

# An Phoblacht REPUBLICAN NEWS



Sraith Nua Imf 4 Uimhir 33 Deardain Lunasa 19 Thursday, August 19th, 1982 (Britain 25p) Price 20p

**HUNGER-STRIKE COMMEMORATION  
FOR  
MICKY DEVINE**  
7.30 pm Friday 20th August  
**GPO  
DUBLIN**  
March to Garden of Remembrance

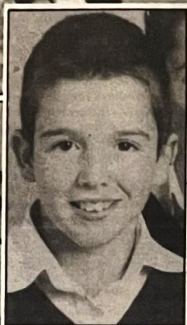
# A broken-hearted mother



● Seven-year-old Emmett McConomy (centre), with his mother Mrs. Maria McConomy and brother Mark, looks on in anguish as Stephen is laid to rest on April 22nd of this year



● The extensive brain damage suffered by Stephen McConomy (above and insert) caused his young life to be brutally cut short — his killer is now a free man



A BROKEN-HEARTED and distressed Derry mother has announced her intention to go on hunger-strike next Monday in protest against the immunity from prosecution of a British soldier for the murder of her son. Relatives and friends are attempting to dissuade her from this action.

Twenty-nine-year-old Mrs Maria McConomy was at the bedside of her son Stephen, aged 11, when he died last April 19th from injuries received in a shooting three days earlier. A British soldier hiding in a saracen fired a plastic bullet through a back hatch of the vehicle at a group of children from a range of a few yards, striking Stephen in the head.

Now, four months later, Mrs McConomy has been informed by the Director of Public Prosecutions that her son's murderer will not be prosecuted.

The evidence of 16 eye-witnesses to the shooting was ignored by the DPP in its examination — if it could be called that — of the case.

Mrs McConomy told AP/RN: "I am going on hunger-strike because I don't want the Brit who shot Stephen, walking free on the streets of Derry. It is not just the question of banning plastic bullets because the British have no intention of banning them.

"It is a question of protecting my two other children who still must walk on the streets of Derry on their way to school and to the shops."

Mrs McConomy was also very critical of the Catholic church's response and of the armchair statements of the SDLP. The SDLP have called for the banning of plastic bullets and for a 'public inquiry'. Sinn Féin and Mrs McConomy have called for the banning of the British army, and the laws and institutions which protect it and other crown forces, from the streets of Ireland.

## LURGAN

The DPP letter to Mrs McConomy was delivered just hours before another young nationalist was cut down by a plastic bullet fired by the loyalist RUC.

Eighteen-year-old Conor Campbell was struck in the skull, sustaining severe head injuries. He had been standing at a traditional August 15th bonfire in Lurgan, County Armagh, celebrating the Catholic Feast of Our Lady, a tradition

which since 1971 has been displaced in most nationalist areas by the August 9th anti-internment bonfires.

The shooting of Conor Campbell and the cold-blooded murder of 11-year-old Stephen McConomy, among many others, are what nationalist people of the North have to suffer against a background of support for the six-county state from the Catholic church and the middle-class SDLP, and collaboration from the Free State government.

British politicians, business people and British tourists (with whom we have no axe to grind) are made feel welcome in the South, loyalists are hosted on state radio and television, armed British forces on incursions are immune from prosecution, while Northern nationalists are often treated as foreigners, republicans are censored in an attempt to break their political influence and patriotism is an offence punishable with heavy jail terms by non-jury courts.

## DEATHS

The offensive and lickspittle toadying has plumbed new depths. While nationalist victims of British and loyalist violence are discriminated against in the courts and their relatives have extreme difficulty in securing even funeral expenses, groups of Free State business people have clubbed together under the trusteeship of the Royal Dublin Society to buy some fillies for the British army and collect funds for soldiers' families.

These gormen men and women never offered a penny to nationalist victims in the North (as the organisation Silent Too Long has pointed out) and their key place in society allows them to cultivate an atmosphere of pro-Britishness.

Republicans need to counter such propaganda with the truth about the North, about British injustice and violence and about the sufferings and agonising of the relatives, such as Mrs McConomy, of those murdered by crown and loyalist forces.



# RUC RUN AMOK

## -PLASTIC BULLET VICTIM FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

IN THE NATIONALIST TOWN of Lurgan, north Armagh, in the early hours of last Sunday morning, August 15th, an 18-year-old youth received serious head wounds from a plastic bullet when the RUC repeatedly opened up on a crowd standing around a bonfire.

From around 11.30pm on Saturday night, residents from the Kilwilkie estate, including women with young children, were standing around the bonfire at Kilwilkie Green singing and generally merry-making. According to eyewitnesses the atmosphere was light-hearted with many of the young children delighted at being allowed to stay out well past their bed-time.

Half-an-hour later this relaxed situation changed dramatically when three RUC landrovers appeared 20 yards away at Victoria Street, several others provocatively positioning themselves around the green and literally surrounding the crowd.

Some youths, fearing that they were hemmed in, jumped up and began running in different directions. Panic broke out with women and children screaming in their confusion to seek cover.

### OPENED UP

Eyewitness Thomas Mulholland, aged 18, describes the scene:

"Everyone was trying to get back into the estate when the RUC opened up with round after round of plastic bullets from the back of the landrovers. As they did so they moved in closer to the crowd and kept on firing. Stones were thrown in self-defence but at no stage were the RUC in any danger. The next day we found batteries which had also been fired."



● CONOR CAMPBELL

During this hail of plastic bullets Conor Campbell from the Kilwilkie estate was struck on the front of the head and collapsed beside the bonfire. Several RUC men moved in as he lay bleeding on the ground. Eyewitness Nigel McNally from Victoria Street recalls:

"Conor was standing at the back of the bonfire and he fell when one of the bullets hit him. The RUC trailed him across the green by the hair, beating him as they threw him into the jeep. They must've known he was badly injured."

Conor was taken to Craigavon Hospital and later on Sunday morning was moved to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast where he went through an emergency five-



● Thomas Mulholland points to the spot where Conor Campbell fell, in the background is J.H. Glendinning Textiles

hour operation and placed on a life-support system, his condition being described as 'serious' by hospital authorities.

### ANGERED

Local people were also angered at news media reports of a hostile crowd of allegedly 500 trying to burn down J.H. Glendinning Text-

iles in Victoria Street. They insisted that only a piece of security wire was torn off to use as a barricade to protect themselves. Meanwhile a north Armagh Sinn Féin spokesperson placed full responsibility for Conor Campbell's injuries and Saturday night's 'riot' squarely on the shoulders of the RUC saying:

"They entered the Kilwilkie

estate' in a provocative manner, deliberately antagonising the youth of the area. It is interesting to note that in other parts of the area where bonfires were lit everything was quiet because the RUC stayed clear. If they had done so in the Kilwilkie estate there would not be a young man fighting for his life today."

## Girl assaulted

A BRUTAL display of RUC aggression in Belfast last Friday night, August 13th, resulted in a 17-year-old girl receiving medical attention in the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Jean Moran from White-rock Drive, Belfast, was standing with a few girlfriends outside George's shop near the Donegall Road at about 11.30 pm when a foot patrol of Brits and RUC came along from the Beechmount direction.

One RUC man approached the group and indicated to Jean with his fingers to come over to him. She recalls:

"When I did he reached out and pulled my Che Guevara badge off my jacket and called it 'shit'. I asked him to give me it back and he swung round, grabbed me with his two hands by the throat and pushed me up against the wall."

"I thought I was going to choke as I lost my breath. He kept calling me a 'Fenian bastard', kicked me and pulled my hair."

Jean's friends tried to intervene on her behalf but they were also physically manhandled and brushed aside. Quickly a crowd gathered and with



● Seventeen-year-old Jean Moran

typical RUC bravery, reinforcements in the form of several landrovers were called to the scene. Agitated and provoked at the extent of physical force used on Jean, a scuffle broke out between the crowd, the RUC and the Brits. During the confusion Jean managed to free her-

self from her RUC psychopath and was able to make her way home.

Later that night, she was admitted overnight to the Royal Victoria Hospital suffering from concussion, a badly swollen right arm and injuries to her neck muscles which required a surgical collar.

## Shot by RUC

ON THE NIGHT of Wednesday, August 11th, a man was shot and wounded when around 12 shots were fired by the RUC into a car in Ardoyne, north Belfast, on the lying pretext that they were in pursuit of an alleged 'gunman'.

The incident happened at around 9.15 pm as Mrs Maria Donnelly from Brompton Park, her five-year-old son Jackie, his 11-year-old friend Brian McNulty and two neighbours, John McKewen and Sean Doherty, turned off the main Crumlin Road into Kerrera Street. Mrs Donnelly says:

"As we came into Brompton Park entry, all of a sudden a heavy burst of shots was fired. There were no road-blocks or anything. The windows of the car shattered and we all started squealing. The children were terrified. At one point I thought Jackie was dead. There was just panic. The RUC came up as Sean got out of the front and I said to them: 'You couldn've killed us'."

"One of them — I don't know if it was the one who opened up — said he was sorry; but why did he open up on our car then?"

Sean, a father-of-four from Elmfield Street, made his way over to a step and sat down, blood gushing from two bullet wounds to his lower back, one which passed through him and another which lodged itself in his body. Maria was also injured in the left forearm by lead particles from the bullets; her thumb was also grazed.

Fortunately, both children suffered no physical injuries but 11-year-old Brian McNulty has started bed-wetting since the incident and Jackie Donnelly has been sedated with sleeping tablets. To further illustrate the extent to which



● Maria Donnelly at home with her son Jackie, both had a narrow escape when the RUC opened fire

the RUC will go to cover up their highly dangerous blunders, they taped off the scene of the shooting, declaring a 'bomb hoax' — the so-called 'bomb' being a plastic bag full of rubbish lying on the road!

### Savage attack

LATE last Friday evening, August 13th, 26-year-old Crossmaglen man Malachy Carry was returning home when he passed a Brit foot patrol. One of the Brits, who had an Alsatian dog, tried to question him but Malachy ignored him. Suddenly the Brit set the dog on Malachy. It grabbed his arms and sunk its teeth into him. When it finally released him, Malachy was badly mauled and bleeding.

He later received 14 stitches in Newry's Daisy Hill Hospital.



# SETBACK FOR RUC BLACKMAILERS

THE RUC RECEIVED a major setback in their present strategy of blackmailing victims into becoming crown prosecution witnesses with the withdrawal of evidence by one such victim last Tuesday which resulted in the release of four prisoners.

Twenty-five-year-old Robert Brown from Twinbrook in West Belfast became the eighth person to withdraw from a case, the evidence for which was drawn up by the RUC and to which Brown put his signature in Castlereagh after extreme pressure, including the withholding for several days of medical attention for a hand broken by the RUC during his arrest.

While Brown was being interrogated the RUC went to his Twinbrook home to kidnap his seven-months-pregnant wife, as they have done in many other cases, to put additional emotional and psychological pressures on him.

However, she escaped shortly before they arrived and is believed to have taken safe refuge with friends. She recently contacted her distraught mother and assured her that she was well.

## SOLITARY

Robert Brown is being held in solitary confinement, against his will, in the basement of Crumlin Road Jail, such is the collusion between the Director of Public Prosecutions, the RUC, the prison administration, and Stormont Castle. It was direct-ruler Jim Prior who renewed a 30-day detention order.

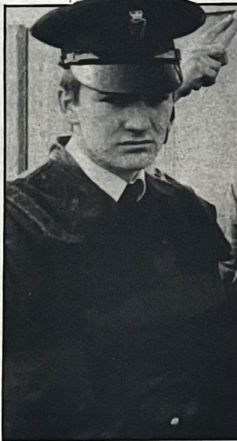
One of those arrested with Brown, 31-year-old Thomas McKernan, is also being held in solitary confinement and was involved in a recent unsuccessful High Court application against the governor of the jail stating that he was being held involuntarily in the basement. The courts backed the governor's decision to separate him from other inmates under the ludicrous defence that it was 'for his own protection'.

In his affidavit before last Tuesday's court, which resulted in the release of four prisoners, Brown said that the allegations which he had signed against them were untrue and that he had signed them under pressure.

Furthermore, in a letter to a friend last weekend Brown lashed direct-ruler Jim Prior and the RUC for attempting to make political capital out of his wife's disappearance. He is happy that she is safe and sound.

## VICTIMS

With Brown's withdrawal of evidence, and an earlier similar statement from McKernan, the RUC's declaration that this was 'the year of the supergrass' is now somewhat threatened as their victims pluck up the courage to fight back against blackmailing and kidnapping tactics. Only last month the RUC's 'model' witness in a loyalist trial, Clifford McKeown, withdrew



● The growing number of blackmail victims withdrawing their 'evidence' has wiped the smile off the RUC's face

his evidence in a blaze of publicity exposing RUC pressures and bribes.

What the RUC do not appear to realise is that with each prisoner that they have cornered into turning 'QE' (queen's evidence - being a prosecution witness usually in return for immunity) they are advertising their blackmailing methods and how little information is really forthcoming from the nationalist community. In fact, they are discrediting themselves.

However, and the RUC know this, before their QE strategy is completely undermined a number of other prosecution prisoners presently being held in isolation (some with relatives as hostages in British army camps in England) would need to add to the recognisable and growing pattern of blackmailing tactics.

On them the displaced RUC will be turning the screw...

## LETTER FROM BOBBY BROWN

I want to take this opportunity to put the community right about the events concerning my wife's disappearance which Sun prior has & there string of anti republican following seem very concerned about. I am sure she is being looked after alright - better than what I was in Castlereagh. - I am being held hostage in the basement wing of Crumlin Road Prison by the British Government now from the 1st July in the hope that I take these rotten deal. I did not ask to be put down here but on a number of occasions have asked to be moved to the C wing and claim turned down. The requests go through the governor of the prison, answer comes back through the RUC. I am now refusing to see RUC as they use the chance to interview me hoping again that there isolation policy worked out between RUC and prison Authorities leaves you waiting to see them. My attitude has been the Governor to sort out the matter and was pushed back. He is in the same boat as myself isolation is in the environment of the European Declaration of Human Rights. Each Britain are a member of so it speaks for itself?? We have made it clear that we will not be going witness against anyone and that our statement will be getting withdrawn but the DPP does not seem to care they are at the make Sun Prior made a statement in the House of commons showing concern about the safety of my wife and on the same day signed a statement holding me here for another month.

I will like to say that the RUC and all these spine heads are only using and abusing my wife's name against the IRA for their propaganda aims. The ball is in the RUC's Hands.

Bobby Brown

Continued Goal.

## Carron charged with refusing to open boot

OWEN CARRON, MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, has been charged by the RUC with obstruction.

The charges under Section 7, Paragraph 1, of the Criminal Justice Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1968 (the RUC have laws for every and any eventualities) relate to two incidents earlier this year in County Fermanagh.

On February 17th Carron was returning from the funeral of a constituent when he was stopped by the RUC at Lisbellaw. In protest against this daily form of petty harassment he refused to get out of his car or to open the boot. The RUC in turn physically assaulted him and trailed him from the car.

In the second incident he was stopped by the RUC at Killymore on March 18th. He again refused to open the boot and demanded that a chief inspector be present. After some hassle RUC Chief Inspector Elliott came to the scene. Elliott is the one now charging Carron with obstruction!

The harassed MP is to appear at Enniskillen Petty Sessions Court on September 13th. He was to have appeared in court in Buffalo in the United States on September 14th but that trial, for quite unconnected reasons, has been postponed once again.

## National Women's Forum

A NATIONAL Women's Forum on the general theme of 'How can women be most effective in achieving the aims of the Republican Movement?' is being organised by the Sinn Féin Department of Women's Affairs for the weekend of September 25th/26th.

The forum, which will be held in the Midland Hotel, Upper Dominick Street, Dublin, will be open to all republican women and will run from 2 pm to 6 pm on the Saturday and 12 noon to 6 pm on the Sunday.

Creche facilities will be available and billets can be provided if required. A social will be held on Saturday evening at 8 pm.

Anyone requiring further details or billets can contact the Department of Women's Affairs at 44 Parnell Square, Dublin, or phone Rita at Dublin 747611 or Denise at Dublin 308783.

## Wormwood Scrubs picket

SINN FEIN, Britain, has issued an appeal for the maximum solidarity to be shown in their next picket of Wormwood Scrubs prison, west London, in support of Irish political prisoners.

During their last picket, held on July 11th, protesters were harassed by the authorities who claimed that the picket at the rear of the prison and in a public park was illegal.

Sinn Féin is determined to assert its right to picket and calls on not only Irish republicans but also our British comrades to demonstrate their solidarity with the prisoners and our struggle.

The picket will take place at 2.30 pm on Sunday, August 29th.

## Iarrathas na mBlocanna-H

TA IARRATAS curtha isteach ag deichniúr briodúnach agus trí fichid i mBlocanna-H na Ceise Fada, le haghaidh gluaisneachta is mo sa tír ara ag obair ar son na tairgáin.

Ta na fir muinínigh go gairbh ar Conradh, a bhi go mor i bhfabhar chuig eilinn na briodúnach, faite roimh an-tiarratas.

Ta formhor na briodúnach fuirseach i nGaeilge, gan bhuíochas do na hudaíra sa Ceise Fada a chuir na cois ar a chuirteanna, leabhair agus litreacha i nGaeilge doibh.

Ma eiríonn leis an-tiarratas seo, 'sa Craobh na mBlocanna-H an-táim a chuirfeair air.

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

## Freight trains bombed

THE IRA's South Armagh Brigade successfully severed the main Belfast-Dublin rail-link yet again (and again!) when a Dublin-bound CIE goods train was damaged in an explosion at Aghadavoyle bridge in south Armagh, on Wednesday, August 11th. (The line was again severed in an explosion as another goods train passed by Killeen Bridge last Wednesday, August 18th.)

Despite an earlier IRA warning about a bomb on the railway track the goods train, en route from Belfast, continued on its journey. At about 9.30 pm, as it

passed through Aghadavoyle, IRA Volunteers detonated the bomb by command wire, causing extensive damage to the rear carriages and to the track itself.

Although the train driver was able to unhitch the damaged carriages and continue unmolested to Dundalk, train services were disrupted between Portadown and Dundalk for a full three days until the track could be cleared and repaired.

## SOUTH ARMAH MAN QUESTIONED

The IRA in south Armagh

released a 30-year-old local man, Paul O'Neill from Dromintee, late last Tuesday evening, August 17th, after holding him in custody for over 24 hours for questioning about his activities in the area.

O'Neill was arrested by the IRA at 7.30 pm on Monday, but after questioning was released, the IRA in a statement saying they had not found it necessary to take any action against him.



## Bellaghy commemoration

THERE WAS AN impressive turn-out in south Derry to mark the first anniversary of the death of Thomas McElwee who died on hunger-strike on August 8th, 1981.

Over 2,000 people formed up for the march to his graveside in Bellaghy despite a strong force of RUC. The parade was led by the Tricolour, the Stary Plough and flags of the provinces and followed by a colour party. Many beautiful banners with the portraits of Thomas McElwee and his cousin, Francis Hughes, who also died on hunger-strike, were carried interspersed in the crowd. There was a surprise absence of helicopters which had tried so hard to disrupt the Francis Hughes commemoration in May.

The ceremony was chaired by John Davy and took place beside the adjoining graves of Thomas McElwee and Francis Hughes. Many wreaths were laid by the McElwee family, friends and Thomas's comrades and a touching one from his fiancée Dolores - 'Armagh jail'. Jimmy Drumm and Richard Behal, who laid a wreath, represented the ard comhairle of Sinn Féin.

The oration was delivered by Tim Garvey of Cahirciveen, County Kerry, and also a member of the ard comhairle. In the course of his speech he said:

"The fact that I have the honour to be invited from the deep South across the accused border to the far North to speak over the resting place of such a valiant martyr as Thomas McElwee epitomises one of the principles for which he and his comrades in life and death, Francis Hughes, died - namely the unity and togetherness in peace and social justice of all the people of Ireland."



● VOL. THOMAS McELWEE

## Adelaide commemoration

A MEETING and function was held in the Irish-Australian Club, Adelaide, Australia, on August 14th, to commemorate the eleventh anniversary of internment.

A picket of the British Airways office was also held in memory of Kieran Doherty, Thomas McElwee and Kevin Lynch.

Both events were organised by Adelaide republicans.

## Deaths of Tom Dowling and Christina Judge

THE DEATH has occurred in Adelaide, Australia, of veteran republican Tom Dowling.

Tom Dowling, who was a native of Kerry, died suddenly last Monday, August 9th. Tom had been a life-long member of Sinn Féin and at the time of his death was an active member of the Adelaide Sinn Féin cumann. Tom also gave sterling service to the South Australian Green Cross Association and the Australian Irish Republican Movement.

Australian republicans will sadly miss Tom who was an inspiration to all active Irishmen, and right up to the time of his death. Tom was determined and persistent that Ireland would finally be free.

\*\*\*  
The death has also occurred of another republican activist in Adelaide, Christina Judge, a native of Cork, died after a long illness. Christina was closely identified with the struggle around the H-Blocks and Armagh and was particularly active during the two hunger-strikes. Christina will be sadly missed by her comrades and friends both in Australia and Ireland.

FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH of August for the Fianna Fail government of Charles Haughey and for his attorney-general Patrick Connolly will long be a day to remember.

But apart from the hypocritical posings of opposition spokespersons and the sensationalising by the British-led media, what are the lessons of the dramatic happenings of the past few days?

First of all, it seems to have been forgotten that if in fact Malcolm MacArthur, the man arrested at the attorney-general's flat last Friday, August 13th, is responsible for the slayings of Offaly man Donal Dunne and of Nurse Bridie Gargan, then a dangerous, and perhaps insane, man is off the streets. That, above all, would seem to be the main point.

But such basic matters for ordinary people, and, in particular, for women, who appear to be increasingly victims of brutal attacks, are not the concern of a media tuned to the established standards of an uncaring social system.

Another point too must be made. Whatever one's views of Free State political officers, and in particular of the office of attorney-general, which all too often is concerned with the framing of extensions of repressive legislation, it must be said that in any sane and just society, based on solid principles, there should be no reason in the world why anyone should resign from high office if they are really innocently caught up in such a situation.

However, a social and political system based on hypocrisy, cynicism and double-standards finds it much easier to offer up a sacrificial lamb (if indeed Patrick Connolly could be described as such) to an equally hypocritical, cynical and two-faced media crying not for justice or for an examination of why such brutal slayings take place, but for the meaningless sensationalised political scandals which are its meat and drink.

### UNDERTONES

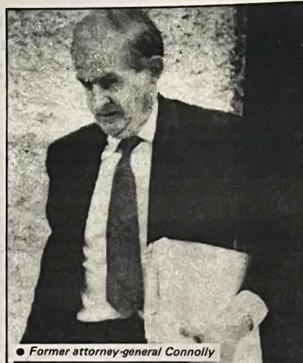
And let us grasp another nettle. If there is indeed any truth in the snivelling hints of the media about some homosexual undertones in the case then is it not long gone the time also that, here in Ireland, we have the courage to say that a person's private sexual orientation is no longer to be a reason for prosecution, shame or disgrace?

And let's face it, the adoption of suitably concerned poses from opposition politicians and their reluctance to really go all-out in exploiting this latest Haughey embarrassment is not so much from any finer feelings on their part but from fear of the can of worms which might be opened if the dirt really began to be flung around.

After all, it is not very long since a very prominent member of the present Leinster House parliament was involved in the 'luncheon voucher' brothel scandal in London. And the private life-styles of many other politicians are very far from the moralistic and puritanical attitudes they take when they oppose very necessary social legislation or attempts to enforce,

# ENOUGH HYPOCRISY

BY KEVIN BURKE



● Former attorney-general Connolly

on the rest of us, nonsensical restrictions of our private lives.

So the reaction of media people and politicians has been, instead of facing up to the inconsistent hypocrisy of their response, to translate this dramatic occurrence into opportunistic benefits to their own careers.

A situation perhaps most tellingly portrayed by the simpering leader of the Free State Labour Party, Michael O'Leary, dangling on the puppet-strings of a BBC interviewer, on Tuesday evening, and dancing to the tune of that obvious British interference in, and manipulation of, Irish events for the purposes of their own supremely arrogant political purposes.

### SCANDALS

The true scandals in the Free State are many.

There is the scandal of nest-feathering expense account, overpaid politicians, presently on long holidays. There is the scandal of

160,000 unemployed and young school-leavers faced with the prospect of a lifetime's enforced idleness. There is the scandal of people living on the side of the road and begging in the streets whilst politicians live in luxurious mansions on wealth they do not have to explain how they acquired.

There is the scandal of property speculators making millions by bribing local councillors to rezone vast tracts of land. There is the scandal of PAYE taxpayers bearing a crushing burden, whilst the wealthy evade contributing entirely.

There is the scandal of profit before people which makes workers redundant every day. There is the scandal of publicly-funded third-level education being effectively denied those from working-class homes.

There is the scandal of eviction and housing-squalor in deference to sacrosanct property laws. There is the scandal of public health services denuded by the demands of private health privilege.

There is the scandal of state collaboration with the British in oppressing the Irish people. There is the scandal of mind-control which demands deference to all things British.

There is the scandal of women's oppressed place in society. There is the scandal of the neglect of the aged.

### JUDGEMENT

In a capitalist system such as the Free State is, there is plenty to be scandalised by, other than by what hypocrites would suggest.

So it matters little in this context that Charles Haughey's judgement may have again been faulted, or that this 'scandal' may yet further develop and tip him from power.

It matters little in this context whether he is replaced by a Tweedledum from within his own party or Tweedledee from Fine Gael.

The real scandals of the capitalist system will continue on with little publicity from the media which builds and thrives on the meaningless sensationalisms which rise and fall but leave the basic scandals all too intact.

# Scab violence at Roches

BY BRIAN MARTIN

THE STRIKE OF Irish Transport and General Workers' Union members at a number of Dublin department stores is now in its sixth week. Although separate settlements were made locally at Arnott's, Switzer's and Marks and Spencer on the union's original claim for a 25% increase and a reduction of the working week, no progress has been made elsewhere. Some of the other stores include Roches, Clery's, BHS, Brown Thomas and McBirney's.

The focus of the dispute has now shifted to Roches Stores where the management is at present engaged in a particularly dirty strike-breaking campaign. The strikers point out on their placards that Roches are the only store using scab non-union labour and unauthorised vehicles to deliver materials to it.

At present this blacklegging centres around the delivery of fruit and vegetables which, of course, unlike other goods, perish quickly if not sold within a certain time. Five or six hauliers (hackers) who are being paid anything up to £400 a week



● Picketers at Roches Stores have been subjected to blatant acts of violent provocation by non-union scab labour

for their blacklegging by Roches are collecting the goods from two main warehouses - one in Coolock behind the Tayto factory (the owner here is Roadspeed Ltd.) and the other in Dalkey - and delivering it to Kevin O'Sullivan, Roches' food manager.

In this sort of situation it comes as no surprise to find that a number of violent and nasty incidents have already taken place. They are seen by the strikers as attempts by Roches to provoke them so that picketing can be halted for 'breaches of the peace'.

### SCAB

Last Saturday, for example, one

of the hackers challenged a picketer with an iron bar. There have also been two incidents involving the ramming of cars by one particular scab.

The first of these happened about ten days ago at 1.30 pm lunchtime when a blue Transit van speeding at the picket to the rear of Roches hit a Datsun car belonging to a man working in the adjacent ILAC Centre, lifting it fully into the air and leaving it damaged to the tune of £660. The gardai were called to the scene but said they could do nothing as "it happened on private property." When one of the strikers asked them this mean they would be treated

similarly if they had clashed with the scab they were told that that would be a different situation altogether.

### HIRE

The second incident involved the same blackleg doing a 'hit-and-run', again outside the rear of Roches. The owner of the damaged car traced the registration of the other driver back to Ballybough Central Rent-a-Van who confirmed that the van had been hired by Roches, who were liable for insurance. The incident was reported to Store Street garda station, but nothing has so far happened.

Doubtless there will be more provocations as the strike goes on, and Roches are likely to become even dirtier.

One depressing aspect of the whole story is the continuing number of working-class people who are passing the picket day in and day out, many of them trade unionists themselves.

Ten years ago, such an occurrence would have been impossible in a city renowned for the respect it always gave to the picket.

Is it too much to ask these people to remember that an injury to one is an injury to all, and to help bring Roches to its knees until justice is seen to be done?



## LOYALISTS BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR IMMOLATION OF BELFAST CATHOLIC

# Burned in retaliation?

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG



● GERARD HUGHES  
victim of loyalist murder gang?

**THE BADLY-CHARRED BODY** of 29-year-old Gerard Hughes from Carrick House Hostel beside Unity Flats, Belfast, was discovered — as yet by persons unknown — late on Sunday evening, August 15th, outside the library on the Oldpark Road in the north of the city and close to a loyalist district.

He was taken to the burns unit of the Royal Victoria Hospital where doctors confirmed on Monday to his friend Charlie Gilliland — also from Carrick House — that he had little hope of recovery from his horrific ordeal in which he had been saturated with petrol and set alight.

Gerard, known to his friends as Gerry, was last seen around 11am on Sunday morning, August 15th, in Carrick House. He had been gradually moving out of the hostel over a three-week period to take up residence with his Protestant girlfriend on the Antrim Road. That day he called to collect more of his belongings.

Later that night, at around 11.35pm, medical staff from the RVH phoned Carrick House for details of Gerard's next-of-kin and religion. This was the first inclination that anything was wrong.

Charlie Gilliland explains:

*"At first I thought he must've been mugged but after several phone-calls they told us that Gerard had been admitted with severe burns. I went up on Monday to see him but only they showed me where he was I would never have recognised him. His face was very badly charred and swollen. The rest of his body was bandaged and he had tubes in him to help him breathe."*

*"I asked the doctor if there was any chance that Gerry could have done it himself and he told me*

*no, he had been deliberately set on fire."*

## ASSASSINS

Personally, Mr Gilliland believes his friend was the victim of extreme loyalist assassins, more than likely because of his relationship with his girlfriend, a situation which in the past — and particularly in Belfast — has resulted in several sectarian assassinations throughout the years.

The question of Gerard Hughes even contemplating suicide, especially by such means, does not arise. In the first place, according to those close to him, he was an easy-going and happy person. Secondly, at this point in time he had everything to live for, a new life beginning with his girlfriend and a place of their own.



● Charlie Gilliland, Gerard's friend: "I went up on Monday to see him but only they showed me where he was I would never have recognised him"

But most certainly the question must be asked as to why the deafening silence by the RUC until Tuesday, almost 48 hours after his discovery. Why also have they not issued the usual appeals for eye-witnesses? Their silence gives rise to suspicion, and for nationalist people in the six counties that points to a cover-up.

Joe Austin of Belfast Sinn Féin said in a statement on Tuesday: *"The RUC have stated they are well-equipped to defend all sections of the community. Are they trying to cover-up or defend by inaction those responsible for this savage incident? This is more in line with their past 'defence' of the nationalist people of the six counties."*

# A cynical and brutal war

BY SEAN HALPENNY

**THE HORRIFIC ONSLAUGHT** directed against the besieged Palestinian freedom fighters and their Lebanese allies by the Zionist forces during the past week in West Beirut will live long in people's memories.

The barbaric mass killings, justified by Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin when he portrayed himself as "marching to Berlin to liquidate Hitler" can only be compared with the very acts which led to the 'Holocaust' when millions of Jews were themselves liquidated by Hitler.

The continual references by the Zionist regime of the absolute necessity to wipe out the Palestinian fighters rings very hollow when confronted with the image of thousands of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese civilians slaughtered and whole sections of West Beirut flattened.

If anything, Begin has demonstrated what pure terrorism is and he himself is well-schooled in that art. This former 'terrorist' and Nobel Peace Prize winner in his mad drive to wipe out the PLO has completely lost touch with reality. How else can the statement made recently by Begin, that "Jews kneel to no-one except God" be viewed? The Zionists see this as a 'holy war' to preserve the state of Israel just as much as Hitler thought it vital to exterminate the Jews to preserve the 'master race'.

## CRITICISM

Begin, because of his regime's unyielding attitude, and because of the "cynical and brutal way this war is being waged" as one survivor of Hitler's 'holocaust' described it, has come under a constant barrage of criticism from various groups at home.

In fact, last week amazing scenes were witnessed within the Israeli parliament at the height of a blanket bombardment (8,000 tons of bombs on one refugee camp



● The mounting toll of civilian casualties exposes Zionist claims that it seeks only the defeat of the PLO

over a ten-hour period) of West Beirut, when a number of opposition MPs questioned Begin's motives for the war. This led to heated exchanges which reached boiling point when one Communist Party MP accused Begin of 'mass murder' whereupon Begin started screaming at the top of his voice and had the MP forcibly removed from the parliament, yet another indication that the Zionists will not tolerate any opposition to their plans.

On the diplomatic front there has been frenzied activity to complete the 'final' plans for the 'evacuation' of PLO guerrillas and Syrian forces from West Beirut and East Lebanon. On Wednesday morning the Lebanese parliament, who had been 'allowed' by the Israelis to have their par-

liament building back, declared that they had reached a final agreement on the evacuation of the PLO.

When this withdrawal will happen is anyone's guess as the whole situation is fraught with political pitfalls.

## THREAT

The Israelis are insisting that a captured Israeli pilot be handed over immediately or else, threatens Israel's defence minister General Ariel Sharon, "not one single PLO guerrilla will leave West Beirut, nor will one single member of any international peace-keeping force enter West Beirut."

The Palestinians for their part are reluctant to release the captured pilot whilst the Israelis hold a large number of Palestin-

ians in the prison camps. The Palestinians quite rightly have no trust in any declarations made by the Israelis, thus when Sharon declares that "progress was made today on these main issues, but further clarification is necessary" the PLO have to be on their guard.

Meanwhile, two surrealistic aspects to this barbaric war were announced this week.

The first when Begin declared that he plans to take a holiday in the northern resort town of Nahariya to prove that the area "is now safe from Palestinian guerrillas."

The second is the intention of the Lebanese parliament, at the behest of the Israelis and the US administration, to go ahead with the presidential elections. This bizarre attempt at 'normalisation' will, of course, be very familiar to people in the occupied six counties of Ireland.

## RIGHT WING

The Israelis and their US paymasters are very anxious that the 'right' person gets the job, and the only candidate so far to present himself 24 hours before the crucial election is the extreme right-wing military commander of the Christian Phalangist forces, Bechir Gemayel. Bechir Gemayel is working very closely with the Israelis and would thus consolidate Israeli and US interests in the Lebanon.

But the Lebanese Muslim majority have great reason to fear Gemayel's election, as Gemayel led the bloody massacre of Palestinians and Lebanese Muslims during the 1975-76 civil war, and is thus capable of repeating those actions.

If there is a final agreement reached on the position of the PLO in West Beirut it will not be seen as a defeat for the PLO. The PLO is the smallest military force in the Arab world, and have fought consistently and heroically against the biggest war-machine in the Middle East.

No other Arab nation involved in a war with Israel can match this courageous deed.



# Prisoners demand political recognition

FOR MOST PEOPLE the blanket protest by Irish republican prisoners ended with the H-Block hunger-strike last year when the prisoners were finally given their own clothes to wear. But two republican prisoners in English jails, Patrick Hackett and Michael Murray, are still maintaining an independent blanket protest in support of a demand to be recognised as political prisoners.

Their case is currently being highlighted by Sinn Féin as part of their special campaign during August to draw attention to the plight of Irish republican prisoners in English jails.

## Michael Murray

MICHAEL MURRAY is in his mid-forties and is originally from Dublin. He was arrested in Birmingham in November 1974, charged with conspiracy to cause explosions and was put on trial, in August 1975, with the six men framed for the Birmingham pub bombings.

He remained silent throughout the trial and was convicted mainly on the evidence of an informer, James Kelly. He received a 9-year sentence and was later sentenced to 12 years on further charges.

In October 1978, whilst in Wormwood Scrubs, he refused to do prison work assigned to him — stitching mail bags — on the particular grounds that he suffered from tunnel vision, and in general because it was contrary to his demand for treatment as political status.

After seven days in the punishment cells he began his refusal to wear prison uniform and since then, October 21st, 1978, has been on the blanket. He was moved from Wormwood Scrubs to Hull prison in June 1980 and has been held there in solitary confinement ever since.

Solitary confinement over the three-and-a-half-year period means total isolation with no contact with other prisoners or the outside world, even through newspapers or radio in his cell. Because he will not put on prison uniform he is also denied visits.

Information on the treatment of Michael Murray is therefore very scarce. In March and April this year, whilst Owen Carron MP was visiting the Irish political prisoners in England, Murray was the only one not allowed to see him — again because of his refusal to wear the uniform.

On August 11th, this year, he was, however, allowed to write to Carron, again saying that he would not accept a visit on the conditions laid down by the prison authorities.

"Don't worry," he wrote, "for I am myself not losing any sweat over these conditions."

## Patrick Hackett

PATRICK HACKETT, aged 32, is from Nenagh, County Tipperary, the second eldest of a family of eight children. He was arrested on March 1st, 1976, after a premature explosion at Stanhope Gardens in the South Kensington area of London.

As a result of the explosion he lost an arm and a leg and suffered serious abdominal injuries.

For six weeks, in St Stephen's Hospital

BY DAMIEN O'ROURKE



● The notorious Special Control Units, such as these at Wormwood Scrubs prison, are often used in attempts to break the spirit of protesting prisoners such as Michael Murray and Patrick Hackett

in Fulham, Hackett was physically and verbally abused by Scotland Yard detectives whose interrogations were marked by monstrous degrees of sadism.

Later Hackett recorded his treatment, which included being dragged off the bed, being beaten around the face and even having the stump of his amputated arm squeezed and twisted when he refused to answer questions.

Taunts about gangrene in his leg and threats to his family were constantly made to the completely disorientated, injured man.

### THE TRUTH

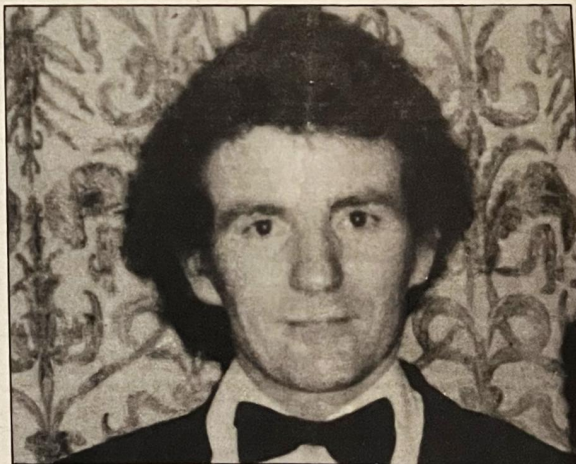
In a statement recording this period Patrick Hackett wrote:

"I wish to state that the reason for writing this experience down is not to gain sympathy from anyone, I just want the Irish public to know the truth.

"As Irish republicans, we are prepared to suffer for our cause and we are prepared to suffer even more because we are right."

After more than a year on remand in Brixton prison Hackett was brought to trial on charges of conspiracy to cause explosions, possession of explosives and causing explosions. He was sentenced to 20 years on all charges, to run concurrently.

After sentence, at the end of June 1977, he spent three-and-a-half years in Wormwood Scrubs. Whilst there in August 1979, with about 200 prisoners, including the Irish republican ones, he took part in a prison protest for overall better conditions.



● Patrick Hackett (above) despite having lost an arm and a leg in an explosion is steadfastly demanding his rights as a political prisoner

The peaceful sit-down demonstration was broken up by several hundred riot-clad prison warders who unmercifully beat the prisoners indiscriminately and wrecked their personal property.

At the end of that year, on December 31st, 1979, Patrick Hackett began his blanket protest. He was immediately

transferred to the segregation unit of Wormwood Scrubs, into a freezing cold cell, the windows of which he was unable to close fully because of his disabilities and which the warders refused to shut for him.

He remained here naked, with only a sheet as protection, throughout the winter months. When the weather grew milder he was transferred to another cell in the segregation unit, known as 'the oven' where hot pipes running along both side walls and from floor to ceiling made the heat unbearable.

### SOAKED

In May 1980 in response to taunts from prison warders he threw the contents of his chamber-pot at them in defiance. The warders responded with buckets of water and disinfectant leaving Hackett in a cell inches deep in water with bedding completely soaked for a long period.

For this he was given punishment rations and lost 120 days remission.

Shortly afterwards, in July 1980, he was transferred to Wakefield prison where, again refusing to put on prison uniform, he was sent to the notorious Special Control Unit where he remained until November 1980.

In the Special Control Unit there is complete silence, no prisoner is even allowed to sing or whistle or communicate in any way with others. Bedding is removed from the cell every morning and returned at night.

There was no heating in the cell and during the day Hackett had only a small hand-towel with which to try and keep warm. Panes of glass missing from the windows — the only means of ventilation — made the cold much worse.

In November 1980 Hackett was fitted with an artificial leg but refused to wear it because of harassment from warders who threw it off. The following day he was transferred from the segregation unit to the hospital wing where the limb was turned.

### VISITS

Throughout the solitary confinement period, because of his refusal to wear prison uniform, he was denied external visits, personal possessions, and association with other prisoners.

In the hospital wing he could wear pyjamas and therefore the refusal to wear prison uniform does not officially apply. He has received visits from his family, the other restrictions have been somewhat, although general harassment and disregard for his disabilities have continued.

In March 1981, Amnesty International, although not officially adopting Patrick Hackett as a prisoner of conscience, wrote to the British government expressing concern about the deprivations imposed on him.

The British government replied whilst in prison hospital Patrick Hackett was not being punished but would be punished "if he continued to refuse to wear prison uniform after his ment."

Hackett was moved to Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight in July this year and again was put in the hospital wing.

He remains there, adamant that he will not wear a prison uniform if told to do so. For the time being his protest is a stalemate.





● Parkhurst prison, Isle of Wight

# "He wants only to be treated like a human being"—Mrs Hackett

BY MAIRE DE BARRA

SINCE BEING sentenced Patrick Hackett's family have been very much behind him in his demands for humane treatment and a transfer to a jail in Ireland to serve his sentence.

Bridget Hackett, Patrick's twin sister, explains how they first heard of the horrific conditions which were being endured by him:

"It was a relative of another prisoner who brought the word out to us very early on, after he had seen Screws throwing five buckets of cold water in on top of Patrick in his cell."

Later on, Patrick managed to smuggle a statement out to his family in which he described the conditions endured by him during his interrogation and imprisonment.

Patrick was first held in Brixton prison for 13 months, then he was moved to Wormwood Scrubs where he spent three-and-a-half years. He spent 23 months in Wakefield before being transferred to Parkhurst on July 4th, 1982, where he now remains.

"While detained in Brixton, he was sentenced to 56 days solitary confinement after an incident with one of the Screws."

"Then in January 1980 he was transferred from 'D' Wing in the Scrubs to the segregation unit. He was forced to walk 300 yards on this cold freezing night in his bare foot with only a sheet wrapped around him as protection. There was all broken glass and everything there and he had to walk over it. He was then thrown into a freezing cold cell where the windows were wide open all night and he could not close them. The poor fellow was so miserable."

## CASE

The Hackett family could not stand by in the light of all these happenings and allow them to continue, but they did not know where to begin to highlight his case.

Bridget explains:

"Well, when I saw all these politicians purporting to represent the Irish people I decided that they should not get away

with ignoring my brother's case, so I started hassling them."

"I must say though that it was the late Frank Maguire who really gave me the courage to take up Patrick's case. He was very concerned and Neil Blaney has also helped us quite a lot."

Other politicians, however, were not so helpful. Bridget wrote in October 1980 to Brian Lenihan, then Free State Minister for Foreign Affairs, concerning the plight of her brother.

She received a reply typical of the ignorance of Leinster House politicians with regard to Irish republican prisoners abroad. In the reply he mentioned that he was looking into the case of Patrick who was 'in the H-Blocks'.

Bridget says:

"He obviously did not even bother to read my letter."

"But as we mounted pressure on the Irish embassy to send in an official and see Patrick's conditions first hand and they finally decided to do so, Patrick was moved to Parkhurst prison where his conditions have greatly improved."

"I am firmly convinced that it is because of this visit that he was transferred so that the Irish official would not see how barbarically he was being treated."

## EXERCISE

Patrick's mother, Mrs Bridie Hackett, is back from the Isle of Wight where she visited him three weeks ago. Though he is now allowed out to exercise for one hour in the morning and two hours in the evening she is still extremely concerned about her son's condition. A very distressed Mrs Hackett told me:

"He is in the hospital wing in Parkhurst, but that really doesn't mean anything. He gets no medical treatment there. They stuff him up with tablets and he told me he is afraid they are trying to turn him into a dope."

"He is being detained with severely mentally-ill patients, and I would be afraid for his safety. He told me



● (Above) Patrick Hackett's sister and mother and (below) the typically ignorant letter they received from the Free State government concerning Patrick's plight

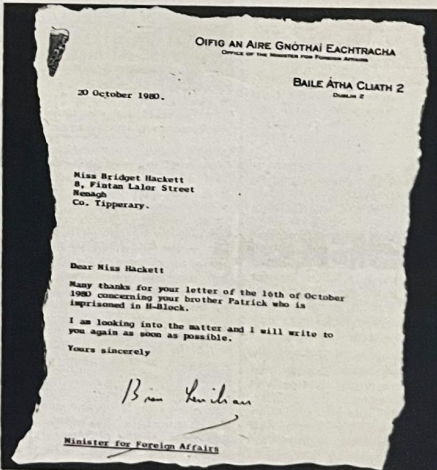
that the doctor in Wakefield had once advised him to go on hunger-strike as he would make a lovely corpse."

"It's so upsetting to go over there and see my own son going through all of that, but Patrick is a great lad. No matter how bad the conditions, his morale has always been high. He is determined not to give up his blanket protest until his demands are met. He wants only to be treated like a human being. He will not wear a prison uniform because he is no criminal. He also wants repatriation to his own country for himself and all the other republican POWs."

Bridget Hackett urges the relatives of the other Irish POWs in British jails to keep their spirits up and not to become despondent and to maintain the pressure on authorities:

"We began from scratch and I believe we are getting somewhere. We are going to keep Patrick's case under constant surveillance. There is no way I will ever again let them send him to those punishment blocks if I can help it."

"He has suffered so much he deserves to be released immediately. That is what we, his family, will demand from now on."





# • Mála poist... Mála poist.

ALL letters should be addressed to The Editor, An Phoblacht Republican News, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Preferably they should be type-written in double spacing with wide margins and on one side of paper only.

## British allies

A Chara,  
Sinead Reilly's letter, 'People's War' (AP/RN, July 15th), was a welcome contribution to the debate launched a couple of weeks ago on the 'Lessons of the Malvinas'. I wholeheartedly agree with the comments made on the nature of a revolutionary people's war.

The political struggle for the hearts and minds of the people in England as well as Ireland is indeed necessary but this must not be confused with attempts to build a reformist protest campaign. Britain will only withdraw from Ireland when there is a greater risk to its interests as a whole by remaining rather than by withdrawing. How can we best bring about such a change in British interests?

Sinead correctly points out that the victories of the Irish liberation war will inspire those elements of British society who have no future under capitalism anyway. The badly-paid, and the unemployed black youth, for example, who formed the backbone of last year's uprisings in many British cities were clearly inspired by the Irish war.

Scarran, in part 1, paragraph 3 of his report complains that the petrol bomb was copied from disturbances in Ireland. Tariq A. Ali in his letter to AP/RN (July 5th) also expresses the feeling of solidarity with the Irish struggle which black people are beginning to feel. As the British state uses CS gas, plastic bullets and widespread frame-ups, as it has for years in Ireland, then these sentiments are bound to increase.

Such youth will provide a layer of republican sympathisers (in the real sense) in Britain who, far from being 'horrified' by IRA successes, will take heart from these and will redouble their efforts in their own struggle for justice.

It is among such people, as well as the Irish community, that Sinn Féin in Britain should concentrate in attempting to build a principled solidarity movement which will support the Irish liberation war and really strike 'terror' into the heart of the British state.

As they experience for themselves the pressures which drove the nationalist youth of Ireland to war in the first place, they will provide a natural base for such a campaign. Demonstrations by these forces will help to draw the lessons of the Irish war and its connection with their fight for their rights, giving confidence and inspiration to the oppressed people of Britain as well as exposing the nature of the Brits' war in Ireland. This is the revolutionary way towards the winning of the hearts and minds of the oppressed people of Britain.

The demand is to attempt to build a reformist campaign among those sections who have a vested interest in maintaining capitalism — the middle class. Such forces do no harm and I welcome them as far as they go, but they will never force a British withdrawal from Ireland. In fact, at decisive points in the struggle when the British state is in danger they will disappear. Where were they during the hunger-strike?

Such moralists and sympathisers were nowhere to be seen when ten young black men were murdered in the H-Blocks. The recent successful attacks on military targets in London will again send them scurrying for cover just when it is vital that

A Chara,

As an ex-member of the 3rd battalion of the Royal Green Jackets I would like to comment on the hypocrisy of the British media outcry following the recent bombings in London. Having completed three 'tours' of the six counties from 1972 I would like to point out the fact that the band of the above battalion also 'toured' the six counties. As well as playing the role of escorts around Belfast they also guarded the infamous RUC barracks on the Springfield Road where beatings were and still are an everyday event.

As a part of the occupying army in the six counties they face the same consequences as anyone else involved in the occupation. The media in the past 13 years have failed to report the truth about what really happens in the six counties, only when the war is brought home to them do they bother to report it, but in the most disgusting way. It is not the Republican Movement which are the 'terrorists' and 'murderers' as the media scream but the British army who for the past 13 years have terrorised the nationalist population of the six counties.

Only the complete withdrawal of Britain from Ireland will stop the war and the paid lackeys of the British ruling class in the media will one day have to accept that a war has taken place.

Victory to the Irish people!  
Troops out now!  
A.J.,  
An ex-Royal Green Jacket,  
North London.

Dear Comrades,  
I'd like to express my congratulations to the IRA for the



● London's Regent's Park proved to be no safe haven from the revolutionary justice of the IRA for the Green Jackets who had guarded the infamous Springfield Road barracks in Belfast.

These actions have shown to the British government and to the whole world that no new trick assembly will solve the deadlock situation but the anti-imperialist fight of the Irish people for national unity and independence.

E. Neusser,  
Vienna,  
Austria.

A Chara,  
I was absolutely disgusted when I heard the news that the Royal Dublin Society were being trustees to a fund to replace the

clothes-line in the British embassy's back garden should be more appropriately called the Loyal Dublin Society.

John McAlliskey,  
Adelaide Road,  
Glengary,  
County Dublin.

A Chara,  
The decision of the RDS to set up a compensation fund for the families of soldiers killed in London is disgusting. It is an insult to the oppressed nationalist people of the six counties who have suffered at the hands of British imperialism for the past 13 years. The RDS has not set up

any fund to cater for the families of plastic bullet victims, or for the families of those killed on Bloody Sunday.

Furthermore, the RDS seem to have forgotten that loyalist/ British murder squads killed dozens of people in Dublin and Monaghan. The RDS didn't see it appropriate to set up a fund for their families. There is a climate of 'general appeasement' in the twenty-six counties and a powerful pro-British element.

Finally, to those who have or will contribute to this fund let them stop and think. Think of the victims of British murder gangs, their families, and the oppressed nationalist people of the six counties.

PRO,  
South Tyrone comhairle  
ceantair Sinn Féin.

A Chara,  
The launching of a fund by the RDS to aid the relatives of British soldiers killed or injured in the recent IRA attacks in London really gets my gall.

How low can these people get?

The members of the RDS would do better if they paid more attention to matters at home such as the victims of the British occupation of the North or our unemployed.

Was there any fund set up for the relatives of those ten brave men who died on hunger-strike in Long Kesh? Did they even receive messages of sympathy from the RDS?

But then Ireland has always had her share of Quislings.

To the members of the RDS I say, Ireland may still rear you and others like you but future generations will disown you.

Joe Moylan,  
Ennis,  
County Clare.



● Potential support amongst Britain's oppressed and disaffected black community must be tapped.

political analysis and explanation is presented to the British people. This will not be forthcoming from reformists who view the armed struggle as a hindrance.

We correctly broke with such reformists in Ireland and based our movement among the oppressed people who have protected and succoured the Republican Movement throughout 13 years of oppression. Our only allies in Britain will also be found among the oppressed people and we should be careful not to make a mistake in Britain that we avoided at home.

The lesson of another major war taking place just now should also be remembered. Our brothers and sisters in the PLO are at present being butchered along

with thousands of civilians in Lebanon and the only allies they have found was among the oppressed Lebanese. The rich, conservative Arabs have abandoned them but Lebanese working-class people are fighting and dying alongside them in Beirut.

In Britain, as everywhere else in the world, we must look for real support among the oppressed who alone will applaud and draw inspiration from our success. The sympathy of middle-class protesters may be welcome but it will prove as consistent as the 'friends' of our Palestinian comrades proved.

Let us start now to build a principled Irish solidarity campaign which supports the Irish struggle under the leadership of the Republican Movement.

Gerry MacLochlainn,  
Republican POW,  
Maldstone prison,  
England.

## Unity

Dear Comrades,  
This letter is a plea to the various groups, parties and organisations which make up what passes for the Irish solidarity movement in Britain to unite.

The movement is small enough as it is without all the groups like the Troops Out Movement, Irish Freedom Movement, RCP, Labour Committee on Ireland, RCG, IRSP (Britain), Sinn Féin (Britain), Veterans Against the War, NCP, Campaign for Withdrawal from Ireland, Armagh Women's Co-ordinating Committee, Workers' Party (no relation to the Sticks) RCL, Women and Ireland and anyone else I've missed out; some of whom give the impression that they're more opposed to each other than to British rule in Ireland?

Surely we all want to see



● Time for Britain's '57 varieties' of Irish solidarity groups to unite?

British troops out now and surely we're all in favour of Irish self-determination? These previous demands are important, not which group we belong to.

The sectarianism of the various groups is best displayed and exposed by the situation in Glasgow at the moment. The Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee (which is basically the RCG) and Clyde-side Troops Out Movement seem locked in bitter struggle. RCG members were not allowed to display their banner on a march organised by TOM and Glasgow Sinn Féin. TOM says GIFAAC provoke loyalists and police and get everyone beaten up or arrested and GIFAAC says TOM and Glasgow Sinn Féin are reactionary and don't wish republican youth in and around Glasgow to see the connection between socialism and republicanism!

As a consequence of this we see GIFAAC marches of 4-500 people and similar-sized TOM and Sinn Féin marches. Wouldn't a 1,000-strong 'Britain out of Ireland' march be infinitely preferable?

On the several thousand-strong Bobby Sands commemoration demo' in London, Owen Carron MP told us in Britain to unite — members of TOM, RCG, Irish Freedom Movement, etc., applauded this plea showing that unity is desired. Why can't we all get

together and do something positive now?

Irish self-determination  
supporter,  
Inverness,  
Scotland.

## Save David Kitson!

Dear Editor,  
David Kitson is serving his eighteenth year of a 20-year sentence as a political prisoner in South Africa and is held in the section for the criminally insane at Maximum, Pretoria Central Jail — the infamous hanging jail. There is no heating and he is suffering from bronchitis. The conditions under which he is being held are dangerous. We fear Dave is a step away from pneumonia in this freezing South African winter.

For this reason Norma Kitson and David's children, Amanda and Steven, intend to picket South Africa House, London, non-stop from August 25th onwards.

This decision has been taken because David's health is deteriorating in the prison in which he is being held and because, at this moment, the South African authorities have set up a remission board to review the sentences of 'security' prisoners. They will not say when David's case will be reviewed and we fear that delay leaves David seriously at risk. Norma and her children have decided that pressure must be put on the South African regime now to save David's life and release him.

We have already received considerable support: from British MP, on July 13th, 195 MP, signed an Early Day Motion initiated by Stanley Clinton Davis MP, Opposition spokesman on Foreign Affairs, organisations, trade unions (one has pledged to attend for one day a week), and from many individuals who have pledged to attend the picket regularly and give their help.

We feel that a successful campaign to release David Kitson will allow us to raise the whole question of political prisoners in South Africa. We feel that organisations and individuals involved in supporting this picket will use the opportunity to raise the release of other South African political prisoners.

If there was one man, one-vote today, many of the government elected would be those now rotting in jail.

Political parties, trade unions, student bodies, individuals and whatever organisations they belong to can show their solidarity by raising the issue of political prisoners in South Africa and sending messages of support to the address below where further information is available.

Gail Cartmell,  
Anti-Apartheid Movement,  
22 Brownlow Mews,  
London WC1N 2LA,  
Tel. 405 4498.



## Burke's at the back

BY KEVIN BURKE

THE CONTROVERSY in Cobh, County Cork, about an H-Block memorial in the sinking of the ship Lusitania in 1915 (AP/RN, August 5th, 1982), and which was removed by council workers on Monday night, has taken on an ironic significance given that it is supposed to be offensive to British tourists.

The Sunday Times of August 15th, 1982, discloses startling new evidence that not only was the Lusitania deliberately exposed to German U-boats known to be in the area off Cork at the time but a strong possibility exists that the major explosion responsible for sinking the ship was caused by explosives being carried to Britain on the supposedly innocent passenger ship. Investigators have established that part of the wreck was cleared, apparently to hide such evidence and the British Ministry of Defence have since tried to scare off salvage operators.

The reason for the murderous British action — with apparently the connivance of King George V — was to bring the United States into the First World War on the British side.

The H-Block victims and the Lusitania victims appear to have a common executioner. What better reason for a combined memorial?

...

In these times of Free State crisis little has been heard from the Fine Gael leader, Garret Fitzgerald. Not surprising really as he has only just returned from an extended holiday in France, no doubt making up for his broken holiday in Tenerife in January.

You will remember that he had to fly back after only three weeks when the rest of us got caught in the big freeze-up.

It really does one good to get away from the problems of unemployment, wage-cuts, threatened redundancy, cut-backs, bad housing, high taxes, lousy social services and, of course, rotten weather.

The strange thing is it is only those unaffected by such problems who can afford to get away from them!

...

Subservience to the British may have its rewards after all.

Peter Murtagh, security correspondent of The Irish Times, doubled in last Saturday's issue as 'eating out' reporter for the pre-tentious 'Table for Two' column. He began it:

"The sign expressing regret, shame and outrage at the London bombings which was pinned to the wall of the Bacchus restaurant in Kinsale was enough to convince us that we ought to eat there."

And ended it:

"Ten out of ten for the sign."

Reward it would seem was swift, as by Monday night Murtagh was commenting for the BBC (a much sought-after perk) on the McArthur/Connolly scandal, readily agreeing with whatever salacious and sarcastic suggestions the delighted BBC man put to him.

Another honorary member of the Fitzgerald/Wogan club for acceptable Irish men.

...

Even the Swiss, traditionally known for their neutrality, have to draw the line at Margaret Thatcher.

On Friday last week she was greeted by booing demonstrators as she arrived at a house in Rotkreuz where she intends to holiday. Flares were set off as she arrived and placards read:

"Welcome to the Murderous Iron Lady."

...

Worth remembering that the 'Butcher of Beirut', Israeli premier Menachem Begin is a former Nobel Peace Prize winner. It is a distinction that he shares with that other

# A joint memorial



● The Lusitania memorial, Cobh, County Cork, as it was until earlier this week

mass-murderer Henry Kissinger.

Let's admit it, compared to those two, our own Peace Prize winners, Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams, appear quite decent.

They only murdered the £80,000 cash hand-out that went with it.

...

The well-known British love for animals has cropped up again in another story of the death of a British army soldier.

Coldstream Guards corporal Paul Wood, enraged at his estranged wife taking a lover, shot the latter, farmworker Philip Robinson, with a shotgun.

As Robinson lay dying, Wood's wife said to her husband:

"Don't let him die. What about his animals? They're all he lived for."

A month afterwards Wood hanged himself with his vest in Lewes Jail, Sussex, where he was awaiting trial for murder.



## WHAT'S ON

### HUNGER-STRIKE COMMEMORATION

3 pm Saturday 21st August  
March from Railway Station to  
Market Square  
**LETTERKENNY**  
County Donegal  
(Organised by Donegal H-Block  
Committee & Sinn Féin)

### RELEASE NICKY KELLY DEMONSTRATION

3 pm Saturday 21st August

GPO

### DUBLIN

(Committee meetings held at  
8pm every Wednesday in  
TCD Students' Union)

### ANTI-TOXIC FESTIVAL

Featuring general entertainment; theatre;  
workshop on toxic dumping & toxic  
industry, etc.; lectures, videos & films;  
& music by various groups  
Saturday & Sunday 21st & 22nd August

### BALDONNEL

County Dublin  
Admission free  
Creche available

Buses 69 and specials from Clondalkin

### COLE/COLLEY COMMEMORATION

(60th Anniversary)

3 pm Sunday 22nd August

Rendezvous Car Park

Beaumont

**DUBLIN**

Buses 16A, 20B & 51A  
(Organised by Sinn Féin)

### COMHAIRLE CUIGE LAIGHEAN SPECIAL MEETING

2.30 pm Sunday 29th August

5 Blessington Street

**DUBLIN**

\*Two delegates to attend from  
each comhairle ceantair

### PRISON PICKET

(In support of Irish political prisoners)

2.30 pm Sunday 29th August

Wormwood Scrubs

Du Cane Road

**LONDON W12**

All groups are invited to attend  
(Organised by Sinn Féin)

### VOLS. MICHAEL GAUGHAN & FRANK STAGG COMMEMORATION

3pm Sunday 29th August

**BALLINA**

County Mayo

Speaker: Owen Carron MP

### THE PATRIOT GAME FILM

7.30 pm Friday 3rd September

Holborn Central Library

32/38 Theobalds Road

**LONDON WC1**

Admission 70p,

unemployed & OAPS 30p

Buses 5, 19, 38, 55 & 172

(Organised by the North London  
Irish Solidarity Committee)

## Thanks

AN CUMANN CABHRACH would like  
to thank Green Cross, Melbourne,  
Australia for their generous donation  
of £865.20.

**SINN FEIN YOUTH, BELFAST**, would  
like to thank the bands Zero Option  
and the Psychotics for the benefit they  
recently played in London. Also, thanks  
to the management and staff of the  
Old White Horse, Brixton.

## Draw results

Dungannon draw  
Week 12  
1st prize (£100): T. McNally, Dungannon.  
2nd prize (£50): C. Quinn, Killeshill.



## New poster

FIANNA EIREANN have produced an  
attractive new poster illustrating the con-  
tribution of republican youth to the  
cause of Irish freedom since their founda-  
tion in 1909.

Copies of the poster, which is in  
orange and blue (the colours of the  
Fianna flag the Sunburst), can be obtained  
from the usual republican outlets or  
direct from the Fianna at 44 Parnell  
Square, Dublin, priced at 60p each plus  
30p postage.



# REVIEW PAGE

## BOOKS

### Battered women

BY RITA O'HARE

'HIDDEN VIOLENCE'— a study of battered women in the six counties — is a disturbing book, as any account of repeated physical assaults, mental abuse and sexual attacks must be.

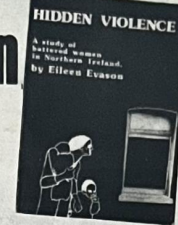
Its author, Eileen Evson, is a lecturer in social administration in the New University at Coleraine and she has produced a timely report of a survey of the experiences of battered women in the North, compiled with the help and co-operation of women's groups throughout the area.

Among the women who took part in the research are those in Women's Aid refuges and the strong emphasis of the book is for more such hostels for battered women and their children.

Violence against women is exacerbated by the fact that it is so readily accepted in our society and the book points out how the law, family, neighbours, police, clergy and doctors overwhelmingly tend to press women either to blame themselves or to accept their lot.

The general approach of sociologists to the problem is dealt with and exposed by Eileen Evson who gives a typical analysis as:

"The answer to the question has to do with complex inter-



locking hostile dependencies between the adult partners."

She comments: "The implication seems to be that both are equal and one chooses to be battered for years by the other."

#### AFRAID

This myth of the women who 'enjoy' being beaten, is exploded by the stark interviews with the women themselves, who had nowhere to go with their children, had no



There's no funny side to the victims of wife-beating

Independent money and, in many cases, were just too afraid to leave.

"I tried to leave but I got the length of the driveway and it ended up in violence."

There are many quotations in the book about those to whom women went seeking help.

Clergyman: "It was useless — he said it was a burden God

sends you to bear."

Social workers: "She said I was lucky I had just got black eyes and that I could live on my family allowance."

The RUC: "I was pregnant, beaten and dragged about, but the police said it was a domestic matter."

There is a major reluctance by the RUC to prosecute and

the law is rarely invoked to protect women in these circumstances.

The Northern Ireland Domestic Proceedings Order of 1980 makes it possible for wives to obtain protection and excluding orders against husbands who assault them, but it is, through general ignorance of rights, generally up to the RUC what action is taken.

"I took an injunction to stop him coming round after me. He raped me recently. He wasn't scared of the police. They always just let him go and just don't want to know."

The book concludes by spelling out how the problem of battered women must be solved. In the long term, education of society to change the attitudes which presume men should be aggressive and dominant, in order to be real men, and the system which enforces women into a dependent and vulnerable role.

'Hidden Violence' by Eileen Evson is available, price £3.00, from Farsat Co-operative Press, 95 Shankill Road, Belfast.

## The finest fifteen ever

BY BRIAN MARTIN

FOLLOWING last Sunday's football semi-final at Dublin's Croke Park, the old cry has again been raised that Kerry's dominance is 'bad for the game'.

The low attendance of 17,500 at the game has been pointed to as proof of the argument, but I do not accept it. It is well-known that ultra-confident Kerry supporters do not travel en masse to Dublin for All-Ireland semi-finals, and this has been the case long before the present Kerry squad arrived on the scene.

The clear and unquestionable overall decline in attendances over the past few years should properly be placed at the door of poor quality football and the free-riding 'pulling and dragging' that has all-too-often

gone with it, helped by the lack of satisfactory rules in this area of the game.

If large numbers of neutrals did stay away on Sunday because they saw it as a 'no-contest', that says more about the neutrals than it does about Kerry. I would have thought that, irrespective of the result, those who had seen Kerry's performance in the Munster final replay would flock to Croke Park for more of the same.

I found Sunday's game the most enjoyable I have seen in a long time. The fact that

## SPORT

Armagh made a contest of it in the first half, to many people's surprise, greatly helped, of course. Indeed, in those opening 15 minutes or so, the ease with which the Armagh wing forwards often out-manoeuvred Ger O'Keeffe and Paulie Lynch, not to mention the problems Joe Kernan was giving Tim Kennelly, must have worried their Kerry mentors.

#### SEXTET

But then the strength of a great team is when one department makes up for the shortcomings of another, and this Kerry's peerless forward sextet did superbly.



● Kerry's Jack O'Shea shows Armagh how it's done

A typical piece of magic resulted in a superb Sheehy goal for Kerry, and after Armagh had pulled back to within a point, thanks to Kernan's goal, Kerry reeled off five magnificent long points to leave it 1-10 to 1-5 at half-time.

At this point, even the

most partisan Armagh supporter (and as always they were vocal and colourful) must have realised that the game was beyond them. But neither they, nor anyone else, was prepared for what was to follow.

Kerry's attacking play in the first 15 minutes of the second half was simply breathtaking in its brilliance. I certainly have never before seen play of that order, and saw was the only appropriate response to it.

Power and Egan were back to all their old sharpness, Moran was everywhere, Sheehy at his elegant and lethal best and then there was Eoin Liston.

The Bomber\* just seemed to lord it no matter what he did, his goal being only one example. I particularly recall one amazing 'dummy' he sold which allowed the ball to speed into acres of empty Armagh space. At times he brought back (painful) memories of the way he destroyed Dublin in the second half of the 1978 final. But this was a more complete

performance than even that one.

With the whole team hitting an all-time peak those 15 minutes will never be forgotten by those lucky enough to have seen them to follow.

Thereon in, the pace slackened and Armagh, never saying die, were let tag on four points to their total. It would be unfair to say they were totally outclassed, and Peter Rafferty and Colm McKinstry especially had excellent games. It is just that nobody, either now or in the foreseeable future, can come anywhere near Kerry. With due respect to Galway and Offaly, and they are the next best, I cannot see the Kingdom presented from getting the record fifth-in-a-row All-Ireland final victory next month.

Mick O'Dwyer has under his 'professional' charge probably the finest 15 ever to grace a Gaelic football field. And before I get solemn about it, it has to be said that the 'Kerry joke' is now as dangerous as a boomerang.

## A living tradition MUSIC

BY PAUL ROONEY

THIS WEEKEND thousands of Irish traditional musicians and enthusiasts will be making their way to Listowel in County Kerry for the annual Fleadh Ceoil na hEireann — the all-Ireland traditional music championships.

This event, the premier festival of Irish music, is organised by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann, and is the climax to 40 Fleadhanna ceoil competitions held throughout Ireland, Britain and the United States to find the best musicians and singers in Ireland.

At the fleadh there is a choice between competitions and organised concerts or the street and pub sessions. But one thing can be guaranteed, really good music and plenty

of crack and a great chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

As one old musician once said: "Irish music is the only music that brings people to their senses."

But what attracts thousands to Irish traditional music?

Irish traditional music is more commercially successful today than it has ever been. In fact, whilst the rest of the music 'business' has gone into a general recession, traditional music pro-

vides the bulk of the home market and has even made large inroads overseas. It is a phenomenon which has no parallel in any other country which boasts a folk music following.

Ireland's music has proven to be based on a living tradition, which has not been abandoned or overwhelmed by outside pressures or influences. And even when 'alien' influences are introduced, Irish musicians have shown a capacity to assimilate these influences without detriment to the basic tradition.

Of course, 'purists' still bewail any tampering with traditional music. Over a decade ago there was dismay in some

circles when Johnny Moynihan introduced the bouzouki to Ireland and Donal Lunny began to popularise the instrument.

Now the bouzouki is an essential part of most ensembles whether in organised groups or traditional sessions.

For the same reason, groups such as the Chieftains, Planxty, the Bothy Band and Moving Hearts have all come in for their share of criticism. But the reality of the situation is that a living tradition is just that, alive, not something that is just a window to the past.

At the same time it is always important that musicians do not lose touch with the source, and groups such as Planxty and Clannad have provided the link and encouraged others to do so.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann (CCE) plays a vital role also in this, especially encouraging



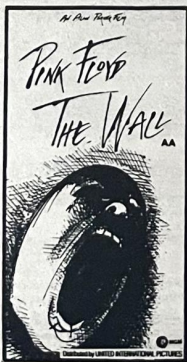
● The fleadhanna organised by CCE bear witness to the healthy state of traditional music

young people to sing, dance and play, and to make their own instruments. CCE organises the majority of the fleadhanna and anyone who attends must witness the healthy state of traditional music.

Irish traditional music by its nature is a participatory event which might logically be threatened by commercialism which

encourages music to become a mere spectator sport. However, the opposite effect has taken place with groups heard in concert and their records bought to learn the music to play in sessions; and so the circle turns.

Certainly, as of now, there is no reason to doubt that Irish traditional music will survive into the next century.



## No Milk of Magnesia

BY TONY BARRY

## FILM

THE newly-released film 'Pink Floyd: The Wall' is a series of brilliantly-executed and haunting videos and animated sequences of mental agony and madness.

Produced by Alan Parker for MGM at a cost of £7 million it stars Dublin-born Bob Geldoff as the anti-hero popstar Pink. This film is no Disney-type visual 'Milk of Magnesia' for those who like to leave the troubles of the world when they enter a cinema.

On the contrary, it is anti-escapism of a most hard-hitting

and harrowing kind.

The film opens with a shot of a hotel corridor — an anonymous blue-grey tunnel lined by equally-anonymous doors, in a rabbit warren of a building where people seem no more important than the endlessly-repeating pattern on the carpet.

Idolised by thousands of fans, Pink is rejected by his long-suffering wife. And, insecure since childhood, thanks to an over-protective mother and the death in the battle of his soul — and his mind.

The fortress of his child-

hood, and the prison of his mind, is portrayed, repeatedly throughout the 95-minute film as a triangle of armchair, lamp-stand and television.

This film is more of a poem than a story. Image after strange, striking image unfolds in film and animation depicting the maelstrom of his mind.

Rows and rows of children shuffle in line to the trenchant chant of the Pink Floyd hit:

"We don't want no education."

We don't need no thought-control!

Hey! Teacher! Leave those kids alone!

All in all, you're just another

brick in the wall."

The scene is one of the most striking in the film. Lines of kids on an assembly line, filing into a monstrous machine which churns them out in desks, school-uniforms and faceless pig-masks; then on to another assembly line to be ground up and made into frankfurter sausages.

The murder-machine at work!

Pink goes insane. It is not clear when, madmen rarely is, whether in his insanity Pink hallucinates that he is a fascist leader, or whether he becomes a fascist leader after going mad. No matter, for the swastika-like crossed hammers, jackboots, "Paki-bashing" and mob-manipulation of these scenes are some of the most evocative and politically relevant of the film.

At one stage, split up a

Hitlerian balcony, little different from his former stage, Pink sings of his own fate:

"If you want to find out What's behind these cold eyes"

You'll just have to claw your way

Through this disguise."

Fascism: a disguise for insanity; a neat political metaphor.

'Pink Floyd: The Wall' is a tremendously powerful and thought-provoking film. The images of which the film are composed are rich and strong and are conveyed vividly in contrast to the dulled and slurring tenor of 'reality'. For Pink, his nightmares and his fantasies become reality because reality becomes meaningless.

Bob Geldoff, in his film debut, is excellent as the demented Pink. And Pink Floyd are, of course, superb.









● Anxious parents queue to have their children vaccinated as news of the polio outbreak spreads through west Belfast

## PANIC IN BELFAST GHETTO AFTER DISEASE DISCOVERED

# POLIO OUTBREAK

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

ON THURSDAY evening, August 12th, a wave of panic swamped west Belfast as news reports thundered two spine-chilling words: 'Polio outbreak'. The initial reaction for most people listening, especially for mothers with young children, was to immediately deposit their offspring on the doorstep of the nearest clinic, despite calls from the Eastern Health Board not to become alarmed.

Emergency clinics were set up on Saturday and Sunday in west Belfast to deal with the stampede as hundreds rushed to be vaccinated.

The unknowing and innocent cause of all the fuss, however, was a tiny two-and-a-half-year-old boy named Martin Conlon from Springfield Park who contracted a mild form of the virus, which in itself has remained at bay for five years, the last attack occurring in the Lenadoon area of west Belfast.

### CONCERNED

Martin's 19-year-old mother Louise, who is expecting another baby in October, became concerned about him around June when he began to sweat excessively and would not eat. Two months earlier, in April, Martin began preparing for school by attending Moyard nursery, just beside Moyard flats. He went on only four occasions as Louise was ill, but gradually he began to show unusual symptoms until on the morning of August 2nd his left foot turned inwards.

Physically, however, it appeared he was in no pain. Louise took him to the Children's Hospital where he was examined and nothing could be found, the doctor dismissing it as a child's antics to gain attention from its pregnant mother. Louise was given two boxes of Dispirin and sent home.

### BAFFLED

Later that day, however, Martin began to fall around the house, losing power and control in his leg. Louise and her husband Martin returned to the hospital later that night. Once again he was examined by several doctors and specialists but each remained baffled.

A number of blood, urine and (a painful) spinal tests were carried out over a week, during which Mr and Mrs Conlon were com-



● Two-and-a-half-year-old Martin Conlon, who contracted a mild form of polio, with his father. Louise recalls last Sunday night, August 8th:

"One of the professors came in to look at Martin and she turned to my husband and quite calmly said she suspected he had polio."

Tests continued during that week, then on Thursday afternoon, three doctors blunt-

ly confirmed a mild form of polio and transferred Martin to Belvoir Park Hospital where he was placed in isolation.

### WEAKNESS

Poliomyelitis, commonly known as polio, is an infectious disease which chiefly affects children and young adults. The virus can be acquired through contact with a polio patient, or in epidemics it may be spread by food and flies, particularly in summertime. The virus usually attacks parts of the nervous system, most commonly the spinal cord. It seeks out physical points of weakness, in Martin's case his leg and foot.

In its mild form, symptoms include a feverish cold, sore throat, vomiting and diarrhoea, fever and listlessness. Usually complete recovery follows.

In its most serious phase paralysis may occur in leg muscles, arms, chest, back and face. The paralysed muscles sometimes recover but those which do not, become wasted, thin and may be stunted. In most severe cases where chest muscles, and therefore breathing, are affected, patients are placed in an iron lung, a machine which literally keeps them alive.

How did Martin Conlon contract this virus?

True, he was not vaccinated, but in that case neither — until the weekend that is — were 45% of people in west Belfast. Louise

Conlon has her own ideas.

Until she moved into her present house in Springfield Park she lived in one of the Moyard flats. Like today's present 400 families she faced the daily ordeal of waste sewage coming up through water pipes because of blocked-up drains. Irregular waste collections and animal excreta litter the area where people live in deplorable conditions in structurally unsound maisonettes, as recently illustrated when a mother and child narrowly escaped death from their burning flat, their only form of exit through the top-floor window as there are no fire escapes.

### SEWAGE

Human waste seeps up through pavements and gardens, swelling out of drains when it rains heavily. This sewage had a habit of pouring out of a broken pipe underneath Martin Conlon's nursery school.

This latest outbreak of polio, although for Martin Conlon and his parents the beginning of a nightmare situation, may hopefully serve to provide ammunition for the beleaguered residents of Moyard.

Ultimately the safest solution is the complete demolition of Moyard flats before not only these nationalist people but the health authorities, the DoE, Housing Executive and British government are faced with perhaps the very real danger of a widespread epidemic on their hands.



● Moyard residents vent their anger at DoE and Housing Executive inactivity over living conditions

MOYARD RESIDENTS brought their anger out onto the streets last Saturday afternoon in protest over the *laissez faire* attitude of the DoE and Housing Executive who have repeatedly failed to take action over the atrocious living conditions, which they feel have been primarily responsible for the latest outbreak of polio in the area.

For two hours they blocked the Springfield Road outside Ballymurphy Clinic where mothers and toddlers queued

to be vaccinated. On Monday, August 16th, another picket was staged, one banner expressing their feelings quite clearly: "Come to Costa del Moyard and catch jaundice, dysentery and polio free of charge."

## ROAD-BLOCKING PROTESTS

Both protests were organised by Moyard Housing Action Committee who for several years have been campaigning for better living conditions and partial demolition of the flats but to date all their efforts in meetings with the Housing Executive

have fallen on deaf ears.

Rats, infested rubbish and sewage openly running down streets, have all brought in their wake outbreaks of jaundice, dysentery, vomiting and diarrhoea. Mrs Celine Tierney from Moyard Crescent complained of sewage coming out of water pipes. Her husband and two young children have been suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea since August 8th. This story is repeated over and over with many families in the same situation.