

BARRICADE BULLETIN

1969 - 1994



25th Anniversary Edition

Britain Under Pressure

by Martin McGuinness

"When the first British soldiers marched into William St. 25 years ago, the RUC lay exhausted and broken on both sides of the streets. For the RUC and the corrupt artificial statelet that they upheld, things really would never be the same again.

A quarter of a century later, I still chuckle at the memory of the nationalist people of Derry crawling up off their knees to claim responsibility for the violent deed.

The fury of the people, which was born out of decades of simmering resentment and anger at the humiliations and degradations mercilessly inflicted upon them by an undemocratic Unionist regime, finally exploded and set in train a process which, when it has ended, will be seen to have forever changed the course of Irish history.

They came in Britain's interest. Their continual presence on our streets is still in Britain's political interest and is an unchallengeable indictment of the failure of their political masters to resolve the core issues at the heart of the conflict in our country.

The Hume-Adams agreement, which kick-started the present Peace Process, seriously examined these core issues. As we all know, the British Government rejected this important initiative. Then, in consultation with the Official Unionists they plundered the Irish Peace Initiative by extracting and discarding the dynamic and thrust which is essential for a comprehensive settlement. A Unionist veto was inserted and the right of the Irish people as a whole to national self-determination was changed to provide the Unionists with an opt-out clause.

The Hume-Adams agreement is designed to end division in Ireland. The Downing St. Declaration resulted directly from the imaginative proposals from Gerry Adams and John Hume. It does not go far enough to end the injustices endured by Irish nationalists.

But the British Government is clearly under pressure. Our task now is to examine how we can increase the pressure for a democratic solution. Our struggle for justice and freedom must and will continue.

Over the last twenty five years we have confronted and resisted the undemocratic nature of British rule. It has been a admirable and courageous struggle. Our sacrifices have been many and our sorrows profound. Within us the Spirit of Freedom is strong - stronger than ever. It will see us through.

The Battle of The Bogside

The Battle of the Bogside was about 50 years of Unionist domination and injustice against Northern nationalists.

It seems a long time now since we saw those first CS gas canisters coming through the night air towards us, like sky-rockets. The afternoon of the 12th of August 1969, led to three days and three nights of complete anarchy with the Bogside finally defeating the "B" Specials and the "Paisleyites."

We have learned much since then; Unionist domination was only British domination in disguise. 'Britishism' can be just as brutal and unjust as Unionism.

In 1969 we thought that our Civil Rights amounted to the right to vote and the right to a house and a job. These should automatically be, civil rights. But we also deserve the right to determine our own affairs. That is the most basic civil right of all.

Twenty five years on we are living in the most militarised state in Europe, we suffer under the economic, social and health policies of various British political parties and we are at the mercy of an education and legal system over which we have no control. There is no justification for this.

The last twenty five years have been about struggle, survival and politicisation.

Perhaps the next twenty five years will see the development of an Ireland in which all of its people, Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter, can live together in harmony and equality.

There is a feeling that peace is close. Peace is not just an end to the Battle of the Bogside and to British injustices in our country. Peace is an end to British involvement in our country. We deserve peace. A peace based on civil rights for all.

Patrick Pearse said, in 1915, at the grave of O' Donovan Rossa, the Fenian patriot, "Ireland unfree shall never be at peace."

The history of Ireland - 1867, 1916, 1969, 1994 - tells us that this is as true today as it ever was.

AUGUST '69

AUGUST '69: Jimi Hendrix was deconstructing the Star Spangled Banner at Woodstock, Danny Cohn-Bendit and Tariq Ali were shouting revolution in the pampered West, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were walking on the moon, and, in Derry's Bogside, Tony Devine and a few other young Derry people, were walking on top of the Rossville Flats, defying the RUC, flying strange flags, defending Free Derry.

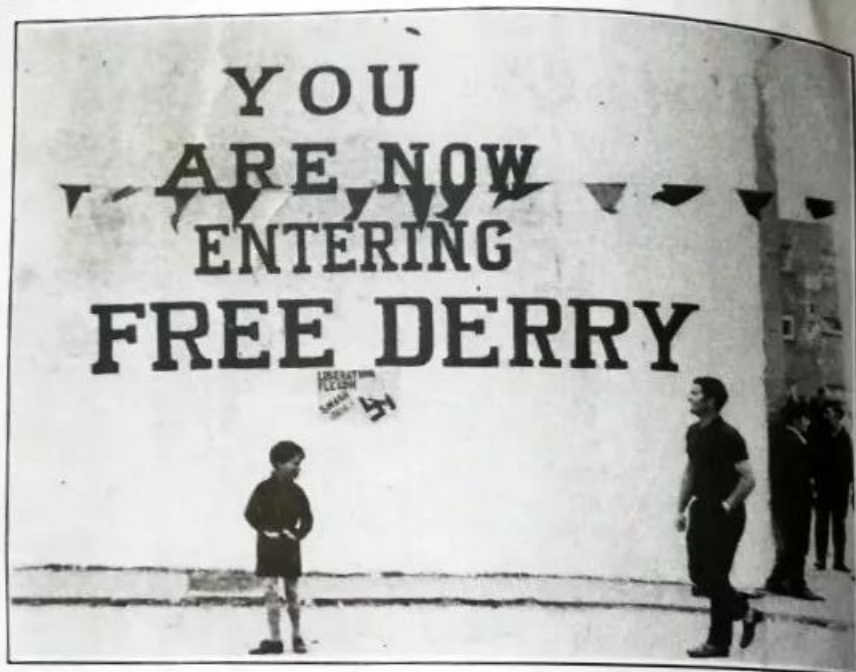
Inside the barricade area, a baffling and mutually incomprehensible combination of urban guerrillas, Derry men, women and children, lefty orators, IRA men, fashionably dressed foreigners, undercover Free State Army Intelligence officers, hippies, priests, touts, returned Yanks and doggie men, discussed how best to keep thousands of armed, angry, sectarian RUC men at bay.

We had stones, petrol bombs, local knowledge; they had guns, armoured tanks, water cannons and unlimited supplies of tear-gas that they pumped uninterruptedly, gleefully, into the entire Bogside. We kicked the gas canisters, demanded more gas, wondered how the Vietnamese would respond to

gas attack. In one of the earliest recorded examples of community face-painting, hardened Euro-riot watchers advised us to daub our faces with a congealing mixture of vinegar, water, and talcum powder. We looked spectral and smelt like Friel's Fish Shop.

But we beat the cops and the B-Specials. After three days of total community resistance, the British Government sent its troops into Derry. Some people told us that we had achieved a victory, but with the CS gas still clouding the streets, most of us sensed that we had simply cleared the air.

Hundreds of Derry people were injured during the battle. Thousands were gassed. No-one slept, and everyone had been afraid that the RUC would enter the Bogside and burn it to the ground. That was a general belief. After our battle, we were innocently happy. We had achieved something. After 50 years of Unionist rule, the people of Derry had finally decided - That's it, no more. We may not have known what the truth was, but for that period of time we were telling no lies. And then we heard about Belfast.



A Photographic Exhibition depicting the events during the "Battle of the Bogside" will be open to the public in Pilots Row Centre for the duration of the Gasyard Wall Féile (10th - 14th Aug)

1969

25 YEARS OF RESISTANCE

1994

GAS YARD WALL FÉILE 94

August
10th - 14th

WEDNESDAY 10th

Frances Black in Concert.
Rialto 7.30pm Price £5.50

THURSDAY 11th

2.00p.m. WESTLAND STREET.
STREET PARADE.

Children are encouraged to come in
fancy dress, prizes for the best.

4.00p.m. GASYARD SITE
FLEAD BEAG

4.00pm - 6.00pm - Dancing schools
7.30pm - 9.30pm - Ceili & Set
Dancing

9.30pm - 1.00am - Best of traditional
music with Kila a Dublin-based band.

Also the Big Electric Céilí Band

6.00p.m. PILOTS ROW

BATTLE OF THE BOGSIDE.

A photographic exhibition which will
be open to the public during the Féile.

8.00p.m. PILOTS ROW.

A NIGHT IN NOVEMBER

A play by Dubblejoint Theatre.

9.00p.m. BOGSIDE INN.

GASYARD FÉILE QUIZ FINAL.

Irish general Knowledge quiz
followed by local group The
Screaming Binlids.

FRIDAY 12th

12.30pm O'DOHERTY FORT.
WOUNDED KNEE.

Photographic exhibition depicting
the siege of Wounded Knee in 1973
when US marshalls clashed with the
American Indian Movement

12.45pm-3.15pm

Photojournalism Workshop

3.30pm-5.00pm FILM:

In The Spirit of Crazy Horse.

2.00pm - 6.00pm PILOTS ROW

ARCHIVE FILM SCREENINGS

From the 1968/69 period.

2.00pm

LITERARY WORKSHOPS.

Pilots Row, Dove House, Gasyard
Site, Conradh na Gaeilge, Mailey's
Bar.

4.00pm - 5.30pm MUSIC PER- FORMANCE WORKSHOPS

Boside Inn, Peadar O'Donnells and
Meenan Square.

7.00pm - 9.00pm

TOWER MUSEUM

RELIEF AND RELIVING

Northern scribes on Northern
themes.

9.00pm PILOTS ROW

THIS IS YOUR LIFE, ticket only.

9.00pm GASYARD SITE

CONCERT

featuring: Blink; The Big Bag of
Sticks; Guernica; Nyah Fearties
and The Deadly Engines.

SATURDAY 13th

11.00am - 7.00pm

CONRADH NA GAEILGE

INTENSIVE IRISH COURSE

10.00am - 5.00pm

GASYARD SITE

COMMUNITY GAMES

CHILDREN'S SPORTS

2.00pm - 5.00pm

COMMUNITY GAMES

ADULT EVENTS

12.00 - 2.00pm PILOTS ROW

AFTER '68

Film, followed by panel discussion.

9.00pm PILOTS ROW

BEYOND THE BARRICADES

A night of music, song, discussion
and film screenings featuring Helen
Brady, Seam Maguire and others.

Ticket only.

9.00pm GASYARD SITE

CONCERT

featuring: Rollerskate Skinny;
Blessed Ethel; Ash; Cuckoo;
Rare; Shtum; Deadly Engines.

SUNDAY 14th

9.00pm GASYARD SITE

CONCERT

featuring: Skin Grip; Stone Love;
Screaming Binlids; King Rat; Big
Bag Of Sticks.

TIME
FOR
PEACE

AUGUST

20

SATURDAY

TIME
TO
GO

A PARADE FOR PEACE & BRITISH WITHDRAWAL

Commencing with an open Air Concert
in Parnell Square, Dublin at 1p.m.

Buses will leave Derry at 8a.m. Tickets £5.
Available by telephoning 368926 or 359747

"BATTLE OF THE BOGSIDE"

**25 YEARS
OF
RESISTANCE
MARCH**

**Sunday August
14th**

**Assemble:
Creggan Shops
6.30p.m.**

**March to
Free Derry
Wall**

