

REPUBLICAN news



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A SECTION OF THE EASTER COMMEMORATION PARADE IN BELFAST AS IT MADE ITS WAY ALONG THE FALLS RD. ENROUTE TO MILL-TOWN CEMETRY, see centre pages for more photos.



EASTER MESSAGE

"WE WISH TO STRESS THE DETERMINATION OF THE IRISH REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE FOR AN END TO BRITISH RULE. IRRESPECTIVE OF HOW LONG IT TAKES OUR UNITS WILL STRIKE AT ENEMY FORCES UNTIL ENGLAND DECLARES OPENLY AND HONESTLY THAT SHE IS WITHDRAWING FROM IRELAND"

EASTER STATEMENT FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

"The Leadership of the Republican Movement extends greetings to comrades, friends and supporters at home and abroad on this the 62nd anniversary of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

We remember with pride our fallen comrades, whose tragic and untimely deaths have caused sorrow and suffering in many homes. The British presence has ensured this tradition of violent death, sorrow and suffering in every generation. We remember also the untimely deaths of many of our citizens, who died as a result of British interference in our country.

The Leadership of the Republican Movement on this Easter Sunday sends greetings to all the prisoners in England, Ireland and America and pays special tribute to our courageous comrades who are protesting in naked, solitary confinement for prisoner-of-war status inside the jails in the occupied Six Counties.

It has taken eighteen months for the name of H-Block, and the British brutality it represents, to seep through to the media. H-Block has been

eighteen months of immeasurable inhumanity for almost 300 young Irishmen. Their long suffering has only slowly cut its way through the usual mediocre

accounts of life in the north, behind which British repressive rule hides.

H-Block is brutally consistent with this final stage of British imperialist rule.

It is an issue for which an ashamed English people in the future will plead ignorance, but which for us at present is a living reality. H-Block is directly linked to the division of Ireland, to partition, to the British denial of Irish sovereignty.

The world should be in no doubt that the length of the war of national liberation and the strength which the Irish Republican Army can exert are proof that we command mass support in the occupied north. We wish to stress the determination of the Irish Republican Movement to continue the struggle for an end to British rule. Irrespective of how long it takes, our units will strike at enemy forces until England declares openly

and honestly that she is withdrawing from Ireland. Throughout Ireland repressed and struggling people, besides Republicans, are coming to support the Republican Movement because in it lies their only ultimate hope of peace and prosperity.

Sixty-two years ago a handful of revolutionary visionaries declared the Irish Republic and their action was condemned as a futile use of force. Those that gained from the struggle which Easter 1916 initiated, have condemned - with a glaring disrespect for the lessons of history - today's legitimate use of force.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

ON THE BLANKET

WE PRINT BELOW ANOTHER
ARTICLE FROM OUR YOUNG
COMRADE FROM WEST BELFAST
PRESENTLY ON THE 'BLANKET
PROTEST' IN THE H-BLOCK.

18/3/78

A day never passes in the H-Block without someone being sent to the punishment block on a very petty or framed charge. The average period in the punishment block is four to five days but men have been kept there as long as 46 days. It is hard enough in the H-Block where we remain 'on the blanket' but the strategy behind P-Block is to make life there as hard and as unbearable as possible for the Republican POW's in an attempt to break our spirit in order to try and reduce the ever increasing number of men on the protest.

The methods used range from physical violence to humiliation of prisoner's. The P-Block is an isolated block of about 30 cells. Total silence is maintained all the time. The cells are bare except for a wooden board (bed) a concrete block to sit on and a concrete slab cemented into the wall serves as a table. It is a concrete tomb, prisoners have only a must continually them. They Block hand out unmerciful beatings to Republican POW's.

When men complain to a doctor and register a formal complaint they are charged with 'making false allegations against a prison officer', for this they receive a further 3 to 4 days punishment, loss of remission etc., when this is finished they are held indefinitely on the grounds that an investigation is to be carried out (by prison staff) to look into the man's allegations. No one makes complaints, its not hard to see why! As its a very pointless exercise. It is a common occurrence to see men arriving back from the P Block with black eyes and swollen lips etc!

The humiliation tactics are, like with as brutal, the most common example is that of 3 to 4 screws invading a man's cell; they usually start to assault or intimidate him. Following this they tell him to drop the blanket which he has covering his nakedness. They then make him turn around in full circles several times. On occasions men have been physically held down and bent over to allow the screws to examine them intimately. Another degrading aspect is that men are not allowed to use the flush toilet outside their cells. They must use the chamber pot in their cell. They can't empty it and must depend on a bucket being brought around the cells. Some times this does not happen for days and the filthy contents flow over onto the floor and lie there.

On top of all that the Republican POW is subjected to what is termed as a No.1 diet. You receive this diet everyday,

it is a starvation diet it consists of

1. For breakfast, two rounds of dry bread; a mug of black tea.
2. 'Dinner' two small scoops of potatoes and small ladle of watery soup.
3. 'Tea' same as breakfast.
4. 'Supper' nothing!

Men have been subjected to 6 days and longer on this starvation diet. The usual is 6 days on then 3 days respite then back on again.

The prison governors are oblivious of what goes on. They have full knowledge of the facts, they sit in their office and watch naked men being dragged in from the infamous kangaroo courts. A typical example from one particular incident was when a blanket man was dragged in to a Governor's office for to be tried at one of the kangaroo courts. The blood was pouring from a wound on the man's head and the screws were punching and kicking him. He was semi-conscious, but he heard the Governor say to the over taking man:

The M.O. who is usually sent to examine you is a screw with a white coat on (a glorified message boy). All the M.O's are screws. A prisoner in the P-Block is isolated in a freezing cold cell, cut off from his friends and comrades, he is kept half starved, his cell reeks with the filth that has overflowed from the unemptied pot. Every minute he is waiting on the cell door flying open and 3 to 4 screws rushing in to lay into him. The silence is unnerving. He knows he will be dragged and beaten in the Kangaroo court where he will be sentenced to (usually) 4 days c.c. on No.1 diet plus loss of remission etc. This is institutionalised violence.

The most fearful and hated sight now is a white transit van with blackened windows. When it draws into the yard some one is for the punishment block. It used to be normal practice to send all types of prisoner to the same P-Block, now Republican POWs on the blanket are isolated. This is to insure no one will see or over-hear something that they aren't supposed to!

The situation regarding the P Block is very serious. Many men have been beaten and several men have embarked upon hunger and thirst strikes. At the time of writing two men are very seriously ill. We hope maybe that people will listen to what is said about the terrible conditions here and speak out before some of us end up getting beaten to death in an isolated cell where no one will know what has happened!

At the time of writing there are two Republican POW's (blanket men) on hunger and thirst strike in the punishment block Long Kesh. They are Tom McFeely and Sean Campbell both from H Block 3. Both men were in solitary confinement as they have been on the blanket protest quite some time. They were removed from H.3 to the punishment block. There was no reason why these men should have been taken out as they had done nothing. Both men were put in the punishment block and informed that they were to be kept there indefinitely (this is a tactic to break the spirit of Republicans on the blanket protest). Tom McFeely was held in the punishment block on another occasion for 46 days. Both men informed the prison

governor that if they were not taken back to H3 they would make some sort of protest as they had not committed any offence nor were they to be charged. Both men were ignored by the Prison authorities.

They immediately embarked upon a hunger and thirst strike. Their demand was to be taken back to H3 to their own cells. Both men were in poor enough condition due to the conditions they normally live in while on the blanket protest, so their health deteriorated quickly. After two days the prison governor informed them they were to be charged, 'Tom McFeely with insulting a medical officer' And Sean Campbell with using abusive language. Both charges were concocted by the prison authorities to trick both men off their protest. They remained on it, their demand the same.

On Thursday 16th Sean Campbell was annointed; at 5

o'clock in the morning he rung the alarm bell in his cell, the screw came and turned it off, he said he wasn't going to be disturbed by 'Scum.' Apparently another screw arrived on the spot and summoned an M.O. the M.O. arrived and upon seeing Sean Campbell's condition sent for a stretcher. Sean was carried out on the stretcher to Hospital (we don't know whether it was the prison or outside hospital). On Friday 17th Tom McFeely was taken out to hospital.

We received this information from a man who was in the same punishment block, we do not know whether both men came off their protest, we heard they had but we are not certain, it is possible they could be dying we have no means of finding out!

Editor's Note: Both Tom McFeely and Sean Campbell came off hunger and thirst strike when they were removed to hospital, since that satisfied their demand to be taken out of the punishment block.

DEFEND POLITICAL STATUS



NOTICE TO READERS

WE APOLOGISE TO OUR READERS
FOR THIS SHORTENED EDITION
OF REPUBLICAN NEWS; THE
PAPER WILL RETURN TO NORMAL
NEXT WEEK.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A SLURRED KIND

by the
Brigadier



other battalion fiddles? Must have a word with the Barnsley midget.

Not so many bad apples this week since the courts are in recess, but I must give a mention of Private Michael Heads (22) of 25th Field Regiment (or 'The Grand Central Thieves' as they're known to every shopkeeper in town). Heads has been charged with manslaughter of Danny McCooney at the Castle Street gates. Of course it was a rather blatant murder, but reducing the charge to manslaughter is the best I could do. Another one likely to get off lightly is a loyal little security officer George Kennedy Connolly who was found with a .22 Llama pistol and seven rounds in suspicious circumstances on the Upper Newtownards Road a fortnight ago. He'll get an easy one, don't fret. Not so lucky however is Sergeant Samuel George Cecil Lee of Killycomain Road, Portadown. Cecil used to be one of the RUC's finest thugs in Portadown until he was caught with his hand in the till once too often. He was caught after nicking £72 and a handful of firearms certificates. We had to sack him and he was fined £130.

Well, we don't need any forces, we have all the big criminals we need.
Bye for now.
Your pal,

The Brigadier



move smartish to blame on my predecessor the foolish

Mervyn McCord. And will they start to investigate the

Evenin' all,

Miller here, your new UDR C/O. Firstly, this disturbing rumor that's been going around. You know, about this space ship landing near Bellaghy and being surrounded by the men of 5th Battalion UDR. According to the story a run way descended from the craft and an alien with three heads six arms and numerous tentacles slithered down to my waiting men, tuned in its aeral and said, in a Bellaghy accent, "Why don't youse go and catch some of them terrorists?" Well, that's what I heard and I just want to re-assure you that there's not a word of truth in it. In fact, when the craft tried to land my men attacked it shouting their by now famous cry 'Miami' and it flew off.

Much more worrying however is the fact that some of our little financial fiddles have leaked out. I got wind of the fact that on 12th March the Sunday Times was due to publish a bit of an expose on all the money that our lads in the Belfast UDR have been fiddling. Right, I thought, I'll soon put a stop to that. Sure enough, I made sure that no copies of the Sunday Times arrived in the province that weekend. But what happens! All the daft papers the next day ignore orders and go and leak the story. Even the wretched

Daily Mirror, who will usually print any lie we tell them had a headline about "£40,000 mystery of a ghost army" and revealed that I've had some of the lads repay up to £3,700 that they'd been nicking. I had to issue the usual statement about the RUC probing "certain irregularities in stores and security procedures" as well when some of 10 Batt. Idiots admitted that they'd been swiping food and clothing as well as signing on the dole and doing the UDR double. A right cock up all round which I will have to



EASTER STATEMENT FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

No-one who has the experience of uninterrupted loyalist rule, pogroms, curfews, armed British repression in support of sectarianism, state sanctioned torture and murder, could be proud of Jack Lynch's nationalism. The pride of the Irish nation lies in the revolutionary Republican Movement and in the people who support the armed struggle, and who resist tyranny.

Besides the changed

circumstances of solid Fianna Fail rule in the 26 Counties, the last few months have also seen a movement towards Irish nationalism not just from Lynch but from Fine Gael in opposition.

The reasons for this movement need to be nailed firmly to the mast.

Jack Lynch and Fine Gael see that the IRA cannot be defeated and that continued British rule in the Six Counties is patently impos-

sible without greater resort by the British to murder and torture and which would provoke world opprobrium. Jack Lynch and Fine Gael see that growing nationalist sentiment threatens their own existence. So their recent reaffirmation of Irish nationalism is an attempt to capitalise on the developments which our armed struggle have created. Had our armed struggle failed then the nationalist people in the Six Counties

would be walked upon by strutting loyalists, and Lynch would still be standing idly by.

As it is, the armed struggle has neither failed nor diminished despite fatalities and imprisonments of political activists. In eight years of guerilla warfare the rate of attrition has never exhausted our manpower resources, and now we are entering a new generation of strength. Recently we have acquired new war materials which are an indication of our determination to continue the long struggle. The people are armed through the Irish Republican Army and there is no measure of British terror which can defeat this growing force.

The momentum towards a British withdrawal cannot

be stopped. With its realisation, the Irish people will have, for the first time in sixty years, the freedom to choose their own form of government without any outside interference. Our Movement has outlined proposals for a new federally structured Ireland and we look forward to the day when we can freely present those proposals before the whole Irish people for their consideration. Our concept of Eire Nua allows for the diverse traditions of our nation and embodies the basic principles of the 1916 Proclamation and the Democratic Programme of the First Dail Eireann. The New Ireland we strive for is one in which Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter can be proud of the common name of Irish people."

EASTER COMMEMORATION IN ARDOYNE

DESPITE THE FREAK
BLIZZARD, THOUSANDS
TURNED OUT IN ARDOYNE
LAST TUESDAY TO PAY
HOMAGE TO THOSE WHO HAD
GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN THE
STRUGGLE FOR
IRISH FREEDOM.

SAN T DE

VOLUNT



SOUTH DERRY ORATION

Hundreds of people attended the Easter commemoration at 'The Loop' in South Derry. After the ceremonies and the reading of the Proclamation, Belfast Republican Gerry Brannigan addressed the crowd:-

"Writing in his final pamphlet 'The Sovereign People' in March 1916 Patrick Pearse said

"Let no man be mistaken as to who will be lord in Ireland when Ireland is free - the people will be Lord and Master."

Pearse's vision was re-inforced by the 1916 Easter Proclamation which confirmed:-

"The right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people."

Today is the 62nd Anniversary of the Declaration of the Irish Republic and the vision of the signatories of that proclamation has not yet been realised. It is the intention of the Republican Movement to ensure that that vision becomes a reality. That objective is being pursued with the full knowledge of what is entailed - the combatting of the efforts of the British war machine and its local agents in the occupied North and in the Free State.

62 years on Britain still governs Ireland - by armed enforcement in the North and by neo-colonial rule in the 26 counties - through political, economic and cultural manipulation and through the machinery of the multinationals and the E.E.C.

The so-called Irish Republic of the 26 counties is a disgraceful monument to the men of Easter 1916, and a fulfilment of James Connolly's prophecy:

"If you remove the English Army tomorrow and hoist the green flag over Dublin Castle, unless you set about the organisation of the Socialist Republic your efforts will be in vain.

England would still rule you. She would rule you through her capitalists, through her landlords, through her financiers, through her array of commercial and individualist institutions she has planted in this country."

What Connolly was saying was that the physical withdrawal of British Imperialism was not enough - that structures of Government had to be implemented to ensure that the Irish people would no longer be exploited politically or economically but would have effective control over their own destinies.

This of course was not done and following the "settlement" of 1921 the existing political structures set up by British Imperialism were simply taken over and while the Free State had its own army - its own flag - and its own national anthem - the main vehicle for change - the "New Government" - remained firmly under British influence.

The continuing success of the Republican Movement however - forging ahead on all fronts - is now forcing the Free State Government into a "Nationalist" stand - however qualified - as illustrated by its attempt to steal the political policies of the Republican movement - and to put its own name to them.

The Republican Movement has stated over this past year that any one of 3 options is presently open to the British Government.

OPTION ONE: That the status quo be maintained - a position which even the British Government concedes is "not on".

OPTION TWO: An independent 6 counties jointly supported by Britain and the Free State, and

LUTE O AD TEERS

OPTION THREE: A fake United Ireland under a federal system of Government based on the present partitionist structures of Government.

It must be emphasised that any one of these 3 options is beneficial only to the British Government - who could ~~withdraw~~ from the expensive and politically embarrassing military occupation of the North - yet continue to exploit the Irish people through a form of 32 county neo-colonial Rule.

The concept of option 3 - a fake united Ireland under a Federal system of Government based on the present partitionist structures of Government - has already been launched by SDLP Deputy Leader - John Hume.

One thing is certain - under any one of these 3 options an attempt would be made to suppress the Republican Movement and its supporters - and prevent the achieving of the objectives of the 1916 Easter Proclamation.

The Republican Movement will, however, continue to explore and combat the threats posed to the interests of the Irish people as a whole whether those threats come from the British or Free State Governments or their local agents in the occupied North.

It will continue - by whatever means are necessary - to combat the efforts of the British war machine. To repress the risen nationalist people of the occupied North, whether that repression be of a political or military nature.

It will continue to expose the repression of political prisoners - many of whom are presently engaged in their heroic fight to retain political status.

Let our message of solidarity be carried from this meeting today.

The struggle to retain political status, to achieve our ultimate objective - a 32 County Democratic Socialist Republic as proclaimed in Easter Week 1916 - will not be easy - but they are ones we will wage relentlessly. The means by which both are achieved are the choice of the British war machine.

But the effort required will be great and will be measured not just by the more dramatic successes that will be achieved - but by consistent - hard day to day work on the ground - as Patrick Pearse said:

"Our Patriotism is measured - not by the formula in which we declare it - but by the service which we render."

by "Silent unattractive work - the routine of correspondence and committees and organising."

The British War Machine Has Failed.

The Loyalist Murder Machine Has Failed.

The Collaborationists of the SDLP Have Failed.

The Free State Government Has Failed.

All have failed to provide a lasting - even a temporary - solution.

Only the Republican Movement has been consistent in its correct analysis of the present - final - struggle.

Despite the propaganda of the British war machine the policies of the Republican Movement are now being seen increasingly as the only realistic solution to the present situation. Success is now written all over the present struggle.

It is fitting to end with the words of the first President of the Irish Republic Patrick Pearse:

"And we are young. And God has given us strength and courage and counsel. May he give us victory."



A VOLLEY OF SHOTS IS FIRED OVER THE REPUBLICAN PLOT AT THE COMMEMORATION CEREMONY IN BELFAST.

PROINSIUS McAIART AND ANDREAS O'CALLAGHAN AT THE BELFAST CEREMONY IN MILLTOWN.



POST BAG

IMG & 'SOCIALIST CHALLENGE' REPLY

In 'Republican News' on the 18th March we printed a letter which took I.M.G. and their Newspaper to task. Below we print their reply.

To: Jim Reilly, Sinn Fein, Britain
Jacqueline Kaye, Prisoners Aid Committee.

Dear Comrades,

Thank you for your letter of 8th March regarding the meeting in support of Irish political prisoners in British jails.

You speak of 'an act of censorship' on behalf of this and another newspaper, in failing to report the meeting, which goes to underline the accuracy of what we both have said at the meeting about the cowardice and perfidy of the British left on the question of Ireland.

This is a grave charge, which at least as far as *Socialist Challenge* and the International Marxist Group are concerned needs some comment.

The issue of *Socialist Challenge* in which a report of the meeting and your comments would have appeared was the one dated 9th March 1978. In that issue we carried: (1) a major article, over three quarters of a page, on the latest propaganda campaign of the Northern Ireland Office, in which we compared that campaign to one used by the leaders of Nazi Germany; (2) a full page article on anti-Irish jokes and how they are used as weapons in Britain's war against the Irish people;

(3) a quarter page article on the deal made between the RUC and the IRA; (4) a photo-caption of a picket in support of Irish prisoners, including brief reports of other such pickets.

You say we should also have carried a report on the Conway Hall meeting, including presumably a report of the comments you made on the failure of the left to take Ireland seriously. We suggest to you, that as far as *Socialist Challenge* is concerned, considering the extensive coverage we gave Ireland in this issue of the paper the reporting of such remarks would have only discredited the makers of them.

In the event we did carry a short report on the pickets - as opposed to the meeting - in support of the prisoners; pickets incidentally in which supporters of this newspaper played a major role in organising and attending. We believe that a report of this activity, added to the other coverage of Ireland we gave in this issue, and indeed other issues of this paper is of greater benefit to the Irish people, than reporting what we regard as sectarian and untruthful remarks made at the London meeting.

Incidentally we have also refused to print (censor if you like) a letter strongly attacking the inactivity of Sinn Fein in supporting a number of the pickets and of its general negative attitude displayed at the Conway Hall meeting.

You accuse us of non-activity on Ireland. We have no wish to enter a slanging match but we notice the refusal of certain individuals in Sinn Fein (Britain), and of the Prisoners Aid Committee to back the International Tribunal on Britain's Presence in Ireland. This is, we would point out the major activity on Ireland now taking place in England and is supported by all the anti-imperialist groups in Ireland. *Socialist Challenge* and the IMG are fully involved in this activity; we believe the wide support expressed for the Tribunal in Ireland suggests that your participation would also be welcome.

We have decided not to publish your letter for one reason only. We would need to reply to the grave charges you make and in so doing would report the facts outlined above. We believe this would make you look foolish and sectarian in the eyes of our readership and we have no wish to drive further a wedge between the left in this country and that section of the Irish solidarity movement you represent. We would feel happier if you were showing the same inclination.

Revolutionary greetings,
Editorial Board, Socialist Challenge, Irish Secretariat, IMG

TRADITIONS AND TRUTH

A LETTER FROM ENGLAND

Dear Republican News,

I recall watching a group of Irish dancers on Pebble Mill at one, BBC1 television on St. Patrick's day.

I thought they were very good and my opinion was shared by two Irish Ladies I met and spoke to later. Unfortunately, I did not agree with everything they spoke of such as, how many children living here keep up Irish traditions, dancing, singing, Irish speaking etc. I know many children who do this from all over Ireland, and those second-generation Irish, the children born here to Irish parents. The big difference between not only second generation Irish kids and many from the 26 counties, it's that they know nothing of reality and important things such as R-Block, Human rights. The fact of life, which I hate to admit is that 9 out of 10 times, the parents are responsible for not telling their children. Those children from the north, who do their best to defend themselves, and explain the real facts of the situation in Northern Ireland are described as "not very nice children" and "keep away from them, their parents brought them up in hatred."

What may I ask is the point of following Irish traditions, when you try to hide the truth,

that many fellow Irish are suffering, and not teaching their children history.

For example talking to a small boy of twelve, whose mother was proudly boasting of how he won medals etc in Dublin, no doubt, he was a great wee dancer. But when we get talking, about "Where do you come from?" etc. I was amazed when he later announced that the war in the 6 counties started when "the soldiers shot 13 IRA men in Derry". If this is the kind of trash they tell their children, just to keep them out of it, and keep them away from the truth and busy with their Irish dancing, I'd rather they kept their children out of it, if they find they have to lie and scheme in the real place.

Yes, those wee girls on the telly looked lovely, all smiles, with their reels and jigs but what do they know of truth, reality and their own people.

The man said and now for some "Irish Dancers", those kids, thanks to their parents, are only playing at being Irish, it means dressing up for the day, going to Dublin to win medals, and making mammy and daddy proud. No wonder Ian Paisley and friends are laughing.

Yours sincerely,
A. Logue (Miss)

All letters should be addressed to the Editor at 170A Falls Road, Belfast.

Editor's Note



'Republican News' supports the International Tribunal on Britain's Presence in Ireland, as it will support any activity which may contribute to the British people realising the terror and murder which is carried out in their name against Irish people, or which may internationally highlight British repression in Ireland.

The Republican movement, however, is disgusted by the recent attacks from the Revolutionary left on the war strategy of the oppressed Irish people. In Belfast we had the freudian slip from an MSR delegate at a conference referring to

Republicans as "Parramilitaries" a word which has fascist connotations in Ireland. We had Bob Purdie moralising and being swept away by hysteria generated in the ruling class press after the Le Mon disaster. 'People's Democracy' openly advocates the laying down of arms, a total surrender. Bernadette McAliskey at the January Coalitions conference spoke sentimentally about the youth of today not having 'her generation's' experience of a 'big march', as she yearned for a return to the '68-'69 days. But there are other emotions, feelings and experiences generated since, which the revolutionary left tend to ridicule. There is the wee woman in the backstreet with guns in an upstairs room who experiences daily fear in case every passing foot patrol is a raiding party. That isn't a 1968 experience it grew out of it! There is the granny who didn't

know she had the anger or the courage to clout a Brit until he called her "A fucking Paddy". There is the wee lads out with a rifle taking on four experienced and armed Brits. He sees no other method of struggle, and he can struggle confidently when he gets the mandate from the Angry, oppressed but marching people. There is the wee girl carrying guns from house-to-house. These activists engaged in a life-and-death struggle have convictions based on the totality of their experiences.

The methods of the Revolutionary Irish Republican Army are dictated by the Republican people. This great influence of the stubborn, courageous people is a check which certainly does not exist on the Revolutionary left. The people want the Brits to be physically fought. In this fight the sacrifices of the Rev Left has been non-contributory, while to be honest gallons of metaphysical blood are spilt over Chile and Argentina... anywhere but Ireland.

We will die, and we will go to jail. But we will fight and we will have our Socialist Republic, and we mean Socialist!

STUDENT on STUDENTS

Dear Sir,

The recent protest over the Rag Day killings has raised the question of the attitude of the Queen's Student Union Executive towards political events in the North of Ireland.

On Monday 20th March a group of uniformed Brits spent at least an hour lounging around the coffee bar in the Students Union, eventually leaving of their own accord. I would like to know:

1. Are students to be forced to eat in the company of such persons?

2. Is it Union policy to permit the Union to be used as a recreation area for on and off duty Brits, RUC, UDR etc?

Yours
NOT SO APATHETIC STUDENT.

We have been asked to publish the following letter from a mother who asks that she remain anonymous for her son's sake.

22nd March.

I had a visit with my son today (22nd March) in Long Kesh. My first impression was one of grave concern. He is ten months on the blanket and this is his second visit.

The last visit was at Christmas, that's three months ago, and in that space of time his physical appearance has changed dramatically. He has lost more weight, his eyes have a staring almost wild look about them. The skin on his face and ears is flaking and the part of his chest that I could see is covered with pimples.

I couldn't take my eyes off his hands; they look so long and thin, an almost dea-like look about them, white and bony. He was shaking as if he was cold and his lips trembled at times when he spoke; other times he had a nervous almost hysterical laugh when he spoke. His hands trembled almost continuously.

I asked him what the conditions were like now. He told me that it was worse now than before.

In H3 it is over three weeks since the men have had a wash or shower. They are also not allowed to clean or even brush out their cells.

In H5 where my son is, the men are refusing to wash themselves or brush their cells in protest at the fifth of the wash basins handed into

The governor, when approached on the subject replied with the usual dictatorial attitude. 'The department ordered it' and the 'department' claims some divine wisdom when it comes to maintaining the 'efficient' Prison System which disregards the individual needs of the prisoners.

Besides the obvious impracticability of the proposed scheme there is a sinister side to this vetting operation. Does anyone doubt for one minute that names and address of Republican visitors will find their way into the British Army Computer to come out as 'Republican Sympathiser'; each time that person is stopped by a British Army patrol? As so many of us know it is only one short step from that to Castlereagh, or allowing for the percentage of the personnel of a Loyalist bent would anyone be surprised if such names and addresses did not find their way into the wrong hands?

The old system has worked well for all involved, change for the sake of change is a hideous waste of human effort and a deliberate incitement to any prisoner whose primary concern is always the freedom and safety of family and friends. Logic would dictate the maintenance of what is now a tried and trusted visiting system.

I am Miss
'A' Company
Armagh Gaol
Liberty and Strength.

the cells each morning. In his own words 'The basins are leaping.'

I asked him about the punishment block, and for what reasons they were put in these cells. He told me that the least little thing could have them put in the 'punishment cells'.

For instance a screw comes along to a fellow's cell, calls him a Provo bastard and says he's only an animal. The young man answers by calling the screw a 'yellow bastard', or a black pig. The screws then proceed to beat him, he is then charged with using abusive language to a prison officer, and sentenced to anything from three days upwards in the punishment cells, in solitary confinement and number one diet 'Bread and water'.

and degrading treatments handed out to these men of principle, by these 'animals' posing as prison officers.

I ask a mother ask how much more can these men take?

Not satisfied with taking the freedom of our brave young men, Mason's animals (For I can think of them as nothing else) attempt to break their spirits.

My son has put on years in his appearance in the time he has spent on the blanket. My 15 year old son who was also on the visit confirmed this when he said "Mammy our Sean looked young last year, now he looks like a man". The most frightening thought that they are so completely cut off from all they love and care for them.

H Block Mother.

SHAMROCK SEIZED

A Chars.

To Irish people throughout the world St. Patrick's Day is regarded as something special. It is a national holiday here in Ireland and everyone wears a sprig of Shamrock. Here in Crumlin Road some prisoners received Shamrock in their parcels. However, whenever they put them on to go to Mass they were stopped by James Moore, Moore, told these men to remove the Shamrock or return to their cells thus denying them the right to go to Mass. In some cases he just pulled the Shamrock off and threw it away.

We the Republican Prisoners would like to know on whose authority these screws acted on. Obviously as the Shamrock came in through the censors it must have had the Governor's permission, who while in the Irish Rangers were a sprig of Shamrock on his belt!

Is misie la meas
PRO
A Wing
Crumlin Road Gaol.

POST BAG

Dear Sir,

I'm enclosing a copy of a letter which I sent to Cardinal Hume of Westminster: to let him know what he should be praying for during the 30 DAYS PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE SIX COUNTIES:

From what I can grasp from an Irish News press cutting: it would appear that - **APPLY PRINCIPLES OF NON-VIOLENCE** refers to hostilities against the British presence in Ireland to cease. The Cardinal does not pinpoint what is the root cause of the troubles. I sent him Father Murray's book "SAS - THE ASSASSINS GLOVE" which contains details about the murder of the late Peter Cleary, and the harassment by

the British soldiers against innocent people, and how they were engaged in planting evidence against a family.

If this letter (copy) of mine to the Cardinal is too detailed for publication in your paper, I will understand why you cannot publish it; but at least you will know that I personally am trying to do my little bit to highlight the cause of the troubles continuing in the Six Counties: I'm very well aware that already most of the contents of this letter of mine have been stated previously by writers more capable than I am of condensing it in words. The only manner in which I personally can contribute to THE FIGHT is by doing my humble bit by writing and I feel compelled that we MUST CONTINUE TO HARP ON THE

REAL CAUSE OF THE TROUBLES. I'd be delighted if you saw fit to publish this letter even if you yourself must shorten it without omitting the facts. Thanking you in advance, I regret I'm finding it difficult to get a weekly copy of your paper. I'm enclosing £1 - please send me the paper for a few weeks. I left a standing order for the Republican News in different bars - and when I eventually got the paper it was too soiled by beer stains for me to send it to the States. The paper is NEVER SOLD ON THE DUNDALK STREETS EXCEPT IN DUBLIN AT THE GPO ON SATURDAYS.

Yours sincerely,
Una Taol (Mrs).

His Eminence,
Cardinal Hume of Westminster.
LONDON.

Your Eminence,

I have read in the press of a 30 days' vigil of prayer for peace in the Six Counties, which commenced in your Cathedral of Westminster: we Catholics in Ireland were delighted to hear of such a display of Christian Unity. The press quoted you as saying that you were proud to belong to the English Nation. As a Churchman you ought to be ashamed to say you are English; as that Nation has sunk so low in morals. The Church should detach itself from any political power.

The people of this entire nation are deeply in earnest about peace; but what hinders peace from coming to our land is THE PRESENCE OF BRITISH CROWN FORCES: they supposedly came to the Six Counties as "Peace Keepers" the people welcomed them with tea and all sorts of dainties; but very soon it became evident that the leopard doesn't change its spots, they united their strength of arms with the RUC and the Loyalist Orangemen who were given legalised guns to use on innocent Catholics. Although Britain's flag has been lowered in all her former colonies, yet still it clings to our homeland with a death grip; Britain in conjunction with the USA holds nuclear powered submarines in the ports of Northern Ireland, out of fear from the might of Russia; that's why the USA and England are so great.

Both of those Nations decry whatever guns the Provisional soldiers use; while at the same time they are earnestly engaged in the manufacture of very deadly weapons themselves: CS Gas, rubber bullets, Armoured cars, tanks and guns; and self propelled aeroplanes which carry destructive ammunition capable of killing human beings while leaving buildings intact. I heard such weapons discussed on a late night BBC programme. Against whom are such deadly devices to be used? England then howls against the Provisionals for a show of a machine gun, is it that America and Britain only have the monopoly to hold deadly weapons?

This Island of Ireland belongs to our Irish people; an entire undivided land surrounded by Irish waters. The British have no right to be here, nor NEVER HAD. 800 years

of British domination must end. We owe no allegiance to the British crown. Too much blood has already been shed for the fight against Britain to end now by our submission. The fight must go on, until Britain declares its intention to leave for good. We Irish who as school children saw the atrocities of the Black & Tans in our Country SHALL NEVER FORGET THE WRONGS COMMITTED AGAINST OUR KITH AND KIN. Are we to be blamed for loving our Motherland, nothing ever induced us to endear ourselves to England, which spent itself in devising methods of torture against Irishmen; and who to-day are cruelly treating almost 300 youths in Compound "H" of Long Kesh Concentration Camp which is owned by Her Britannic Majesty: She gave medals to the Paratroopers who murdered Civil Rights marchers on Bloody Sunday in Derry.

The British Paratroopers who covered themselves in glory in the Six Counties of Ulster eventually volunteered and canvassed through the English press for Mercenaries to kill people in Angola (people with whom they had no grievance). When eventually Callan and his hirelings were being sentenced to death the Queen of England pleaded for their lives to be spared. She is not pleading that the youths in Compound "H" be permitted to wear their own clothes: England declared that they were at WAR AGAINST THE IRISH. Why then not afford the prisoners political status? since they were said to be at war! The greater part of those young men were never caught nor engaged in any violence: they were arrested by the RUC and the Crown Forces and tortured so as to obtain forced confessions from them; because they were so brutally treated they then refused to recognise the courts in Ulster. The outcome of their trials were fixed before they were ever tried.

Mr Mason declares that he has the IRA beaten! He threw in all the power and might which England has against what he termed a minority of Irishmen - one would think he would be ashamed to let it be known that a handful of Irishmen could hold out against the mighty Empire who have armoured cars, tanks, ammunition, concentration camps, SAS terrorists who are trained in inflicting brutality, cages, barbed wired and electrified fences with a well trained

army, the RUC and battalions of spies, gas and alsatian dogs.

The atrocities which the crown forces are presently using in Ireland, even on innocent people are given in detail in the enclosed brochure (SAS: THE ASSASSINS GLOVE) compiled by two Roman Catholic priests in the Six Counties. They should be trusted to tell the truth.

You must conclude from reading such a brochure that IT'S ENGLAND WHICH MUST CEASE THE TORTURES FIRST. THE MOVE TO WARDS PEACE MUST COME FROM THEM - OR THE FIGHT WILL CONTINUE TO THE LAST IRISHMAN.

Are we to be blamed for loving our native land, for hoping that slavery will eventually be abolished here and that the Brits will go home? If any part of the island of England had been occupied by an invading army who for so many centuries dominated the people what kind of reaction would come from the natives there?

The Dublin government are cowed by threats from England, threats were used to force Irishmen to sign the Treaty of 1921. English guns were given to the successive Dublin governments to use on our people in the Civil War - so called Irishmen accepted positions of power to hold our country in submission to the crown of England: but we nationalists who lost relatives in the Tan War and in the Civil War by the so called 'Free State' our resolution is staunch - WE WANT OUR LIBERTY OUR LAND AND FREEDOM FROM BRITISH DOMINATION. This we want, in spite of dungeon, fire and sword. I state all this on behalf of our young Republican prisoners who are suffering so atrociously: deprived of bedding, clothes, locked in cells 24 hours daily with nothing but a slop bucket for company and it only allowed to be emptied once a week, and they at the mercy of National Front members (Britain's illegal army) who hold positions as wardens in the jails.

I hope I have enlightened your Lordship of the reality of what you are praying for, in form the English people so that eventually they may stir heaven to bring about PEACE WITH JUSTICE! AND CROWN FORCES OUT OF IRELAND!

Respectfully yours,
Mrs Una Taol.

TWINBROOK RAC CONDEMN LATEST PARA ACTIVITY



Twinbrook Relatives Action Committee note with increasing concern the escalating repressive tactics of the British Army Paratroop Regiment in our area.

In one incident Paratroopers entered a classroom where children were being taught and deliberately disrupted the lesson. At the same school soldiers can be seen daily waiting for the children to come out in order to provoke a confrontation. In view of the history of this regiment and the

arrogant bullying attitude of its soldiers in the area we would point out to its local Commander Major Pike the blatant dishonesty of his intervention into the field of Community Relations and call on the people to report every incident to the nearest advice centre to enable the activities of these "professionals" to be accurately monitored.

PRO
TWINBROOK R.A.C.

EASTER LILY TORN FROM TWINBROOK SCHOOLGIRL

A young girl from the Cherry area of the estate had an Easter Lily forcefully torn from her tunic by teachers of St. Louise's Comprehensive College for Girls off the Falls Road.

12 year old Aisling Berkery of form 2c was told to stay behind after assembly on Tuesday 21st March. She was then challenged by Mr. O'Grady about the Easter Lily pinned to her jumper. He said it was not part of her uniform and asked her what it meant. She replied that it was a memorial to the Easter Rising of 1916, a symbol of the Future Freedom of Ireland and the purity of the struggle for Irish Freedom.

Mrs. Zachran then came over and gave her a lecture on politics and peace. She said that no political emblems were allowed in the school, she wanted Peace for her girls. She demanded that the lily be removed. Aisling said if she wanted the lily removed she should send a letter home to her Mother. At this Mrs.

Zachran became very agitated and reduced the girl to tears, the lily was then torn off her jumper. Mrs. Zachran told her if she had any "manners" she would have removed it herself. She was then sent back to class.

This is yet another example of the pro-British element in St. Louise's in their attempt to intimidate and indoctrinate students from remembering that they are Irish at this important time of the year for Irish people. The point about politics seems strange considering that the Headmistress of this particular school, Sister Genevieve recently received an O.B.E. from the English Queen, Elizabeth. This "honour" is usually given for services rendered to the British Crown! also the school was recently raided and arms were found whereupon the raiding Brits were served tea, sandwiches and cakes.

P.R.O.

John Rooney Cumann,
Twinbrook.

CALL TO SUPPORT MARCH

The West Belfast Branch of the Trade Union Campaign Against Repression is going to take part in the unemployment demonstration on Friday 31st March. The March will leave from the Kennedy Way roundabout at 2.30 p.m. We call upon all unemployed, and Trade Unionists to support this March to Gloucester House in Chichester Street. The march is being organised by the Belfast Unemployed Action Committee.

The West Belfast Branch of TUCAR totally condemns the present high level of unemployment, especially in West Belfast, where in areas such as Ballymurphy unemployment is at the deplorable level of 60%, that is 6 out of 10 adults out of work. This is one of the highest levels of un-

employment in Western Europe. However, unemployment is nothing new to the anti-unionist working class of the 6 Counties. Ever since the inception of the Sectarian Northern State in 1921, unemployment and discrimination has been part of the every day life of the anti-unionist people. It was Official Unionist political policy to practice discrimination in employment and housing in order to keep their sectarian state intact, and also to force anti-unionists into mass immigration thereby preserving their artificial majority.

When the British Government took over political control of the 6 counties through Direct Rule in 1972, the Unionist policies were continued.

We believe that unemployment is part of the British Government's ongoing political repression in the 6 counties directed mainly against the anti-unionist working class; the 200 redundancies at Strathearn Audio in Kennedy Way early in the new year, is an obvious indication of this repressive policy. The Official Trade Unions must be condemned for their lack of action in this and many other cases.

The problem of unemployment in the 6 counties and for that matter in the 26 counties can only be solved when partition is ended, and the British and other Multi-National-Capitalists withdraw from Ireland once and for all. In the final analysis unemployment and indeed all political repression can only be abolished when British Imperialism has been defeated, as they are the cause of all our ills both political and economic. Full employment and full political freedom can only be ensured when a 32 county Worker's Republic is established.

Signed; P.R.O.
W/Belfast Branch
T.U.C.A.R.

FUAIR SIAD BAS SA GHLEO

DIED ON ACTIVE
SERVICE.



Vol. Joseph Magee,
Robert Dorrian, Gerard
Bell, Gerard Steele, Joey
Fitsimmons, Martin
Englen, Jackie McIlhoms,
Eddie McDonald, Joey
Surgeoner, Francis
Fitsimmons, Brendan
O'Callaghan.

Died on active service
in the fight to liberate
the Irish people.

At Easter time we especially remember our fallen comrades and we pledge ourselves to continue the struggle which claimed their young lives. We owe it to those who have died to complete the task they nobly served. Previous generations have failed - We must not.

Always remembered by
Jim.

TYRONE COMMEMORATION

The Annual National Graves Association parade in Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone, in honour of Ireland's dead passed peacefully. More than five thousand participants paraded behind a twelve man colour party and seven bands to the Garden of Remembrance on the Omagh Road.

British Forces, RUC and UDR were much in evidence several miles outside the town and caused delay to members of the public wishing to attend the Ceremonies. Due to this the

parade was an hour delayed in starting. Many hundreds of people were prevented from reaching Carrickmore including one band which arrived when the Ceremonies were over.

A member of the Tyrone National Graves Association welcomed everyone who attended the Ceremony and while a member of the platform party read a statement from the leadership of the Republican Movement a British helicopter attempted to drown the speaker by flying low directly overhead.

Mr. Charlie McGlade from Belfast Sinn Fein gave an oration in which he called on everyone present to do their bit so that the present campaign could be brought to a logical conclusion i.e. Victory. He pointed out to the crowd that although he was sixty-nine years of age he firmly believed that he would be alive to see a United Ireland.

The Tyrone National Graves Association wish to thank everyone who managed to attend despite the wintry conditions and the British Army and UDR road blocks.

After Sunday morning Masses, other commemorations were held at Edendork, Clonoe, Eglisli, Coalisland and Moy.

APOLOGIES

Republican News extends their apologies to the family, friends and comrades of the late Vol. Tommy (Todler) Tolan and Bridie Dolan, Belfast whose names were accidentally left out of the Roll of Honour in last weeks edition of the paper.



NOTES BY CORMAC

