

# REPUBLICAN NEWS



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## Hunger-strike ends!



Willie Gallagher

## Campaign goes on!

**HUNGER-STRIKER,** Willie Gallagher, from Strabane ended his 48 day hunger-strike on Monday. He had gone without food in an attempt to force the British to grant him a retrial.

News of the hunger-strike ending was released as Strabane's Trade Council and the Trade Union Campaign Against Repression (TUCAR) in Belfast were organising demonstrations in support of Gallagher's demands.

Strabane Trades Council have organised a 24 hour strike in the town beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Friday coming. They are also collecting signatures for a petition demanding Gallagher's release. The petition is to be handed to Mason by a joint delegation from ICTU and the Trades Council.

In Belfast, Kennedy Way, was blocked off for an hour on Tuesday 29th August as workers from the nearby industrial estate protested. The workers listened to the TUCAR speaker telling them about Gallagher's case.

The speaker told the meeting that TUCAR was going to lobby the leaders of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union asking for their support as Gallagher is a member of their union.

In a radio interview on Tuesday, Brendan Gallagher, Willie's father, explained why his son had ended his strike. "He did so because his action had helped to highlight his case both nationally and internationally, and now the trade unions and other influential people including American Congressmen are interested in his case."

His father said he would continue to work for his son's retrial. He believed that his son would get a retrial, despite what Roy Mason said.

# FROM CIVIL RIGHTS TO ARMED STRUGGLE

LAST Sunday's 10,000 strong March from Coalisland to Dungannon not only demonstrates the widespread popular support that now exists for the "blanket" prisoners, but it also confirms the continued massive support for the armed struggle being waged by the revolutionary Irish Republican Army.

The success of the March (timed to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the first civil rights march) is a clear demonstration of the failure of British batons, bombs and bullets to crush the spirit of the risen nationalist people.

Last Sunday's proud display is a direct product of the heroic resistance campaign spearheaded by militant Republicans over the last ten years and in particular of the resistance campaign waged by those hundreds now incarcerated in Masons hell-holes.

### TRIBUTE

The huge turn out on the day pays tribute to the consistent agitational work carried out by RAC committees and Republicans over the last two years (since the withdrawal of status) and in particular work done over recent months.

Every drop of publicity has been hard won. It has been wrung out of the mass media by protest after protest by 'blanket-clad' women occupying buildings, blocking roads, and carrying out token hunger strikes, and by foot sloging the streets in cities, towns and villages from one end of Ireland to the other, handing out leaflets detailing the horrific conditions Republican prisoners are held in.

### POPULAR MOVEMENT

Based firmly on the prisoners own protests, this relentless drive by the people, organised together in relatives (and friends) action committees, has halted

Mason's "Criminalisation" plans.

The last two years of prison and street struggle has seen a popular movement develop around the demands for political status, for an end to torture and for Brits Out.

The resistance movement now on the streets is different from the one which emerged ten years ago. Today we are more mature; we are conscious of what direction we are heading in. Ten years ago its was a spontaneous emotional upsurge. Everyone felt a burning desire to right the wrongs of fifty-years of orange mis-rule.

### FALSE PROPHETS

But most of us were ignorant about how to win the struggle. The militancy of many was channelled into parliamentary activity. The false prophets of the day were sent to Westminster and did nothing for the deprived people of this occupied territory.

But today, ten years on, we know better how to struggle. Over a trial of broken bones and broken bodies, we have learned to hard way.

### ANTI-IMPERIALIST

Hand in hand with the armed struggle today's street resistance movement is organised around clear anti-imperialist demands.

Those protesting on the streets are there to end Brit rule which at this time means campaigning for the retention of Political Status.

The aim of today's struggle is certainly different. Revolution not Reform! The people now realise civil rights can not be obtained within the Orange statelet. As a political unit the six county state is not reformable.

The marching risen people realise partition must be destroyed in order to win any meaningful civil rights.

The Republican Move-

ment has held fast to its principles and is now at the head of the armed and political struggle against British imperialism.

It has been the combination of guerrilla struggle and street struggle that has led to the present crisis British imperialism is experiencing.

Their attempts to impose a "solution" have failed everytime. Essential for this failure has been the massive support the IRA enjoys from the mass of the nationalist people.

In order to win the status struggle and to continue to demonstrate popular Republican support big turn-outs are essential over the coming weeks.

### SECOND ANNIVERSARY

Two high points will be protest around the second anniversary of Kieran Nugent becoming the first man "on the blanket" (on 17th September) and the tenth anniversary of the 5th October Derry Civil Rights March.

**10,000 march from Coalisland to Dungannon**  
*See Special Pull-out Supplement inside*





## WAR NEWS

IN SUPPLIED STATEMENTS THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FOLLOWING OPERATIONS:

Tuesday 22nd August

### TYRONE

A mobile Active Service Unit of the IRA shot and seriously wounded an RUC man as he stood at a roadcheck on the outskirts of Strabane. During the attack a Brit was also injured

Thursday 24th August

### BLEFAST

An IRA unit penetrated the heavily Brit/RUC patrolled area of East Belfast and successfully bombed a large furnishing factory on the Newtownards Road. The building was devastated, causing £125,000 worth of damage.

Friday 25th August

### SOUTH ARMAGH

In Crossmaglen a unit of the IRA launched a mortar attack on the RUC/Brit army barracks in the town. In all 25 mortar bombs were fired at the barracks, at a time when a Brit foot patrol was crossing the G.A.A. pitch just behind the barracks. The pitch has been confiscated by the Brits and is used as a helicopter pad by them to ferry food and reinforcements in and out of Crossmaglen Barracks.



## Blanket prisoner attacked twice in one week

OVER THE last ten years the Brits have tried to force the acceptance of Criminal Status on 'Blanket' prisoners, by mounting brutal and degrading attacks on them.

On countless occasions lone and defenceless prisoners have been attacked by several screws and beaten to the point of unconsciousness.

Usually the attacks happen when the prisoner is alone in his cell, or on his way to a visit.

The latest reported attacks happened last week to a young Andersonstown Republican, Ciaran Doherty, who was attacked and severely beaten twice within one week, while he was going on visits.

Having left his cell to go on a visit to his family, the screws tried to force him over a table to search his back passage; he resisted this despicable search and was immediately set upon by more screws. During this attack he was beaten unconscious.

The screws bodily removed him to the punishment cells where he was held for three days. The visit was cancelled. The second attack happened



when Ciaran was on his way to visit his Solicitor.

Once again the screws tried to force him over a table. He again resisted and was attacked. This brutal attack left him totally exhausted, and badly bruised. This visit was also cancelled.

The ferocity of these attacks and others which 'Republican

## Injured Divis Flats man harassed by RUC in hospital

ON 30th June, Eddie McCreedy (aged 22) was injured in an accidental explosion which took place in the Divis Flats complex. He received multiple injuries and was subsequently taken to the intensive care unit of the Royal Victoria Hospital where two armed RUC Special Branch men (Auld & Guthrew) sat over him 24 hours a day.

News' has reported over the last two years, show clearly the hatred screws have for Republicans.

The screws bitter hatred for the prisoners is enflamed by their Orange Sectarianism. Many screws are members of the Orange Order, and this year's Orange Parade boasted one of the biggest turn-outs for the screws 'Loyal Orange Lodge'.

Steeped in a tradition of being British and serving the Crown the screws in 'H' Block, take delight in displaying their Loyalist ascendancy by battering Republican prisoners at every available opportunity.

He remained in hospital for a period of two weeks but was then taken to Musgrave Park Hospital, Military Wing, Ward 18, under heavy escort.

For three weeks Eddie McCreedy was subjected to daily harassment by these two branch men who threatened him with "a long stretch" if he didn't sign incriminating statements and also by claiming that his family would be "in for it". One particular branch man (Guthrew, from Hastings Street Barracks) continuously tried to intimidate him into becoming a paid tout, suggesting he should join the I.R.A. and relate any relevant information back to the RUC. Pick-up areas for this information were Newtownards or the tea-room in Oxford Street Bus Station. This offer was totally rejected by Eddie McCreedy and he was threatened again.

Despite the severe injuries to his hands (both thumbs are missing) he was handcuffed to a branchman and taken for x-rays. Brits outside the ward jeered and taunted him, banging on the

# STREET PROTESTS AGAINST DERRY ARRESTS

FEELINGS ran high in Derry after the arrests of the seven Sinn Fein members last month. A march was organised by Sinn Fein the day of the raids to protest against the arrests. The workers in two factories, Rocola and Essex, walked out to join other Derry people in protest on the streets.

The protesters marched down to the RUC Torture Centre in Strand Road, where veteran Derry Republican Sean Keenan addressed the crowd and let it be known, in no uncertain terms, that Derry Sinn Fein would carry on, regardless of the repressive measures used against them.

The marchers then left the Torture HQ and marched through the main street to Waterloo Place. Here the protesters blocked the main artery through the Centre of Derry at Waterloo Place, during the height of the evening rush hour traffic. Four prominent members of Sinn Fein addressed the crowd, led by Sean Keenan, and at about 5.30 the protest ended.

Shortly after the demonstration in Waterloo Place a few hundred militant youths commandeered a van in Little James Street, a bus and two other vans, all of which were set on fire and used as barricades in the Bogside area.

The crowds of militant youths then fought a running battle for several hours with the Brits and the RUC, into the early hours of the following morning.

For the next week Derry was reminiscent of the early years of the struggle. Bricks and bottles littered the streets, and youths ran around with their faces covered to prevent detection

by the Brits. When the Brits ventured into the area they had to run the gauntlet of the stone-throwing resistance.

During the week of street resistance damage to the tune of £160,000 was caused. Thus the arrest of Sinn Fein Personnel was a costly exercise to the Brits.

All those arrested were later released without charge, after 72 hours in Castlereagh; and another exercise in Brit harassment of political activists was over.

## COURT PROTESTS

LAST WEDNESDAY 23rd August at the Belfast Remand Court, Gerry Brannigan, former Chairman of Belfast Comhairle Ceanntair Sinn Fein, protested from the dock about the continued harassment of Sinn Fein members by the Crown Forces. (Brannigan is one of the Belfast Sinn Feiners arrested in the April raids.)

Brannigan stated that the recent arrests and raids in Derry City only showed that Sinn Fein were still an effective force in highlighting the continuing torture of the prisoners in Castlereagh and in the 'H' Blocks of Long Kesh.

He also stated that the arrests would in no way stop Sinn Fein from maintaining their political opposition to the British presence in Ireland, these arrests and raids would only strengthen the resolve of Sinn Fein members to step up their campaign of highlighting the evils being perpetrated on the Irish people by the forces of occupation.

## Correction

LAST WEEK "Republican News" carried details of continuing Brit attacks against the Lennon Family from Andersonstown, Belfast. Some details were incorrect.

The correct details are that: "Finoulla, who is only fifteen years old, was stopped by a four man foot patrol of Brits in Andersonstown. As one of them made snide remarks about (her brother) Damien another hit her from behind with a stick or a baton."

windows and shouting abuse.

During the whole period of Eddie McCreedy's hospitalisation he was not at any time placed under arrest nor was he cautioned. The only motive for this seems to be that the RUC intend to hold a charge over his head and hope to blackmail him into supplying information at a future date.



## Argentina ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



### The women of May Place

by Eldrida, Sinn Fein Foreign Affairs Bureau

*"What are you talking about? Life is normal here!"* That was the brisk reply given by Argentine officials to a French reporter at the World Cup who asked about such things as disappearances of people, torture and dictatorship in the country.

Yet a mere half mile away from the River Plate stadium is the worst torture centre operated by the Argentine military regime. There is even a crematorium on the site. The few detainees who come out alive tell of electric torture, rape, mutilation of limbs, private parts and extraction of nails. Doctors help the torturers to keep the victims alive as long as possible to get information from them.

General Videla has almost succeeded in making everything look 'normal' from the outside, despite 15,000 political prisoners, and 30,000 'disappeared' detainees. Opposition is silenced. Except for the women in May Place.

Every Thursday at 3.30 they hold a picket outside the government building parading tirelessly round the monument commemorating Argentine's independence, bearing witness to the repression.

*"It's the only thing we can do. The police aren't touch us. Most of us are old. They call us the 'mad-women'. Maybe we have become that. For months we are without news of our sons, husbands, fathers, brothers."*

But, like Ireland's H Block mothers, they never forget the suffering of their sons and they unceasingly lead the struggle 'outside' on their behalf.

Rose Gertel (64) has been on the picket for Argentine political prisoners for six months. She does not ask to remain anonymous.

She has lost everything — her two sons, her home.

In 1938 Rose Gertel fled from Nazi Poland to make a new life in the Argentine. Her two sons were born there. One became a doctor, the other a psychologist. They did not hide their anti establishment political views. One disappeared in 1976. *"He was approached by two plain clothes men who showed him a card and took him off in a car,"* she said. *"Afterwards there was never any word."*

*"A few weeks after he was lifted, a bomb destroyed our flat. My husband and I went to live with our second son. In August 1977 he also disappeared. The same thing happens to hundreds of people."*

*"I rushed from Department to Department. Silence. A single reply to all my questions to government officials. 'We know nothing. We haven't them in prison' I'm certain they're dead. Some men taken with them were found on a beach — their remains blown up. My sons*

*were progressives. They used ideas and words, not weapons."*

*"All through the World Cup the regime wanted to give a picture of a peaceful Argentina. It's a lie. We are Argentina — we are the 'madwomen' of May Place."*

*"I beg you,"* she went on, *"write down all I've told you. Give me the name of your hotel and I'll send other women to give their evidence too."*

At the time the French reporter was writing the name of the hotel in a notebook, a policeman came, snatched it from him and tore it up. He seized Rose Gertel and told her to go. Turning to the reporter he said, *"Don't listen to her. She's mad."*

There is other resistance too. Strikes, refusal to co-operate, sabotaging production is widespread — not among the working class alone but including professional people, small businessmen and farmers, and the Church. Economic problems are severe. The brave women of May Place are merely the front line.

## Czechoslovakia

# TEN YEARS SINCE INVASION

by Chris Connor

1968 WAS the year of the first civil rights marches here in Ireland. It was also the year of the reforms known as the "Prague Spring" in Czechoslovakia, which were brought to an end by the invasion of five million troops headed by Russian troops on 21st of August.

Alexander Dubcek, General Secretary of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party, had abolished censorship earlier in the year and permitted students and workers to elect their own representatives. This new freedom was used to discuss the kind of socialism the people wanted, attempting to combine it with real democracy.

This threatened to take power out of the hands of the ruling bureaucracy. Not only that, it showed that socialism did not have to mean a denial of democracy, and was watched with interest by the people of other Eastern European countries. So the Soviet Union intervened to put an end to the experiment.

On the night of August 21st the tanks rolled across the Czech borders. The entire Czech government was taken to Moscow. The people, who a week earlier had been critical of the government for not going far enough in the reforms, united in support of it against the invasion, and a massive passive resistance took place.

The Russians had to return the government members unharmed, but not before they had wrung concessions from a majority of its members, including Dubcek. These concessions included the acceptance of the invasion and the dismantling of some of the reforms.

The concessions were resisted and cost Dubcek much of his popularity, so that the Russians could remove him without much opposition less than a year later. In that year the resistance and the discussion continued. Workers councils were elected in the factories. The students union and the most important trade unions met and drew up common agreements to defend the reforms.

But all this was met by increasing repression, and by the first anniversary of the invasion most of the resistance groups had decided to continue their opposition with illegal method. In 1971 many of them organised a campaign for the boycott of the fake "elections", but their leaders were sentenced to up to 6½ years in prison.

The next wave of opposition was the Charter 77 movement, which was formed in January 1977. They used the fact that the Czech government had signed certain international

agreements on human rights as the basis of the Charter, pointing that the terms of these agreements were now on the statute books, and that they were not being implemented.

The Chartists have suffered a lot of repression. Thirty-five of them are now in jail. One of them was sentenced to 3½ years imprisonment for refusing to condemn the Charter at a trade union meeting. Solitary confinement is frequently used against the prisoners, and beatings are common.

Hundreds of supporters of the Charter have been sacked from their jobs. In a country where there is 'officially' no unemployment and therefore no Buro, this means great poverty for them and their families.

In a recent statement the spokesmen of the Charter called for the withdrawal of all foreign troops. The statement pointed that the original pretext for the invasion — an alleged threatened invasion from West Germany — no longer existed.

Recently different groups have been set up within the Charter movement. One such group, called 'independent socialists' have little confidence in the ability of the government to reform itself. They recently issued a statement which looks back to the original programme of the Czech Socialist Party, and shows how today, a hundred years after it was drawn up, many of its demands have still to be met. This statement refers to the Communist Party in power as the "party of overlords".

The government has aimed a lot of its harassment against this group. Those who have been interrogated report that they were questioned about their intention to form a trade union that would be independent of the government, as have been formed in Poland and the Soviet Union recently.

So, ten years after the invasion, the resistance continues despite the house searches, the sackings, the frame-ups and the imprisonment; all of which present a very familiar picture to the 'dissidents' in the six occupied counties of Ireland. But after ten years in Czechoslovakia and nine years in Ireland neither occupying force with their whole apparatus of repression have succeeded in crushing the will of the people.

**POLITICAL STATUS  
IS A RIGHT  
- NOT A PRIVILEGE**



# NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY NEWS ★ DERRY

*"You will  
be another  
Denis Heaney*

THE BRIT tactic of arresting Republican political activists has been ruthlessly carried on for numerous years.

Sinn Fein members can expect to be arrested every-time the Orangemen want to parade through Derry City.

Before these years apprentice boys march on August 12th Georgie Lafferty, a local Sinn Fein member, was caught in the Brit net and taken to Strand Road Barracks.

While the Orangemen stomped through Derry City, young Lafferty was being beaten around in the RUC barracks. The RUC torturers wanted Lafferty to sign a statement admitting involvement in IRA activity. He refused to submit to their brutality, and they had no option but to release him after 72 hours.

However, when he was being released his torturers told him "you will be another Denis Heaney. What do you think of that?"

This murder threat is not being taken lightly by George Lafferty. Denis Heaney was tortured for several days by the RUC, in an attempt to force him to sign a statement. They didn't succeed. When he was being released, the RUC told him the SAS would fix him. Three weeks later Denis Heaney was shot dead by the SAS.

## EDDIE BUTLER, HUGH DOHERTY ...

(Continued from page 9)

sister and nephew who had come all the way from New York. They were only allowed two 50 minute visits in closed conditions despite their long journey.

This is the real meaning of being a political prisoner of the British government. Eddie was not even allowed to shake hands with his Sister or Mother.

As his mother said: 'I think it is dreadful that he could not shake hands with his sister'. She also said Eddie was looking pale, being allowed only two half-hour exercise periods a day and having lost a lot of weight.

A comrade of Eddie's, Brendan Dowd, spent nearly a year in solitary in Strangeways (1976-1977) and became very ill as a result.

# DERRY SINN FEIN ATTACKED:

## THE RAIDS

In what was a carbon-copy of the raids carried out against *Republican News* and the Sinn Fein Centres in Belfast in December and April, a force of nearly 200 RUC men backed heavily by Brits raided and ransacked all four Derry Sinn Fein Advice Centres between 3.55 and 6.30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 22. At the same time, the homes of eighteen Sinn Fein members and supporters were raided. Vast quantities of documents, literature and personal letters were seized. Seven people were arrested and sent to Castlereagh, including one 69 year old semi-invalid due to go into hospital later on that day.

In addition to the literature and documents seized in the raids, all Sinn Fein office equipment in the Centres at the time was seized. This included a duplicating machine, three typewriters, £150 worth of Sinn Fein policy booklets and posters, £80 worth of books for the Sinn Fein library which was about to open, various sums of money including two cash boxes, PDF collections, and raffle tickets were stolen.

As reported on the front page of last week's 'Republican News' almost the entire officer board of Sinn Fein was arrested. (Missed in the raids was the current press officer, whose last address was raided).

### CENTRES DAMAGED

Damage to the Centres was carried out in an animal fashion. Every door and lock was burst in, resulting in most Centres having to be boarded up after the raids. Walls, all surfaces, telephones, presses etc., were daubed with greasy black substance and fingerprint powder was everywhere.

Cupboards and filing cabinets were broken open, overturned, and their contents strewn on the floor. The Centres were stripped of all posters, photos on the walls, the Sinn Fein literature.

The following homes were raided and those arrested were taken to Castlereagh:

At 4.20 a.m. 69 year-old Mark McLaughlin, of Drumcliffe Avenue, a semi-invalid, who was due to go into Altnagelvin Hospital later in the day for specialist treatment was arrested. Special Branch backed by Brits broke open his front door, kept his wife under arrest and refused to allow her out of her bed during the raid.

The raiders lifted pictures off the walls, stole jewellery and stole the Sinn Fein treasurers books. No "search damage claim forms" were left for any of this material. The Brits left about 5.30 a.m. taking old Mark with them.

At 4.00 a.m. at the home of veteran Republican and former internee Barney McFadden, in Stanley's Walk, another party of raiders searched the whole house before walking off with Republican newspapers, and Mrs. McFadden's purse (containing £20) which her son had made her in Long Kesh. As in every other raid, NO RECEIPT was given.

At the home of young Stephen Doherty, a similar raid took place, which ended in

17 year old Stephen being led from the house in handcuffs to Castlereagh.

### RUC HIDE AWAY

The homes of John, Johnston, Michael Hasson and Peter Duffy, were also raided. Danny McDonagh, of Southway, Creggan, was raided from 4.15 till 5.30 by a raiding party similar to the many other raids that took place that morning. An assortment of RUC, which included plainclothes personnel, uniformed personal and a plainclothes woman, with Brits guarding them outside.

No RUC vehicle was used in any of these raids; this indicates the hatred of the people for these scum. Instead, these well-paid torturers hid in Brit Land-Robers and left out to rush into the houses, then hid away again in Brit vehicles to make good their escape.

At the home of Bobby Friel, Rinnore Drive, six RUC men raided between 4.15 and 5.15. Again, this search followed the pattern established in the others.

All private letters were opened and read. The photo albums searched with a fine-toothed comb. Five years back copies of 'Republican News' and 'An Phoblacht' were seized.

At the homes of Ann Johnson, Andrew McCourt, Bertie Barret and several others, the same style raid was repeated. At the home of Katy Johnston, Cable Street (who was away on holidays at the time) the raiders were seen by neighbours taking a box of things from the house, between 4 - 5 a.m.

When Mrs. Johnson arrived home that morning, she found the house in total disarray. The RUC had entered by breaking in through the kitchen, and from the evidence of scattered papers and open letters, had gone through all her personal correspondence and read it before making off with her belongings.

### MONEY TAKEN

At the home of Rosie Carlin, Iniscarn Crescent, Creggan, a widow with two young girls, the Brits/RUC threw everything out of one daughter's bedroom, and went through all letters and papers in the house. They took £14 of PDF lottery money. Two empty PDF tins, Easter lilies, a Tricolour, copies of 'Republican News', 'Phoblacht', 'Shantallow News', Prison Struggle, the Brian Stewart booklet by Fr. Faul, and

a few articles of clothing. They left at 6.10 a.m. nearly two hours later.

### NO RIGHTS

The home of Bertie Barret, Chamberlain Street, was raided. Bertie is a former Chairman of Sinn Fein. He objected when the Special Branch began reading two of his daughters personal diaries. The Branch snapped back: "You have no rights! We can do whatever we like in your home."

Again, personal letters were seized, no receipt or docket was given at all. When Mr. Barret asked why the raid was taking place, he was told "You'll know all about it in the morning" — presumably referring to the news headlines about the raids all over Derry. They left at 6.30 a.m.

These raids were clearly an attempt to crush Sinn Fein in Derry.

To throw Sinn Fein totally into organisational disarray, smash the vital work of the Sinn Fein Centres, and silence the publicity on RUC torture and the publicity given to the protest in-H-Block. Timed as it

was, these raids were also designed to throw our plans for gathering large support for the tenth anniversary of the civil rights march from Coalisland to Dungannon.

Predictably, these repressive efforts have failed. The centres were open again after a clean-up.

The day after, Sinn Fein elected another officer board in full, and were carrying on with all their work as usual. In a statement the Derry Comhairle Ceanntair pointed out: "This attempted intimidation does nothing but increase our determination to carry on with our struggle until we are successful. These massive raids and wrecking orgies prove to us that our work is a threat to Mason and his desperate regime. They have been forced to recognise our growing support in recent months and the obvious successes of the Centres — which for most people of the Republican ghettos are the only effective source of help with their housing and other problems. Our work has taken its toll on the Brits and their puppet politicians".

## FIVE-HOUR RAMPAGE



The Brits smashed a dividing wall in the attic of the Coyle family's home during a five hour rampage.

ON AUGUST 10th, the home of the Coyle family, Rosemount Gardens, was the target for an orgy of destruction by rampaging members of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

The Brits forced their way into the Coyle's home at 6.10 a.m. and didn't leave until 11.10 a.m. For five hours they destroyed and stole, whilst they constantly used foul language to the Coyle family.

They left a trail of damage as follows:

A built-in wardrobe - severely damaged;

Large holes smashed in the upstairs ceilings;

A dividing wall between the attic of Coyle's home and their next door neighbours was also smashed in by Brits boots. Fifty handprints were deliberately left all over newly wallpapered walls.

Handkerchiefs sent out from Long Kesh were stolen;

Copies of *Republican News* and *An Phoblacht* were stolen.

The entire family were held under house arrest, and were confined to different rooms.

The Republican people are well used to the Brits rampaging activities and the Brits can rest assured they will never deter us.



## 10,000 march from Coalisland to Dungannon

A section of the 10,000 strong march approaching Dungannon.



## SMASH H-BLOCK!



WE PRINT BELOW THE FULL TEXT OF THE STATEMENT FROM THE REPUBLICAN POW'S IMPRISONED IN H-BLOCKS 3, 4 AND 5, WHICH WAS READ OUT AT THE HUGE PROTEST MEETING HELD LAST SUNDAY IN DUNAGNON MARKET SQUARE.

***“Our revolutionary resolve  
is still as strong as ever”***

IT IS almost two years since the first Republican prisoner of war began the "Blanket Protest" for the rightful restoration of political status within the now infamous H-Blocks of Long Kesh. From the outset of our protest, the British government, Roy Mason and his N.I.O. minions, along with the prison administration, set out to break the spirit of our resistance with the now, all too common use, of institutionalised violence.

If one reflects back on the early days of 1977, one will remember the weekly exaggerated body counts given by that little military dictator Roy Mason, of hundreds of prisoners conforming in a new, one million pound "H" Block, while a handful of what he termed as "hardened criminals" refused to "conform". Feeling confident of breaking the spirit of each individual Republican P.O.W. Mason continued to vomit out his so-called successes with his weekly statistics, but he, with his typical British imperialistic mentality, disregarded, or badly underestimated the history of Irish Republicanism, especially in British hell holes.

Mason's handful of so-called "hardened criminals" soon became too big a handful of Republican P.O.W.s to openly tell too many lies about. His statistics were beginning to tell the real truth. Thus came the almost total black-out of the British media reporting on the 'H' Blocks. But rumblings were by now reaching the outside world as we began filtering out the truth in smuggled accounts of the degrading treatment, intolerable conditions and institutionalised torture to which we were, and still are, being subjected to daily.

## MASON'S MAD OPPRESSION

But Mason, hanging put his bungling British foot in it, went to town, giving the prison administration a free hand to break us mentally or physically. Holding us naked in total solitary confinement, without exercise or fresh air, subjecting us to total deprivation of anything that would help pass the long hours or ease our hardships, was not enough. Mason set his hired lackies and mercenary screws upon us. The oppression became so severe and so unbearable that we, having no alternative, embarked on a "dirty-strike" protest in a drastic attempt to highlight our plight and to save our sanity. This, as you know, now consists of our total refusal to co-operate in any way with the prison administration in refusing to wash, shower, clean out our cells, or empty our chamber pots.

Again for our resistance we met with more of Mason's mad oppression — beatings and long periods in the punishment block are now common place. Our cells have been stripped of all furniture, including our beds, leaving us to sleep upon filthy mattresses in surroundings that resemble a pig-sty.

We have been exposed down with high powered hoses, 'sprayed with extremely strong disinfectant and half starved as a means to break us. But we have remained steadfast, although not untarnished. Physically, we are almost broken. Our health has degenerated drastically, due to the rigours of almost two years in total solitary confinement. Many of us resemble old broken men instead of healthy young men. Some of our own families have found it hard to accept that they were looking at their own sons and husbands.

The population of H Blocks 3, 4 and 5 resembles the worst cases to be

found in a sanatorium. Our mental state of health is most worrying. Mentally we are exhausted. We maintain our sanity by organising Irish classes, debates and singsongs from behind our cell doors each night. We know that the mental effects of the tortures being continually perpetrated upon us will be far reaching in later years. Many of us are not the same people we were. Many of us have undergone complete personality changes.

In some cases a thread separates sanity from insanity, it is only a matter of time until that thread will be broken.

Our struggle for political status is a just struggle. Political status is ours as a right for we are prisoners of war. It is perfectly obvious who the criminals and torture mongers are. Mason and his foreign regime, their cohorts and lackies. It is THEY who are responsible for the deaths of others. It is THEY who created the hell blocks of Long Kesh, Castlereagh and the numerous other torture centres. THEY are the perpetrators of the murder and torture that has taken place behind the closed doors of these evil hell holes. Indeed it is THEY who are totally responsible for the oppression, hardships and grief that has been inflicted upon the Irish people during the past ten years. It is the same Great Britain that has tortured and torn our nation apart for several hundred years.

If there were not a war of liberation going on in Ireland none of us would be where we are now. We point out that when the first civil rights marches took place on the streets of the North ten years ago, many of us were barely nine or ten years old. Indeed there are some of us who were actually with you. We are still struggling. But at the time of writing we are not only struggling to gain Political Status but to preserve our mental and physical health. We ask of you when you drive home in your cars or are sitting beside your fires at home, to remember that we are still struggling to survive and striving to defeat the same institutionalised violence that you witnessed ten years ago on the streets of the North and still witness and experience today.

We call upon you, the Irish people, to reject the culprits of this repression, to take to the streets once more as a solid united people and rid our nation of the true cause of our perennial oppression, suffering and grief — BRITAIN!

## OUR THANKS

We take this opportunity to thank you, very sincerely for your support in the past, for without you our plight would be unbelievably unbearable. We assure you that our revolutionary resolve and determination are still as strong as ever. Never shall we, as Irish Republican Prisoners of War, bow before the state violence of foreigners. Nor shall we allow ourselves to be criminalised in any form or manner. But we ask how much more indignities, hardships and tortures must we suffer? How long will it be until "yet again" another Irish Prisoner of War dies behind the closed doors of a British hell hole? WE SAY TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND ROY MASON: "YES" YOU ARE BREAKING US IN BODY! BUT YOU HAVE NOTHING IN YOUR ENTIRE IMPERIAL ARSENAL TO BREAK THE SPIRIT OF ONE IRISHMAN WHO REFUSES TO BE BROKEN!

***-Republican PoWs, H-Blocks 3,4 and 5, Long Kesh***



**SMASH H-BLOCK!**

# "DON'T EVER G ON YOUR KNEE

LAST SUNDAY the political struggle entered its tenth year when about ten to twelve thousand people marched five miles from Coalisland to Dungannon to commemorate the first Civil Rights march which was barred from entering Dungannon square by extreme loyalists and the hated RUC acting in unison.

Subsequent NICRA marches were met with British gas and rubber bullets, and murder on Bloody Sunday. And NICRA, as a leadership, effectively went into eclipse with the Sticky ceasefire in April 1972. But the marching didn't stop despite the repression of the British Government, the jailings (and assassinations of organisers), or the abandonment of the hard road of militancy by the reformist groups. Since the Sticky ceasefire and the beginning of SDLP collaboration at Sunningdale in 1973, the leadership fell to the people engaged in genuine revolutionary struggle.

**"WE REFUSED TO GO!"  
BUT YOU WEREN'T  
INVITED!!!**

The media last weekend made much ado about the fact that Austin Currie and Gerry Fitt would not be there. Papers had reported that they "refused to go", the implication being that they were invited, which they were not! The people would have savaged Fitt over his pronouncement in the House of Commons that "there should be no political status". And Austin Currie must be eating his heart out for "slandering" those that would be marching since swelling the ranks were undoubtedly thousands of disillusioned Currie voters.

Between the M1 and Coalisland the first buses encountered a UDR road-block and most vehicles were surprisingly waved

through. Most of these soldiers were from the Cookstown area or loyalist ghettos in Dungannon. (The only UDR man to live in the Coalisland vicinity was shot two weeks ago).

The first part of the march was to be solemn and silent, led by a placard bearing the demands of the people - restoration of political status, an end to torture, the repatriation of Irish political prisoners in England, and the total political, military and economic withdrawal of Britain from Ireland. Then came 60 men and women clad in blankets and taking up a H-formation the breadth of the road.

They were followed by about 200 people bearing names of prisoners and then by the banner of the Tyrone Central Relatives Action Committee, the

sponsors of the march. There were over 60 big banners displayed; 23 Sinn Féin Cumainn, 22 Relatives Action Committees and among others were IRSP's, TUCAR, SLP, MSR and Women Against Imperialism. Hundreds of people behind banners carried placards bearing the names of imprisoned fathers, sons and daughters, or slogans such as "Brits go Home", or "H-Block, Britain's Black Hole". In places the marchers were four abreast, in others 6 abreast.

Under the East Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair banner alone 3,000 people marched, a good indication of local support. About a mile and a half outside of town aerials could be seen hanging out of a hedge on top of an embankment from where Brits were photographing the marchers.



The March was headed by sixty women and men in blankets, some of whom are pictured above.

Every time a Brit or an RUC man came into sight a chorus of curses went up and the bands would break into a rebel tune.

#### TRI-COLOUR OPENED UP

Ten years ago the original march, about 5,000 strong, was stopped about 1/3 mile from Dungannon town centre. This time, the RUC, probably for fear of providing universally too tangible evidence that nothing had really changed, didn't block the way, though there were thousands on duty including a sizeable contingent of special branchmen and amateurish-looking apprentice branchmen.

As we marched into Thomas Street and into the Square all banners were held upright as a show of victory. A tricolour which had been carried furled along the route was now opened up, and every hundred yards there was the thunderous noise of another band entering the Square. "Keep Ireland Tidy - RUC OUT!" was chanted at the torturers who smiled and nudged each other with feigned impartiality, until a few bottles were thrown and then it was "Fucking fenian bastards, we'll get you."

Tony Gildernew on behalf of Tyrone RAC welcomed everybody. He asked for the demo to remain peaceful. His sister and her

family were one of those who squatted in Caledon house (allocated by Dungannon council to a Protestant girl who was single) eight months before being evicted in June 1968, one of the incidents which led to the August '68 march. He introduced the first speaker, Mrs. Mary Nelis

(Derry RAC). She said:

#### LOOK AROUND YOU

"Today marks the beginning of the end of H-Block, Armagh Goal and of British rule in Ireland... The men have support, just look around you." She told how she had visited her son (who is on-the-blanket)

Loyalist Gather to harass the protestors whilst members of the hated RUC look on.





# R GET DOWN KNEES AGAIN!"

## SMASH H-BLOCK!



by Seamus Boyle



on Saturday, before which he had to undergo a degrading body search, including probing of his back-passage. He is under 20 years old but is like an old man. His face she said "is the face of suffering Ireland which has suffered for 800 years...The spirit of the boys is tremendous. They sent out this message: "They will never beat us"..."

The crowd cheered when she stated that "The boys in H-Block are the heroes of this country!"

Mrs Nelis then read out a supplied statement from the Women POW's in Armagh Goal, which told of how a South Derry prisoner, Anne Bateson, had resisted Screws taking a black skirt from her, and was viciously beaten: "The barbarity meted out would do justice to the Nazi regime". The women in Armagh pledged: "We will never

succumb to the 'criminalisation' being forced upon us."

Tony Gildernew then introduced Miriam Daly (IRSP) as the speaker from Belfast RAC, which wasn't the case at all, but which was belatedly resolved when the Belfast RAC speaker later addressed the meeting.

Mrs Daly said that: "The civil rights which were marched for, were not achieved" and today the thousands standing here "give the lie to the claim that the people do not believe there is a valid war of national liberation being waged in Ireland." She said that "the people have kept faith".

At this stage the RUC had pushed forward at Irish Street and there was a bit of panic. Young fellows threw bottles back at them and it looked as if a full-scale riot could have de-

veloped. Bernadette McAisley (Devlin) interrupted the speaker and said "leave the Security Forces to deal with the people (loyalists) at the bottom of the street and we will attend the meeting." She had rightly called on the stonethrowers to stop, but somebody shouted back at her "What about the bricks in Derry, Bernadette" - in the circumstances an embarrassing reference to her rioting-days, which the rioters believe are over.

Frank Maguire (Westminster MP) said that he had been to see the men in H-Block "and seen the terrible and inhuman conditions fellow Irishmen are subject to by English tyranny and ...When standing speaking to lads I saw worms crawl out of their hair, and it's not easy to watch...We have taken too much..." he ended.

Sinn Fein member Martin McKenna, who spent 10 months on-the-blanket, read out a statement from H-

Block, Long Kesh. (We reproduce this statement on the first page of this supplement.) There was loud applause to the men's statement.

Jacki Kaye from the Prisoners Aid Committee brought "greetings and solidarity" from the POW's in England. She said that "the beatings of Irish prisoners isn't recognised as an offence under English law...there is no fate more terrible on earth today than to be a prisoner of the British Government."

In a reference to Michael Gaughan, Frank Stagg, Noel Jenkinson and Sean O'Connell she said "We brought four home dead. We can stand together and fight together like today and bring them all home alive... The political status issue is to do with the struggle going on outside the goal... This great demo is a massive demo of solidarity with the prisoners and the revolutionary struggle...The Brits are incapable of ruling Ireland peacefully...the only way they can rule is through brutality and sheer terror."

### "WHAT LAY BEHIND IT"

Bernadette McAisley then spoke on behalf of Tyrone RAC and gave the most professional and paced delivery heard on Sunday (though not the best, which, I think, came from Maura McCrory).

Bernadette said: "I see faces here today ten years older and some ten years wiser." In an obvious reference to Currie and Fitt she went on: "It seems strange to me that certain people can claim that today's march has nothing to do with that of 10 years ago."

"I was one of those people who walked then and whose head was filled with ideas of how we could achieve a better life."

"The very people who say to-day has nothing to do with 10 years ago are the one who started it all by sowing the seeds of these ideas in our heads."

"They are entitled to back out or to change

their stand, but they are not capable of turning back the march of the people they set on the road."

She added: "It is not true that the demands have changed and have nothing to do with our original requests for houses, jobs and votes."

"They appear different because we have learnt why we did not have houses, jobs and votes up to ten years ago. When we brought down Stormont, we saw what lay behind it."

"Now, we are demanding the withdrawal of all British interference in Ireland because we have discovered where the root of the problem lies."

### LONG APPLAUSE

Maura McCrory speaking for Belfast RAC spoke with the flair of the late Maire Drumm.

"To see a crowd like this gladdens my heart. Wee Mason will be sitting in front of his TV saying 'Aw there'll only be a few hundred of them,' but when he sees the size of this big crowd he'll be kicking the TV from one side of the room to the other."

She pointed over to the RUC, who by this stage of the meeting knew that no new image could redeem them in the eyes of the nationalist people.

"They are not Irish people. The RUC are British thugs, who take young people into Castlereagh, beat them until they are broken and then they are sent to the H-Blocks. We still have Internment with us; internment-by-remand and internment-with-trials."

"They can try and walk on us but we will never be beaten. There's a saying that when the grass grows it comes up every year, and you people come out every year and year after year. The men in Long Kesh have shown you and me how to struggle...Don't ever get down on your knees again!"

There was tumultuous and long applause to this.

Willie Gallagher's father, whose son at the time of

(Continued on following page)

AC). She said:  
ROUND YOU  
marks the be-  
the end of H-  
magh Goal and  
rule in Ireland...  
ave support, just  
d you." She told  
d visited her  
on-the-blanket)



The March moves out of Coalisland.



## 10,000 march from Coalisland to Dungannon

RUC and protestors face to face at top end of Dungannon Market Square.



(Continued from preceding page) writing has been on hunger-strike 48 days then spoke. He said that while campaigning for his son he was arrested 183 times in the course of one year. He stated "Northern Ireland is no country, but an open-air prison". He called for support for Tuesday's stoppage in Strabane to highlight his son's demands for a re-trial.

The last speaker was Richard Behal who was inaudibly announced as from Kevin Street, Dublin. He spoke on behalf of the Republican Movement.

"We've just marched in five miles, and coming down the road we sang,

'We may have had brave men,  
But we never had better,  
Glorio, glorio to the bold  
Fenian men.'

"The men in jail are the best men that Ireland has ever had. Indeed they have never been surpassed. Though the men themselves are suffering terrible deprivations, we must congratulate the families who are also bearing the brunt...

"The British hypocrites, the so-called Mother of Parliaments, cry the loudest in the world about human rights. Yet they are the greatest torturers in the world and deny Irish prisoners and the Irish people

the most basic of human rights. It was Churchill who invented the Concentration Camp during the Boer war in which thousands were murdered...

"England is the mother of oppression and the father of murder."

Richard continued, "To go on-the-blanket was the brave voluntary decision of the men themselves. No-one was ordered on a blanket contrary to media accusations.

"There will be no peace in Ireland until the British get out and leave us alone. Look up the Square. The occurred rag of British Imperialism is still flying. Ten

## SMASH H-BLOCK!



years ago they said we couldn't march into the Square. They said we couldn't march into it today, and we have."

### DERRY MARCH

He called for an even greater mobilisation for the march in Derry in October which Sinn Fein is sponsoring. He then outlined the foreign support the prisoners had, pickets on embassies, harassment of dignitaries all on the issue of H-Block. He told of the necessity for such foreign aid but described also foreign dangers as being the imperialism of "the EEC and NATO and the UN". He said that we were struggling for an "independent, neutral Ireland... not just to take down a Union Jack but to establish a Socialist Republic."

In a reference to Bernadette McAliskey's use of the words "security-forces" he said it shocked him to hear a member of the platform use that term. "My God, if they were security forces they wouldn't be standing

around us and doing what they're doing. They are British forces of occupation."

"And they're cowards; they can't defeat the risen Irish People." And returning to the old rebel song he concluded:

"We love them yet  
We can't forget,  
The felons of our land."

It was now after seven o'clock and the thousands of people began to disperse. There were minor stone-throwing incidents between youths and the permission of the RUC. Loyalists with the permission of the RUC attacked a Lurgan RAC bus, in which three members were injured.

On our bus we passed through Coalisland as the UDR roadblocks were being lifted. Our sing song lasted down the MI but for when we passed Long Kesh and the H-Block in its West Wing. One can either be British and brick men up, or fight to tear down that fencing and concrete wall.

After all, as Mr. Gallagher said, "Northern Ireland is no country, but an open air prison."



A section of the crowd in Dungannon Market Square. Tyrone RAC Banner Marks the speakers platform (top right).



# PAC NEWS

ISSUE No 1 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1978 Price 10p

● THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PRISONERS



THE FIRST issue of 'PAC News' has just been published; this newspaper is produced in London by the Prisoners Aid Committee.

The cost of the paper is 10p (plus 10p post) and an annual subscription costs £1.50.

The address of the P.A.C. is Box 9, 2A St. Paul's Road, London N1. The PAC are appealing to people to help them to help the prisoners by selling the paper (a minimum of 10 copies) and by sending them information on prisoners.

The PAC's concern is with Irish political prisoners convicted in England. It's main aims are to expose the political nature of the trials; the brutality of the prison system; and to campaign for political status and amnesty for all Irish political prisoners.

Below we reprint from 'PAC News' a short extract of an interview with Jackie Kaye, Secretary of the PAC, and we reprint an example of prisoners news: 'Eddie Butler, Hugh Doherty'.

## Interview with Jackie Kaye

**WHAT do you see as being the main differences between the situation of the prisoners in England and those in Ireland?**

The prisoners in England are scattered throughout six or seven top-security jails rather than being concentrated in two or three prisons as in Ireland.

This means access to them is more difficult because the security system in England allows them virtually to be visited only by members of their own family and of course this is very difficult where families live in Ireland.

Because of the system of categorisation which was introduced following Mountbatten's report in 1966, Irish political prisoners are all Category A which means they are subjected to the most repressive prison regime.

**Hugh Doherty.**

For example, these prisoners have always to be accompanied by two screws; they are not allowed to have recreational facilities and all their visits are closed or screened visits.

An example of discrimination would be the figures we got recently from the Home Office. Out of a total prisoner population of 40,000 only 85 prisoners have closed visits.



JACKIE KAYE

Seventy-one of these are Republicans.

This means it is very hard for them to maintain family relationships. All letters are censored and they are also subjected to the arbitrary use of solitary confinement under prison rule 43.

This allows prison governors to hold prisoners indefinitely in solitary confinement. Some prisoners have spent two years and over in solitary confinement continuously and four of them have been held in a supposedly closed unit in Wakefield under conditions of sensory deprivation.

Four Irish political prisoners have actually died in England since 1974 - Michael Gaughan, Frank Stagg, Noel Jenkinson and Sean O'Connell.

The harshness of the regime here is one of the reasons why PAC is calling for prisoners to be transferred to jails in the Six Counties where most would have special category (i.e. political) status.

The July 9 march seems to have marked a definite step forward for the PAC. How has this come about?

This is mainly because of the courageous stand taken by the prisoners in H-block Long Kesh. The British ruling class have chosen to attack the revolution in Ireland by the attempt at criminalisation of the prisoners.

The two-year campaign by the prisoners in H-block and the appalling conditions under which they are held signify their revolutionary determination not to give in.

The issue of the prisoners has therefore become a critical political issue. If the campaign for political status is defeated then the British ruling class will have succeeded in criminalising not only Irish revolutionaries but all attempt to overthrow the existing British state both in Ireland and England.

We therefore feel that for all revolutionaries the issue of political status must be a central one. We refuse to allow the ruling class to define revolutionary movements as criminal.

## EDDIE BUTLER, HUGH DOHERTY ...

**EDDIE AND HUGH** are both now entering their sixth month in solitary, Eddie in Strangeways and Hugh in Durham.

They were moved out of the security unit in Leicester at the end of February. Since then both men have been held under Rule 43 which allows prisoners to be held indefinitely at the discretion of the prison governor for reasons of 'good order and

discipline'.

Under this notorious rule, Irish PoWs have served periods of up to two years in solitary.

At the moment Hugh has been refused permission to have with him his large collection of books on the grounds that they are not his property but the property of the prison into which they were sent.

Both prisoners have refused

visitors rather than ask their visitors to undergo the humiliating searches by prison staff and rather than have their visits in degrading 'closed' conditions which Irish prisoners alone, of all the British prison population, have to endure.

However, on July 10 and 11, Eddie's mother came to visit him from Limerick with his

(Continued on page 4)

PRISON NEWS FROM  
ALBANY PRISON (ISLE OF WIGHT)

## CONDITIONS FAST APPROACHING H-BLOCKS'

THE CONDITIONS under which the P.O.Ws are held in Albany Prison have seriously deteriorated, and are fast approaching those of the H-Blocks of Long Kesh.

Since April '78 most of the Irish political prisoners have refused to work in support of their demands to have their visiting conditions improved and to receive the same treatment as other prisoners.

At present the P.O.Ws are allowed a visit of only ½ hour duration. 2 adults and one child are allowed in, following a brushed-down search. All they are permitted to bring in with them are cigarettes. Present at the visit, which takes place in a cubicle 6' x 4', are four screws and a policewoman. (Often, if a policewoman is not available, the visitors have to wait for up to an hour for their visit.) The P.O.W. is strip-searched before AND after the visit.

In the words of a P.O.W... "They search your mouth and they search your cheeks with their fingers. The palms of your hands, the soles of your feet and beneath your arms are searched. Your clothes are carefully checked and put aside. Then they spread you over the greasy table and while some warders hold your arms and others your ankles, your buttocks are pulled apart and one wearing a rubber glove forces his hand up your rectum." If the P.O.W. objects to this treatment he is told his visit is cancelled and he is sent to the punishment-block.

On the contrary no such restrictions are placed on the other, ordinary prisoners. Their visits, of 2 hour duration, take place in a large hall-like room, with about 50 tables dotted around it. This hall is supervised by only three or four screws.

After their refusal to work in April the P.O.Ws were sentenced to 14 days solitary confinement and then given 24 hours by the governor, in which to make up their minds to work. They refused to do so until they received similar treatment to the other prisoners, so were kept in the punishment-block.

### FOOD IS A CONGEALED MESS

The cells in which they are held have been bare of furniture since early May when a P.O.W. broke a chair. The P.O.Ws have to sleep on a mattress on the floor, eat their meals sitting on the same. There is no water or toilet facilities in the cell. For relief the P.O.W. has to ring a bell and wait for screws to come and escort him to the lavatory. As there is often a 3 hour delay between the ringing of the bell and the warders' arrival the P.O.W. is forced to sling his excreta out the window. Since 18 July most P.O.Ws are refusing to shave and are washing only once a week. They have also had their beards shaved for health reasons and they have refused to clean their cells.

They are not allowed cigarettes, newspapers, photos, a watch or a radio. Letters, usually delivered after a delay, are removed by the screws as soon as they have been read. The P.O.Ws have been stopped from attending Mass in the prison chapel. A temporary chapel was set up in a cell in their wing by the authorities, but has been boycotted by the prisoners as totally unsuitable. The Catholic chaplain for the prison is not interested in such a basic denial of the P.O.Ws' rights. For light relief the P.O.W. is allowed 1 book a week from the prison library.

The food, when it finally arrives in the P.O.W's cell, is often a cold, congealed mess, fit for neither dog nor man.

Following their protest in July, during which they smashed-up the cells in the segregation-block, they were sentenced to a further 56 days solitary confinement and fined the equivalent of 6 months prison-work wages i.e. £10.

(Courtesy of An Cumann Cabhrach, Prisoners Welfare Group Birmingham.)



His English heart will have to break,  
Before it is too late,  
For one day he will face the Lord,  
He won't be "Secretary of State".  
He'll be an equal man with us,  
And be judged right from his birth,  
And he'll be made to answer for,  
This awful hell on earth.





## 'I'VE GOT ONE, SARGE'

by P. Brain

REPUBLICANS everywhere may find some books recently published by the British Army's Occupation Press very useful. Especially in the event of a toilet paper manufacturers' strike.

First of all, for the cost conscious, there is "Bargains at the Grand Central Hotel" by U. and I. Steele.

A creative hobby might be initiated by purchasing Letter Writing to the Irish News" by Mother of Eleven, Fort Monagh.

Three books for the more energetic are "I'd Better Run" by R.U. Soared, and "Foot Patrolling is Fun" by J. Walker.

Intellectuals should be tickled by "I've Got One Sarge" by P. Brain, while head-cases should find comfort in "Why I Joined the B. Army" by A. Moran.

All realists will agree with the sentiments expressed in "Brits Out" by U. Bet, and optimists will hardly argue with "Where will they go?" by Myles Away.

## 'HOME SOLDIER, HOME' TOUR

FOR TWO weeks four members of the United Troops Out Movement and a member of the London Poster Collective have recently been touring Belfast and Derry with the new anti-recruitment film 'Home Soldier Home'. We print here a report on their trip.

The film 'Home Soldier Home' was shown twelve times in Belfast and Derry in ten days. Nearly every club or room was packed with standing room only for the showings, and great interest was shown in the film.

'Home Soldier Home' was made for a British audience, to try and break through the wall of silence created by the British government about Britain's war against the Irish people.

The film shows ex-Brits who have either bought themselves out or done time in military prison for being conscientious objectors because they hated what the Brits do in Ireland. Of course they are a very small minority but we hope that more will follow their example in the

## STATEMENT FROM WOMEN AGAINST IMPERIALISM GROUP

# BELFAST CLUB PICKETED

ON SUNDAY, 20th August, the second picket on the Martin Forsythe Club, organised by Women Against Imperialism took place. Twenty men and women, representing various groups, supported the picket to highlight the clubs ban on women membership and their right to use the club on Sunday afternoon.

The picketers called for an end to this type of discrimination and gave out leaflets to passersby.

During the picket a member of the club's committee informed the protesters that:

Women will never be members here. This club has nothing to do with the people of the area. It was built by us."

From this attitude it would seem that the club's Committee actually believe that they built the club by themselves without any assistance from the local community!

Women are one of the most militant forces in the present struggle against imperialism, and yet in the day to day running of their lives, they are still being denied basic rights. For this to continue at such a time in the struggle, it must be seen as a bad reflection on the whole anti-imperialist movement.

— P.R.O. Women Against Imperialism Group

future!

In the film they tell how English kids are conned into the army by promises of glamour or of learning a trade. Then they find themselves on the rough end of a war which is against the interests of British working people. In fact the squaddies are the stooges of the Brit ruling class.

The film also shows Brit brutality in previous colonial wars in Aden and Kenya, as well as in Ireland. It also shows a taste of the resistance of the Irish people. The scenes which got the biggest cheers were of Brits collapsing under attack and of a woman giving 'two fingers' to a Brit patrol.

A major theme of the film was that if British people don't pull their finger out to get the Brits out of Ireland, the British army will be used against them in the future.

After several of the showings there were interesting discussions and the visitors from London were very moved by the great appreciation people showed at what they are trying to say to British people both in the film and through other activities in Britain. Many people felt of course that the bulk of British people are shamefully inactive about what the Brits are doing and many suggestions were made about how 'Troops Out' people could expand their activities.

During their trip they were very impressed by how militant the Republican people are; everyone emphasised that they are determined to continue the fight until Britain withdraws completely from Ireland, and that they will go on to build a socialist Ireland in the future.

# SAN FRANCISCO SCENE — by Seamus Docker



IN SAN Francisco on July 29th, 300 people attended an Irish Northern Aid dinner dance. For £15 a meal was laid out and from all accounts enjoyed by all. Music for the evening was provided by "The Boys of The Old Brigade." This group donated their services for the event.

Posters and leaflets, prominently displayed, depicted the horrors of H-Block and reminded people that they were assembled not merely for an evening of fun but also to help sustain the dependents of Irish Political Prisoners.

That same day "Irish" consul Mr. Brendan Moran had stated to a reporter that support for Irish Northern Aid was on the wane in San Francisco. After this highly successful function "Brendan the Bold" was last seen hobbling into the posh Bohemian Club.

## Barnsley Demonstration

THE UNITED Troops Out Movement (UTOM) are organising a national demonstration for Saturday October 7th in Barnsley starting at 1.00 p.m.

That week is the tenth anniversary of the Civil Rights march which was batoned off the street of Derry. The UTOM have chosen Barnsley for the demonstration because it is the constituency of Roy Mason, and according to UTOM, "Torture of prisoners, under-cover Army assassination squads, and over 350 prisoners naked on the blanket in Long Kesh are what Mason stands for."

The demands of the demonstration are:

POW STATUS FOR IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS!  
REPEAL THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT!  
END MEDIA CENSORSHIP OF BRITAIN'S WAR IN IRELAND!

TROOPS OUT NOW!  
SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE!

For further information contact: Yorkshire UTOM, c/o UTOM, 182, Upper St., London N1.



# Green 1973 CROSS

11 SPRINGFIELD RD. Telephone 28035 BELFAST, 12

Green Cross is a charitable organisation, solely dependant on public subscriptions. It's aim is to help alleviate some of the suffering of the families of Political Prisoners. Do you know there are 1,300 Political Prisoners throughout this country and in England? From Belfast alone 904 men and women are incarcerated in jail.

Are you doing enough to help?

If not, contact your local Green Cross '73 Committee.

Where none exists — form one.

The Central Committee will give you all the help and assistance you require. Contact us, Tuesday to Friday, 10.00 a.m. — 4.00 p.m.

Our thanks and gratitude to all who have supported us in the past and a sincere welcome to all our new members.

## A MEETING WILL BE HELD IN

THE LAKE GLEN HOTEL, ANDERSONSTOWN ROAD, BELFAST

SUNDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 3.30 p.m.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS INVITED TO ATTEND

**H-BLOCK  
PROTEST  
MEETING**  
**MULLINGAR  
COUNTY WESTMEATH**  
**SATURDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 2nd**  
**AT 3.00 p.m.**

## GREETINGS

**ANNA MASON (P.O.W. Armagh).** Happy 22nd birthday on Thursday Anna. We may have brave women but we will never have better. Best wishes to all the girls in Armagh Prison. From Bernie and Family.

**ANNA MASÓN (P.O.W. Armagh).** Greetings on your 22nd Birthday Anna, on Thursday 22nd August. Keep your chin up and God bless you and all the girls in Armagh Prison who are fighting for Political Status. We salute their steadfast courage and pledge to continue the struggle for political status. Their fight is our right. From Tom, UTP.

## New York demonstration

CROWDS OF Irish Americans turned out despite sweltering heat on Saturday, 12th August in New York to protest against the inhuman treatment of Irish political prisoners in Long Kesh, H-Block, Armagh, Crumlin Road, Portlaoise and English Gaols where torture is continuing.

Inhuman treatment of

prisoners was roundly condemned by the demonstrators outside the British Airlines offices on Fifth Avenue. Banners and other placards carried on the picket line denounced British torture and British lies.

Tim Brennan appealed to the people to continue their support for the prisoners.

## Glasgow march

DESPITE pouring rain, 700 demonstrators marched, without opposition, through Glasgow streets on Saturday August 19th to demand political status for Irish prisoners.

A large contingent marched from the Irish Defence League and from the Socialist Workers' Party. Two hundred were in the Socialist Unit contingent.

Also present were Sinn Féin and individual Clann na h'Eireann members. The latter organisation originally offered to have a speaker at the rally, but

were stopped when the national leadership intervened.

At a brief rally, Matt Montgomery, chairperson of the Irish Defence League, said: "This march is the first of many in Glasgow. We want to increase the numbers of those protesting the treatment of Irish political prisoners. We want all those in Glasgow who claim to be republicans on the streets in future marches, so the people of Glasgow show what side they are on in the war between Britain and Ireland."

# IN MEMORIAM

In proud memory of Vol. Patrick Mulvenna, murdered by enemies of Ireland, 31st August 1973.

Mary Queen of the Gael Pray for Him.

Always proudly remembered by Al, Micky and Paddy.

In proud memory of our friend Vol. Patrick Mulvenna, murdered by enemies of Ireland.

Mary Queen of the Gael Intercede for him.

Always remembered by Jean & Mrs. Bryson and Family.

Vol. Patrick Mulvenna (4th Anniversary), 2nd Battalion, Oglagh na h'Eireann. Always remembered with pride by his friends Mick, Ann Maguire and Family.

Mary, Queen of Ireland, Pray for Him.

Patrick Mulvenna, Vol. (4th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear son Patrick, murdered by enemies of Ireland.

Mary, Queen of Ireland Pray for Him R.I.P.

From his Mother, Father, brothers, sisters.

Patrick Mulvenna, Vol. (4th Anniversary). In loving memory of my dear friend Patrick.

Mary Queen of the Gael Pray for Him.

Always remembered by his friend Martin Walsh ('H' Block) and wife Rosaleen.

Patrick Mulvenna, Vol., (4th Anniversary). In loving memory of my friend Patrick. Murdered by enemies of Ireland.

Mary Queen of Ireland Pray for Him.

Always remembered by his friend Eugene Murphy, the Magee Family, Marine, Vallerie and Kate McGuinness.

## SYMPATHY

**PADDY O'NEILL.** Died suddenly. Always remembered by his former comrades, Thumper, Longfellow, Karl, J.B., Dark, Ambrose, T.C. Martin 'H' Block.

**PADDY O'NEILL.** Will always be remembered for his untiring work on behalf of the prisoners in gaols throughout Ireland. Relatives of gaoled prisoners.

**PADDY O'NEILL.** His death comes as a blow to all his fellow workers at the transport centre.

**PADDY O'NEILL.** We particularly are grieved at the death of Paddy. We always will appreciate the work he did for us and our relatives over the years. Bart O/C Long Kesh.

## Andersonstown Martyrs Commemoration Committee

A COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED IN THE ANDERSONSTOWN AREA TO COMMEMORATE THE MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE GREATER ANDERSONSTOWN AREA WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES FOR IRISH FREEDOM, SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS PRESENT CAMPAIGN.

A COMMEMORATION CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE IN MILLTOWN CEMETERY AT 2.30 p.m. ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER, 10th.

## NOTES

BY CORMAC

KRYZENRI MEETS THE BARFS!

THEY'RE A BUNDLE OF FUN!

I HEAR SINGING



DEM BRITZ DEM BRITZ



DEM DEAD BRITZ!



OH, DE, MI'S CONNECTED TO DE PRO-YO....



AN' DE PROVO IS CONNECTED TO DE PEE-PUL.



AND REMEMBER, BOYS AND GIRLS.... WHEN YOU'RE OUT STIFFING PEELERS AND WASTING BRITZ.....



WEIRD!



DO IT WITH A SMILE IN YOUR HEART AND SONG ON YOUR LIPS!

