and it was her favourite also. Every day she travelled by bus from Inchicore to Dominick Street and never left the church without a visit to the Dominican brothers and priests. All her worries were dealt with in St Saviour's.

She fell asleep at the fire and did not wake up until early next morning. Her first thoughts were to bring the strange uniform to the Dominican priory. The Dominican brother took the cardboard box and the brown envelope with the

photograph and documents.

EXAMINED

Later that night he examined the documents and the strange uniform. He was puzzled and worried. Was this of historical value or was it a joke?

The more he looked at the strange uniform the more he became convinced that it was a joke or something thought up by a foolish man. He then put the cardboard box and envelope into a press and forgot about it. As time wore on he examined the strange uniform and documents again, but he still could not make up his mind about it. He asked several people but they were not able to help.

One night, while chatting to Donal O Conchobhair of the Castle Hotel, he mentioned the strange uniform and documents. Donal got in touch with me and asked me to call to see the Dominican brother and to give my opinion.

Well, weeks went by and I never called. Donal phoned me again and I promised faithfully to call that week. I knocked on the door of the priory and asked for the brother. I got a great welcome and I got a great surprise. I left the priory with the cardboard box under my arm and the envelope in my pocket.

When I got home and examined them more closely, I too was puzzled. The strange uniform and documents were now in my care, but what did I do with them? Like the Dominican brother I put them in a press and forgot about them.

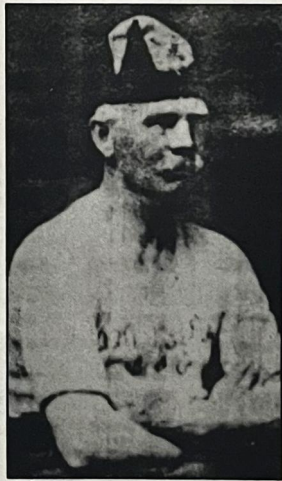
Then one night I took them out again and studied the documents. When I finished, I began to think of the IRA's last man's carriage. Then Cathal Brugha's words came into my mind about if the republic was down to its last man, MacSwiney and Pearse followed, with whispers of the future of the Gael and if only a few are faithful found.

This strange uniform, these strange documents, belonged to a man who saw himself as the last IRA man. He tried hard to win Ireland's freedom, he tried hard to prevent the Treaty split. When all seemed lost, he went with his few followers to Tara Hill.

KRUGER

When I was a child, there was a strange man living in Crumlin. He was known by the name of Kruger. Street folklore had it that he thought he was the High King of Ireland. Others said he was the direct descendant of King Brian Boru.

Sometimes he answered to the name of



● Kruger: a strange man living in Crumlin

Kruger and gave a proud salute. Other times he ignored our greetings: "Howayer, Kruger?" The name Kruger had a sort of a meaning for us. Some of the old street songs of the Boer War carried on down to the early '30s.

Many's the time I marched with me Jacob's biscuit tin and two sticks playing and singing:

"The Boers they were marching
The British went to fight,
The Boers took their rifles
And blew them out of sight.
Sound the bugle, sound the drum,
Give three cheers for Kruger
To hell with the King
And all his men
And hurrah for Paul Kruger."

We had no idea who the Boers were, but we were up for them because they fought the British. We came to the childhood conclusion that our Kruger must have been a great IRA fighter against the Black and Tans and that he was called after the great Boer leader.

I never saw our Kruger in his strange uniform. In summer and winter he wore an IRA-type trench coat and a tweed cap. I suppose he only dressed up in his Clan uniform at home.

So truth is stranger than fiction and here now I am looking at the strange uniform that was worn by our Kruger. The uniform consists of a tweed crown hat in blue and saffron with outway stars; a jersey, machine-knitted, in the same colour and design; a bottle-green kilt and a grey brown sporran; a black piper's feather hat and jacket.

Inside the jacket, the maker's name — Gleeson, O'Connell Street, Dublin — the same tailor who made Pearse's Easter Week uniform and the uniform for many Irish Volunteers.

DOCUMENTS

Here now is the story behind the strange man and the strange uniform that came my way. I will let Kruger give his own national record from his documents:

"Born and reared in the midst of riches and experienced the depth of poverty. Finished my trade as a compositor joined the trade union and was always a trade unionist."

"1914 — One of the first to join up in Irish Volunteers when formed in Foresters' Hall, Navan. First to be raided in County Meath."

"1916-21 — Cavan, espionage work. Ran down a spy who had brothers in the Tans and was actually on a Sinn Féin Club Committee."

"When a truce was sought and all else failed, I sat down in a cottage in Kingscourt and drafted out a Document of 6 Articles of State, with 9 Conditions, which was forwarded to Mr Lloyd George and was duly acknowledged favourably."

"1921-23 — Meath, Kilmessan. Appointed as impersonating agent on Peace Pact election. Tried to stop Civil War by telegraph to Arthur Griffith on eve of vote — 'Add De Valera's document to Treaty document, pass on all as a whole, unite, and put Lloyd George and dog in his box.' It was the only move left."

"Founded, compiled the Constitution and was elected Ard Taoiseach on the Hill of Tara, September 8th, 1922, of 'Clan na hEireann Stat Gaedheale', non-political and non-sectarian — the only movement that will ever unite the Irish people in their own interests."

"I ran the Clan in the teeth of political opposition, etc., until 1926 when compelled to suspend it."

(Signed) Joseph P Kavanagh."

So Kruger went to the Royal Hill of Tara and was elected by his followers Clan High Chief, the first High Chief to

be elected, as the Norman occupation

I knew another who was a great A go and sit on Tara ancient Ireland.

The Kruger's never be united clan system of his ideals for Irish was one man — himself — and yet make his claim for traditions.

In a way he was in Pearse's day. Sh at the Redcoat sal of making her pro him, made his pro any right to Ireland title 'High Chief' of

Of all the his there is no other Hill of Tara, either interest.

There was a

Hill of Tara befo

was founded, he

shrine crowned the

CHRIS

The first High

race chose the be

named it Drim C

tell us that he w

Abraham in the

we must go back

years before Chr

'clun' that crown

Tara was called

it was called Tara

queen of the Tuath

When the Ma

Tara, though not

was already the

monarchy. Heren

cousin, the beau

she asked him, e

in Erin, to name

— a place where

have her mound

She chose the

her is called Tara

Tea — and there

Irish form of Tara

Temora, which be

Other explanat

given but this on

the most natural

The pillar sto

United Irishmen



said himself, since the
man, he is dead now,
Abbey actor. He used to
Tara Hill and dream of

idea was that we can
until we adopt the old
Brehon law days. In
land he was alone. He
the last man, he thought
he had the courage to
ancient Ireland and her

a bit like the old woman
he used to spit and shout
riders. That was her way
rest. Kruger, Lord rest
rest and denied England
and when he claimed the
Tara Hill.

historic sites in Ireland,
that can approach the
in antiquity or historic

royal residence on the
the city of Rome
more Athens's earliest
Acropolis of Athens.

STIANITY

King of the Firbolgs
beautiful Hill of Tara and
stein. The Four Masters
is a contemporary with
and of Canaan. That
some nineteen hundred
stianity for the first
the hill.

Cathair Crofain before
Crofain was the first
De Danaan race.

ians came to Erin,
yet called that name,
chief royal seat in the
was married to his
ful Princess Tea, and
en before they landed
place in her honour
could be buried and
grave stone.

beautiful hill which for
Mur — the mound of
she was interred. The
Mur was Latinised to
me Tara.

ons of the name are
is the most ancient,
the most poetic,
the standing over the
graves on Tara Hill is

Tea's tombstone. Others say it is the
Lia Fail, or *Stone of Destiny*, and that the
Stone of Scone under the coronation
chair at Westminster Abbey is only a
heap of rock.

Others say that the Irish King's cousin
got a loan of the stone for the King of
Scotland and that the English robbed it
before it could be returned. There is no
mention of the loan transaction in the
Annals of Ireland, but there is mention
in the records of the Irish Costumes
Museum Society of having received, on
September 8th, 1981, the strange uniform
that was once worn by Kruger.

SHOUTS

My first shout on Tara Hill is for ancient
Ireland. The island of saints and scholars
who educated Europe after the Barbarians
over-ran the city of Rome. Ancient Ireland
which sent St. Aidan to England before
Augustine landed; St. Gaul to Switzerland;
St. Columcille to Iona; St. Fiachra to France;
St. Colmcille to Germany; and St. Columbanus
who became the light of northern Italy.
His library was so splendid that it was
known far and wide in Europe.

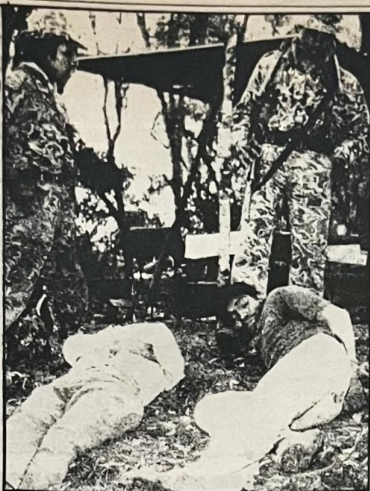
When the Frankish ruler Charlemagne
organised his palace schools he had Irish
masters under the direction of Irish monks,
Clement and Albinus.

My second shout on Tara Hill is for
Kruger and the other street characters
who crowded Dublin. They all, in their
own way, were true Irishmen and Irish-
women.

'Zozimus', who sang against the Act
of Union; 'Dunlavin', who would not
sing 'God Save the King' for a pound
note; 'Nancy Needleballs', who shouted
'Up the Rebels'; and 'Bang Bang' who
said before he died that he had two .45
guns, one for Dublin and the other for Bel-
fast.

My third shout on Tara Hill is to Mr
Reagan, president of America. I heard
you on the telly, Mr Reagan. I was one of
your fans when you were the chap in
the old cowboy pictures. I heard you
say in England that the aggressor in the
Falklands cannot be allowed to get away
with aggression and that the English
soldiers were fighting a just cause.

How come, Mr Reagan, that the English
aggressor in Ireland has been getting away
with it, not for weeks, but for 813 years?
Maybe now it's your coming out time;
well, how about a bit of coming out on
the side of Ireland, whose cause has more
justice than a heap of rock in the South
Atlantic?



● Treallchogaithe gafa agus an bas i ndan doibh



● Bean a cheistiú ag foras an rialtais

GUATEMALA

Dóchas ag múscailt

LE TOMÁS Ó SÉ

DIAIDH ar ndiaidh tá tíortha
mheiriceá Láir ag múscailt agus
ag lorg saoirse. Thug bua fairsi
an phobail i Nicaragua dóchas do
phobail uile an cheantair sin. Tá
an cogadh in El Salvador ag lean-
úint gan stad agus tá fianaise ann
anois go bhfuil Arm Treallchog-
aíoch na mBocht (EGP) ag bailiú
nirt i Guatemala.

Go dtí an lá seo féin is ag brath ar
an dtalamh atá furmhór an phobail
i Guatemala. De réir na staitisticí
oifigiúla is le 2% den phobal 70% de
talamh insaothraithe na tíre. Níl
talamh ar bith ag suas le 200,000
clann agus bí 500,000 clann eile ag
obair faoin seanchóras ar geall le
scálbhaíocht é.

Pé tionscailíocht atá sa tír is leis
na hollchomhlachtaí Meiriceácha iad.
Tá na comhlachtaí móra óla agus
mianadóiríochta saite istigh ann.
Tá Meiriceá ag tabhairt gach cabhair
dos na fórsaí míleata chun an pobal
a choimeád faoi smacht.

Is é Guatemala an chéad tír inar
baineadh úsáid as an scuad báis. Cé

gur úsáideadh a leithéid ar fud Meiriceá
Theas, go háirithe san Aigintín agus
in El Salvador níor shroich siad riamh
barbaracht na fórsaí sin i Guatemala.
Aon duine a ghabhtar i Guatemala
's is dócha a thárlódh dó na go mbeidh
a chorp le fáil go gairid ina dhiaidh
sin.

I mí na Márta seo caite caitheadh
amach an rialtas de chuid an Ginearál
Romeo Lucas García i coup fé cheannas
an Ginearál Ríos Montt. Gheall Montt
go gcuirfeadh sé deireadh leis an scuad
báis agus d'iarr sé ar na trodaí ar son
saoirse géilleadh dó. Ar ndóigh níor
chuir sé stop leis an marú agus níor
ghéill na trodaí.

Tá mórchuid grúpaí, ina measc
ceard-chumainn, oibríthe feirme, na
hlindígh, múinteoirí agus micléinn bail-
ithe le chéile chun an cogadh a bhrú
chun chinn. Deirtear gurab é César
Montes an ceannaire ar ar EGP.

Caitheamh go léir a bheith ag súil
le bua na fórsaí daonlathacha i
Guatemala. Má tá síocháin le bheith
sa domhan níl ach an taon rud a bhain-
fidh a leithéid agus sin neamhspleáchas
na tíortha uilig i dtreo is gur féidir
leo brú a chur ar na hollchumhachtaí
chun síocháin a bhaint amach.



Acher: 42,042 míle cearnach
Daonra: 7 milliún, 80% de bhunadh Indiach
Talamh: Is le 2% den daonra 72% den
talamh
Teacht isteach: Tá 34% den teacht isteach
ag 5% den daonra
Oideachas: Tá 63.3% den daonra ós chionn
seacht mbliain d'aois gan léamh réis scríobh
Teanga: 'S' Spáinnis teanga oifigiúil an
stáit. Labhraíonn furmhór an phobail
ceannas des na ceithre teangacha Indiacha
atá sa tír



● Harry Boland, joint-secretary of Sinn Féin, died on August 1st, 1922

REMEMBERING THE PAST

'Shot trying to escape'

ONE of the key figures in preparing Sinn Féin for its
intervention in the 1918 general election was Harry
Boland, who with Austin Stack was joint-secretary of
the party.

Born in Dublin, Boland
joined the Irish Republican
Brotherhood in 1904 and later
the Irish Volunteers. Arrested
after the 1916 Rising, when he
was in the GPO, he was released
the following year in the
general amnesty and became a
close friend and associate of
both Michael Collins and Eamonn
de Valera.

Two months after his election
as a Sinn Féin TD for
South Roscommon in Decem-
ber 1918, he and Collins
organised and carried out the
escape of de Valera from
Lincoln prison in England.

Afterwards he was appointed
as envoy from the First

Dail to the United States, re-
turning to oppose the Treaty
in the Dail. He was mainly re-
sponsible for bringing about
the ill-fated 'election pact' of
May 1922, in an effort to re-
tain some unity.

When the Civil War broke
out Boland entered the fight
"with a heavy heart, but yet
not without hope," travelling
to County Cork on the day
after the Four Courts were
bombed in June 1922 in an
effort to get reinforcements
and munitions for the fight in
Dublin.

At the end of the following
month the Grand Hotel in
Skerries, County Dublin, was

surrounded by Free State forces,
during the night. Six of
them entered the room where
Boland was asleep. He awoke,
made a dash for the door and
although unarmed was shot
down. The man who shot him
had been in Dartmoor jail with
him after 1916.

Harry Boland lasted little
more than 24 hours, dying from
his wounds in St Vincent's
Hospital, Dublin. The official
response from the Free State
authorities was that he had
been "shot while trying to
escape."

His former closest friend,
Michael Collins, wrote, "I'd
send a wreath, but I suppose
they'd return it torn up."
Harry Boland died on August
1st, 1922. Collins was to
outlive him by exactly one
fortnight.

..Mála poist..Mála poist..

Repatriation

A Chara,
At the monthly meeting of Buncrana Urban District Council, Sinn Féin councillor Eddie Fullerton had the following motion passed:

That this council recommend to the municipal authorities, to recommend to the government of the twenty-six counties, that Irish political prisoners in jails in England, Scotland and Wales be repatriated to Ireland.

Fine Gael councillors voted against this motion but lost, and the only thing that worried them was how much this was going to cost and who was going to pay.

Jim McMenamin,
Secretary, McDaid/Gaughan
Sinn Féin cumann,
Buncrana,
County Donegal.

Harassment

Dear Editor,

Following the arrests in May of five supporters of the South London Irish Solidarity Committee the police have now arrested six more at a street meeting in Balham, south London, for 'obstruction of the highway'.

The street meeting was organised by the SLISC and the six — Ace Kelly, Adrian Pyke, Chris Procter, Gerald Denver, Seamus O'Mahony and Terry O'Halloran — are all supporters of *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!*

The police came in force and were clearly determined to exact their revenge for the successful IRA bomb attacks earlier in the week. They were heard to refer to 'the IRA meeting' and Inspector Newark who led the arrests later told the solicitor representing the six that the reason for the arrests was that the six are 'pro-Irish'. They metted out special treatment to Ace Kelly who is black, holding him for over seven hours, forcefully removing his shoes and belt and generally manhandling him. They have retained all political literature and banners and in so doing do not seek to hide the political nature of their censorship.

We are determined to fight this police attack. We will not be silenced by the police — on the contrary we use every such attack to build support for the just struggle of the Irish people.

Chris Procter,
SLISC,
BM Box 4835,
London WC1N 3XX.

The struggle

A Chara,

It is essential for every revolutionary movement to have the support of all the masses if it is going to carry out its promises to the people.

While Ireland's revolutionary movement — the Republican Movement — has the support of the majority of the nationalist population in the six counties the hard facts are that there are many people indifferent to republicanism in the Free State. To gain their vital support it will be necessary to go out and relate to the people's immediate problems and to assist them in every way possible.

Sinn Féin must become more active in the socio-economic problems besetting Ireland (North and South) today. Republicans should be asking themselves in today's Ireland of unprecedented high unemployment, rampant inflation,



Dear Editor,

Over the last three or so years I have received a lot of stick from relatives and friends because I strongly support the Irish fight for freedom.

When Lord Mountbatten died I had just moved out of his home town of Romsey. At first I was deeply shocked and angry. I was 14 years old and up until then the IRA were just people I'd heard about on the TV who did nasty things.

About a week after Mountbatten's death, completely by chance, I was reading through a political book and it had a few paragraphs on O'Donovan Rossa. I have read as much material as possible on political Irish history since then and on the basis of this and my own personal feelings I am sure you are doing the correct thing. I have conducted several 'one-against-the-rest-of-the-class' arguments in which I stood up to defend the IRA against the rest of the class (about 34, all middle class, except me).

The ignorance of these girls (it was an all-girls grammar school) disgusted me. One even asked me what the letters IRA stood for!

I'm writing to you now because, of course, of the Hyde Park and Regents Park bombings. I'm actually watching BBC TV's 'Nationwide' programme at this very moment in time and Labour politician Roy Hattersley is expressing his disgust while getting the figure of the dead wrong.

It's hard to express my feelings to you in a simple letter, I'm not just a naive 16-year-old romanticising about a 'terrorist organisation'. I admit I was slightly sickened when I saw the TV pictures on the news but I'm sickened by any unnatural death — Irish, English, Argentinian, Iraqi, Palestinian, anyone. This is balanced, however, by knowing

this was media propaganda, as I also realise a lot of IRA and Sinn Féin acts are also propaganda. I know my feelings would be so different if a relative or friend of mine had been killed today, my feelings are that strong. Saying the IRA are cruel and evil is both untrue and hypocritical. I wonder what the English public would feel like if it was an army of Irish men occupying England.

I don't know if I have managed to express myself. The main purpose of this letter is to let you know that not all of the British are hypocritical crack merchants.

This seems a strange way of putting it but I wish you every success with your campaign in the future.

I am afraid that when I go out to work (I am unemployed) I will pay taxes part of which will be used to help keep 'my' country's army in your land. I truly regret this.

I hope you see what I'm trying to get through in this letter.

Joy Morant,
Wiltshire,
England.

ON Wednesday, July 21st, the day after the IRA bombings in London, BBC broadcaster Hugh Kay spoke in an early morning item 'Thought for the day' which so much 'impressed' RTE that they re-broadcast it. Kay's scripture was an unsurpassable piece of waffle full of English chauvinism. The following is an open letter addressed to Hugh Kay.

Dear Mr Kay,
I happened to hear a re-

broadcast (on RTE) of your 'Thought for the day' regarding the London bombings.

I can't help but marvel at the hypocrisy of some British people — especially in light of their recent bloody performance in the South Atlantic (far off the coast of Cornwall), and, if my memory serves me correctly, the wanton bombing of German civilians during the war.

Your broadcast also highlighted the British people's near total non-understanding of the situation in Ireland; of the British occupation of Ireland for the past 800 years; of the official violence and repression by your forces including civilian deaths (Bloody Sunday and plastic bullet victims) and torture in interrogation centres and the prison camps and jails.

We bear no ill-will towards the majority of English men and women who are, after all, denied the truth by what is a self-confessed controlled media. However, make no mistake about the patriotism and resolve of the Irish people to carry on a just struggle.

It is undoubtedly more appropriate for the English people to 'look outward' to the pain and suffering caused by their policies, and to the demands of the people who are experiencing their violence.

There is, of course, no chance of this letter, or any other letter with unpleasant truths, being read out on the radio — but I do hope that somehow you personally can get across to your people the simple message, Mr Kay, that 'Ireland unfree shall never be at peace'. Free means with-

out the British occupation forces.
Brian Haran,
PRO, Bobby Sands Sinn Féin cumann,
Killoggin,
County Kerry.

Dear Editor,

To get the present troubles in the North of Ireland into perspective some comparisons with the Second World War might help.

When the British bombed Dresden in Saxony on February 13th and 14th, 1945, over 100,000 men, women and children were killed in a horrific firestorm. Even Churchill called it, 'horror and wanton destruction'. The town was completely destroyed. It was a civilian, not a military target.

In the recent IRA bombings in London ten soldiers died. They were a military, not a civilian target. The conclusion is that nothing done by the IRA in Britain could match in malice or consequences the allied bombing of Germany in the Second World War.

Patrick O'Leary,
London.

Dear Editor,

In Mrs Thatcher's condemnation of the IRA Volunteers' action in London today (July 20th), her words must have echoed in the ears of the beleaguered nationalist community in the six counties when she said, 'these people know nothing of democracy'.

How true!
M. Mulvihill,
Kilburn,
London.

to make confessions of guilt whether or not they are innocent. In the partisan courts perjury is freely used and accepted as evidence by conniving judges.

Such is the lawless regime and such the criminal personnel in collaboration with which, and with whom, and on whose behalf, the young Irish citizen Gerard Tuitt was sentenced.

Very grave questions arise here. Is it or is it not a crime to collaborate with English torturers, murderers, perjurers and terrorists?

Where does Mr Haughey stand in regard to his policy of neutrality since he has extended the theatre of war from the six counties right up to Green Street and committed the whole establishment of the twenty-six counties to being an active part of the British war-machine in the war which they are waging against us for the purpose of denying our nation its inalienable right to peace, justice and sovereignty.

In view of what the world knows of the moral standards of top members of the London police (and Sir Kenneth Newman, erstwhile torture and perjury supremo in the six counties (his new commissioner) were the judges of the Special Court in Dublin naive in accepting any evidence offered by them against an Irish patriot?

Surely, since the role of British lackey played by successive Free State governments during the past century in its destroying our nation politically, economically and socially it is long past time that we gave ourselves a new horizon by spurning present-day sordid infidelity, double-dealing and self-seeking and set our hearts on the noble principles of integrity and patriotism exemplified by the heroic republicans who gave us the four glorious years and would have long since gained sovereignty had it not been for the great betrayal.

Until we return in strength and dignity to the republican allegiance, Green Street will continue to fulfil the nefarious purpose for which it was built and our nation will bleed in shame and anguish.

Patrick Sanderson,
Dun Laoghaire,
County Dublin.

Collaboration

A Chara,

I recollect a caption in the old *Dublin Opinion* which read, 'If the men of 1916 could see Ireland of the present day'.

How true those words are today. Gerry Tuitt is sentenced in the so-called 'republic' by a rigged court doing Britain's work for it. The Dublin regime are keeping their commitments to Sunningdale, while the Brit like their forefathers at Limerick break any promises they made. Haughey, the 'hard-line republican', was snubbed by his mistress (Thatcher) at the EEC, but lo and behold he comes snivelling back to do her dirty work for her. The Free State must be the laughing stock of the world.

When the war between Britain and Argentina was on, the Tony rag Sun called on Brit housewives to boycott Kerrygold butter, and holidays in Ireland. They castigated Haughey about his stance on sanctions against Argentina. I wrote to Haughey and told him not to go to Thatcher with a begging bowl, but put a ban on Brit exports to Ireland. All I got in reply was a wad of literature about their (Fianna Fail, that is) statements on the Falklands/Malvinas.

God speed the day when, by the efforts of our freedom fighters, Ireland will have a real republic without slaves, cowboys and creep like lickspittles to their masters.

Eddie Murphy,
Avon, England.



● The armed struggle must be complemented by involvement in the socio-economic issues facing the people

enormous jumps in the cost of living and general economic chaos, 'Where does Sinn Féin's economic policy fit in?'

The heroic armed struggle which will ensure a British withdrawal is the most important facet of republican ideology but surely at this very moment we should broaden that aim, and indeed complement it, to include

such day to day problems as mentioned above. By so doing we would be relating to the ordinary people of Ireland and consequently finding support in areas hitherto unknown for their support of the Movement.

It is patently clear that all the so-called political parties are incapable of solving the economic (as well as political) problems and that more and more people are becoming disillusioned with their pussy-footing and are looking elsewhere for political leadership and direction. We should not let this opportunity slip by or into the hands of others such as those traitors supreme — the Sticks.

The Republican Movement has the gumption and initiative to lead the Irish people into better days and thus, with the unfettered support of all the Irish people, fulfil the dreams of Pearse and Connolly.

I wish face facing up to some hard facts and plenty of hard work but it can and must be done.

Donnacha MacSúilbhe,
Contae Thiobrad-Arran.

Gerry Tuitt

Dear Editor,

Green Street courthouse, Dublin, was designed and built for an evil purpose, namely, to be an instrument for the repression and enslavement of the Irish people by an alien power.

Since the first day it opened until today it has been a foul place polluted by the stench of traitors, renegades, informers, spies, forgers, packed juries and hanging judges who were always dominant there, but of all the reprehensible deeds performed by such denizens none was more shameful, more treacherous or more craven than the conviction of Gerard Tuitt.

Everyone in any way involved in that dastardly act were well aware of the relevant facts. Having scourged our people for over 800 years the English, by force of arms, still hold part of our national territory. Within the six counties they occupy, our fellow nationals are subjected to discrimination and contempt. In the



● GERRY TUITT

dead of night British soldiers and police smash violently into their homes and into the bedrooms of sleeping women and children whom they terrify.

On the streets these same 'forces of law and order' murder women and beat them brutally, often abducting them and keeping them at unknown destinations for hours, and even days, meanwhile terrorising and torturing them in order to force them

Burkes at the back BY KEVIN BURKE

THE LONG-AWAITED socialist revolution in Britain, planned for Wednesday last week, July 21st, unfortunately had to be called off because of the IRA bomb attack against British soldiers in London the previous day.

This at least is what two of the main British lefty newspapers would have us believe in their condemnations of the successful attack.

Both the daily *News Line* — voice of the Workers' Revolutionary Party — and *Socialist Worker* — weekly organ of the party of that name — carried very similar editorials.

They both claimed that the Thatcher government, tottering under the weight of three million unemployed, the hospital workers' strike, gay policemen and intruders at the Palace, Russian spies in communications and corruption at Scotland Yard was only awaiting a touch from the revolutionary British proletariat to collapse and be replaced by the workers' state.

The IRA, by drawing attention to the fact that the British have been battering and butchering the Irish 'proletariat' for centuries, 'distracted' media attention from all this and saved the Thatcher government!

News Line in its editorial headed 'Who's running the IRA?' actually gave the answer that if Thatcher herself is not chief-of-staff she certainly has his ear!

At the same time both papers maintain that they have "a long and unchallengeable history of support" for the Irish people's right to use military means to gain freedom — as long as it is confined to Ireland.

The message is that we should be suitably grateful for this support from the British left, and not be intervening in British affairs.

These lunatics of the British left hope to return to the safe haven of their trendy middle-class talk-shops, organise their pickets of the Israeli embassy in support of the far-away Palestinians, have sing-along evenings for faraway El Salvadorans and consider boycotts against faraway South Africans.

At the same time the fact that the government of their country is waging a long and bloody imperialist war on their own doorstep is a 'distraction'.

Bugger at Buckingham Palace is, for these British lefties, a more revolutionary situation than Butchery in the Bogside!

★★★

In contrast, the letters column of *The Guardian* on Friday, July 23rd, showed that some British people were in fact able to consider the implications of the London bombs somewhat more rationally.

One short letter called for something more than hanging for the IRA, but the other four more lengthy contributions on the subject raised other issues.

They drew attention to media manipulation which cheered military action in the South Atlantic, yet screamed at it in London. They pinpointed Britain's 'out-dated colonialism' in Ireland as lying at the root of the problem and recalled Britain's experience in other colonies. They wondered what was the difference between a cluster bomb on the Falklands and a nail bomb in London.

For some at least the hysteria of the right or the bolt-holing of the left is not sufficient.

★★★

And at home in Ireland there are of course those who continue to close their eyes and ears lest they be faced with the possibility of what their own pro-Britishness actually means. And they apparently do not want anyone else to get anything other than the authorised version of events either.

Vincent Jennings of the *Sunday Press* and John Feeney of the *Evening Herald* devoted space in their columns this week to hardly-disguised calls for *An Phoblacht/Republican News* to be suppressed.

Both stress, of course, that they are personally great defenders of the right to 'freedom of speech'.

Like many others, what must disturb them is that the ordinary Irish people managed to get educated and can now write things down as well and pass them around.

Daniel O'Connell, the great manipulator of the Paddy, warned what a danger that would be many years ago.

★★★

Lance-corporal Peter Hampson who was based as a specialist dog-handler with the Parachute regiment at a border check-point had

Start the revolution without me

been very depressed after failing to get a transfer to the British Army Air Corps, a Strabane court was told on Monday this week.

The coroner recorded that he had died as a result of self-inflicted gun-shot wounds.

★★★

Consternation in the new Shannon Town Commission's meeting on Tuesday night this week when IRSP councillor Brigid Makowski moved a motion to go to the Municipal Authorities meeting next month calling for the repeal of the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act.

The Labour Party's Patricia MacCarthy took the opportunity of launching a ravingly obscure attack on the IRA and was joined in voting down the motion by the Fianna Fail members.

Strangely, however, the only Fine Gael councillor on the commission, Jim Gunn, seconded and voted for the repeal motion.

It will be remembered that when Fine Gael's Coalition introduced the Act in 1976, Fianna Fail opposed it all the way.

★★★

"The IRA of today have lost all claim to be the true successors of St Patrick," said Dr Derek Daly, Bishop of Down and Mondello, last weekend, lashing out at the recent republican bombings in London.

The Bishop was addressing the annual £150 per head luncheon of the Catholic Guild of Fruit Machine Vendors and Bingo Hall Operators taking place in Dublin on Saturday.

"Was it for this that Padraig Pearse led a rosary parade through Dublin in 1915, shortly before dying from the accidental discharge of a plastic bullet gun whilst visiting prisoners in Kilmainham?" asked his Lordship.

"How can we expect British hotel owners to keep their establishments here in Ireland open, when these evil men of violence, with their rifle tickets in one hand and Armagnac in the other, are driving away the tourists?" he continued.

Bishop Gerry Daly, who has often received praise from the British media for his deep understanding of Irish affairs, was accompanied at the function by his live-in housekeeper Ms Concepta O'Toole.

"The slaughter of these young Christian soldiers on the streets of their capital city is all

the more reprehensible considering they had just returned from missionary work in the South Atlantic where they had brought hundreds of young Argentinian natives into the presence of the Lord," said the bishop.

"Things have come to such a sorry state that at recent ecclesiastical pilgrimages and weekend retreats abroad — in Rome, Lourdes, Ibiza, Gran Canaria, Fatima, Las Vegas, Cannes, Johannesburg and Lanzarote to name but a few — I have had to hang my head in shame at having to admit to being Irish."

The bishop went on to announce that attempts had been made to intimidate him into silence, but said that he would resist this no matter what the personal cost. Only the previous week the Special Branch armed guard on his home had to be trebled after 'some so-called freedom fighter' painted 'Gerry Fitt Lives' on his front gates, whilst he lay asleep in his bedroom only one and a half miles away.

"Forty acres of rare shrubbery in the grounds of my episcopal palace have had to be flattened," said the bishop, "lest they afford protection for cowardly gunmen, who cometh like the thief in the night."

"And twenty-five Little Sisters of the Wholly Exploited, who had lovingly tendered the bushes for centuries, in return only for board and lodgings, have now had to be made redundant. Homeless and on the dole, they are further victims of the economic ruin wreaked on our country by these wicked men."

He also revealed that Ms O'Toole's black Saab Turbo, registration number JP2, bought by the pennies of the poor of the diocese in commemoration of the historic papal visit, has also been "the object of obscene graffiti from these self-styled Irish Catholic patriots."

And the bishop went on to inform his astounded audience that he had 'infallible evidence' that these men were in fact all God-less communists.

"Only last week," he said, "a very senior garda officer told me that a copy of *The Guardian* had been found in an arms dump near Kinsale."

"It's all down to low standards in high places," concluded Bishop Arthur Daly with a broad wink, opening his jacket to display a 'Mine's a Gibbon' T-shirt.

The bishop is well-known for his sense of humour.



WHAT'S ON

PALESTINIAN EXHIBITION & SOCIAL

Music by 'People of No Property'
7.30 pm Thursday 29th July
Fellons' Club
ANDERSONSTOWN
Belfast
Organised by Sinn Féin
All monies raised will go to the Palestinian cause

AN CUMANN CABHRACH SOCIAL

Traditional music
8.30 pm Thursday 29th July
Upstairs Lounge
Stag's Head
Linenhall Street
DUNDALK
Admission £1

SINN FEIN ROINN AN CHULTUIR SALE OF WORK

Saturday 31st July
6 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Any donations of saleable items to the above address would be greatly appreciated

INLA VOL KEVIN LYNCH & VOL. KIERAN DOHERTY TD

COMMEMORATION FACT
Saturday 31st July
LOC GARMAN

PRISON PICKETS

(in support of republican POWs in England)
1 pm Sunday 1st August
GARTREE
Leicester Road
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
1 pm Sunday 8th August
LEICESTER
Welford Road
Leicester
1 pm Sunday 15th August
LONG LATTIN
South Littleton
Worcestershire

VOL. KIERAN DOHERTY TD

COMMEMORATION
2 pm Sunday 1st August
March from Old Cross Square to
Kieran Doherty Park
MONAGHAN TOWN
Speakers: Daithi O'Connell & Matt Devlin, recently released hunger-striker

ROGER CASEMENT

COMMEMORATION
3 pm Sunday 1st August
MURLOUGH BAY
Co. Antrim
Organised by Sinn Féin

VOL. KIERAN DOHERTY

COMMEMORATION
7.30 pm Monday 2nd August
March from Busby Bee to
Dunville Park
ANDERSONSTOWN
Belfast
Chair: Joe Austin

INLA VOL KEVIN LYNCH, VOL. KIERAN DOHERTY TD & VOL. THOMAS MELWEE

COMMEMORATION
8 pm Tuesday 3rd August
March from GPO to
Leinster House
DUBLIN

REPUBLICAN POW IN ENGLAND

PUBLIC MEETING
8 pm Friday 6th August
Social Hall
Liberty Hall
DUBLIN
Speakers: ex-prisoner & a solicitor
Organised by Sinn Féin POW Dept.

Thanks

THE NATIONAL GRAVES ASSOCIATION, BELFAST, wish to thank the following for their generous donations for the new republican memorial in Milltown cemetery, Belfast: Claran, Danny, Joe, R. Shields and Joe Russell. £80 received through T. McDaid, Co. Clare.

Draw results

Cork Sinn Féin private members draw
1st: (card 124, line 7) R. O'Leary;
2nd: (card 181, line 2) D. O'Brien;
3rd: (card 128, line 4), Ellen Convery;
4th: (card 163, line 3), John O'Neill.
S. Tyrone Sinn Féin Building Fund draw
Week 9
1st (£100): Mrs McMenemy, Ballysaggart, Dungannon; 2nd (£50): Norbert McCaughey, Ballysaggart Road, Dungannon.
Toome & District Ind. Flute Band draw
Week 2
1st (£30): P. McChrystal, Cookstown;
2nd (£20): Bessie Convery, Magherafelt;
3rd: Henry McManus, Coalisland.

REVIEW PAGE

TU & RADIO

The Good, the Bad and Gaybo

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

THE POWER of good documentary television was illustrated last week when, after the showing of 'Alice: A Fight for Life' on Tuesday night, workers at the Mintax factory which make clutch and brake linings stopped work.

Mintax, in England, uses asbestos and a representative for the workers said:

"We just did not know about the possible dangers in our industry until we watched the film."

Alice Jefferson, the subject of the documentary, died aged 47 from mesothelioma — cancer of the lung lining — caused by asbestos dust. She worked in a factory using asbestos for only nine months when she was 17. With her permission, the film followed her fight, not only to live, but for compensation for herself and other asbestos workers.

The GMWU, which represents over 15,000 members, the asbestos and thermal insulation industry, is seeking a public investigation into safety standards. The Mintax workers did not return to work until they got 'assurances' about safety from the management.

What those assurances are

worth was part of a follow-up programme on Tuesday of this week, in the form of a studio-discussion.

Certainly the tactics of Cape Industries, who evaded responsibility for 250 deaths in a town in the western United States by switching asbestos production to Third World countries, which was also the topic of another ITV documentary at the beginning of this month, give little reason for confidence. David Gee, GMWU's safety officer, said:

"More lives are lost each year in this industry than died in the Falklands. Let's get our priorities right."

OBSESSION

Among the top priorities of British television, however, remains the obsession with the Falklands/Malvinas recapture, and the BBC showed the second part of its new series 'The Battle of the Falkland Islands' on



● Pat Kenny: a change from the nauseatingly servile Byrne

Thursday night.

A lot of it seemed to be flashes in the dark and incomprehensible shouting, like a bad B-movie — the sort Ronald Reagan used to be in.

Reagan himself turned up as the star of just such an old film entitled 'King's Row' on Sunday afternoon on BBC1. He got his legs amputated because he was going with the doctor's daughter and the doctor did not approve.

Rather an extreme way of getting rid of unsuitable boyfriends, but you can see his point. Maybe he knew Ronnie was heading for president. Anyway, the newly-qualified psychiatrist comes home and sorts out everybody's love-life and gets the hero to accept his lot.

In 1942, when the film was made, a happy ending was obligatory no matter what. More believable is 'I Can

Jump Puddles' on RTE1 on Thursdays, which is the serialised film version of an autobiography of Alan Marshall, who was crippled by polio in childhood and fought throughout his life to overcome his handicap. The serial is set in Australia in the early 1920s.

Ronald Reagan was lurking in the background again in 'Armageddon' on BBC1 on Monday — a documentary forecasting the effects of a nuclear bomb on London. RTE has already done something similar using Cork as the model.

The message is that you can no longer pretend it is not going to happen. But it remains a desperate race against time as to whether the growing readiness to think about nuclear war will spur us all to rise up and shout 'Stop!', or whether the politicians and generals will finally decide to see what it really will be like.

There is a follow-up to the programme next Monday with a filmed account of two couples living in fall-out shelters — one purpose-built £10,000 steel bunker, and the other an emergency home-built shelter in the back garden.

The whole thing is utterly terrifying, but if we want to survive now has to be the time to act.

PIRATES

Back to more mundane and comprehensible problems and congratulations to Radio Nova,

the Dublin pirate station, for giving up-to-date information on what was happening during the water cut-off in south Dublin last weekend.

The pirates are trying to present more than pop music these days. Last week Radio Leinster gave their listeners the chance to sound off about CIE — and they did!

The station's much bewildered and rather inept presenter then had to cope with a barrage of calls from irate bus-workers. He is now a marked man and will be left standing at every bus-stop he may venture to.

Of course the pirate stations still have a long way to go before they match the professionalism of the commercial Downtown Radio in the North.

Meanwhile, on RTE radio, Pat Kenny has taken over the morning slot of Gay Byrne for the summer. He is refreshingly blunt after the sickening Gaybo and should be made a permanent fixture. What a relief it would be not to have to listen to Byrne ever again.

Remember once he got a phone call from a woman who had been at school with him.

"Gay," she says, "You know, you haven't changed a bit."

"Ah, go on. Really?" says Byrne.

"Yes," she says. "You're still the head-bashed, slimy bastard you always were."

The only time Byrne was lost for words.

would lose him to the streets, he never thought he would lose him so totally to the Anglos," says Connie.

DAUGHTER

In the future world she finds her dead lover, no longer a blind pickpocket, but a musician, a worker and a mother. Her daughter Angelina is there in the form of seven-year-old Dawn, living in the Children's House surrounded by love and security.

"Suddenly she consented with all her soul to Angelina in Mordor, to Angelina hidden forever 150 years into the future, even if she should never see her again."

For Connie's daughter had already been taken from her, by the state, to be adopted.

Skip, her friend in the hospital, who has also been taken for experimentation, is Jack-rabbit in the future world. No longer considered sick, though madness is known and treated with understanding, he is an asset to the community.

until the middle of the month.

For the more serious musician there is the O'Carolan Harp Festival in Keade, County Roscommon. That is Harp as played by harpists not Harp as drunk to get half-pissed. There is a £1,000 prize fund there, a chance to hear the best on the instrument and De Danann in concert. And the following weekend the festival which claims to be 'Ireland's First' — The Boys of Ballisodare Festival — on the 'wild west coast' at Strandhill, County Sligo, promises to get "back to its roots to give You

Connie manages to escape from the hospital but is recaptured. Time is running out. She must save not only herself but the few patients who have not been operated on. Her last desperate act does succeed in stopping the operations but at what price to herself we do not know.

'Women on the Edge of Time' is not a blueprint for future living, but a book which challenges the reader to question and re-evaluate some present widely-held notions.

A weekend of mighty music and great crack" and invites you to "forget the mud and the dangerous decibels — leave your wellies behind — bring your swimming trunks and sleeping bags to miles and miles of beaches."

Music there is provided by Stockton's Wing, Freddie White, De Danann, Clannad, Christy Moore, his brother Barry, someone called Chris Meenan and his Redneck Friends and, of course, many, many others.

The music should certainly make up for the appalling publicity material.

Looking at the future

BOOKS

BY RITA O'HARE

CONNIE RAMOS' case notes, in the mental hospital she is committed to, describe her as 'an obese 37-year-old Puerto Rican woman.' She has twice been sent there by family and social workers.

Her behaviour is described as 'bizarre' and her speech 'incoherent', but Connie calls herself a 'catcher'. She escapes the horror of her existence by projecting herself into the future, into a world where she describes how life could, and should, be for herself and the other poor, oppressed, exploited people of America.

'Woman on the Edge of Time' by Marge Piercy, published by Women's Press, is her story and that of her family and friends.

As Connie's visits to the future become more frequent, her

alter ego, Luciente, who 'sends' for her, shows her what life is like in the small community of Mattapoisett.

They are self-sufficient through intensive farming and fishing. They no longer poison their environment with smoke or toxic waste. Advanced technology is used to do the boring tedious jobs but does not dictate the lives of the people.

Connie finds it difficult to accept a lot of it, particularly the 'Brooder' where test-tube babies are grown in rows of artificial wombs. There are no longer biological mothers or

fathers.

Once born, each baby is assigned three 'mothers' — they can be male or female — and all are breast-fed with the aid of hormone implants.

As Connie becomes more involved in discovering this new world, the reality of the hospital ward takes on a new and terrifying aspect. She is chosen to take part in an experiment where electrodes are to be implanted in her brain, which can be controlled by the doctors. She determines to fight and resist, knowing that she will be a mindless puppet if they succeed.

We slowly realise that Connie's future world is peopled by her friends, family and the other inmates in the mental hospital. But they are not beaten down or changed, by the necessity to survive, from loving gentle people



ple to people like her brother, so ashamed of his Mexican origin that he calls himself Lewis instead of Luis.

"My father thought he

Don't stop the music

MUSIC

BY SEAN O'BRIEN

THERE are more music festivals in the twenty-six counties, in proportion to the population, than anywhere else in Europe.

Not a very new piece of information to anyone fresh from the Rolling Stones and Siamsa Cois Laoi last weekend, who can

also remember Brittas Bay, Lisdoonvarna, Macroom and Mullingar where others already this summer.

And in the next week there is an explosion of further music festivals which will leave many spoilt for choice.

This weekend, the bank holiday in the South, you can select from Clannad, Boys of the Lough, Jimmy Crowley, Jim Page, Terry Woods and others at Ballyshannon Folk Festival or

the Boomtown Rats, the Furey Brothers, Barleycorn, Rhythm Kings, Madness, Tokyo Olympics, Thin Lizzy and even more at the Castletbar Music Festival.

And if none of these appeal you might catch Makem and Clancy, Freddie White, Moving Hearts, Bagatelle or The Zen Alligators sometime during Gory Arts Festival which continues

No offence

BY JOHN DOYLE

BRADFORD, a declining industrial town in the north of England, has one of the largest black populations in Britain.

For years these people have suffered continuous racist abuse and violence from the British police and National Front fascists. During last summer's youth uprisings in Britain, 12 young men, members of the United Black Youth League, organised in defence of their community.

Because of their attempts to resist racist assaults, by pre-

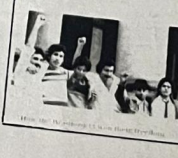
PAMPHLETS

paring a cache of petrol bombs, the 12 were charged under the notorious conspiracy laws.

A 24-page pamphlet 'Self-Defence is no offence' has now been published detailing the campaign in defence of the 'Bradford 12', as they became known, and their trial at Leeds Crown Court.

The 'not guilty' verdict recorded by the jury in the case marked an important milestone in the struggle of the black people and this publication captures the mood of resistance and gives an insight into the spirit

Self-Defence is no offence!



of politicised young blacks in Britain.

'Self-Defence is no offence' is available at 60p from Leeds' Other Paper, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2, LS2 3AW, West Yorkshire.

Plastic bullets

BY SEAN O'BRIEN

'INFORMATION on Ireland', a London-based publisher, has been responsible for a number of the best-researched pamphlets currently available on British oppression in Ireland.

Its latest publication is a poster-magazine entitled 'An Irish Tragedy — Britain's Disgrace' and appears in response to the murder of 11-year-old Stephen McConomy by a British soldier in Derry in April this year.

Stephen was the fourteenth person, and seventh child, killed

by rubber and plastic bullets since their introduction in the North in 1970.

As well as an account of Stephen's death, the publication includes information on the use of plastic bullets, which updates 'Information on Ireland's' widely-read booklet, 'They Shoot Children', published in March.

There is a letter from an ex-soldier detailing his experience of the use of plastic bullets in the British army, information on the European parliament's vote for a ban on the missiles and further details on the issuing of plastic bullets to the police in Britain.

The magazine folds out to an



A2-size poster in black and red which highlights the child deaths caused by plastic bullets and calls for the weapons to be banned. Striking and well-designed, the poster will be specially useful to people organising protests on the issue.

'An Irish Tragedy — Britain's Disgrace' is available at 50p, including postage (£2.60 for ten copies), from 'Information on Ireland', Box 189, 32 Ivor Place, London NW1 6DA. A list of other publications is also available from the same address.

AXSON, Cormac. (1st Anniversary). In sad and loving memory of Flann Cormac Axson, Flanna Eireann, who died on August 1st 1981. Ar dheis De go raib an am. Always remembered by his friends and comrades in Flanna Eireann, Cork.

AXSON, Cormac. (1st Anniversary). In sad and loving memory of Flann Cormac Axson, Flanna Eireann, who died on August 1st 1981. Ní dhéanaimid dearmad ort, a Cormac. Go dteag go raib an am. O mhamail, dhaidi, Monica agus Gordon.

BRADLEY, Seamus. (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Seamus Bradley, Derry Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who was killed in action during 'Operation Motormen' on July 31st 1972. I measc Laochra na nGael go raib an am. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in the Derry Brigade.

BRADLEY, Seamus. (10th Anniversary). Derry comhairle ceantair Sinn Féin member with pride Vol. Seamus Bradley, Oglagh na hEireann, who was killed while on active service duty on July 31st 1972. Fuair sé bás as troid ar son saoirse.

CASSIDY, Seamus. (10th Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Seamus Cassidy, Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann, who died while on active service duty on July 28th 1972. Thug sé raib aise ar son saoirse muintir na hEireann. Never forgotten by his friends and comrades in the Belfast Brigade.

DOHERTY, Kieran. (1st Anniversary). In loving memory of our dear brother Vol. Kieran Doherty TD, who died one year ago on Sunday August 2nd 1981 after 73 days on hunger-strike in Long Kesh prison for his country and his comrades. We remember with pride his struggle to free our land and we pray that his sacrifice will not be in vain. Mary, Queen of the Gael, protect him. Always remembered by his loving parents Margaret and Alfie Doherty and family.

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty TD and Vol. Kevin Lynch, who gave their lives for Ireland in August 1981. Always remembered by the Hughes family, Bellaghy, County Derry.

DOHERTY, Kieran. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty TD, who died after 73 days on hunger-strike on August 2nd 1981. True and courageous to the end. Always remembered by Cavan comhairle ceantair Sinn Féin.

DOHERTY, Kieran. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty TD who died after 73 days on hunger-strike on August 2nd 1981. "Ireland under the rule of peace." Always remembered by Charlie Boylan MCC, Cavan.

DOHERTY, Kieran. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of a true patriot and champion of the oppressed, Vol. Kieran Doherty TD. We extend to his family and friends our sincere sympathy and sad time. Like them, we shall never forget. Always remembered by the residents of Kieran Doherty Memorial Park, Monaghan town.

DOHERTY, Kieran. (1st Anniversary). In memory of a brilliant soldier who died in battle for Ireland's cause. Kieran, your name shall forever be on the lips of those who speak of freedom and justice and their people. Go ndéanna Dia tóraid a nam. Always remembered by the Kieran Doherty Commemoration Committee, County Monaghan.

DOHERTY, Kieran. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty TD who by his life and death has inspired us to strive even harder for that which we believe in. Fathers, that vision of Peace, the dream of our own generation, the reality of tomorrow. In memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty and his free, Máire banríon na hEireann gur a shon. Always remembered by the County Monaghan H-Block/Armagh Co-ordinating Committee.

DOHERTY, Kieran. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty who died on hunger-strike on August 2nd 1981. "In life you were faithful, noble and true, serving your land in Ireland and in exile, wedded to her in the fullness of youth, symbol of freedom, honour and truth." Always remembered by the County Monaghan H-Block/Armagh Co-ordinating Committee.

DOHERTY, Kieran. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty TD who died on hunger-strike on August 2nd 1981. "Too noble in life to be forgotten in death." Always remembered by the County Monaghan Sinn Féin cumann, Monaghan town.

DOHERTY, Kieran. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty TD who gave his life for Irish freedom and the just demands of the POWs on August 2nd 1981. Ar dheis de go raib an am. Always remembered by the County Monaghan H-Block/Armagh Co-ordinating Committee.

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). The O'Carolan/Kilmartin Sinn Féin cumann, Dungiven, County Derry, remember with pride Vol. Kieran Doherty, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch, who died on hunger-strike in August 1981.

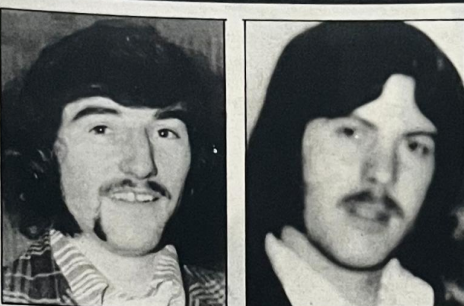
DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty TD, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch, who died on hunger-strike in August 1981. Always remembered by the County Monaghan Sinn Féin cumann, Monaghan town.

ASHE, Jimmy. (Albany). How is the you these days, Jimmy? Best wishes for your birthday. Not sure if it's 16 or 21. Hey, you're not the best looking one there (ha-ha). From Mary and son Patrick.

ASHE, Jimmy; NORDONE, Stephen; REILLY, Michael. (Albany, Hull, Wakefield). Happy birthday and best wishes to all of you. We're always thinking of you. From Mick and Dolfin, Sinn Féin POW Dept., Dublin.

CAMPBELL, Bobby; NORDONE, Stephen; REILLY, Michael. (Parkhurst, Hull, Wakefield). Sorry it's late, Bobby, but all the best for your birthday. Also, happy birthday Stephen and Michael. From Mary and son Patrick.

McCOY, Anthony. (H-Block). Best wishes on your birthday, Anthony. God bless. From mammy.



● INLA VOL. KEVIN LYNCH died after 71 days on hunger-strike

● VOL. KIERAN DOHERTY TD died after 73 days on hunger-strike

THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT remembers with pride Vol. Kieran Doherty TD, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who died on hunger-strike in August 1981. Your courageous stand, and that of your generation of Irish men and women to continue the struggle for a just and free society shall not be in vain.

THE REPUBLICAN POWS, LONG KESH, remember with love and pride our gallant comrades Vol. Kieran Doherty TD, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who gave their lives in pursuit of our free just demands as prisoners of war. "But you live, you all live. And they quake, comrades, they quake in all their might. 'Tis not sleeping grasses these English knaves have made, but unquenchable stars of freedom's light. You are topping H-Block comrades. And because of you and the many others, we oppressed men and women of no property shall realise the Irish socialist republic." (Bobby Sands).

THE REPUBLICAN POW, ARMAGH WOMEN'S JAIL, remember with pride Vol. Kieran Doherty TD, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who died on August 1981. "Wherever death surprises us it is welcome provided that our battle cry reach some receptive ear, that other arms reach out to take up weapons, that others step forward to intone our funeral dirge with the staccato rant of machine guns and new battle cries of war and victory."

Anniversary. In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who were murdered by British imperialism and a socialist republic in August 1981. Always remembered by Paul, Patrick, Brian, Moushey, Paddy, Thomas and Philip, Drimnagh Youth Against H-Block/Armagh.

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). The staff of An Phoblac/Republican News remember with pride Vol. Kieran Doherty TD, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who were murdered by British imperialism in August 1981. "The people have found themselves forced to struggle, they have had to struggle, because they are faced with the alternative of slavery or sacrifice; they are forced to pay for their freedom and justice with their blood and sacrifice."

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Kieran Doherty TD and Kevin Lynch who gave their lives for Ireland in August 1981. Your courage and sacrifice shall inspire us to strive even harder for your goal - our goal - of a socialist republic. Always remembered by the staff of the Republican Publications Dept., Belfast.

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty TD, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who died on August 2nd and August 1st 1981 respectively while on hunger-strike in the H-Block/Kesh. Always remembered by the staff of the Republican Publications Dept., Belfast.

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who died on hunger-strike in August 1981 seeking justice and their country's freedom. Always remembered by the Barney Morris Sinn Féin cumann, Crossmaglen.

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who died on August 2nd and August 1st 1981 respectively. "I believe and stand for the right of the Irish nation to sovereign independence and the right of any Irish man or woman to assert this right in arms or in any other way." (Bobby Sands). Always remembered by Dublin Youth Against H-Block/Armagh.

McCoy, Anthony. (H-Block). Happy birthday. May your next one be spent in freedom. From Carmel, Joe and Clara.

McCoy, Anthony. (H-Block). Best wishes on your birthday. From Noelene, Peter, Donal and Adrian.

McCoy, Anthony. (H-Block). Our thoughts are always with you. Happy birthday. From Maeve, Liam, Martin and Malachy.

McCoy, Anthony. (H-Block). Happy

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Kieran Doherty TD and Kevin Lynch who gave their lives for Ireland and a socialist republic in August 1981. Always remembered by Paul, Patrick, Brian, Moushey, Paddy, Thomas and Philip, Drimnagh Youth Against H-Block/Armagh.

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Kieran Doherty TD and Kevin Lynch who died on hunger-strike in August 1981. Always remembered by the Wolfe Tone Sinn Féin cumann, north London.

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of two brave republicans who were murdered by British imperialism in the Westminster and Dublin governments. We send our best wishes to Ireland sympathy to their families and friends at this time. Always remembered by the London Armagh Co-ordinating Committee.

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty TD, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who died on hunger-strike in August 1981. "The duty of every revolutionary is to make the revolution." Always remembered by the Maire Kennedy Sinn Féin cumann, Clonsilla, County Dublin.

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Kieran Doherty and Kevin Lynch who died on hunger-strike in August 1981. "Of course I can be murdered, but while I remain alive I remain what I am. I am a political prisoner of war and no one can change that." Condolences to the families and friends of these brave soldiers. Always remembered by the Troops Out Movement, Leeds, England.

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who were murdered by British imperialism in August 1981. Fuair sládas chum go mbeadh a dífúir agus Gaeltacht. Always remembered by the Wolverhampton Committee, England.

DOHERTY, Kieran; LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of Vol. Kieran Doherty, Oglagh na hEireann, and INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who died on hunger-strike in August 1981. "I believe and stand for the right of the Irish nation to sovereign independence and the right of any Irish man or woman to assert this right in arms or in any other way." (Bobby Sands). Always remembered by Dublin Youth Against H-Block/Armagh.

McCoy, Anthony. (H-Block). Happy birthday. We're always thinking of you. From Colette, Majella, Arthur and Eugene.

McCurran, Colette. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday. From Colette, Majella, Arthur and Eugene.

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doles. To the Irish Republican Movement we pledge our support until the spoken word and the written word from Irish soil. Victory to the IRA! From the South Australian Free Ireland Movement and the Irish Dependents Movement, South Australia.

HURSON, Martin; McDONNELL, Joe. (1st Anniversary). In proud memory of Vol. Martin Hurson and Vol. Joe McDonnell, who were murdered by Margaret Thatcher and the British government in the H-Blocks, Long Kesh, in July 1981. Always remembered by the Padraig O'Pearail Sinn Féin cumann, Loc Garmen.

LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of our dear son and brother INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who died on August 1st 1981 after 71 days on hunger-strike in Long Kesh prison camp. "Parting comes and hearts are broken, a loved one has gone with words unspoken, a special smile, a special face, a part of our family we can never replace." Jesus, Mary and Joseph, he gave you his heart and soul. Sadly missed and proudly remembered by his mother, father and family.

LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who died on hunger-strike on August 1st 1981. "It broke my heart to lose you, but you did not go alone, for part of me went with you. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Sadly missed by his brother-in-law and family."

LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who died on hunger-strike on August 1st 1981. "The years we shared together, remembered by his brother Gerard, sister-in-law Noelen and family."

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Kevin Lynch who died on hunger-strike on August 1st 1981. "He shall be spoken of and his name is removed from all lists. His name shall be remembered and his name shall be remembered." (Padraig Pearse). Always remembered by the Duggan League Action Committee.

LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who died on hunger-strike on August 1st 1981. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Always remembered by his mother, father and family.

LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In proud and loving memory of my dear brother INLA Vol. Kevin Lynch who died on hunger-strike on August 1st 1981. Always remembered by the committee and members of the Kevin Lynch Hurling Club.

LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In sad and loving memory of Kevin Lynch who died on hunger-strike on August 1st 1981. Mary, Queen of Ireland, pray for him. Always remembered by the Kevin Lynch Memorial Flute Band.

LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). In loving memory of Kevin who died on hunger-strike on August 1st 1981 after 71 days on hunger-strike, murdered by Margaret Thatcher and the British government. Always loved and remembered by R. England.

LYNCH, Kevin. (1st Anniversary). The Cathal Brugha Sinn Féin cumann, Waterford, remember with pride Kevin Lynch who stood as a H-Block candidate here in the 1981 Free State general election and who was later given life in the H-Blocks on August 1st 1981. "Life springs from death and from the graves of our men and women spring living nations."

TOLAN, Tommy. (5th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear brother Tommy who was shot by the IRA on July 27th 1977. RIP. Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for him. "The years we shared together, remembered by his brother Gerard, sister-in-law Noelen and family."

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SYMPATHY

CASHILL, The Martin Forsythe Sinn Féin cumann, Rathfriland, County Dublin. extend their deepest sympathy to Joe Cashill and family on the death of his son, Vol. Kevin Lynch.

CASHILL, WALLACE. Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Dan Cahill and Kathleen Wallace who died recently. From Joe, Betty and family, Finglas, Dublin.

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McLAUGHLIN, The James McCaid, Michael Gaughan Sinn Féin cumann, Bunclogh, County Donegal extend their sincere sympathy to Raymond McLaughlin (Albany) and family on the death of their son, Vol. Kevin Lynch.

McLAUGHLIN, The James McCaid, Michael Gaughan Sinn Féin cumann, Bunclogh, County Donegal extend their sincere sympathy to Raymond McLaughlin (Albany) and family on the death of their son, Vol. Kevin Lynch.

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utations, Kevin, on your birthday. From your mammy, brothers Brendan and Mick, and sisters Averta and Kathleen. God bless.

MORRISON, Ken. (Portlaoise). Happy birthday. Ken, for August 4th. All the best. See you soon. From the O'Learys, Cork.

MURRAY, Marcus. (H7-Block). Belated birthday greetings, Marcus. Love and best wishes from Mary, Barry and children.

MURRAY, Marcus. (H7-Block). Birthday greetings, Marcus. From all the family.

MURRAY, Marcus. (H7-Block). Best wishes for your birthday, Marcus. Sorry from Patsy and Paula.

NORDONE, Stephen. (Hull). Happy birthday, Stephen. From mum and dad.

NORDONE, Stephen. (Hull). Happy birthday, Stephen. You are always in my thoughts. All my love. From your fiancée Jutta.

NORDONE, Stephen. (Hull). Happy birthday, Stephen. From Frederick, Linda, Gary and Donna.

NORDONE, Stephen. (Hull). Happy birthday, Stephen. We're thinking of you always. From your many friends in Dundalk.

REILLY, Michael. (Wakefield). Happy birthday, August 4th, Michael. Thank God it's your last birthday. We'll be the best for the future. From the O'Learys, Cork.

INTERVIEW WITH REPUBLICAN PRISONER RECENTLY RELEASED FROM ENGLAND

Unbroken and undaunted

AUGUST, which is usually associated with the prisoners, has been chosen by the Sinn Féin and comhairle to highlight the plight of Irish republican prisoners in English jails. AP/RN opens its coverage of this campaign by publishing an interview given to Maeve Armstrong by Brian McLaughlin who was released from jail earlier this month.

BRIAN McLAUGHLIN from Muldonagh near Claudy, north Derry, was released on July 7th from Wakefield top security prison in Yorkshire, England, after serving a total of seven years out of a ten-year sentence which he received for 'conspiracy to cause explosions' in Birmingham in 1974.

Four others, Mick Reilly (Belfast), Patrick Christie (Belfast), Peter Toal (Birmingham), and David Owen (Wales) were sentenced with him during the six-day trial in Birmingham Crown Court in which the prosecution case rested on mainly hearsay evidence. Like most Irish republican prisoners in England, Brian had a lengthy remand, spending 13 months in Winslow Green jail before he was sentenced in November 1976, and then moved to Liverpool.

Typical of many republicans of the late '60s and '70s, Brian's commitment to the Republican Movement was nurtured in the early civil rights marches and events leading to Bloody Sunday on January 30th, 1972. Brian was among those many thousands that day running bewildered and terrified at Rossville Flats when suddenly a man beside him fell to the ground, struck dead by a bullet.

"That was the turning point for me," he explains. "From that moment on I realised there was only one answer to British violence and occupation — unconditional British withdrawal."

In an interview with AP/RN two days after his release, this quiet-spoken but determined and intense republican relates his experiences, his release and inevitable deportation back to Ireland, now a fait accompli to all Irish prisoners pending their release.

Q. As a sentenced republican prisoner and therefore Special Category 'A', classed as a high security prisoner, what were the varying attitudes to you of ordinary prisoners, screws and the prison administration?

A. Republican prisoners all go through a special induction period where you get 'special' treatment. Screws and the prison administration try to victimise and humiliate you, whether it's in the form of verbal abuse or beatings or through pettiness by changing prison rules whenever the whim suits them. Republicans are generally isolated from each other, although they may be in the same prison but on different wings and therefore not segregated from other ordinary prisoners. In this situation you are isolated from your comrades and vulnerable to screws who try and goad on ordinary prisoners into either taunting you or perhaps physically assaulting you. Fortunately, there have been very few cases of actual assault but in my first three years I came up against several incidents of verbal aggravation.

Gradually, however, when we explained to the English prisoners the nature of British imperialism in Ireland and that we were not — as the British gutter press daubed us — 'mindless terrorists' out to kill innocent British civilians, they were able to see for themselves the victimisation of republican prisoners by the prison administration. They more and more came to respect us because they witnessed that on different occasions we had protested not only for ourselves but for better conditions for them also.

ROOF PROTEST

Q. Keeping on the subject of prison protests, Brian, you were one of the prisoners involved in the Gartree roof protest in July 1978 and in the riot three months later in October. What were your demands and what were the consequences for you of protest action?

A. Nine of us were out on the roof because of the inadequate conditions and to highlight the victimisation of republican prisoners. We stayed there for 52 hours. We painted slogans on the roof: 'POW Status', 'Repatriation', and 'H-Block Torture'. We had a Tricolour and a blanket which had the message 'End H-Block Torture' to show our solidarity with our comrades in the Kesh.

When we came down we fell victim to the infamous GOD Rule 43 (Good Order and Discipline) which allows the prison governor to place you in solitary confinement for 28-day periods. This much-despised regulation is extensively used against political prisoners in all top-security prisons and local prisons where they contain republicans. The governor has merely to 'suspect' that

a prisoner 'intends to breach a prison rule' and he can put you into solitary, what we termed 28-day 'lie-downs'.

After Gartree I was sent to the local prison in Bristol on one of these 'lie-downs', that means 23-hour lock-up; nothing in the cell, no bed, table, chair, nothing. You're cut off from events in the outside world as you have no papers, books or radio. If you need to go to the toilet, you use a bucket. I also lost four months' remission and was then transferred back to Gartree just before the riot.

Q. The riot was sparked off because of drug abuse by the authorities on one of the ordinary prisoners. Prisoners, including republicans reacted by causing damage to the interior of the prison. What were medical facilities like taking into account that just a few years ago we had the tragic spectacle of Giuseppe Conlon and Sean O'Connell dying through deliberate medical neglect?

A. Two aspirin and a glass of water seems to be the so-called doctor's magic remedy for ailments ranging from minor complaints to serious illnesses. For example, after the Gartree roof protest I developed an irritating cough probably because I got soaked. After requesting treatment a number of times I was eventually examined and was diagnosed to have tuberculosis — out came the aspirin!

Q. During your imprisonment you were moved to no less than 13 different prisons in all including the seven top-security 'dispersal' prisons and local prisons. What difficulties did this create regarding family relationships and communication?

A. You are never given any prior warning that you're being transferred, nor are you told what prison you're going to, maybe half-way across the country sometimes. This inevitably causes breakdowns in com-



• Brian McLaughlin: 'Repatriation is of primary importance to POWs in England'

munication. On occasions families have arrived for visits only to be told that the prisoner has been moved. As far as visits are concerned, they also are not conducive to satisfactory family relationships in an environment where two screws sit at each side of the table listening to every word and taking notes while your visitor sits at the other end. For this reason many republican prisoners, apart from the actual expenses to families in travelling long distances, forfeit their visit altogether or else only take it every six months. In some prisons, like Parkhurst, you're strip-searched going to and coming from visits, another form of 'special' treatment for republican Special Category 'A' prisoners.

PAROLE

Q. You spent the last two years in Wakefield prison, Yorkshire, during which time both your parents died, your mother Elizabeth just eight months before your

release. How did you feel when you were refused compassionate parole by the Home Office to attend her funeral?

A. I naturally was very angry but acutely aware of my isolation, unable to do anything to help my family. The Home Office told my sister — who applied for me — that I'd only be released if my mother was buried near Wakefield. As Irish prisoners in English jails, you are always aware of your isolation, simply because that's what you are, isolated and perhaps forgotten, cut-off from your family, friends and your country. You are in a hostile and threateningly vindictive environment. You're locked up by screws who take a hateful delight in their job. That's why, for republican prisoners locked up in the heart of enemy territory, repatriation to jails in the six counties is of primary importance to them.

Ex-British soldiers, like those who committed the bloody and infamous 'pitchfork' murders in Fermanagh are serving their sentences in English jails, all of them repatriated to their own country of origin to make things easier for their families, yet we have the callous hypocrisy of the British government when it comes to Irish prisoners.

Brian McLaughlin was told by Special Branch detectives two days before his release that he was to be deported to the North. They threatened him that if he returned to Britain he would automatically get five years imprisonment and a £1,000 fine. On the morning he was released he was met at the gates by a Special Branch escort who drove him to Leeds airport, informed the stewards of Brian's 'terrorist record' and told Brian where exactly to sit during the flight. Needless to say, Brian walked to the middle of the aircraft as soon as it was airborne — much to the annoyance of his English hostesses!



• Gartree prison protest 1978