

REPUBLICAN NEWS



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GET THEM OUT!

LAST Monday's DAILY MIRROR splashed a front page call to "BRING BACK THE TROOPS". In its editorial the MIRROR, which is the second most popular paper in Britain (with a daily circulation of over 4 million), called for a total British withdrawal of troops, finance and administration from the Six Counties over a five-year period.

The editorial called for "Britain to announce its unshakeable intention to withdraw altogether from Northern Ireland." It went on: "The time has come to call it a day." The editorial bitterly complained that after nine years "The troops are still there, many of them permanently in their graves."

IRA RESPONSE

The leadership of the Irish Republican Army (in a supplied statement issued through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau) pointed to how such an editorial "represents a major shift in policy for a section of the British ruling class. From a position of moralistic imperialism (ostensibly keeping the two communities apart) they have predictably moved to nationalist chauvinism (bring the boys home)."

To what extent this editorial represents a significant split inside the British establishment remains to be seen. For all major British political parties (and figures) still remain in defence of continued 'direct rule'.

Yet even this glimmering of a split reflected through the MIRROR is a welcome vindication of IRA policy. For the 'MIRROR' admits that the British Army cannot beat the IRA and totally rejects Mason's victory claims:—"The gunmen rule now, not the politicians."

The IRA say that this shows that a section of the British ruling class "Have lost the will to continue with their abortive policy of murder, torture and repression against the courageous nationalist community."

Such demoralisation, splits and confusion in the ranks of the British establishment can only be welcomed by Republicans; but the Loyalist politicians were united in their condemnation. Harry West and Jean Coulter (Official Unionists), Cecil Harvey (UUP) and John Cushman (Alliance Party) all vigorously attacked it. Anne Dickson (UPNI) said that further encouragement had been given to the IRA and its propaganda machine; Ian Paisley claimed "I'm instructing all my followers never to read the 'DAILY MIRROR' again."!!; while Belfast Orange Leader Tom Passmore said it was "Little short of treason."

The IRA leadership statement observed that "All the major political parties in the occupied Six Counties who are propped up by the British Army presence have panicked at this suggestion (of withdrawal). Their insecurity shows that their welfare and existence is really based on British tanks and British guns."

Gerry Fitt of the collaborationist SDLP hypocritically waved his finger at the Loyalists; he said the editorial was a reminder to them that "They would not always have Britain and the British Army to bolster them up."

He seemed to forget that he and the SDLP are similarly propped up. We do not expect Gerry Fitt to be staying for the 'New Ireland'.

The limitations of the MIRROR editorial were sharply criticised by the Irish Republican Army:

"The MIRROR has merely called for a change in the way Britain props up Loyalism; in effect it is calling for an 'Ulsterization' of the war."

The 'DAILY MIRROR' came out in fact for support of the Brits next best option to 'direct rule', that is '6 county' independence. The editorial proposed "Our final task should be to help Northern Ireland create a stable government to succeed us."

Thus the 'MIRROR', while safeguarding the lives of "our boys" wants also to safeguard British imperial interests in Ireland through the maintenance of partition and of sectarianism.

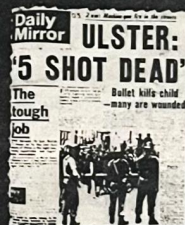
For Republicans it is clear that a federal Ireland of "six" plus "twenty-six", or an

DAILY Mirror

11p (Eire) Monday, August 14, 1978 * * * * * No. 23,180 8p

Mirror Comment

ULSTER: Bring home the troops



DAILY MIRROR:
Friday, August 15, 1969

independent "Ulster", far from providing a stepping stone to a United Socialist Ireland, would provide a permanent and rigid sectarian trap.

More than fifty-five years ago Michael Collins claimed that partition was a compromise, "A stepping stone to a United Ireland." In fact, it was a disaster which today we are still trying to dig ourselves out of. And today some people claim that Six-County independence should be backed as a compromise 'solution'.

OUR TARGET

Our target is a United Democratic Socialist Republic. Far from this aim being advanced, it would be grievously set back by permanent division of the nation as envisaged in an 'Independent Ulster'. To accept such a 'settlement' would be to impose a curse on future generations.

The IRA leadership statement reaffirmed that:—"The British have absolutely no right to be here and, as we force them to withdraw, they have absolutely no say in what institutions follow. The Irish Republican Army reject, and will oppose, a negotiated independent Six Counties as it is irreconcilable with Irish unity and the aim of our struggle — a 32 county Democratic Socialist Republic. It is a recipe for disaster."

The IRA statement concludes defiantly: "Meanwhile our continued attacks on British forces will increase the demand, now out into the open, for a British withdrawal."



WAR NEWS

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

AUGUST 8-9

BELFAST:

Six gun attacks against British forces throughout the city.

FRIDAY AUGUST 11

DERRY:

A mobile active service unit of the Derry Brigade IRA ambushed and killed a plain-clothes soldier of the Special Air Services (SAS). The SAS man was operating in co-ordination with several other undercover Brits in radio contact.

After the attack they were withdrawn from the area. (When the Brit administration was challenged as to the status of the soldier they denied he was a member of the SAS. However, had the soldier assassinated a Republican, Mason would have heralded him as a member of the "crack SAS regiment".)

BELFAST:

Belfast Brigade IRA launched two separate attacks against the British army base at Henry Taggart Hall.

Just after lunchtime a hand grenade was thrown at the main gates, and a sniper opened fire at the sentry. Later in the evening a bomb in a hijacked bus was parked outside the base. It exploded shortly afterwards, seriously damaging the morale of the 3rd Light Infantry.

IRA disclaims

IN a supplied statement the Belfast Brigade of the Irish Republican Army disclaimed responsibility for the recent bombing of the Loyalist Mountainview Tavern on the Shan-kill Road.

On the eve of internment Tuesday August 8th over enthusiastic youths caused damage to several small business premises in the Lower Falls area. In a supplied statement the IRA disclaimed any responsibility for damage caused.

REPUBLICAN RURAL GUERRILLAS



Dundalk Protest



Sinn Féin/RAC protest marching down Dublin Street, Dundalk on Saturday August 5th. (above)

The same protestors outside Penneys Shopping Centre, Dundalk (below).



'British are responsible for H-Blocks'

THE Dublin-based League for the Re-Unification of Ireland in a statement commenting on the conditions in the H Blocks said that some would show little sympathy or concern for the prisoners on the grounds that they had brought the conditions on themselves.

The statement continued: "The history of Ireland is studded with the deaths of men and women who have died in prisons resising their incarceration or the methods adapted to humiliate, subdue or smash their health. To mention just a few—Tomas Ashe and Terence Mc-Swiney. Whilst conditions and circumstances are vastly different their objective was the same—upholding the principles of freedom.

"The authority responsible for the existing situation in Long Kesh prison is the British Government and they cannot deny this by stating that the prisoners have brought this situation on themselves. To blandly allow the situation to develop into another 'Black Hole of Calcutta' in these days of International Courts, Tribunals and Peace Organisations is hard to comprehend. Ireland is affiliated to at least some of these Human Rights Bodies.

"Every life lost inside the prison and outside it as a result of the present situation will be the responsibility of the Government which may not be in existence in a few months. Even at the last moment, let us hope, if not for humanitarian reasons then for political ones they will end the horrors of Long Kesh."

BELFAST'S EVE OF INTERNMMENT

TEN days ago all over Belfast, and other parts of the occupied Six Counties, the Republican people marked the anniversary of internment in the traditional way.

Many protests took place including Tuesday's massive march up Belfast's Falls Road to a tremendous rally at Casement Park. (see photos).

Then at four in the morning the streets of Belfast erupted with the sound of bin lid bashing and whistle blowing (symbolic of the alarm system used during the internment swoops seven years ago).

Bonfires were set alight (see photo) and the gathered crowds chanted Republican resistance songs. For many areas the bonfire sites were the centre points of popular resistance, as youths stoned the hated RUC and Brits who skulked in the background.

In other Republican ghettos militant youths attacked the barracks in some areas. The most daring youths climbed the high wire surrounding the Brit fortresses and stoned those inside.

Street confrontations took

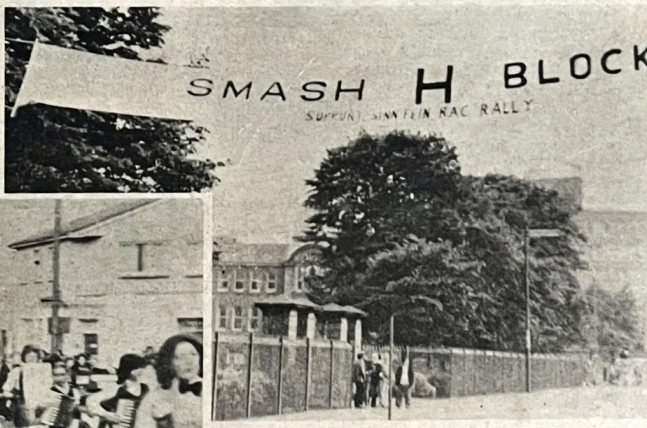
icades along the Falls.

Barricades also went up in the Lenadoon area where street fighting between the locals and the RUC/Brits went on for a few hours.

The RUC frustrated by the success of the street resistance and the alertness of the Lenadoon youths attacked and severely beat a young mother and her son. (see article page 5).

And as Gerry Fitt's constituents were having their heads bashed in by the RUC batons he was complaining about the "lack" of RUC protection for him and his "preserved" house on the Antrim Road.

As dawn broke out the street fighters returned wearily to their homes having successfully made the Brits and RUC more than unwelcome.



Our photographs show children at eve of internment bonfires, (see top photo); Sinn Fein banner strung across Falls Road with the RVH in the background (above); section of the march walking to Casement Park (left); and the thousands in Casement Park listening to Sinn Fein speakers. (below)



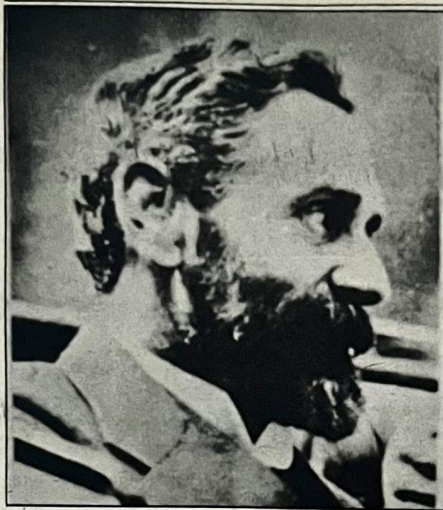
place in the Markets Area and locals erected barricades in the Cromac area, attacking the Brits when they moved in to clear them away.

The bin-lid bashers in the Ormeau district let the RUC know in no uncertain terms that they are totally unacceptable by raining down a shower of bricks and bottles on their heads, as they raced through the area.

A running battle in the side streets of the Short Strand forced the hated RUC back into their rat-holes on several occasions throughout the night.

At midnight on the eve of internment a crowd of several hundred Lower Falls youths launched a sustained attack on the Springfield Road Barracks, tearing down part of the outside fence. Two buses were commandeered and used as barr-





ROGER CASEMENT COMMEMORATION

THE WILD hushed beauty of Murlough Bay on August 6th was stirred by the sounds of the St. Kevin's Accordion Band, of Glenarm at the annual Roger Casement Commemoration, as they led a march of Republicans down from the hillside overlooking the bay to the empty open grave which still awaits the remains of the last 1916 martyr.

The harassment by the Brits stopping carloads of Casement commemorators on their way up the hillside was effectively undercut by Republicans, who simply parked their cars and walked on to the commemoration. This forced the Brits to abandon their checkpoint.

The Chief Marshall of the Commemoration held back the march until these resourceful demonstrators arrived, and nearly twice as many as last year marched briskly behind the band to where Roger Casement hoped to be re-buried. He would have had his death desire fulfilled had it not been for a repressive Free State regime who buried his body under nearly a ton of concrete in Glasnevin Cemetery when it was finally returned home from Pentonville Prison.

After wreaths were laid, and a period of silence observed, the speakers were introduced. Sean Keenan of Derry Sinn Fein gave the oration, the bulk of which we print below.

"On it the living shall build with a sterner purpose and bring it to a greater end"

Roger Casement's last wish was to lie here in this quiet spot. Before his execution he begged his cousin to "take my body back with you and let it lie in the old church-yard in Murlough Bay". That final request by Casement says more about his character than any long speech can. An Irishman, a lover of his people and his native culture, Casement scorned the false gods of empire for the quiet peace of an Irish patriot's grave.

Roger Casement was a man of international repute. His activities in unmasking the horrors of King Leopold's despotic rule in the Congo and the atrocities of Putumayo gained him enormous standing among humanitarians of all nations. He met with, and impressed, kings, prime ministers, presidents, and all who met him formed the same opinion: a noble, dignified man, compassionate and sensitive, filled with a hatred of injustice and burning with a deep love for Ireland, its people and its past, its language and its future.

Casement could have fallen prey to the corrupt society life after his knighthood. With his findings on the Congo and the Putumayo region fully justified by investigating commissions, his reputation as an outstanding champion of the oppressed would have given him entry into most branches of high society. But Casement despised the diplomats and politicians. He worked to free his black brothers in Africa and South America and felt more strongly for them than for the fawning civil servants and ministers who employed him.

His findings in the Congo taught him that oppression is a direct consequence of imperialist ambition and capitalist greed, and as an Irishman he soon realised that Ireland was as oppressed as the Belgian Congo, and that British domination was responsible.

Naturally, as the son of a Protestant family from County Antrim, Casement was not immediately affected by the degradation and the squalor common to the native Irish, but there were tenuous links with the rebellion in his family. His father had sympathised with the Fenians and his mother had been a Catholic. He himself once wrote,

"From my childhood I had been led to call myself an Irishman. The word had a certain significance I was proud of as a boy, which I certainly could not have easily defined".

DEEPLY INSPIRED

Roger Casement belonged to that doubly noble band of Protestant Irishmen who were able to recognise their Irishness despite their position of privilege and their aloofness from personal deprivation and slavery which characterised life for Catholic Irish people. Tone, Emmet, Mitchel, Pearse — all were deeply inspired by the discovery of their Irishness. In a strange way Ireland became real for them, not just an abstraction a dream, but a living reality, deserving as much love as one's God. There is a deeply religious element in Protestant Republicanism which has produced much of the nobility and dignity of Irish Republicanism.

Those who condemn Pearse and Casement and Emmet as dreamers have never understood the intensity of feeling these men had for Ireland. They loved their country deeply, its "terrible beauty", and dedicated their entire lives to ridding it of English influence. They had not become establishment hacks nor had they been conned by generations of oppression. They stood strong and firm and faced their enemy and fought her in all and every way. They exalted Ireland: its people, its culture. They sought to give pride back to its people, to burn the cloaks of slavery and raise the Irish people from an English-made mire.

Casement loved the Gaelic language. Even before his active membership of the Irish volunteers, whom he helped organise, he gave much aid, personal and material, to schools and colleges

attempting to renew the language, among them Pearse's St. Enda's. He contributed to a number of Irish publications. He spent much of his free time in Connemara and Donegal among the native-speaking population.

Although in his youth Casement's nationalism had been of the dreamy variety, full of romantic dreams of ancient warriors and the heroic endeavours of the Gael versus Gall, his interest in the language awoke in him an awareness of the plight of the people. He threw himself manfully into the Gaelic league, Sinn Fein, co-operative enterprises, and finally into the Irish volunteers, becoming a member of the Provisional Government Committee and in effect recruiting officer, speaking throughout the country to all and sundry.

Casement recognised that the Protestants of Ulster must be included in any new Ireland. As a Protestant himself he knew their minds and on many occasions sought to prove to them that a free Ireland in no way diminished them, but would allow them real scope as Irishmen to influence the rest of Ireland.

He saw sectarianism as divisive, economic exploitation posing as religious bigotry, all fostered by the British government. "We aimed at winning the Ulster Volunteers to the cause of a united Ireland. We aimed at uniting all Irishmen in a national and national band of cohesion based on mutual self-respect. Our hope was a natural one, and if left to ourselves, not hard to accomplish. If external influences of disintegration would but leave us alone, we were sure that nature itself must bring us together".

Just before the outbreak of

the First World War, Casement had gone to America on a fund-raising tour. He had just organised the Asgard arms expedition successfully, arms being landed at Howth for the Volunteers and this greatly impressed John Devoy of Clann na Gael, who subsequently had Casement sent to Germany to enlist what support he could for the proposed rising. Casement did all in his power to enlist German aid, and set about organising an Irish Brigade from Irishmen captured while fighting for Britain.

Like most Republicans, Casement believed in John Mitchel's old saying that any European war could be exploited for Ireland's sake and he did exert much pressure on the German authorities to back a general rising in Ireland. Eventually he was given a consignment of 20,000 rifles plus ammunition — a pitiable amount in reality — but Casement decided to accompany them back to Ireland. Due to a combination of tragic accidents, the Aud was scuttled, Casement was captured, the rising was put down. Yet Ireland had come alive, and strangely only Casement, of all the 1916 leaders, lived to see the upsurge in nationalist fervour. After his show trial, Casement was hung on August 3rd, 1916, and buried in Pentonville Prison.

VILIFICATION

Roger Casement's vilification after death would have come as no surprise to him. During his Congo days, he had been vilified by agents of the Belgian monarchy and during his stay in Germany the establishment press condemned him in print. But all who oppose British domination in Ireland are subject to the wrath of the British establishment, and vilification is still a favourite form of political opposition in Ireland. Archbishop O'Fiaich can readily testify to that after his attack on H-Block conditions. Casement's denigration was equally designed to discredit and destroy him.

Anyone who has the audacity to condemn any aspect of British rule in Ireland will sooner or later bear the brunt of condemnation from press, pulpit and platform.

The Brits are excellent in exposing and condemning injustice and repression throughout the world, not because of any deep-seated hatred of repression but because they still blindly maintain that British justice is superior to all others.

Bishop Donal Lamont was lionised for condemning injustice in Rhodesia; Archbishop O'Fiaich is crucified for exposing the horror situation in Long Kesh. Just as Casement finally exposed the atrocities and tortures inflicted on the suffering Congo natives, who will now have the courage and decency to expose the tortures and inhumanities of H-Block?

Casement died because the British government accused him of treason; an Irishman who fought for his country, put on trial as a common criminal and condemned by the very people who oppressed his country, just as today the young men and women who lie naked in the cell-blocks are called criminals by the warlords who still retain their domination over our land. Our Irish felons are not criminals, nor was Roger Casement.

England controls us, and while she does, the struggle must continue, the age-old struggle of Tone and Emmet, Mitchel and Lalor, Davitt and Connolly, Pearse and Casement, and those who languish in prison cells today, and those who sleep in Republican graves have maintained that struggle, and will maintain it by their sufferings and memory, until finally British occupation is forced from our land.

Casement himself spoke of this British hypocrisy in his speech from the dock: "Are we to be indicted as criminals, shot as murderers, imprisoned as convicts because our offence is that we love our country more than

(Continued on page 5)

BRUTALITY CONTINUES

BELOW we print two more reports of the thuggish activities of our 'protectors', the Brits/RUC. These are just two examples of the many acts of intimidation carried out last week against the nationalist people of Belfast to deter them from commemorating the 7th Anniversary of Internment.

Another example occurred on Wednesday, 9th August, when Mark Tully (Aged 11 years), was on his way to local shops. A berserk Brit fired a plastic bullet hitting him directly in the face. Mark, who lives in Beechmount Pass, was taken to the Children's Hospital, where he had to have 24 stitches inserted in his wounds.

Such typical acts of British brutality against our children and youth can only ensure that the people's revolutionary fires of hatred are kept burning. Time and time again the Brits spell out for us why we should drive them forcibly from these shores, and destroy their orange monster, the RUC.

The only message they understand is the bomb and the bullet which is delivered daily by the IRA at the head of the marching risen people.

Bestial attack on Anderstown youth

THE people of Andersonstown, hardened by almost ten years of Brit military rule, were sickened by the recent attack on young Damien Lennon, brother of Volunteer Danny Lennon who along with the Maguire children was murdered by British troops. Eighteen-year-old Damien is at present in the Royal Victoria Hospital following his ordeal at the hands of the Brits and the RUC.

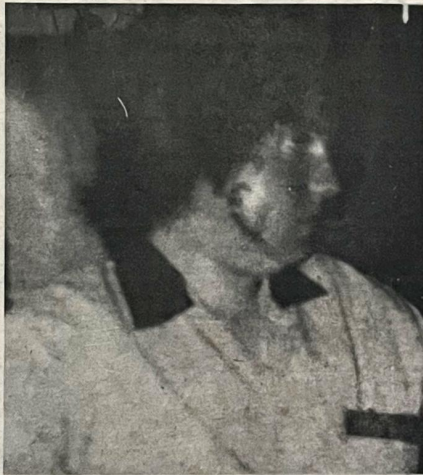
On Thursday last Damien was passing through Ramoon, in the upper Andersonstown area, a gang of youngsters had previously been stoning Brit patrols some two hundred yards away on the Glen Road. As he neared Clonelly Gardens two Brit Land Rovers turned the corner and screamed to a halt beside him, a coloured soldier shouted Damien to stop and approached him. Without warning the Brit lifted his Baton Gun and fired a plastic bullet into young Lennon's face. He fell to the ground, his jaw shattered and most of his teeth knocked out. As he lay writhing in agony he was kicked by the Brits.

A local woman, who witnessed the attack from her window, phoned for an ambulance which arrived within fifteen minutes. A confrontation took place between the ambulance crew and the Brits who refused the crew permission to remove Damien to hospital. He was forcefully taken from the stretcher and bundled into the back of a jeep which had arrived and he was then taken to Fort Monagh. While under interrogation Damien was given a brutal beating by members of the regiment stationed there. From the fort he was removed to Andersonstown Barracks and handed over to the RUC.

Members of the Lennon family arrived at the Barracks and asked to see Damien. They were told by the RUC man in charge that they had no knowledge of the boy and asked the family to leave. On the advice of a solicitor the family returned and told the RUC that they wished to report Damien as a 'missing person'. This had an immediate effect on the RUC who then admitted that he had been at the Barracks but claimed that he had been removed to Musgrave Street RUC Station.

On approaching the sergeant at Musgrave Barracks

DAMIEN LENNON



This photograph of Damien (with shattered jaw) was taken by a friend who slipped the heavy military presence inside the Royal Victoria Hospital.

the family were notified that he had been rushed to the RVH.

It later transpired that the RUC at Musgrave Street, on seeing the dreadful condition Damien was in, refused to accept him and called an ambulance.... the desk sergeant later tried to absolve his own men by blaming the dreadful affair on the RUC at Andersonstown.

At the moment Damien Lennon is lying in the RVH with his shattered jaw strapped up, he was held for over eight hours by the Brits/RUC before they took him to receive medical treatment. The doctors who examined him were shocked, not only at the callousness of the Brits/

RUC in holding the stricken boy for eight hours, but at the numerous other bruises and abrasions on his body due to the kicking he received while in Fort Monagh.

The pain which Damien Lennon suffered during his ordeal must have been incredible, his mother learned that he had blacked out while in Andersonstown Barracks. This latest incident, the most recent of many cases of brutality involving RUC personnel from Andersonstown Barracks, will strengthen the resolve of the people to resist any attempt to introduce the Orange militia into the Republican areas.

RUC attack Lenadoon people

At half past two on 9th August members of the hated RUC came racing into Glenveagh Drive, Lenadoon. In two landrovers they tried to attack a 16-year-old youth who ran off into a house.

The RUC chased into the house after him and attacked the woman of the house who is just out of hospital after an operation. A neighbour, Mr. Danny Morgan, ran to help her and was set upon by five RUC thugs and beaten viciously to the ground.

Mr. Morgan's wife also ran to the house and was trailed along the ground by these thugs. Her blouse and skirt were torn from her and she was left in her underwear!

Mr. Morgan's 14-year-old son was beaten around the head with rifle butts and was taken to the city hospital. The RUC then lifted Mr. and Mrs. Morgan and charged them. Such is British/Orange justice!

During this attack by these RUC thugs a 14-year-old girl had tufts of hair pulled from her head and a 15-year-old boy was beaten so badly with rifle butts that he suffered a severe bout of vomiting. Both children were taken to the

city hospital. (Both have since been released after treatment!)

The RUC fired four live rounds into the air in a vain attempt to intimidate the people.

After their rampage the RUC thugs toured the area with loudspeakers calling for the people to send out the men with the guns to fight with them and also calling the people "yellow bastards".

CASEMENT

bellion with the last drop of my blood".

As Terence MacSwiney has said, "In the indomitable soul lies the assurance of our ultimate victory", and Roger Casement was a true embodiment of the indomitable soul. Never cowed nor bought, always ready to stake his all for Irish freedom, Casement's life is an example to us all.

The day before his execution, Casement wrote in his last letter, "Irishmen, live unselfishly and die bravely for Ireland, as the men of 1916 have done, and no power of man nor empire of gold can withhold freedom. Ireland alone went forth to assail evil, as David, Goliath, unarmed, save with a pebble; and she has slain, I pray to God, the power and boast and pride of an empire. That is the achievement of the boys of 1916 and on it the living shall build with a sterner purpose and bring it to a greater end".

What greater epitaph can Roger Casement need; and what greater deed can we do than pursue his final call with firmness, strength and dedication?

(Continued from page 4)

we value our lives? Self-government is our right, a thing born in us at birth; a thing no more to be doled out to us or withheld from us by another people than the right to life itself.... Ireland that has wronged no land, that has sought no dominion over others— Ireland is treated today among the nations of the world as if she was a convicted criminal, If it be treason to fight against such an unnatural fate as this, then I am proud to be a rebel, and shall cling to my re-

Support the Prisoners



THIS MARCH IS TO COMMEMORATE THE
10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST
CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH OVER THE SAME
ROUTE

We demand:



➡ **POLITICAL STATUS FOR POW'S**

(INCLUDING REPATRIATION OF THOSE IN ENGLISH GAOLS)

➡ **STOP BRIT/ RUC TORTURE**

➡ **BRITS OUT**

Organised by the Tyrone RAC
Supported by the Republican Movement

See local press for details of buses





MASS MARCH

from

COALISLAND

to

DUNGANNON

3.00p.m. SUNDAY 27th AUGUST

Speakers from RAC, Sinn Fein and IRSP

Support the Black and White

POST BAG

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

M.P.'s DENIED VISITS

A Chars,
A few weeks ago British left-wing Labour M.P.'s asked some questions in the House of Commons about the situation in the H-Blocks Long Kesh. Predictably they were given the usual pat answers reserved for such occasions, i.e. most prisoners are conforming and those on protest are bringing any hardships they are experiencing on themselves. A few, a very few of those M.P.'s were not put off by these excuses for institutional depravity and requested that a deputation of M.P.'s be given the necessary co-operation to facilitate a visit of the prison and to thereby determine the truth of the situation. Don Concannon stated in plain unequivocal terms that in future no M.P.'s would be allowed to tour the prison as this would only lead to the feeling among the prisoners that they were in some way succeeding in their campaign.

A couple of days ago while reading a book concerned with the Irish 'problem' as it existed some 100 years ago, I came across an interesting piece dealing with the treatment of Irish political prisoners by the British.

At that time many hundreds of Fenian Prisoners were being held in British prisons and many were the horrific stories of inhuman treatment and torture. In 1869 the British Home Secretary, Bruce, was questioned in the House of Commons about the treatment of Fenian prisoners: 'He was asked by several M.P.'s to visit the prisoners "in order to be able to verify the falseness of these rumours".

Apparently "Mr. Bruce refused this permission on the grounds that the prison governors were afraid that the prisoners would be too excited by visits of this kind".

In the end, the tragic story of brutality, torture and sadism used on Irish political prisoners came to light and suddenly people discovered what it was the British had so desperately tried to hide. Suffice to say that in the course of 2 years of treatment very similar in nature — solitary confinement, degrading treatment, beatings, poor food — to that endured by Republican POW's in the H-Blocks today, more than 20 Fenian prisoners died or went insane.

Must we now wait until such a tally of dead and insane is reached before, not only the Irish people, but even those of good conscience in Britain and elsewhere sit up and demand the truth about conditions in the H-Block. Unfortunately Irish history all too often has a habit of repeating itself.

— R.M.
Long Kesh.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

A Chars,

Following Archbishop O'Fiaich's recent attack on conditions in the H-Blocks which he described as "inhuman and degrading", the media, the British government and some politicians, have become bogged down in an argument, not over the conditions themselves or the rights and wrongs of the men's demands for political status, but rather over who is responsible for the conditions, the men or the Brits?

The British and their supporters, such as Napier of the Alliance Party have ignored the conditions and spent their time issuing statements to the effect that the men in the H-Blocks have brought these conditions upon themselves by refusing to obey prison rules.

While no-one will deny that Republican POW's in the H-Blocks have refused to accept criminal status and thus wear prison uniform or do prison work, the 'punishments' which they have received as a consequence of this action are the responsibility of the prison administration and the Brits.

Because Republican POW's refused to accept criminal status they were locked up in solitary confinement totally isolated from their friends on the inside and relatives and family on the outside. They were kept naked, without 'any mental stimulation' and were refused physical exercise.

The denial of these basic human rights is part of a deliberate campaign of sensory deprivation designed to break the spirit of these men. In the end our comrades in the block in the sad and terrible tradition of Irish political prisoners were forced to undertake a form of protest action which was the only method left open to them bar a hunger-strike. Since then the conditions have deteriorated to the present terrifying low.

However, when all is said and done, people should hold no illusions as to who is responsible for the present conditions. It is the Brits who have denied these men access to friends and families, refused them simple things such as books and newspapers and who are deliberately and systematically keeping them locked up constantly in conditions detrimental to their physical and mental health.

In the words of the Archbishop: "the fact that a man refuses to wear prison uniform or to do prison work should not entail the loss of physical exercise, association with his fellow prisoners, or contact with the outside world. These are basic human needs for physical and mental health: no privileges to be granted or withheld as rewards or punishments. To de-

prive anyone of them over a long period — irrespective of what led to the deprivation in the first place — is surely a rare injustice and cannot be justified in any circumstances".

— Is mise,
An fear beag,
Cage 12, Long Kesh.

"WORSE THAN THEM"

A Chars,

About 20 years ago I read a book entitled "Scars are my passport". It was written by an Englishman who spent 26 years in a penal colony on French Guyana before escaping to the U.S.A.

When the French government was thinking of making this place a penal colony Napoleon III was asked who they would get to go to this swamp, infested with deadly snakes and other wild animals. Napoleon III answered in three words "worse than they", meaning that the guards need be more criminal than the prisoners — and so they were, the only women who would go to marry them were either prostitutes, or women who

were to be guillotined for serious crimes were given the option of marriage to the guards. This book is well worth reading if it is still in print.

Does not this story of the guards put one in mind of H-Block and the depraved warders who love beating helpless, weak prisoners — the cowardly rascals!

— Is mise,
S. Mac an Best.

QUESTIONING OUR POLITICIANS

Dear Sir,

Like many another I should dearly love to ask some questions of our politicians (of the anti-unionist variety — the others constantly make themselves clear, and especially their prejudices, as witness the recent ill-mannered comments on Archbishop O'Fiaich's statement).

Firstly, I should ask the SDLP — who will be looking for our votes in a few months — just what sort of future they envisage for the six counties: whether they still claim power-sharing can take place? Whether or not that means that they would join in a 'new Stormont'? Also what changes, if any, they would demand, and whether they expect the Nationalist people to approve of their helping to run any re-vamped British statelet here?

Secondly, I should ask the 'Republican Clubs' what they mean by a 'Ball of Rights' and if they think it would work a re-constituted Stormont? Also what guarantees they would require, and again, are they satisfied to maintain British Rule here?

Finally, I should ask Sinn Féin, who repudiate British rule and Loyalist/SDLP rule, how they think their Federal system would work? And how they could, for example, put the other three counties of Ulster together with the 'six', in order to sort out the most difficult of the provinces?

— Yours truly,
M. Siocchan,
Belfast.

We want to break the English Connection over here.

I have a rather mundane request, is it possible that one of your readers in the Boyle area of Co. Roscommon might be willing to help me trace my family? It is almost impossible for Irish-Americans to get local pastors to search their records for whatever reasons. I'm sure it takes a lot of time from parish duties. Dublin Castle is so busy that most requests take over a year. I would appreciate any help you might be able to give me.

— Sincerely yours,
Michael W. McMullen,
281 Friendship Avenue, S.E.,
Salem, Oregon 97302,
U.S.A.

THAT VIDEO SCREEN

Dear Editor,

Since my last comments in your journal I have had a meeting with responsible members of a certain club in Andytown. They have assured me that the video screen which I claimed was an extravagance was not put there for international soccer games alone but to facilitate the large number of members and friends who are unemployed in the area and who follow many other sports during the daytime.

This screen would not (I was assured) be used to influence anyone by the lies put across by the BBC and other networks whose channels are completely biased on reports of Irish affairs and who show Mr. Mason to have angelic qualities without adding that they are satanic.

I assure my fellow members will understand that the best of human judgement can make an error even without prejudice.

— A Chars,
Liam Clarke,
Andersonstown.

H6 WORSENING

A Chars,

Eight weeks ago remand Republican prisoners in H6 began a protest of non-cooperation with the screw administration. Our protest is in solidarity with our comrades on the blanket and part of the ongoing campaign by remand republicans to win recognition as political prisoners.

Since the beginning of the protest we have been denied food parcels which leaves us completely dependent on prison food. This is so bad that most days it is inedible. We have also been denied the use of the prison 'Tuck' shop. This means we have no radio as we cannot buy batteries and we are not allowed any newspapers.

If we are lucky we get one hour exercise per day. For 23 hours we are locked up two to a cell 8' x 8' every day. How the prison authorities can conclude that this is sufficient exercise for a human being is beyond me.

The screws took all our private possessions out of our cells, items such as personal letters which had already been censored, photographs and even depictions which they have no legal right to touch. Then we were charged with dirtying our cells with the contents of parcels.

Even though we have not had parcels for the last seven weeks we were brought before the Governor and sentenced to a further loss of parcels, papers, etc. for a further 3 weeks. Conditions are deteriorating daily and unless the Northern Ireland Office gets sense the conditions in this block will be as bad as H-Blocks 3, 4 and 5 where the blanket men are housed.

— Is mise leas,
Art O Muiragain,
H6-Block,
Long Kesh.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you on behalf of our Cumann to state that we give our support to the Republicans in Westport, Co. Mayo, who made a patient stand for freedom and justice for the prisoners in H-Block, Armagh, etc. by stopping street slogans being erased. Those people whom they stood up against just want to make "money" and forget about our young man and women in prison. We also have the same type of people here in Shannon — "Moneygrabbers". They don't care about people lying rotting away day after day in that infamous

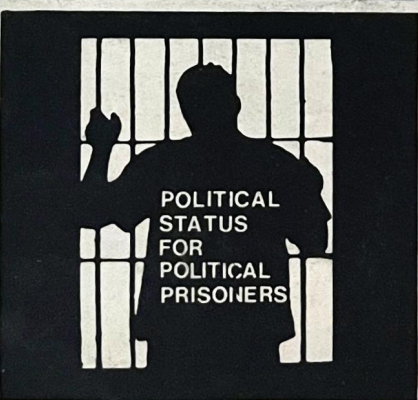
SLOGANS

Long Kesh. They just want to forget but we will never forget.

These certain people in Mayo which the 'Republicans' stood up against also have the full backing of the Garda who we all know are working alongside with their notorious friends the RUC. We will always re-

member our martyred comrade Pádraig Stagg and what they did to his body which was "skyscraper" in collaboration with the British government. We say that English tourists are very welcome to come to our beautiful land for their holidays, but we also say to the British Government — "Brits Out, Peace In" and we will keep writing this everywhere until they leave our country once and for all, North and South.

— P.R.O., Terence McSweeney,
Sinn Féin Cumann,
Shannon, Co. Clare.



POLITICAL
STATUS
FOR
POLITICAL
PRISONERS

ANTI-REPRESSION MEETING IN PARIS

AT a three-day meeting in Paris on the 4th, 5th and 6th of August, attended by Liberation Movements from throughout Europe, it was agreed to launch an international campaign against repression.

The meeting was organised by the French revolutionary group the International Communist Organisation (O.C.I.). Delegates came from the Basque country, Catalonia and Ireland.

Others attending included: (Irish Delegation) John Crilly, Chairman of Dundalk/Drogheda Labour Party Constituency, and also an executive member of TUCAR; members of the League for a Workers Republic (Irish Section); and several members of the British Labour Committee (who are trying to raise the question of British troops in Ireland inside the British Labour Movement).

Also present were individuals who have been living in exile from their own countries (Czechoslovakia, Poland and East Germany), and trade union activists from Italy and West Germany.

The meeting was opened by a delegate from the Basque nation. He outlined the political situation in his country and the impact of Franco's death. The situation in the Basque land was somewhat similar to Ireland during the 1912-1923 period.

The delegate informed the gathering that some people were talking about accepting a limited form of independence (equivalent to Home Rule in Ireland). He stated in unambiguous terms that his party and ETA (the Armed Liberation Movement) would continue the fight until they had complete independence.

There then followed many delegates explaining their own struggles against

repressive regimes.

One delegate from Czechoslovakia, Yan Kavan, a leading member of the socialist opposition in Czechoslovakia, drew many comparisons between his country's struggle for independence and that of Ireland. He pointed out that repressive legislation was used to hold prisoners in gaol for years and was similar to that in the occupied Six Counties. Also similar was the criminalisation of political prisoners.

He pointed out that 1978 marked the tenth anniversary of the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Russia and also the tenth anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement in the occupied Six Counties. He demanded a British withdrawal from Ireland and a Russian withdrawal from his country.

SINN FEIN

The Sinn Fein speaker outlined the origins of the partition of Ireland, and went on to relate the events over the last ten years; beginning with the mass mobilisation of the people for reforms, the reaction of the state forces, and the development of the struggle into one for national independence and socialism.

He highlighted the extent of repression by listing the major Brit military offences against the Republican people, starting with the Falls Curfew in 1970,

internment 1971, Bloody Sunday 1972, Operation Motorman 1972, New Lodge Road Massacre 1973, the use of Loyalist gangs, who murdered almost six hundred Catholics between 1972-76, then the criminalisation which has resulted in 380 Republican prisoners being held naked in dehumanising conditions. Concluding his address the Sinn Fein speaker said "the struggle in Ireland for freedom will continue until we force British Imperialism to withdraw, totally. This is the only way forward.

Partition has effectively divided the working class along sectarian lines. It is only within a post-British withdrawal situation that the working class and small farmers can have any chance of forging ahead along the road to a Socialist Republic.

"We in Sinn Fein welcome this proposed International Campaign because it will help break down the wall of silence on Ireland. We also hope that this campaign will play a part in helping the British working class understand what their government is doing in my country in their name".

The Sinn Fein speaker was warmly applauded by the delegates. Carol Coulter, a member of the League for a Workers Republic, gave an impressive speech on the national question in Europe.



DEMANDS

From the delegates present a committee was set up which presented a document to the general meeting.

In respect of Ireland the demands were: the return of political status to Republican prisoners; a trade union based inquiry into Brian Maguire's murder in Castlereagh; an end to the use of torture; and the release of Ard Comhairle member Gerry Adams.

Other demands were: the release of all political prisoners in Spain and the Basque country. The right of Trade Unions to operate independently of the state in Soviet Union dominated countries; and the release of named political prisoners in gaols throughout Europe.

A demand calling for the unconditional withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and Russian troops from Czechoslovakia was signed by all the delegates.

CAMPAIGN PLANNED

Closing the meeting Pierre Lombert (Chairperson), suggested that another meeting "more representative than this one", meet in January 1979 to discuss the national question in Europe.

He explained that the campaign to highlight repression in Ireland and East Europe would get under way during September and that by the time it was ended many more millions of people would know the truth about Britain's involvement in Ireland.

England COLCHESTER TROOPS OUT SUPPORTERS PICKET TATTOO

A WEEK of activity was organised at the beginning of August by Colchester Troops Out supporters to oppose the Colchester Military Tattoo - a week-long sickening glorification of the role of the Brit Army.

Throughout the week a vigorous campaign was carried out replacing Tattoo adverts with Troops Out posters and on Wednesday (2 August) a large number of leaflets were given out to the crowd watching an army marchpast. For a garrison town this met with good response, gaining front page coverage in the local press and built for a picket on Saturday, 5 August where more than 40 people - including UTOB members from London and local Anti-Nazi League supporters - staged a protest.

One section of the picket organised a blanket protest in front of the main gates of the castle where the Tattoo was to be held and a crowd gathered to listen to the speeches given about conditions in H-Block and the real role of the Brit Army in Ireland.

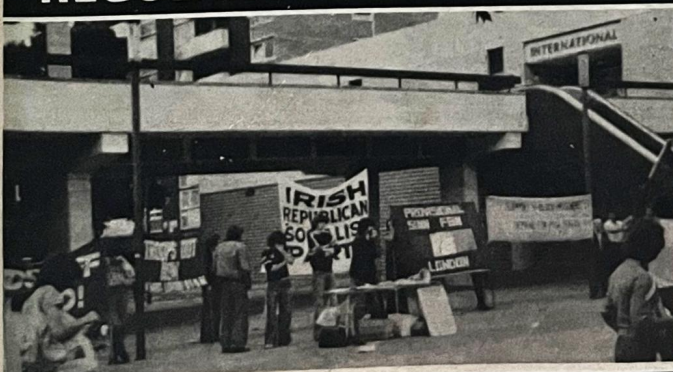
Meanwhile, other pickets leafleted a crowd waiting for the military parade outside the Town Hall and as the army arrived they were met with the sound of slogans including "Free All Irish Political Prisoners", "End British Torture" and "Troops Out of Ireland Now".

Both these actions produced a good response and a number of soldiers took leaflets and bought pamphlets including the new UTOB publication "British Soldiers Speak Out on Ireland".

Finally, as the crowd went into the Castle to watch the Tattoo itself, speeches were made by the gate which led to discussions with various soldiers, a group of whom asked if they could attend a Troops Out public meeting a few days later where an ex-soldier was to be speaking on the role of the army.



REGULAR KILBURN STREET MEETING



Our picture shows the regular street meeting held in Kilburn, London, by the North West London UTOB with regular pickets from Sinn Fein, IRSP and RCG, and other Socialist groups. The magnificent response from the local community and Irish population has been the mainstay of these activists who sell anti-imperialist literature to counter the silence and lies of the British Press.

Malaya

PART ONE

Malaya

The main elements of Brit counter - insurgency

I SHALL be talking about the role of the British Army in Malaya from 1948 to 1960. Since it is not meaningful to speak of the role of the army in isolation from the whole counter-insurgency strategy of the British, what I intend to do is to fairly quickly go through the main elements of British counter-insurgency strategy as applied in Malaya and then go into more detail about the role of the British army. Then I shall give an assessment of why the strategy worked, or, conversely, why the insurgency failed.

There will be quite a few elements of this strategy which many of you will find familiar, because you might have seen it in the writings of Kitson and Thompson, and the army manual on counter-revolutionary warfare, although there will be elements of the counter-insurgency strategy which were specific to Malaya which was at the time a colonial country and a mainly agricultural country.

The immediate postwar years from 1945-48 in Malaya saw the emergence of a huge anti-colonial movement which transcended the racial lines (there are three main races in Malaya) and which, from the political point of view, ranged from communists to liberals. The quickly deteriorating standards of living of the people also brought about a huge trade union movement which was left-wing in orientation.

These two elements combined to make the going very difficult for the British. So they had either the option of pulling out from aya or sticking it out. And because the Malayan rubber and tin was so vital for British economic recovery, the British decided to stay on.

But instead of allowing the political movement and the labour movement to develop on a legal front, they decided to clamp down. This provoked the emergency, which lasted for 12 years and was a struggle between on the one hand the British forces and local puppet troops and police, and on the other the people and the insurgent army.

POLITICAL REPRESSION

The first element of the counter-insurgency strategy was quite simple: straightforward political repression. They banned all the anti-colonial political parties and trade unions. They detained large numbers of people: at least 35,000 people from a population of 5 million were detained at one time or another. They banished a lot of 'suspects': at least 30,000 of them. Many Chinese were sent back to China, which up to the end of 1949 was under Kuomintang rule, so many of those who were deported faced summary execution when they landed on the shores of China.

The British abolished all civil liberties and introduced highly repressive legislation. Of course there was also the physical liquidation of scores of anti-colonial militants for various political crimes like consorting with terrorists and possession of firearms.

REMOVING THE PEOPLE

The second element of the counter-insurgency strategy was to separate the guerrillas from the people. The programme included things like control over movement of people by curfews and by the registration of every person in the country over 12 years of age.

Other parts of the programme included the resettlement of squatters who lived on the jungle fringes, who were in fact giving the main support to the guerrillas. The numbers involved in this forcible resettlement was half a million people. There was also the regroupment of workers in the estates and in the mines to less remote areas where the British and the local troops could contain them. The

MALAYA TODAY IS A COUNTRY WHERE THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS SUFFER CHRONIC POVERTY AND MALNUTRITION. DRACONIAN LAWS PREVENT ANY FORM OF PROTEST. MEANWHILE A SMALL MINORITY GROW RICH, AND A FEW FOREIGN COMPANIES — MAINLY BRITISH — CONTROL SOME 70% OF THE ECONOMY, ROBBING MALAYA OF HER WEALTH.

IT WAS BRITAIN THAT PLAYED THE KEY ROLE IN CREATING THIS NEW MALAYA. IN A VICIOUS TWELVE-YEAR WAR, BRITAIN CRUSHED THE MALAYAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT THAT WAS FIGHTING FOR GENUINE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.

HERE A MEMBER OF THE MALAYSIAN STUDENTS' ORGANISATION IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND, FUEMSSO, DESCRIBES THE BRITISH COUNTER-INSURGENCY STRATEGY IN MALAYA. THERE ARE MANY SIMILARITIES WITH THE BRIT STRATEGY IN IRELAND TODAY, DESPITE THE DIFFERING CONDITIONS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE FUEMSSO REPRESENTATIVE WAS SPEAKING AT THE UNITED TROUPOUS OUT MOVEMENT CONFERENCE ON THE BRITISH ARMY ON JUNE 10TH IN LONDON.

BRITAIN'S WAR AGAINST THE MALAYAN PEOPLE

numbers involved were in the region of 600,000.

Food control was introduced to deprive the guerrillas of basic necessities of life, because food cannot be grown in the jungle as the visible patch from the air would bring in British bombings and chemical defoliants, which were used in Malaya for the first time.

So the aim of all these campaigns to separate the guerrillas from the people was really to deprive the guerrillas of their sources of food, medicine, recruits, intelligence and shelter.

INTELLIGENCE

The third element was the use of the police, and more especially police intelligence, Brigadier Clutterbuck, another self-styled counter-insurgency theorist, had this to say. He called the British-trained police "the decisive element in dealing with the insurgency, for they provided the authorities with both security and intelligence". By 'security' is meant

the safeguarding of vital lines of communication and supply, the safeguarding of power stations, estates and mines and so on, so that with this secured the military can then take the offensive against the guerrillas.

The intelligence is also very important. Virtually all the counter-insurgency theorists consider the role of intelligence to be really central to the struggle. Clutterbuck said that the conflict was essentially a 'Special Branch war'. General Sir Walter Walker who was Director of Operations in the Borneo conflict in Indonesia in 1963-6 said "I am a great believer and a very strong supporter of the Special Branch". The military of course depended almost entirely on the Special Branch for intelligence.

PSYOPS

The fourth element of the counter-insurgency strategy was psychological operations or 'psyops' — also called the 'battle for hearts and minds'. It was first directed against the people. They used a very imaginative array of media from boys' aircraft to mobile theatrical groups. One of their main targets was primary school students, whose minds apparently were still impressionable. The second target of psyops was the guerrillas — they aimed to weaken their morale, to make them surrender, and tempted them with all sorts of financial inducements to betray.

The third target of psyops was in fact the British and international audience. What the British did, as they themselves say, was to play down the struggle so that this would reduce the amount of support that British and international solidarity groups would give to the struggle.

POLITICAL MANOEUVRES

The fifth element of counter-insurgency strategy was political machinations and manipulations. They extended the franchise and citizenship to most of the two immigrant races, the Chinese and the Indians, thereby giving them some sense of security in the country and some reason to support — or at least not to oppose — the government. They also granted self-government and ultimately nominal independence. In fact they created neo-colonialism as in other parts of the world.

This granting of self-government, of local elections for the first time and of independence undoubtedly created illusions in the minds of the people, and in fact undermined the whole basis of the anticolonial struggle, which was meant to be a fight for independence. For if the people began to see that independence would be given to the country on a platter, then why should we fight for it?

And there was of course the gradual transfer of political and administrative power to local elites and bureaucrats and this guaranteed the British the continued support of these sectors of the population.

UNITED COMMAND

The sixth element was the unified civil and military command. Because the insurgency is not a purely military struggle, it is a people's war, the political factors are very important. The British authorities wanted to make sure that both arms of the government, civil and military, were well co-ordinated.

(NEXT WEEK — PART II — THE ROLE OF THE BRITISH ARMY AND WHY THE INSURGENCY FAILED)

MURAL ERECTED IN DERRY

Our photo shows a group of Republicans erecting Derry's most extensively travelled mural as a permanent fixture above the Creggan Shops in Central Drive.

The Republican Movement cleaned off some of the graffiti and replaced it with the mural.

This mural travelled through Europe with friends and relatives of Derry's PoWs and depicts the harsh realities of life under Brit rule. "One picture is worth 1,000 words" and this pictorial statement stands defiantly over the Creggan shops as an expression of the resistance of a risen people, determined to finally achieve what has been started by the sufferings, actions and sacrific-



ices of the brave and most dedicated people of this generation of Irishmen and Irish women, and continued by the community which supports them so steadfastly.

ANTI NUCLEAR POWER SHOW

CARNSORE POINT, WEXFORD, IRELAND.

18-20 AUGUST 1978.



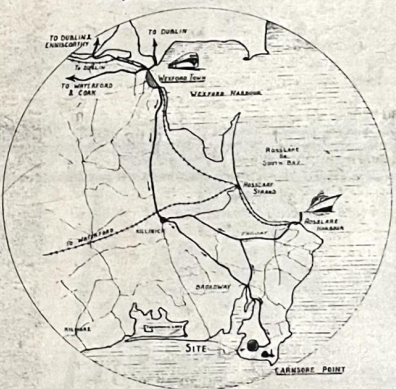
For further information contact:
168 Rathgar Road, Dublin 6/Rhoda McManus, 48 Bull Ring, Wexford.
tel. 053 23764

IRELAND'S first Anti-Nuclear Power Show is happening from 18th-20th of August at Carnsore Point, Co. Wexford. Carnsore is the proposed site for the first of four nuclear reactors planned for this country, and we hope this festival will see the birth of a mass movement to oppose Nuclear Power in Ireland.

Most of Ireland's foremost, traditional and rock musicians have offered to play at the event. Camping, food, music and entertainment will be provided for those who want to come along and learn more about nuclear power and the alternatives.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- Friday 18th. 6.45. pm: Brief explanation of aims of Anti Nuclear Power Show.
7.00pm onwards: Music.
- Saturday 19th. 10.00 am-6.00pm. Exhibitions of Alternative Energy. Workshops on various aspects of Nuclear Power, Theatre, children's theatre and lots more!
- Sunday 20th. 7.00pm onwards: Music
10.00 am: Rise and Shine Music.
12.00 noon, The Anti Nuclear Power Show Collective open a mass meeting to discuss the formation of a mass movement to stop the building of a nuclear power plant in Ireland.
5.00pm onwards: Music



GLASGOW MARCH

ON Saturday August 19th a march in support of Irish political prisoners will take place in Glasgow. The march has been called by the Glasgow-Irish committee and is being supported by the Irish Defence League. Speakers from prisoners organisations have been invited for a rally after the march.

There is always a danger in mounting an Irish march in Glasgow. Orange sectarianism is strong in the city.

However, militants should not be intimidated by the sectarian thugs. The best answer to them is to have the largest possible numbers out on the streets demanding PoW status for Republican prisoners and Britain out of Ireland.

Unusual media honesty!

THE "NORTHERN STANDARD" IS A COUNTY MONAGHAN NEWSPAPER WITH A CIRCULATION OF 20,000.

IN ITS EDITORIAL COMMENT, ON FRIDAY 4 AUGUST THE PAPER SUPPORTED ARCHBISHOP O'FIAICH FOR HIS ATTACK ON THE BRITS' BARBARIC TREATMENT OF REPUBLICAN PRISONERS.

THE EDITORIAL ENTITLED "OUR SHAME" CRITICISED OTHER NEWSPAPERS FOR THEIR LACK OF REPORTING ON THE PRISONERS' PROTEST.

IT ALSO CRITICISED THE "MUTE OF MALICE" BY POLITICIANS IN THE SOUTH WHO HAD DISREGARDED THE BRUTALITIES OF THE "BRITISH GAULEITER" IN THE NORTH.

BELOW WE PRINT EXTRACTS FROM THE EDITORIAL WHOSE HONESTY IS SO UNUSUAL:

OUR SHAME!

Not only will Archbishop O'Fiaich's verdict on the bestial British horrors being perpetrated in H-Block Long Kesh put the world in perspective about the depths of degradation to which the run-down British Imperial machine is capable before its final disintegration, but it will be the criterion of judgement of the Irish patriots of the Six Counties. That judgement can be no less than condemnatory.

..... H-Block had been widely publicised, despite the reticence of the National media and their snide propaganda in support of its perpetrators offering conscience-smelloratives to enable the professingly Christian Irish people to look the other way and avoid the issue. The politicians were enabled by the support of the psychopathic media to remain "mute of malice" and largely ignore a thorny christian duty that might involve them more deeply in a situation that might disturb their well-feathered nests. It allowed the present Government to delude the Electorate with a call for British withdrawal without seriously examining the sincerity of that call or pressing for the implementation of the mandate given by the Irish people on the strength of it

"The Archbishop in his honest and forthright statement was forced to support the men's claim for political status based on the methods used to incarcerate them so as to maintain Mason's momentum of convictions to back up his facade of coping with the situation. He avoided the political by reminding the British Government that their Home Affairs Minister had made a declaration of war that made the Resc withdrawal of political status no more than a formula of words without any logical basis. Whether the men seeking political status are criminals or not, they are jailed for political "crimes". The instigators of the conditions that led to these "crimes" calling them "criminals" is very much a case of "the pot calling the pan" The establishment "criminals" and their accessories merely happen to have longer to await their judgement.

The reception for the Archbishop's statement on this side of the Border has been somewhat in the realm of black comedy. The national media delved in contaminated Canadian fish cans and various other bric-a-brac for their lead stories but he hadn't yet got. The best that could be said of their attitude was that they at least had the grace to be shame-faced and the bumbling Leading Article of the Government's national organ was redolent of embarrassment. As for the politicians they appeared to be struck dumb and, at the time of writing they haven't recovered

H-BLOCK POSTER CAMPAIGN IN FRANCE



The Comite Irlande are carrying out a poster campaign as part of their Political Status for Republican prisoners campaign. Our photo shows posters in a Paris street.

Five thousand posters have been put up by the Comite in Paris, Lille, Brest, Rennes and Amiens.

The poster describes the conditions in the prisons, particularly in Long Kesh, the struggle for Political Status and the rule of the occupying British forces.

REPUBLICAN POSTERS IN DENMARK (in the town of Esbjerg)



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

BOYLE, JOHN (H3 on the blanket).
Greetings on this your 21st birthday (14th August).
— From your brothers Tommy and Bobby.
BOYLE, JOHN (H3 on the blanket).
Best wishes John on this your 21st birthday.
— From your sister Eleanor, Hughie and baby Michelle.
BOYLE, JOHN (on the blanket)
21st Birthday on 14th August.
Birthday Greetings from The Markets R.A.C.
We salute your steadfast courage and pledge ourselves to continue the struggle for political status, our fight is your right.

SPECIAL GREETINGS

SANDY LYNCH H6 Long Kesh. Hope you're well and determined to go on with your fight.
Thanks a million for your recent concern. You're an Irishman Wolfe Tone would be proud of.
Best of Luck,
— Sue Green.

NOTES BY CORMAC



IN MEMORIAM

MCANALLEN AND QUINN

In proud and loving memory of Dan McAnallen/Patsy Quinn, killed in active service 13th August 1976. Always remembered by 1st Battalion East Tyrone Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann.

MCANALLEN AND QUINN

In proud memory of Vols. Dan McAnallen, Patsy Quinn killed in active service 13th August 1976. Always remembered with pride, 2nd Battalion East Tyrone Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann.

MCANALLEN AND QUINN

In proud and loving memory of our comrades Vols. Dan McAnallen and Patsy Quinn, killed on active service 13th August 1976. Always remembered by 3rd Battalion East Tyrone Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann.

McAULEY (9th Anniversary).

In proud and loving memory of Fian Gerard McAuley who died defending the people of Clonard and Colin areas — August 15th, 1969.

*In dark and fateful days he stood
With gallant lads he'd known from youth
His was always a willing hand
He counted not the cost.
Helping his neighbours old and young
Throughout this troubled time
On an August afternoon — in a Belfast street
By a Loyalist bullet this Irish martyr died.
A croidhe ro-nao
A croidhe r6-naomhta losa Diam trocaire ar ananam.
Always remembered by his father, mother, brother and sister
Liam and Frances, brother Jim H5 Long Kesh, sister-in-law
Rosemary, niece Liza, sister, Rita, brother-in-law Joe, nephews
Joseph, James.*

LENNON, DANNY.

"B" Coy., 1st Batt., Belfast Brigade, Oglagh na hEireann. (Killed in action) 10th August, 1976.

Always remembered by his comrades: Joseph Flynn, H6 Block Gerry Burke H6 Block, Eamonn Digney H6 Block, Sean Doran H6 Block, Anthony Diamond H6 Block, Bernard Fox H6 Block, Billy Gallagher H6 Block, Paddy Malloy H6 Block, Brendan Flynn H4 Block, Joseph Watson H4 Block, Kieran Doherty H4 Block, Paddy McDonald H4 Block, Paddy Wilson H4 Block.

Mary, Queen of the Gaol, pray for him

Sligo Republican dies suddenly

BARNEY BARRY well-known Sligo Republican aged 74 years passed away suddenly on August 29, 1978. The attendance at the removal included Ruairi O'Bradaigh, President of Sinn Fein. The ceremony at the graveside was presided over by Connacht organiser and Ard Comhairle representative, P.J. Kearney. He pointed out that silver and gold meant less to Barney than the ideals he proudly cherished and upheld throughout his life. Mr. Joe O'Neill was also at the graveside and many friends of the Republican Movement. Also Mrs. Rosaleen Kearney representative of the Wheelchair Association of which Barney was a member. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Oglagh na hEireann, the Ard Comhairle of Sinn Fein, the Ex-Internees of the Forties and many Sinn Fein Cumannans and friends. The oration was given by John Joe McGirl, a life-long friend of Barney's. It was a moving recollection of the life of Barney Barry. The rosary was said in Gaelige.

A large force of Gardai were present, a sad reflection to the memory of Fianna Fail.

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